



Kids Ministry Connection

Page 1 for Parents
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MDRC Children's Ministries Purpose: To welcome and love each child in Jesus' name help them connect with God and grow as followers of Jesus.

For Parents

As we come to July 4, we will hear two words a lot: "freedom" and "independence." We give God thanks for the freedom and independence we enjoy today, but we want our children to understand the other side of those words that are at times used without the truth that we are called to freedom within limits and independence.

In this vacation season as families travel, I remember the line that was drawn down the back seat of our car; I had a side and my brother had a side. We had freedom in our space, but when we crossed over into the other's space, it affected the whole car! For years we had the tape and then we reached a point where our parents told us to visualize it and live with it in mind.

In the beginning God introduced freedom within limits, Adam had freedom to eat of the fruit but there was a limit. When Adam stepped over the limit, all of creation was affected. Our freedom is always tempered by its effect on the rest of creation. What we do affects others. We do not live independently, but interdependently.

We have names for our limits, like responsibilities, rules, laws, but in actuality I like how God says it to us in Gal, 5:13-14: "You were called to be free, But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature we have, rather serve one another In love," The entire law can be summed up in "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Movies like "The Patriot," "Saving Private Ryan" and "U571" remind us vividly that the political freedom and independence we celebrate this week came at great cost of body and blood. I am reminded as we come to communion this week of the great cost to God of the body and blood of Jesus, given that we might be free from the sin that would enslave us and free to live and truly love God and others and self.

In a spirit of interdependence, follow this word from 1 Tim. 2:2-2, "pray for those in authority that we may live lives of peace and godliness." and may your car travel also be peaceful.

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Have You Signed Up?



Vacation Bible Adventures

July 7-11

9:30 a. — 11:30 a.

4 yr. old

(by September 15, 2009)

thru fall 5th Grade

\$10/child

Skits
Stories

Crafts
Fun songs

Sign Up Today

Fun together



Star-Spangled Prayer

Focus: Independence Day

This adventure can be used any time of year, but we think it goes well with July 4 (Independence Day). You'll need a United States flag for this adventure. (If you can't find the real thing, a picture of a flag will work, too.)

As your family comes together for prayer, ask if anyone knows the meaning of the stars and stripes on the flag. If not, explain that each star represents one of the 50 states in the Union and that each of the stripes represents one of the original thirteen colonies. The colors of the flag also have meaning. Red symbolizes courage, white is for purity, and blue represent justice.

As you examine and discuss the flag, explain to your family that you'd like to use the flag and its symbolism as a guide to prayer. Join together in talking and praying as follows:

- For every star on the flag, think of something your family is thankful for. As you think of each reason to give thanks, have different family members offer a one-sentence prayer of thanksgiving. For example, "Thank you that we are free to worship you in our country," or "Thanks, God, for giving us food each day," and so on. Continue until you've thanked God 50 times, (you may want to use this part of the adventure over the course of several days or a week.)
- As the blue field behind the stars represents justice, pray for people who are oppressed and in need of justice. This could be people in the United States who don't receive justice such as hungry children or people who are treated unfairly. You may want to include people in other countries who don't enjoy the freedoms we do in America. You could also pray that we would continue to be allowed to exercise these freedoms.
- For each of the six white stripes on the flag, ask God to bring purity to a different area of your life. This might include purity of speech toward each other, purity in actions to each other, and so on.
- Pray for courage as guided by the seven red stripes of the flag. A family member may need courage to stand up for his or her beliefs at school or work, or you may all need courage to share about God's love to an unfriendly neighbor.
- Close your time together by praying for America, asking God to bring guidance and show his love to all who live under this flag, and remembering His love to all people.
- Pray for other countries in the world, for their leaders and people that we may live in peace with one another.

The Christian Flag

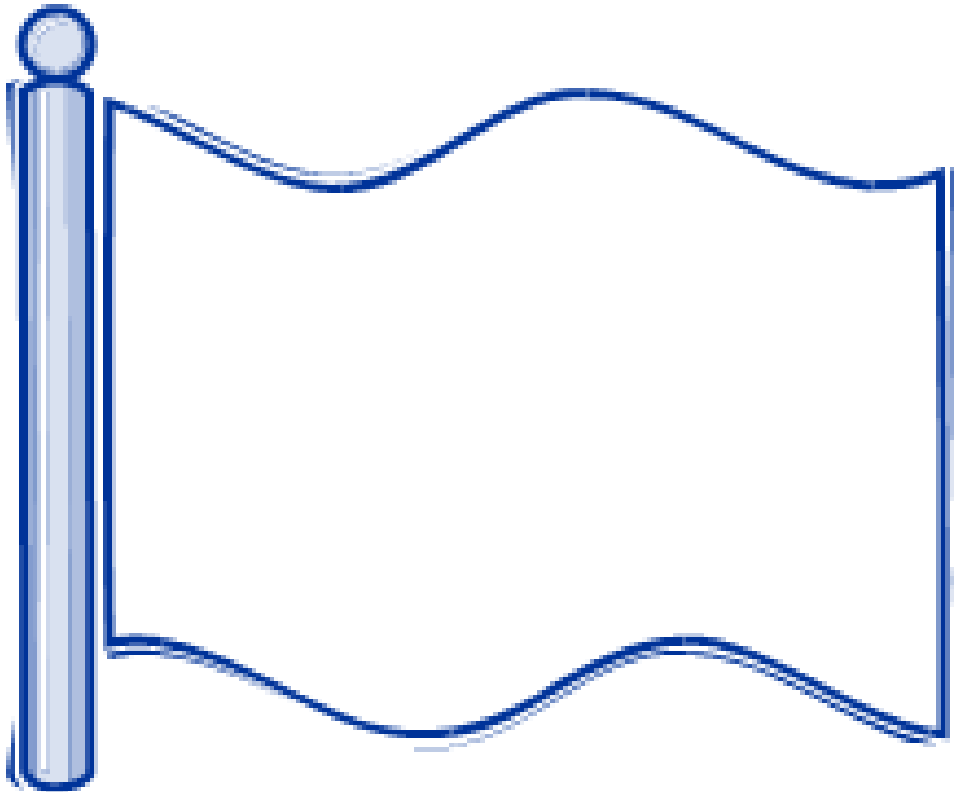


On September 26, 1897, Charles C. Overton designed the Christian flag. The cross on the flag is red to symbolize the life and death of Jesus and the promise of eternal life. The area behind the cross is blue to represent the faithfulness and sincerity of Jesus our Savior. The rest of the flag is white to stand for purity, innocence and peace.

The following pledge of allegiance is sometimes used with this flag:

“I pledge allegiance to the Savior for whose Kingdom this flag stands, one brotherhood, uniting all people in service and life.”

**Use this drawing to design your own Christian flag.
Explain your colors and symbols.**



As you celebrate this Independence Day, remember the following MDRC members and family members who are serving in the military right now.

Chuck Connors
Address:
Major Chuck Connors
6th Transportation BN
1133 TC (3368 HET CO)
APO AE 09366

Andrew Doudna
son of Don & Jan Doudna
Address:
Andrew Doudna
1-7A Co 2 Plt
box 788261
Twenty Nine Palms, CA 92278
E-mail: adoudna@aol.com

Ben Doudna
son of Don & Jan Doudna
Address:
Ben Doudna
1525 Chase Arbor Commons
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Ryan Epley
husband of Kim Epley
Address:
Sgt Ryan Epley (388)
Box 538/Medlog
APO AE 09898

SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

After the Declaration of Independence was written, men had to be very brave to sign it. Doing so would mean an about-face from direction in which they were going. They would be considered traitors to their mother country. John Hancock was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in very large script so everyone would know how strongly he felt about his decision.

When the disciples of Jesus started to follow Him, the decision they made was even more drastic. It would change the course of the whole world. Find the Disciples' names in this Word Search. Their names will all be found up and down or across.

1. Andrew; 2. Bartholomew; 3. James; 4. James; 5. John;
6. Judas; 7. Jude; 8. Matthew; 9. Peter; 10. Philip;
11. Simon; 12. Thomas

J	A	M	E	S	J	T	L	A	C	E
B	A	R	T	H	O	L	O	M	E	W
P	N	D	E	T	H	O	M	A	S	M
H	D	F	I	J	N	H	B	T	L	N
I	R	K	G	U	M	P	E	T	E	R
L	E	J	U	D	E	O	P	H	Q	R
I	W	T	J	A	M	E	S	E	S	U
P	A	D	I	S	O	N	X	W	V	A
Q	P	T	L	V	S	I	M	O	N	P