

The First Great Awakening

Faith Supplement



Awakening Our Faith and Unity

Learning Objective

Students will understand how the First Great Awakening helped people reconnect with God, emphasized personal responsibility for their beliefs, and encouraged unity within communities. They will also learn how these ideas influenced the development of American values such as self-governance and equality.

Memory Verse

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." — Matthew 5:14

Relevant Scripture

Matthew 5:14-16

- Jesus calls us to be lights in the world. This passage will help students understand how the colonists were meant to be examples of faith, kindness, and respect—just as Jesus calls us to be lights for others.

Romans 12:10

- "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." This scripture helps explain the importance of unity and love within the community, something the First Great Awakening leaders aimed to rekindle.

Galatians 5:13

- "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." This scripture teaches how faith, liberty, and responsibility are intertwined, a concept that became clearer during the Great Awakening.



John 8:36

- "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." This verse speaks to the spiritual freedom people experienced during the First Great Awakening as they took personal responsibility for deepening their relationship with God.

Instructional Goals

- ***Understand the Historical Context:*** Students will be able to explain the significance of the First Great Awakening in American history and its impact on religious beliefs, community unity, and personal faith.
- ***Connect Faith and Personal Responsibility:*** Students will recognize how the First Great Awakening emphasized personal responsibility in one's faith journey and how this concept relates to their own life.
- ***Understand Key Biblical Principles:*** Students will interpret key scriptures (Matthew 5:14-16, Romans 12:10, Galatians 5:13, John 8:36) and understand how the teachings found in these verses relate to First Great Awakening values, such as unity, love, freedom, and personal transformation.
- ***Analyze the Concept of Unity in Faith:*** Students will discuss how the First Great Awakening brought diverse communities together through shared faith. They will learn how this concept can be applied to their own communities.
- ***Incorporate Values into Daily Life:*** Students will apply the principles of faith, unity, and freedom from the First Great Awakening to their personal lives, reflecting on how these values guide their actions, relationships, and decisions.

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Introduction

Begin by explaining that the First Great Awakening was a spiritual revival that swept through the American colonies. Emphasize how this movement focused on personal faith, the importance of community unity, and a renewed commitment to God. Explain that leaders like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards helped people realize that each person is responsible for their own faith and making a difference in their community.

Discuss the Scriptures

- **Matthew 5:14-16:** Read and discuss how Jesus tells His followers to be lights to others. Explain that just like a city on a hill is visible for everyone to see, Christians are meant to live in a way that others can look up to and learn from. The First Great Awakening inspired colonists to be that light in the world.
- **Romans 12:10:** Talk about how the early settlers came together to help one another, especially when times were tough. They were united by their faith and worked to support each other, just as Romans teaches us to outdo one another in love and honor.
- **Galatians 5:13:** Explain that, during the Great Awakening, people recognized their freedom in Christ—not just spiritually, but in how they treated others. Their faith encouraged them to serve one another with love and respect.
- **John 8:36:** Discuss how the Great Awakening brought freedom to people's hearts, allowing them to make their own choices about their faith and how they lived, which would eventually influence how they viewed self-governance and independence.

Activity: "Building a City on a Hill"

- **Objective:** Students will create a visual representation of a community that reflects the values of the First Great Awakening—faith, unity, and freedom.
- **Materials:** Construction paper, crayons/markers, scissors, glue, Bible verse printouts.

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Activity: "Building a City on a Hill" (Continued)

- Instructions:
 1. Ask students to draw a large hill and a city at the top of the hill, using the metaphor from Matthew 5:14-16.
 2. Have students write the memory verse around their "city on a hill."
 3. In the city, students will include drawings of people working together, helping each other, and demonstrating kindness—representing how people in the First Great Awakening came together to help one another grow in their faith.
 4. Discuss how their city represents a community living out the values of the Great Awakening.

Prayer

- End the lesson with a prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the First Great Awakening and the powerful reminders it gave us about our faith, our responsibility to one another, and the freedom we have in you. Help us to be a light to those around us and to always seek unity in our communities. Teach us to live in a way that reflects Your love, kindness, and truth. We pray for wisdom and courage to serve others and make choices that honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Wrap-Up Discussion

Ask the students how they can be "a light of the world" in their school and community, just like the colonists were called to do during the First Great Awakening. Encourage them to think about ways they can live out their faith through kindness and helping others.

Homework/Extension

Students can write a short paragraph about how they can be a "light of the world" in their everyday life, applying the lessons of the First Great Awakening to their actions.