

The March of Liberty

Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.
Leviticus 25:10

Skit can be used for Independence Day (July 4)
(Elementary to Middle school level)

Background Information

Just as there are key individuals in the Bible that God used to advance His Gospel and bring liberty to mankind, there are also special individuals whom God, the Author of liberty, has raised up through history. These individuals were instruments in educating people in Christian Liberty, proclaiming man's rights to that freedom, and fighting to secure and retain that liberty.

July 4th is a celebration of America's declaration of her liberty. It is America's birthday! That famous document where the patriots declared their liberty from England is *The Declaration of Independence*, signed and approved, by the Continental Congress, on July 4th, 1776.

After the Declaration was signed, Founding Father John Adams made this recommendation: "This day ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty." Mr. Adams was right, and that is what this March of Liberty is about, a celebration of America's march of internal and external liberty down through the ages!

Props

- Necklace nametags for each individual
- Patriotic music and CD player
- The March of Liberty: Key Individuals Who Have Advanced America's Liberty booklets for each student
- Individual props for characters are listed under **Characters and Costumes**

Characters and Costumes

- **Moses:** in brown or gray robe with rope or material belt, holding the Ten Commandments tablets
- **Jesus Christ:** in white robe with blue or purple sash and belt, holding a cross
- **Stephen Langton:** in white robe (chasuble) with colorful or gold stole and white miter hat, holding the scroll of the Magna Charta
- **John Wycliffe:** in black or brown robe and matching tam, holding a black Bible labeled the "Latin Vulgate Bible"
- **Richard Hakluyt:** in white or colored loose, blousy shirt with knickers and leather shoes, holding two labeled, rolled up scrolls: "1606 Virginia Charter" and "1609 Virginia Charter"
- **William Bradford:** in traditional Pilgrim costume with pilgrim hat and buckles on leather shoes, holding a facsimile of *The Mayflower Compact*

- **King George III:** in kingly costume with royal cape and crown
- **Samuel Adams:** in colonial costume of white blousy shirt, vest, knickers and stockings with a tricorn hat, holding a small wooden crate with “TEA” printed on it.
- **Patrick Henry:** in colonial costume of white shirt with center frill, vest, knickers and stockings with a tricorn hat, and an antique-looking document with the words: **“Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery: Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”**
- **Thomas Jefferson:** in colonial costume of white blousy shirt with center frill, vest, knickers and stockings with a tricorn hat, holding a facsimile of *The Declaration of Independence*
- **The Liberty Bell:** holding a large cardboard Liberty Bell with the inscribed words “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” (Lev. 25:10)
- **Massachusetts Liberty Tree Flag:** holding a “flag” with white background and large round elm tree in center
- **George Washington:** in revolutionary military General’s uniform and pistol, holding a black Bible.
- **James Madison:** in colonial costume of white blousy shirt with center frill, vest, knickers and stockings with a tricorn hat, holding a facsimile of *The United States Constitution*
- **Noah Webster:** in black suit with knickers, stockings and black shoes, holding the 1828 *American Dictionary of the English Language* (facsimile of the original).
- **Your Pastor: Pastor _____** in modern suit and tie, holding a Bible

Blocking

As the audience is seated and students are getting ready, play the background instrumental music.

When all the students are in costume and holding their props, have them sit down, facing the stage, in order. Hand each student a March of Liberty booklet with his/her lines highlighted.

When it is time for The March of Liberty to begin, give the introductory remarks from the background information, then fade out the music.

Have each student (Key Individual) come up to center stage, one at a time, and slowly and clearly read/tell his quote. Then the student walks to far stage left to make room for the next student. He remains standing while the next Key Individual comes up and does the same, forming a line across the stage.

Skit: The March of Liberty

Moses:

I am Moses. God gave me the Ten Commandments, His Law, to give to the nation of Israel. If we would honor and obey the Law, it would bring us true liberty in every area of our lives—internal liberty! God’s commandments are for all men to obey, and teach to their children; so all generations will be blessed.

Jesus Christ:

I represent Jesus Christ, the most important person in all of history! For all those who love and serve Me, My death, burial and resurrection bring true and everlasting internal liberty. The devil brings people into bondage when they sin. But “God so loved the world that He gave Me, His only Son, that whoever believes in Me shall not perish but have everlasting life.” “For you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you truly free!”

Stephen Langton:

My name is Stephen Langton. I am England’s Archbishop of Canterbury. I wrote the Magna Carta, in 1215. This document is so important that it is known as the Cornerstone of English Liberty. The Magna Carta was the first

document to limit the complete power of the king and recognize the rights of individual man.

John Wycliffe:

My name is John Wycliffe. I am known as the Morning Star of the Reformation because I was the first man God used to bring reformation in Europe. God helped me to translate the Latin Vulgate Bible into English, so the common people could know true liberty of heart, which is called internal liberty. I once said, "This Bible is for the Government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Richard Hakluyt:

I am Richard Hakluyt of England, who lived during the reign of King James. I wrote the Virginia Charters of 1606 and 1609. These Charters guaranteed that the King would let the Colonists enjoy their God-given freedoms in America. The charters also said that one of our main reasons for coming to the new world was to bring the good news of Jesus to the non-Christian Indians. I received a vision from God to colonize America while reading Psalm 107: 23–24. This verse says, "Others sailed out on the ocean in ships. They traded goods on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord. They saw the miracles he did on the ocean."

William Bradford:

I am William Bradford, an English Separatist who came over to the new land of America on the Mayflower in 1620. More than 100 of us settled at Plymouth in the "northern parts of Virginia", and we were called Pilgrims. We had a, "great hope and inward zeal of laying some good foundation for preaching and advancing the Gospel in those remote parts of the world, and being stepping stones unto others." We wrote the Mayflower Compact, which guaranteed us the ability to govern ourselves as the Lord's free people.

King George III:

I am King George III, the royal sovereign of England and ruler of the thirteen Colonies of America. I reigned from 1760–1811 and ended my reign with a mind that was hopelessly insane. The American Colonists accused me of many abuses toward them. (*Thomas Jefferson* says: You refused to make laws that were wholesome and necessary for the public good. You sent soldiers to live in our homes. You cut off our trade with all parts of the world, and imposed taxes on us without our consent.) Their loudest complaint was (Other Patriots *Samuel Adams*, *Patrick Henry*, and *George Washington* shake finger at *King George* and shout this last phrase) "No Taxation Without Representation!!"

Samuel Adams:

I am American patriot Sam Adams. In the days before the American Revolution, I established the Committees of Correspondence to educate all of the colonies in the principles of liberty. I encouraged them to be righteous and to unite for America's liberty! I am called the Father of the American Revolution, for I stirred up the colonists in the holy cause of liberty from tyranny. I planned the Boston Tea Party where colonists dressed up as Indians, raided the English tea ships, and dumped the crates of tea overboard, to oppose the tyrannical tea tax. I declared, "While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued; but when they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first internal or external invader . . . if the people have virtue and knowledge, they will never be enslaved."

- Patrick Henry:** My name is Patrick Henry, and I lived from 1736 to 1799. I am an American Revolutionary leader and speaker for the cause of liberty. I was governor of Virginia five times! During the mounting tension between the thirteen Colonies and England, I spoke the famous words, (*Hold up antique-looking document and read*) “Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me Liberty or give me death!”
- Thomas Jefferson:** My name is Thomas Jefferson and I lived from 1743 to 1826. I wrote the words of the Declaration of Independence which was adopted on July 4th, 1776: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” I also said, “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.” God gives us both external and internal liberty!
- The Liberty Bell:** The Liberty Bell was hung in the Philadelphia statehouse. It received its name because it was rung when the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read, on July 8, 1776. The words of Leviticus 25:10 were inscribed on the bell, which say, “Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” On that day all the church bells throughout the city rang over and over, to celebrate the joyful news that America had declared herself free!
- Massachusetts Liberty Tree Flag:** This is the Massachusetts Liberty Tree Flag of 1776. It represented an elm in Boston where the Patriots first met to protest the Stamp Act. The men of Boston who were working for liberty were called the Sons of Liberty. They met under the Liberty Tree flag before the Boston Tea Party.
- George Washington:** I am George Washington. I led our brave patriots in the Revolutionary War, and God providentially led us to victory over England! When I was Commander in Chief of the American army, I issued an order to my troops, which said, “The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will try to live and act as a Christian Soldier.” After we gained our liberty, I was unanimously elected as our first President. I said, “It is impossible to correctly govern the world without God and the Bible.”
- James Madison:** I am James Madison, known as the Father of the Constitution. I served as the fourth President of the United States of America. I once said that, “the future of America does not depend upon the power of government; the future of our country is based upon our self-government. We must control ourselves and sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”
- Noah Webster:** I am Noah Webster, the author of the first *American Dictionary of the English Language*. This dictionary defined words according to the Bible, God’s Word. This helped by defining the language of liberty. I once stated, “No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”

Your Pastor:

I am Pastor _____, senior pastor of _____. In America, we have to reclaim our liberty, which is based in absolute truth. God is all-powerful; His Word is absolute, and His Word must guide us. Then we will have true liberty.

(At the end of the March, have someone lead the students and audience in the four stanzas of "America".)

America

by Samuel Francis Smith

My country, 'tis of Thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrim's pride!
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love,
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills:
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music sell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

Sources

William J. Federer, *America's God and Country* (Coppell, TX: Fame Publishing, Inc., 1994)

Verna M. Hall, *The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America*, Vol. I: *Christian Self-Government with Union* (San Francisco, CA: The Foundation for American Christian Education, 1962)