



Happy Birthday, America! David Barton

Focus Modern claims that America is not a Christian nation are rarely refuted because of a lack of knowledge regarding America's history and foundation. However, Christianity is the religion that shaped America and made it the great nation it is today.

Fun Share your favorite or most significant Fourth of July memory.

Review Key Scriptures: Romans 3:23; Psalm 35

1. **America was founded through prayer.**

The Fourth of July is America's birthday; however, many do not know what our independence is about. The average length of a governing document is 17 years, but the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution are 243 years old. While our founding fathers were far from perfect, they accomplished an amazing thing.

2. **The First Continental Congress**

September 1774 was the first time the founding fathers from 13 different states decided to meet to talk about what was happening with Great Britain. Before they discussed the problems they were facing, the men who gathered started their meeting with two hours of prayer. After praying, they studied four chapters of the Bible. After reading Psalm 35, the Continental Congress called a time of prayer and fasting. This was the first of 15 times of prayer and fasting in early America.

3. **The 56 Men of the Continental Congress**

Many Americans have been conditioned to only recognize the two least religious founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin; however, most of the men gathered attended what we would consider Bible school or seminary,

and 29 of them were involved with Christian ministry. One of the men, John Witherspoon, is responsible for giving America its first Bible. America's Independence must be commemorated as a day of deliverance.

Group Dynamics Idea Plan a time to celebrate Independence Day as a small group. Allow everyone the opportunity to bring their favorite food or tradition to the celebration.

Discuss

1. Why do you think most Americans today don't understand the history and the importance of Independence Day?
2. Read Romans 3:23. How is this verse important as it relates to our founding fathers?
3. David Barton shared many recent newspaper articles that support the belief that the founding fathers were anti-God. Why is this type of misinformation significant, and what happens when believers are unaware of America's history?
4. What surprised you the most during David Barton's teaching of America's birthday?
5. John Adams believed that Independence Day should be celebrated as a day of deliverance with solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. Do you agree with this statement, and if so, how would this look in our modern families?
6. Why did President John Quincy Adams say that Christmas and Independence Day were the top two most religious holidays that we celebrate in America? How are Christmas and Independence Day alike according to Adams? Do you agree or disagree?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Our founding fathers weren't perfect, but they did something great.
- America was established through prayer, fasting, and Bible study.

- America's birthday is the celebration of Christian freedoms being birthed in a nation.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving courage and wisdom to our founding fathers. Help us to be people of influence who are not afraid to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank You for the gift of Your Word. Help us to recognize how You are at work in our lives. Help us to allow Your redemptive work in every part of our hearts and lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Consider how your group can model John Adams' belief that Independence Day should be commemorated through solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.