

Pocket Constitution Faith Supplement



Memory Verse

Proverbs 29:18 (NIV): “Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.” Discuss how this verse relates to the Constitution, which provides the “wise instruction” that guides our nation. Just as the Bible provides direction for our lives, the Constitution provides direction for our country.

Application: Invite students to think about a time when they had to make a decision and needed guidance. Discuss how having clear rules or advice helped them make a good choice. Relate this to how the Constitution helps leaders make decisions for the country, and how following God’s wisdom in their personal lives helps them make choices that honor Him.

Relevant Scripture:

Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

Instructional Goals:

- **Understand the Intersection of Faith and Government:** Students will recognize the influence of Christian principles on the founding of the United States government and how these principles are reflected in the Constitution.
- **Explore Biblical Foundations of Government:** Students will explore specific scriptures that highlight God’s role in establishing authority and how these scriptures connect to the structure and purpose of the Constitution.

- **Memorize and Reflect on Key Scripture:** Students will memorize and reflect on Proverbs 29:18, understanding its relevance to the importance of having a guiding document like the Constitution that is based on divine wisdom.
- **Connect Biblical Principles to Constitutional Rights:** Through interactive activities, students will connect biblical principles such as justice, equality, and liberty to specific rights and responsibilities outlined in the Constitution.
- **Develop an Appreciation for the Constitution as a Faith-Driven Document:** Students will appreciate the Constitution not only as a legal document but also as one that embodies the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible, guiding them to live out their faith in civic life.
- **Encourage Prayerful Reflection on Civic Duties:** Students will be encouraged to reflect on their role as citizens in a democracy founded on Christian values and to seek God’s guidance through prayer as they learn about and uphold the Constitution.

Understanding the Role of Faith in Our Government

Objective

To help students learn about the role of faith in the founding of our government, understand the significance of the Constitution, and recognize how biblical principles influenced its creation.

Introduction

Begin by explaining that the United States Constitution is not just a set of rules but also a reflection of the values and principles that were important to the Founding Fathers, many of whom were guided by their faith. Emphasize that our nation’s laws and freedoms are built on the belief that all people are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.

Scripture Reading

Read Romans 13:1-2 (NIV)

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring

judgment on themselves.” Explain that this verse reminds us that God is the ultimate authority, and He has established governments to maintain order and justice. The Founding Fathers believed that their authority to create a new government came from God, and they sought to build it on His principles.

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Interactive Activity: Building a Foundation

Materials

- Pocket Constitutions for each student
- Blocks or LEGO bricks
- Index cards with different biblical principles (e.g., justice, liberty, equality, compassion, respect) written on them

Instructions

- Divide the class into small groups and give each group a set of blocks or LEGO bricks.
- Explain that students will build a structure representing the foundation of our government.
- As they build, have them place the index cards with biblical principles under the structure to symbolize how these values support and uphold the government, much like a foundation supports a building.
- Encourage students to think about how each principle connects to the Constitution and how these values reflect God’s teachings.

Discussion

- After the structures are built, have each group explain their structure and discuss how the biblical principles they chose relate to the Constitution.
- Discuss how the Founding Fathers might have used these same principles when creating the Constitution, ensuring that the government would reflect God's justice and love.

Reflection and Prayer

Lead students in a discussion on how faith played a role in the founding of our government and how they can use their Pocket Constitutions to understand and defend the freedoms that come from these principles.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the wisdom You gave the Founding Fathers as they created the Constitution, a document that reflects Your justice, love, and righteousness. Help us to understand how our faith connects with our responsibilities as citizens, and guide us in upholding the values that honor You. May we always remember that our true freedom comes from You, and that through understanding and defending our Constitution, we are also standing up for the principles You have taught us. Please bless our nation, our leaders, and each of us as we strive to follow Your will in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

Encourage students to keep their pocket Constitutions in a special place where they can refer to them often, remembering that the freedoms and responsibilities outlined in this document are grounded in the biblical principles of justice, love, and equality. Remind them to reflect on the memory verse throughout the week and to think about how they can live out these principles in their daily lives.