

# DISCOVER AMERICA

## Teacher Guide



# Faith and Freedom: The First Great Awakening's Influence on America's Founding

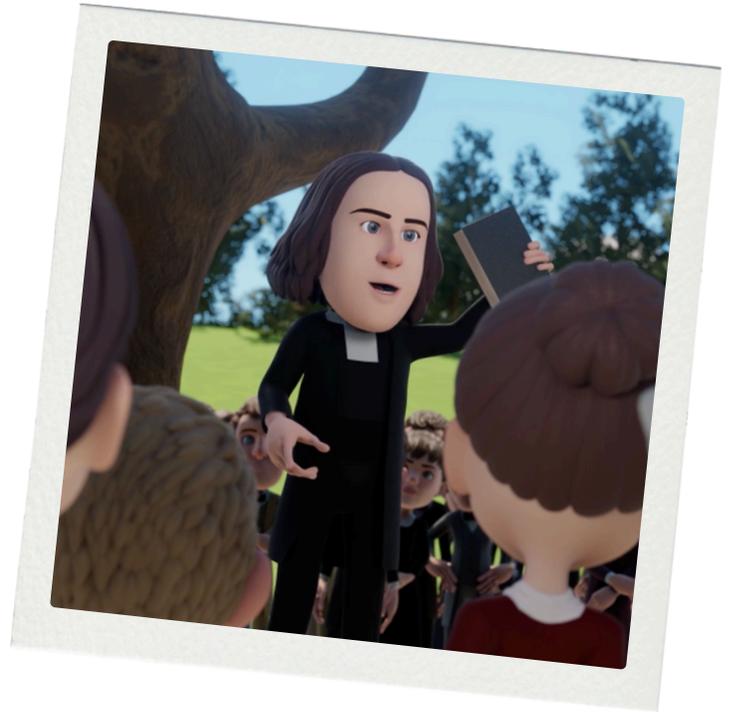
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## Key Themes

- Awakening to Faith and Unity
- Faith in Our Founding
- Faith Across Denominations
- Self-Reliance and Personal Responsibility
- Self-Governance and Fairness
- The Value of Freedom and Democracy



## Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Faith
- Liberty

## Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Understand the concept of the First Great Awakening as a time of religious revival and unity.
- Recognize the importance of religious beliefs in shaping the lives and communities of early settlers.
- Explain the significance of John Winthrop's speech and the idea of being "a city upon a hill."
- Define the term "denomination" and explain how different Christian groups in the colonies practiced their faith.
- Explore how the concept of unity in the First Great Awakening influenced the development of community values.
- Identify the role of faith, liberty, life, and community as cornerstones that guide society.
- Understand the connection between self-reliance, self-government, and the foundational values of American democracy.

# Key Terms

- 0 1 **Bible:** a holy book inspired by God that teaches about Him, His love, and how He helps us live a good life.
- 0 2 **Christianity:** a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 0 3 **colony:** a place where a group of people settle and live, but it is still ruled by another country.
- 0 4 **community:** a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood or a classroom.
- 0 5 **cornerstone:** something very important that other things are built on.
- 0 6 **denomination:** a group of Christians who practice their faith in God in a similar way.
- 0 7 **faith:** trusting and believing in something or someone.
- 0 8 **First Great Awakening:** a revival — a new excitement — about the religious beliefs brought to the New World by the first settlers from England.
- 0 9 **Founding Fathers:** the leaders who helped establish the United States as an independent country.
- 1 0 **honor:** to feel or show admiration or respect for something or someone.
- 1 1 **metaphor:** when we say one thing is another thing to show how they are alike.
- 1 2 **preacher:** a person who talks to others about God and teaches them lessons from the Bible.
- 1 3 **religious revival:** a renewed excitement about God and His plan.
- 1 4 **self-government:** making decisions about how to live and work together as a group, without someone (like a king) telling you what to do.

# Key Terms

- 1 5 **self-reliance:** taking care of yourself and taking responsibility for your choices.
- 1 6 **simile:** when we compare one thing to another using the words like or as.
- 1 7 **spiritual principles:** important ideas or values that help guide how we think, feel, and act based on our beliefs about God.
- 1 8 **unity:** working together as one group to achieve a common goal.

# Introduction

## TELL Students

Alright, little patriots, today we're going to learn two fun ways to make our ideas more exciting: similes and metaphors. A **simile** is when we compare one thing to another using the words like or as. For example, if I said, "The stars are like diamonds in the sky," I'm comparing stars to diamonds because they both sparkle. **[Reference Diamond Image]** Now let's listen to a simile to help us understand the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening was like a giant alarm clock for people's hearts and minds. Just like how an alarm clock wakes us up in the morning, the First Great Awakening "woke people up" to remember their faith, come together as a community, and focus on what really mattered. **[Reference Alarm Clock Image]** It urged everyone to think about how they lived their lives and treated others. But there's another way to compare things: it's called a metaphor. A **metaphor** is when we say one thing is another thing to show how they are alike. For example, if I said, "The stars are diamonds in the sky," I'm not saying the stars are actually diamonds, but I'm indicating that they sparkle beautifully, just like diamonds. So, let's hear a metaphor to help us learn about the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening was a light shining in the darkness, guiding people back to their faith and showing them how to live with kindness and purpose. The light represents the way people felt hope again. Both similes and metaphors help us understand big ideas in creative ways. The First Great Awakening was an important time in history because it helped people come together, renew their faith in God, and work as a community.

## ASK Students

Can you think of an example of a simile or a metaphor? Please turn to your neighbor and discuss. [Give students three to five minutes and then discuss as a class.]

## TELL Students

Now, back to the First Great Awakening! The **First Great Awakening** was a revival, a renewed excitement or interest in something that had been forgotten or ignored. In this case, it was about the religious beliefs brought to the New World by the first settlers from England. These beliefs helped shape how the settlers lived, worked, and treated one another, making faith an important part of their daily lives. The settlers who brought these beliefs were brave and determined. They traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to create a new life. Their journey was filled with challenges like rough seas, limited supplies, and the uncertainty of what awaited them in the new land.

**[Reference Settlers Traveling Image]**

# Introduction

## **TELL** Students (continued)

Their religious beliefs gave them hope and strength to face such hardships. But what exactly were those beliefs, and why did they matter so much? To understand how the First Great Awakening helped shape America as we know it today, we need to take a step back almost 100 years before this incredible revival began. Let's explore how the settlers' faith helped them, and why it became the foundation for the excitement and unity of the First Great Awakening.

## **ASK** Students

Why do you think the settlers' religious beliefs were so important in helping them face the challenges of their journey and build strong communities in a new land?

## **TELL** Students

The settlers' religious beliefs were important because they gave them hope, strength, and a sense of purpose to face a challenging journey and build strong communities in a new land. Their beliefs helped them work together, support one another, and remain united in the face of uncertainty. In the spring of 1630, a man named John Winthrop led a group of people from England across the Atlantic Ocean by boat. **[Reference John Winthrop Image]** They were heading to a place we now call Massachusetts to start a new life. As we mentioned earlier, this journey was challenging. Their ships were small, and storms could make the ocean rough and scary. Sometimes the settlers ran out of food and water, and people got sick because medicine was limited. Back then, they didn't have detailed maps to show the safest way to travel, making the journey even more difficult. Even with all these challenges, John Winthrop and his group were brave enough to make the trip. Before they began, Winthrop gave a special speech to explain why they were leaving England and what they hoped to do in the New World. In his speech, he said: *"We must delight in each other; make other's conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body. So shall we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace . . . For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us."* This speech inspired the group to stay hopeful during their long and risky journey.

## **ASK** Students

Why do you think John Winthrop's speech was so important to the group? What did Winthrop mean by "a city upon a hill"?

# Introduction

## TELL Students

When John Winthrop said “a city upon a hill,” he meant that the Massachusetts colony should be a shining example for others to see — like a bright light that shows people the way. **[Reference Bright Light Image]** A **colony** is a place where people settle and live, but it is ruled by another country. He wanted their colony to stand out by working together, being kind, and showing respect for one another so others could look up to them. Winthrop was inspired by a verse from the Bible, in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 14, which says: “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.*” The **Bible** is a holy book inspired by God that teaches about Him, His love, and how He helps us live a good life and treat others with respect and kindness. **[Reference Bible Image]** The Bible has two main parts:

- The Old Testament, which tells stories from before Jesus was born.
- The New Testament, which tells about Jesus’ life and His teachings.

Christians believe the Bible is God’s word, given to help people know Him and follow His guidance. John Winthrop believed that the new colony in Massachusetts could be like the Bible’s teaching — a light of hope for everyone to see. Winthrop believed that by working together, showing kindness, and respecting one another, they could honor God and inspire others. To **honor** means to feel or show admiration or respect for something or someone. This idea — respecting others because they are created by God — became very important in American history. It’s even found in the Declaration of Independence, which says that all people are given rights by their Creator (God). **[Reference Declaration of Independence Image]**

## ASK Students

What do you think it means to be a “light of the world”? What could the colonists do to be “lights of the world”?

## TELL Students

To be a “light of the world” means to be an example of kindness, goodness, and love that others can see and follow. The colonists could be “lights of the world” by working together, helping one another, and showing respect for everyone, just as John Winthrop hoped. But things didn’t go as smoothly as Winthrop had dreamed. It was difficult for the colonies to get along because not everyone shared the same beliefs. Different groups of Christians, called denominations, had their own ways of practicing their faith.

# Introduction

## TELL Students (continued)

A **denomination** is a group of Christians who practice their faith in a similar way. These differences sometimes caused disagreements and made it hard for the colonies to work together as one community. Instead of being united, the colonists often argued about how to worship God. Years later, the First Great Awakening helped people realize that they needed to reconnect with God and focus on what they had in common, instead of what they didn't. This movement reminded everyone of the importance of faith — trusting and believing in God — and **unity**, which means working together as a group to achieve a common goal. The First Great Awakening helped bring the colonies closer together and taught them how to live and work as a community, despite their differences.

## ASK Students

Now think about your own community. What brings people together where you live? Is it a shared goal, a common activity, or something everyone values? Just like the First Great Awakening reminded the colonists of their shared faith, what do you think helps your community stay united?

## TELL Students

Focusing on what we have in common helps us work together because it reminds us that we are all part of the same community. A **community** is a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood or a classroom. **[Reference Community Image]** Shared values, such as kindness and respect, help people solve problems, support each other, and achieve more together. However, the colonies didn't always act like a united community. Remember, a colony is a place where people settle and live, but it is still ruled by another country. **[Reference Distance from England to Colonies Image]** The colonists often forgot John Winthrop's idea that "the eyes of all people" were watching them, and they sometimes mistreated one another because of their religious disagreements. By the 1730s, the First Great Awakening swept through the colonies. This revival helped unite Christians by encouraging them to focus on their faith in Jesus Christ and come together as a community. It reminded the colonists of their shared beliefs and the importance of treating one another with kindness and respect. One of the most important leaders of this movement was George Whitefield, a preacher from England. **[Reference George Whitefield Image]** A **preacher** is someone who talks to others about God and teaches lessons from the Bible.

# Introduction

## **TELL** Students (continued)

Preachers often give speeches, called sermons, to help people understand God's plan for their lives. Whitefield's message helped many people find unity and purpose, bringing the colonies closer together as a community during the First Great Awakening. His preaching brought large groups of people together, making them feel like part of a larger community. This unity was one of the lasting impacts of the First Great Awakening, strengthening bonds within the colonies and helping them work toward common goals.

## **ASK** Students

How are a colony and a community the same? How are they different?

## **TELL** Students

A colony and a community have some similarities, but they are also different. A colony is a group of people who settle in a new place but are ruled by another country. For example, the colonies were ruled by England. A community, on the other hand, is a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood or a classroom. Both a colony and a community involve people working and living together, but a colony is more about being part of a larger government, while a community focuses on helping each other and working together where they live.

## **ASK** Students

In what ways do you think the colonies managed to work together as a community under England's rule? How might this cooperation have influenced the Founding Fathers as they created a new government?

## **TELL** Students

The colonies worked together as communities by helping one another with daily life, like farming, building, and supporting each other during hard times. This cooperation taught them the importance of unity and independence, which later helped the Founding Fathers when they created a new government based on fairness and independence. Remember from our earlier lessons that the **Founding Fathers** were the leaders who helped establish the United States as an independent country. **[Reference Founding Fathers Image]**

# Introduction

## TELL Students (continued)

They worked together to write important documents like the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution to guide the new nation. Benjamin Franklin, one of America's Founding Fathers, said that "people of all groups and denominations" came to hear George Whitefield speak. Whitefield was a powerful and dramatic British preacher. He arrived in Philadelphia in 1739 and traveled up and down the east coast, visiting every colony. From Savannah, Georgia, to Boston, Massachusetts, Whitefield shared his messages of faith, hope, and unity. But what is faith? **Faith** means trusting and believing in something or someone. For Christians, faith is about trusting in God and believing in His love and promises. What is Christianity? **Christianity** is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, who came to Earth to show God's love and to save people from their sins. For George Whitefield, it didn't matter what type of Christian denomination someone belonged to. He believed that Jesus Christ's love was for everyone, no matter where they lived or how they worshiped. Whitefield said that true faith isn't about belonging to one group or another, but about choosing to have Christ's love in your heart.

## ASK Students

Why do you think George Whitefield emphasized that Jesus' love was meant for everyone, regardless of where they lived or how they chose to worship?

## TELL Students

George Whitefield believed that Jesus' love was for everyone because he thought faith wasn't about belonging to a specific group but about having Christ's love in your heart. He wanted people to focus on what united them, not what made them different. Whitefield's beliefs guided his actions and the way he shared his message. He traveled tirelessly, delivering sermons to people from all walks of life, regardless of their background or denomination. This belief made Whitefield very popular. **[Reference Whitefield Image]** His powerful voice and inspiring sermons made him America's first famous person — or what we might call a celebrity today. He delivered about 18,000 sermons to nearly 10 million people, not just in the New World but also in other countries. Often, thousands of people would gather to hear him speak, eager to hear his message of unity and hope.

# Introduction

## TELL Students (continued)

Whitefield's message about Christ's love for all helped unite the colonies by reminding people that they were all equal before God, no matter what denomination they belonged to. This idea became one of the most important lessons of the First Great Awakening and influenced the way people viewed their communities and their shared goals. His actions show us that beliefs are powerful because they guide what we say, how we act, and our impact on the world around us.

## ASK Students

How do you think George Whitefield's belief that Jesus' love was for everyone helped him bring people together? What guides your actions?

## TELL Students

Another important person in the First Great Awakening was Jonathan Edwards. **[Reference Jonathan Edwards Image]** He was a pastor who lived in Massachusetts and became one of the most influential preachers of his time. Before George Whitefield's travels, Jonathan Edwards was already inspiring people with his passionate sermons at a Congregational church in Northampton, Massachusetts, in the early 1730s. His powerful words and ability to connect with his listeners made his sermons very famous. Edwards didn't just talk about faith; he challenged people to think deeply about their relationship with God and encouraged them to live in a way that honored Him. His preaching helped change the way many people thought about their faith and their connection to God. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about his role in the First Great Awakening!

## WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 37: First Great Awakening



# Lesson

## TELL Students 📷

Jonathan Edwards was a powerful preacher who gave what many people believe is the most famous sermon of the 1700s. It was called *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. This sermon became very well-known and had a big impact during the First Great Awakening. Edwards spoke about how people from all over — from the North, South, East, and West — were turning back to God and renewing their faith. In his sermon, Edwards said: *"And now you have an extraordinary opportunity, a day wherein CHRIST has flung the door of mercy wide open, and stands in the door calling and crying with a loud voice to poor sinners; a day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the kingdom of God; many are daily coming from the east, west, north and south."*

This means that Edwards believed God's love and forgiveness were available to everyone, regardless of where they lived. He wanted people to understand that it was never too late to turn back to God, change their ways, and become part of His kingdom. His sermon didn't just touch individuals — it impacted entire communities. As people began to reconnect with their faith, they also came together to support one another, creating a stronger sense of unity and purpose.

**[Reference Church Image]** Churches became central places for gathering, prayer, and discussion, where neighbors encouraged one another to live better lives. Edwards' message inspired people to see themselves as part of a larger spiritual family, which helped strengthen their communities during a very important time in history.

## ASK Students

How do you think Jonathan Edwards' message about God's love and forgiveness helped people feel more connected to each other and their communities?

## TELL Students 🗣️

Jonathan Edwards' message helped people feel more connected to each other as they began to rely on God, leaving behind bad habits and living lives of kindness, honesty, and respect. He wanted people to leave their bad habits behind and grow closer to Christ. He believed that true faith wasn't just about going to church or belonging to a certain group — it was about having a real change in your heart. Like George Whitefield, Edwards taught that following Christ means letting God's love guide how you think and act every day. Edwards explained that true faith reaches deep into the heart and leads people to live good and obedient lives. Being **obedient** means following the rules or doing what you are asked to do. When someone is obedient, they listen carefully and make good choices to do what is right.

# Lesson

## TELL Students (continued)

For example, being obedient could mean listening to your parents when they ask you to help around the house, following your teacher's instructions at school, or doing what God teaches in the Bible, like being kind, honest, and helpful. In a community, obedience is important because it helps everyone work together peacefully. When people follow rules and make good choices, it creates trust, respect, and cooperation among everyone. Edwards wanted people to live in a way that showed they were honoring God in their choices and actions, which also made their communities stronger and more united.

## ASK Students

Why do you think it's important for people in a community to make good choices and follow rules? How does being obedient help everyone work together peacefully?

## TELL Students

It's essential for people in a community to make thoughtful choices and follow rules because it allows everyone to work together, builds trust, and creates a peaceful environment. Jonathan Edwards taught that letting God's love guide our decisions makes us kinder, more honest, and more respectful. This way of living not only honors God but also strengthens the entire community by fostering cooperation and unity. The idea of honoring God and treating everyone equally was a central message of the First Great Awakening. It reminded people that everyone is created equal by their Creator. This belief — that all people are created equal — became a cornerstone of the Declaration of Independence. **[Reference Declaration of Independence Image]** A

**cornerstone** is something very important that other things are built on, like a strong foundation. For example, when constructing a house, the cornerstone is the first stone laid, and everything else is built around it to ensure the house is strong and steady. **[Reference Cornerstone Image]** In ideas or beliefs, a cornerstone is a key principle that other important things rely on. The belief that everyone is created equal is a cornerstone of America because it shaped the foundation of our nation and its government. Similarly, other cornerstones like faith, liberty, life, and community continue to guide how our country operates and grows. Faith reminds us to act with kindness and humility, liberty ensures freedom for everyone, life teaches us to value and protect each individual, and community encourages support and cooperation. These cornerstones help us build a society where people can thrive together.

# Lesson

## ASK Students

What do you think is the most important cornerstone in your community — faith, liberty, life, or community — and how does it help people work together and thrive?

## TELL Students

The First Great Awakening also emphasized two key ideas that shaped how people lived and worked together: self-reliance and self-government. **Self-reliance** means taking care of yourself and taking responsibility for your choices. **[Reference Self-Reliance Image]** During the Great Awakening, preachers like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards reminded people that accepting Christ was a personal decision. This idea of personal responsibility helped people understand the importance of making thoughtful, independent decisions in other areas of life as well, like how to contribute to their communities or how to solve problems. **Self-government**, on the other hand, means making decisions about how to live and work together as a group, without someone (like a king) making all the rules.

## ASK Students

What is self-reliance? What is self-government?

## TELL Students

Self-reliance aligns with the cornerstone of faith, encouraging people to trust in their own decisions guided by spiritual principles. **Spiritual principles** are important ideas or values based on our beliefs about God that help guide how we think, feel, and act. They teach us how to make good choices, treat others with kindness and respect, and live a life that honors God. For example, spiritual principles like honesty, love, forgiveness, and helping others remind us to do what is right, even when it's hard. These principles are like a map that helps us navigate life in a way that shows our faith and care for the people around us. Self-government connects to liberty, ensuring that people have the freedom to make decisions for their communities. Together, these principles create a sense of family and community, where people support one another, make fair choices, and build a society where everyone can thrive. The First Great Awakening not only united the colonies but also inspired the values that would guide them as they moved toward independence and created a new nation.

# Lesson

## **ASK** Students

How do spiritual principles help people work together and build a strong community? Why do you think it was important for the people in the colonies to make their own choices and work together to create fair rules for their community?

## **TELL** Students

It's important for people to make their own choices and work together as a group because it helps create fairness and ensures that everyone's needs are considered. When people take responsibility for their decisions and collaborate to make rules, it builds stronger and more united communities. This idea became very important during the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening also introduced the idea that one strong voice could lead to big changes. This idea became important when the colonies decided they wanted a government that got its power from the people, not from a king. Before this, kings and rulers made many of the decisions, and most people didn't have a say. **[Reference Monarchy Image]** The First Great Awakening reminded people that everyone is created equal by God and has the ability to make their own choices about faith and how to live their lives. It also helped people realize they should have a say in how their government worked. This movement brought people together and gave them the courage to believe that their voices mattered — ideas that helped shape the foundation of America and remain important today.

## **ASK** Students

Why is it important for everyone in a community to have a say in making decisions? How can working together make the community stronger?

## **TELL** Students

It's very important for people to have a say in how their government works because it ensures that everyone's voice is heard and respected. When we remember that everyone is created equal by God, it means that no one person is more important than another, and everyone deserves to be treated fairly. This belief is one of the cornerstones of our nation — just like faith, liberty, life, and community are key cornerstones that guide us. These cornerstones provide the foundation for a society where people can thrive together. In America today, people make decisions by voting. This includes voting to choose leaders and deciding on important issues.

# Lesson

## **TELL** Students (continued)

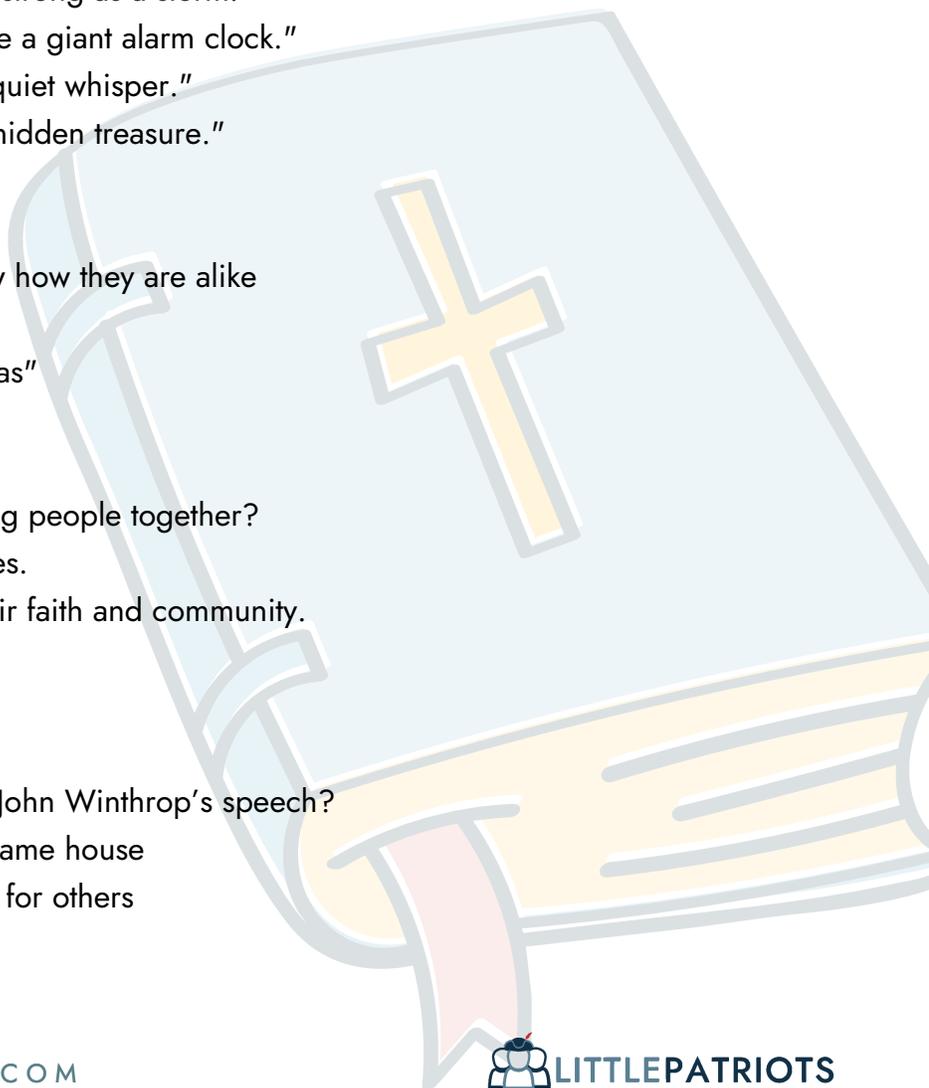
This type of government connects to the cornerstone of liberty, where people have the freedom to make choices that affect their lives and communities. **[Reference United States Flag Image]** Remember, the First Great Awakening reminded people that their voices mattered — an idea that still holds true today. For you, this might mean working together as a class to make fair decisions. For example, you could vote on which game to play at recess or decide on a new classroom rule. When you share your ideas and listen to others, it reflects the cornerstone of community — supporting one another and making decisions that benefit everyone. It also ties to the cornerstone of faith, reminding us to act with kindness, fairness, and respect for others. Just like the people during the First Great Awakening learned to come together and share their ideas, you can practice working as a team to make choices that are fair and good for everyone. That's how we build strong, united communities where every voice matters!

# Multiple Choice Review

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and circle the correct answer

1. What is a simile?
  - a) A way to describe stars
  - b) Comparing two things using "like" or "as"
  - c) A type of story
  - d) A way to write a poem
2. Which simile describes the First Great Awakening?
  - a) "The First Great Awakening was as strong as a storm."
  - b) "The First Great Awakening was like a giant alarm clock."
  - c) "The First Great Awakening was a quiet whisper."
  - d) "The First Great Awakening was a hidden treasure."
3. What is a metaphor?
  - a) Saying one thing is another to show how they are alike
  - b) A story about animals
  - c) Comparing things using "like" or "as"
  - d) A lesson from the Bible
4. How did the First Great Awakening bring people together?
  - a) It reminded them of their differences.
  - b) It encouraged them to focus on their faith and community.
  - c) It helped them build more ships.
  - d) It taught them new languages.
5. What does "a city upon a hill" mean in John Winthrop's speech?
  - a) A city where everyone lives in the same house
  - b) A colony that serves as an example for others
  - c) A place where hills are important
  - d) A secret city in the forest



# Multiple Choice Review

6. What was one challenge settlers faced during their journey to the New World?
- a) Too many maps
  - b) Stormy seas and limited supplies
  - c) Having too much food
  - d) No ships to use
7. What does it mean to be a “light of the world”?
- a) To be a famous person
  - b) To help and inspire others with kindness and goodness
  - c) To shine like a lightbulb
  - d) To live on top of a hill
8. What is a denomination?
- a) A group of Christians who practice their faith in the same way
  - b) A place where people live
  - c) A kind of map
  - d) A type of government
9. Why were John Winthrop’s religious beliefs important to his community?
- a) They gave them strength and hope to work together.
  - b) They helped them build faster ships.
  - c) They made everyone feel the same.
  - d) They taught them new languages.
10. What was George Whitefield’s message about faith?
- a) Faith is only for some people.
  - b) Jesus’ love is for everyone.
  - c) Faith doesn’t matter.
  - d) Everyone should belong to the same group.



# Multiple Choice Review

11. What was one challenge settlers faced during their journey to the New World?

- a) Too many maps
- b) Stormy seas and limited supplies
- c) Having too much food
- d) No ships to use

12. What is one reason the First Great Awakening was important?

- a) It made people stop talking to each other.
- b) It reminded people that everyone is equal before God.
- c) It taught people how to use maps.
- d) It helped the settlers move back to England.

13. What does it mean to be self-reliant?

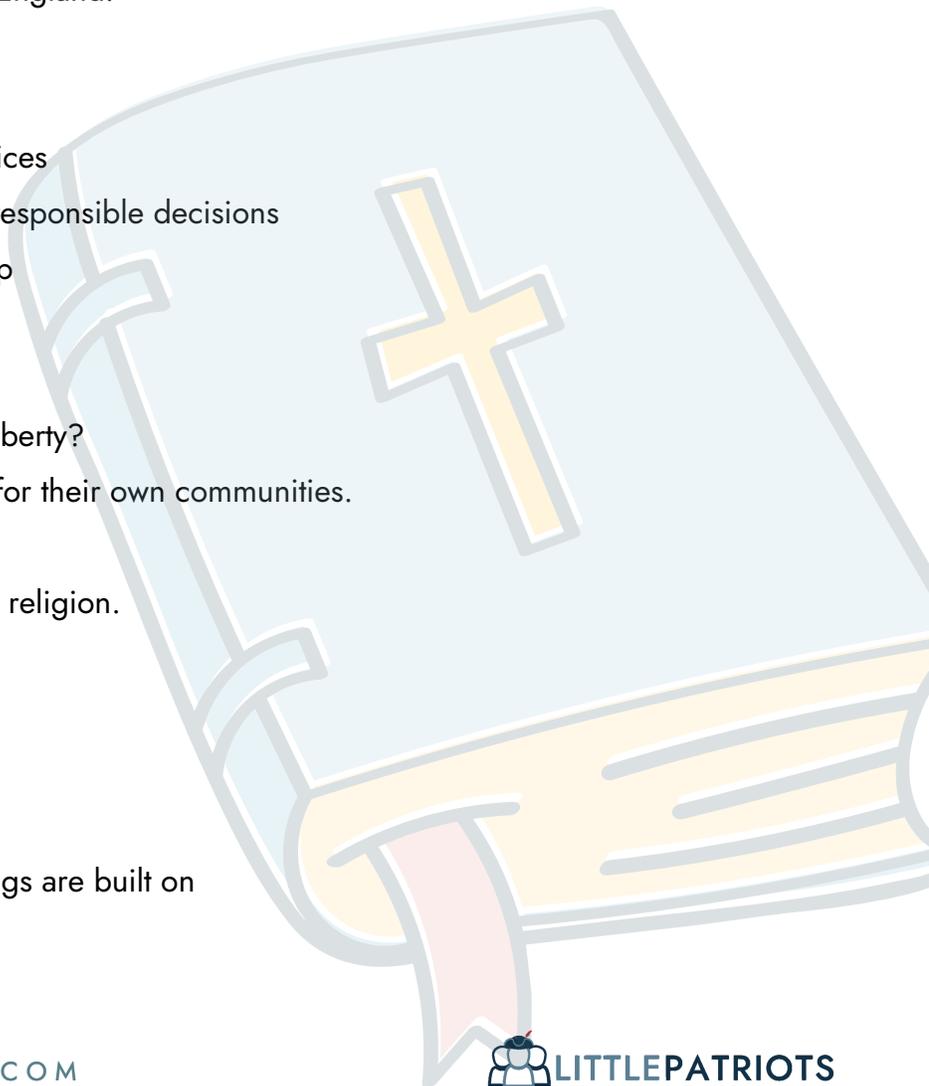
- a) To trust others to make all your choices
- b) To take care of yourself and make responsible decisions
- c) To always ask someone else for help
- d) To live far away from a community

14. How is self-government connected to liberty?

- a) It allows people to make decisions for their own communities.
- b) It means kings make all the rules.
- c) It means everyone follows the same religion.
- d) It requires everyone to live on hills.

15. What is a cornerstone?

- a) A rule about building houses
- b) Something important that other things are built on
- c) A special rock used in construction
- d) A decoration for buildings



# Multiple Choice Answer Key

1. What is a simile?

- Answer: Comparing two things using "like" or "as"

2. Which of these is an example of a simile?

- Answer: "The First Great Awakening was like a giant alarm clock."

3. What is a metaphor?

- Answer: Saying one thing is another to show how they are alike

4. How did the First Great Awakening help the colonists?

- Answer: It encouraged them to focus on their faith and community.

5. What did John Winthrop mean by "a city upon a hill"?

- Answer: A colony that serves as an example for others

6. What made the settlers' journey to the New World difficult?

- Answer: Stormy seas and limited supplies

7. What does it mean to be "a light of the world"?

- Answer: To help and inspire others with kindness and goodness

8. What is a denomination?

- Answer: A group of Christians who practice their faith in the same way

9. Why were the settlers' beliefs important?

- Answer: They gave them strength and hope to work together.

# Multiple Choice Answer Key

10. What was one of George Whitefield's main messages?

- Answer: Jesus' love is for everyone.

11. Why did George Whitefield travel and preach to many people?

- Answer: He wanted to unite people through faith and hope.

12. How did the First Great Awakening impact the colonies?

- Answer: It reminded people that everyone is equal before God.

13. What does self-reliance mean?

- Answer: To take care of yourself and make responsible decisions

14. What is self-government?

- Answer: It allows people to make decisions for their own communities.

15. What is a cornerstone?

- Answer: Something important that other things are built on



# Building a Strong Community with Cornerstones

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## Objective

Help third graders understand how the First Great Awakening influenced important cornerstones like **faith**, **life**, **community**, and **liberty**, and apply these concepts to building a strong classroom or community.

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## Materials

- A large poster board or whiteboard labeled "Our Community Cornerstones"
- Pre-made "cornerstone" cutouts (rectangles or blocks of paper or cardstock)
- Markers or crayons
- Example cornerstone labels: **Faith**, **Life**, **Community**, and **Liberty**
- Blank cornerstone cutouts for students to write or draw on
- A small bag of construction paper "bricks" for students to write additional ideas on

## Instructions

### 1. Introduction:

- Begin by reviewing:
- The First Great Awakening helped people reconnect with God and remember that everyone is created equal. These ideas became important building blocks—or cornerstones—of the colonies and later the nation.
  - Cornerstones are strong, important foundations for a community. Today, we will focus on four cornerstones: Faith, Life, Community, and Liberty.

### 2. Discussion:

- Ask students: "What do you think each cornerstone—faith, life, community, and liberty—means? Why are they important for working together?"
- Write student answers under each cornerstone label on the poster/whiteboard:
  - **Faith:** Trusting in God and living with honesty, kindness, and love.
  - **Life:** Valuing life by making good choices that keep us safe and healthy.
  - **Community:** Working together, supporting others, and solving problems as a team.
  - **Liberty:** Having the freedom to make choices while respecting others.



# Building a Strong Community with Cornerstones

### 3. Activity: Building a Cornerstone Wall:

- Hand each student a blank cornerstone cutout.
- Ask them to write or draw one way they can contribute to each cornerstone. For example:
  - **Faith:** "Praying for others" or "Helping a friend in need"
  - **Life:** "Eating healthy food" or "Playing safely with others"
  - **Community:** "Sharing supplies in class" or "Helping a neighbor"
  - **Liberty:** "Letting others speak during class discussions" or "Making fair choices"
- Once finished, students take turns sharing their cornerstone and placing it on the poster board under the matching category.

### 4. Brick Add-Ons:

- After the cornerstones are in place, give students small paper "bricks." Ask them to think about extra ideas that help make a strong community (e.g., "respect," "forgiveness," "kind words"). They can write or draw these ideas on the bricks and add them to the wall as reinforcement.

### 5. Reflection

- Discuss: "How do all these cornerstones and bricks work together to build a strong community? How do you think the ideas of faith, life, community, and liberty helped the colonists during the First Great Awakening?"
- Emphasize: "When we focus on these cornerstones, we can build something strong and lasting, just like the First Great Awakening helped the colonists build unity and strength in their communities."

## Takeaway

At the end of the activity, the class will have a "Cornerstone Wall" to display in the classroom as a reminder of the ideas they learned and the values they want to uphold in their community.

# Resources

- <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colliding-cultures/john-winthrop-dreams-of-a-city-on-a-hill-1630/>
- <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5>
- [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/declare.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp)
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Glorious-Revolution#:~:text=Church%20of%20England.,What%20caused%20the%20Glorious%20Revolution%3F,non%2DCatholic%20population%20and%20others>
- <https://users.ssc.wisc.edu/~rkeyser/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/TolerationAct1689.pdf>
- <https://gutenberg.org/files/20203/20203-h/20203-h.htm>
- <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/come-poor-lost-undone-sinner>
- <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/george-whitefield-did-you-know>
- <https://gutenberg.org/files/20203/20203-h/20203-h.htm>
- <https://minio.la.utexas.edu/webeditor-files/coretexts/pdf/174120sinners20angry20god.pdf>
- <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/mather-a-man-of-reason-edwards-a-supernatural-light/>
- Jefferson, Thomas. Declaration of Independence.

# Images

**Diamond**



Credit: Canva Pro.

**Alarm Clock**



Credit: Canva Pro.

# Images

## Settlers Traveling



Credit: Canva Pro.

## John Winthrop



Credit: Wikipedia.

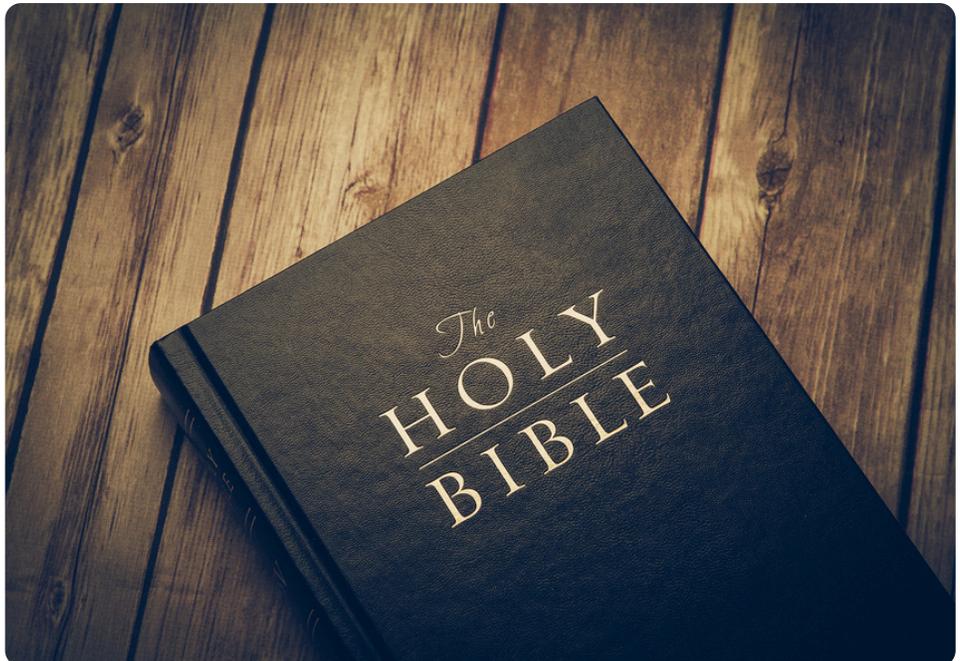
# Images

## Bright Light



Credit: Canva Pro.

## Bible



Credit: Canva Pro.

# Images

## Declaration of Independence



Credit: Canva Pro.

## Community



Credit: Pixabay.

# Images

## Distance from England to Colonies



Credit: Google Maps.

## George Whitefield



Credit: Wikipedia.

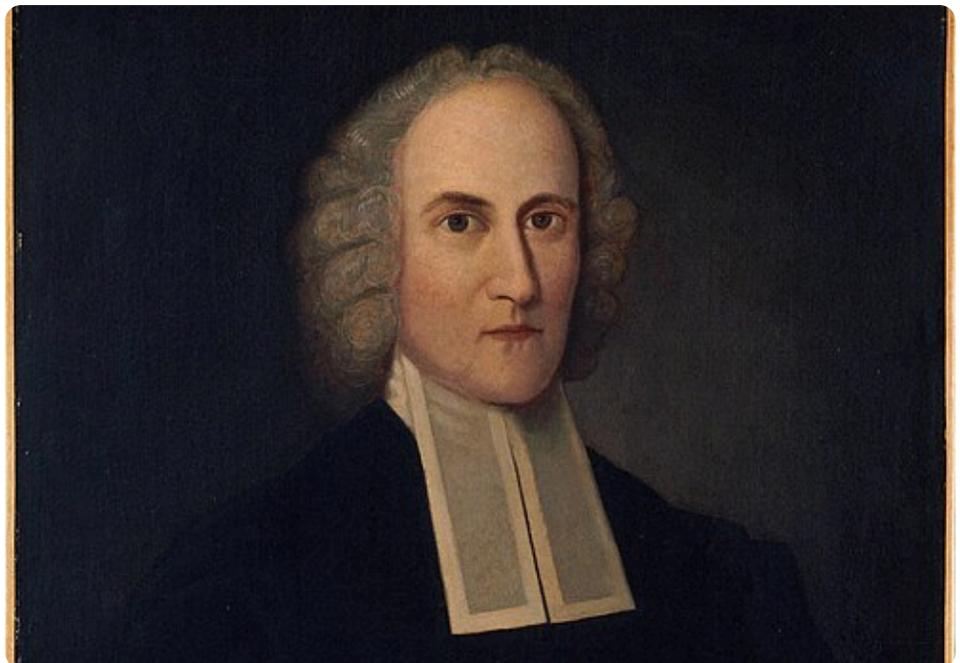
# Images

## Founding Fathers



Credit: Canva Pro.

## John Edwards



Credit: Wikipedia.

# Images

## Church



Credit: Pixbay.

## Cornerstone



Credit: Canva Pro.

# Images

## Self-reliance



Credit: Canva Pro.

## Monarchy



Credit: Canva Pro.

# Images

**United States  
Flag**



Credit: Canva Pro.

