



INTRODUCTION

Why Should I Learn About the Constitution?

The introduction of this workbook starts with an important question. Are there good reasons why young Americans should study, know, and understand our founding documents, The Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights? The short answer is yes.

FOR THE PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

Read this introduction aloud together, a page or two at a sitting. Stop at every question and let the child answer before you do.

Another question.

Are children fortunate to have been born in America?



We know children are born in every nation all over the world. Yet, there are many countries where children do not know freedom. Others grow up where they have little food, little or no education, no clean water, no shelter, and live under governments that hurt its people. Many children around the world can only dream of the opportunities that Americans often take for granted.

When it comes to living in America, there are some things to consider. It has to do with the power and responsibility of choice. First, there are a few things you did not choose in life. You didn't choose to be born. You didn't choose your parents. You didn't choose to be a boy or a girl, and the list can go on. You also didn't choose where you would be born. God determined all this and He chose you to be born in America.

The Bible reminds us,

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings”

Acts 17:26

God placed each of us where He wanted us to live. That means where we live is not an accident. To live in America is an opportunity as well as a responsibility. That leads us to some more important questions. Questions that are worth asking.

Are we blessed to be Americans?

Again, the answer is yes. America is not a perfect nation. No nation is. Every nation has done some good to contribute to mankind's development and every nation has done some bad things that hurt many people. No country is perfect in a fallen world. Yet, throughout our history, America has offered remarkable freedoms, opportunities, and protections that many people throughout the world have never known.

Despite our national sins, like slavery and abortion, America has sent more help, missionaries of the Gospel, and military aid to help the oppressed than any other nation on earth.

And when we did evil, like slavery, Americans returned to God and lived out our national creed contained in the Declaration of Independence,



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

We had the willingness to humble ourselves, change, and correct our course as a people.

Millions have crossed oceans, deserts, and mountains hoping to come here because America has long been a place where people could worship freely, work hard, raise families, and pursue their dreams.

Next question, why should we study our history and know our founding documents?



Two practices are very important as you grow up in this world. Young people, you need to study the Bible and obey its teachings and have a good understanding of history.

History teaches us where we came from, what others sacrificed for us, and how freedom has been preserved through courage, wisdom, and faith. **History is His-story.** It contains God's redemptive plan for earth and mankind.

The important lesson of knowing history is if we do not know where we have been, we won't know where we are going or what to do once we get there. History provides a root system and unless we understand it, we cannot appreciate it. There is a long line of events in history that led to America's experiment in liberty.

Woodrow Wilson, our 28th President stated,

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about...America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness, which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture.”

Far too many people have forgotten this history, don't like this history, or seek to change this history. This is why the Bible often calls people to remember.

Deuteronomy 32:7 declares

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:”



Jeremiah the prophet proclaimed,

“Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it’”

Jeremiah 6:16

When people forget their history, they often repeat their mistakes.

Why do some people disagree about America's history?

History includes moments of great courage and moments of great failure. America has produced extraordinary examples of faith, liberty, generosity, and self-government. It has also struggled with injustice, slavery, prejudice, and other sins that conflicted with the nation's highest ideals.

Learning history honestly means celebrating what is worthy of honor while also learning from past mistakes. The Bible teaches us to speak the truth in love, gain wisdom, and pursue justice and righteousness.

Micah 6:8 states,

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Why do some people speak negatively about America?

People often have different experiences and different views of history. Some emphasize America's achievements, while others focus on its failures. It is important, therefore, young people to listen carefully, examine evidence, and compare every claim with truth to help us become wise citizens rather than simply accepting every opinion we hear. The Bible encourages discernment.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 teaches,

“Test all things; hold fast what is good.”

What makes America different?



America was founded on the idea that our rights do not come from a king or from government. America was founded on the revolutionary idea that **our rights come from God**. Another blessing was those who govern can only do so with the consent of those being governed.

The Constitution was written to create a government with limited powers so that those God-given rights would be protected.

Why should children learn the Constitution?

Because one day, you will become the leaders, parents, teachers, pastors, business owners, soldiers, judges, voters, and citizens who shape America's future.

Freedom is not guaranteed in the future and does not protect itself. Each generation has the responsibility to learn it, treasure it, and faithfully pass it on to the next generation.

Ronald Reagan, America's 40th President stated,

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It has to be fought for and defended by each generation."

The Bible says:

“One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts”

Psalm 145:4

Your mission young people as you study this workbook, don't just memorize facts.

- ◆ Ask questions.
- ◆ Think carefully.
- ◆ Pray to God for wisdom (James 1:5).
- ◆ Learn to love truth.
- ◆ Honor those who sacrificed for your freedoms.



Most of all, remember that every freedom carries a responsibility. The greatest freedom of all is the freedom to know and follow Jesus Christ, who said,

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32

Here is a final challenge.

Imagine someone handed you a priceless family treasure—but you never opened the box because you didn't know what was inside. Would you value it? Would you protect it? Would you pass it on? The same is true of our American heritage.

If we do not know what we have, we may never recognize what is being lost. If we do not understand the blessings that have been entrusted to us, we may fail to protect them. And if we fail to protect them, future generations may never enjoy the liberties we have received.

So let us learn. Let us remember. Let us seek wisdom. Let us love truth. And with God's help, let us become faithful stewards of the blessings He has entrusted to us, preserving them for generations yet to come.



MEMORY VERSE

First assignment in the introduction is to memorize Psalms 33:12,

**"Blessed is the nation whose
God is the Lord."**

IN KING JESUS' SERVICE,
Pastor Rusty Thomas

American Reformation Church