

JULY 4, 2017  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY



*If the Son gives you freedom, you are free!*

### INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect upon these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day celebrations.

Tuesday	Galatians 5:1-15	Christ gives freedom
	Jeremiah 29:4-14	Work hard and prosper
	Romans 13:1-10	Obey those with authority
	Mark 12:13-17	Give God what is his
	Psalms 20	A prayer for victory
	John 8:31-32	Truth will set you free

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. **Galatians 5:13-14 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for Independence Day:**

Lord, we thank you for all those who have sacrificed so much that we may have freedom of speech and religion in our land. Above all, we thank you for the freedom to love you and all people with faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, thank you for this meal, for abundant seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with ample food. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you in your freedom, and give you a joyful heart to do what is right and good.



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### A HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*O Beautiful for Spacious  
Skies*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you felt you were not free. What did it feel like?
- How does Jesus set people free? What are we freed from?
- With freedom and independence, we also gain responsibility. What are some of the responsibilities we have been given?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Peter 2:11-17.

In these passages we are asked to live as God's servants should and not use our freedom as an excuse for doing wrong. Unfortunately, there are still many people in the world today whose freedom is limited because of personal or social circumstances. In your devotions this week please pray for the following:

- Those who live in countries where personal freedoms are restricted
- Those who have been wrongly imprisoned
- Those who lack freedom due to poverty
- Those who are trapped in addictions
- Those who are unable to freely practice their Christian faith
- Those who serve communities and nations to keep others free

### SERVICE



Galatians 5:14 tells us to use our freedom "as an opportunity to serve each other with love." In response to these words and in honor of this special day, plan an Independence Day act of loving service. For example: Visit someone in a hospital or nursing home, visit a cemetery and place flowers on a war veteran's grave, invite someone to join you for the holiday, clean up litter in your neighborhood, or help a neighbor with some household task.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



From 1776, when on July 2<sup>nd</sup> the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence from Great Britain, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence which had been drafted by Thomas Jefferson, until the present day, July 4<sup>th</sup> has been celebrated as the birth of American Independence. Obtain a copy of the Declaration of Independence and read it aloud as a group. Sing or recite a national hymn like *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*. Take time to quietly reflect on the message of the hymn and the power and glory of God and what it has meant for our country.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an