

JULY 4, 2024
INDEPENDENCE DAY



Freedom to love our neighbor.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

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

Thursday	Mark 12:13-17	The question about paying taxes
	Galatians 5:1-15	The nature of Christian freedom
	Romans 13:1-10	Being subject to authorities
	Psalms 20	Prayer for victory

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:9b-10 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Independence Day:

God of the nations, we thank you for the freedoms we enjoy in this land. Give us courage and strength to use our freedoms for the good of all through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, thank you for the fish of the seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with plenty of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the grace and strength to love all people and live in peace.



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HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is the difference between independence and freedom.
- How does the commandment teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves bless the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 13:1-15.

We are reminded that God has ordered our lives for peace. We may not fully understand God's ways but the message in this scripture gives us a future with hope. That future and that hope identifies God's intentions for us today. In Romans 13:9-10, the commandments are summed up to love your neighbor as yourself. We are reminded that love does no wrong to our neighbor. Out of this love, we have the freedom to speak up and act to defend the rights and needs of others who require support in today's world.

Discuss: How does God's message of a future with hope help us to reach out to people in the world whose freedom is limited?

Pray: **O Lord, be with those in our world who cannot see a future with hope. We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Independence Day Bible Readings and theme for this day, what can you do to show love and support to a neighbor in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In the United States of America and other countries, we have been given the freedom to worship. This is something people in some other parts of the world do not have. Think or talk about the different religious buildings in your community. Pray for each one and for its people and leaders. Give thanks in prayer for the opportunities you have to freely worship God. End with this blessing: **May God bless America, all nations of the world, and you with peace.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org