

George Washington

Father of Our Nation

*Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God:
whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*
Hebrews 13:1,7

Monologue can be used for Washington's Birthday (February 22)
(To be presented by a high school student or an adult to an audience of any age)

Background Information

George Washington is one of the most outstanding key individuals in our nation's history. This historical monologue reveals a bit of the character of America's most famous and beloved man, who was greatly used by God in the founding of our nation. He is one of our national heroes. Without him it is quite possible that our nation and its liberty would be very different, since he had such an important role in the forming of our uniquely Biblical form of government.

Every February, our nation celebrates George Washington's birthday. He was the first Commander in Chief of our army and he was our nation's first President. George Washington also presided over the Constitutional Convention as its president, where our National Constitution was much debated, then framed. He was a genuine and sincere believer in Jesus Christ—he was a Christian. George Washington is considered by many historians to be one of the greatest men in all of history.

Props

- CD of Revolutionary period music
- Copy of Washington's *Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior In Company and Conversation* (Selections below)

For the Regulation of Your Thoughts:

1. *Keep your thoughts upon God, your duty, the concerns of another world, or something that is innocent.*
2. *Often think over what you have been learning, and the improvement you are to make of what you read.*
3. *Keep from all wicked and profane thoughts.*

Of Words:

1. *Never use any wicked or profane words, such as cursing, swearing, or taking God's name in vain.*
2. *Never call people by any hard, unhandsome, or reproachful names.*
3. *Be careful upon all occasions to speak the truth, never dissemble, and do not tell a lie even to save yourself from the greatest punishment.*
4. *Speak to your superiors with reverence, to your equals with courtesy, and to your inferiors with gentleness and consideration.*

Of Actions:

1. When you have offended a person be always ready to acknowledge your fault, and to ask his pardon.
2. Never mock anybody, nor make your selves merry with the misfortunes, infirmities, or natural defects of others.
3. Avoid all rude, indecent, and immodest actions.
4. Be careful not to make a jest with holy things; never use the Scriptures in merry conversation, and do not mention the name of God, except it be with the utmost reverence.
5. Pray to God every morning and evening, and thankfully acknowledge all his kindness to you.
6. To conclude, if you would be good children, and desirous of going to heaven when you die, you must love God with all your hearts, delight in His service, and try all you can to please Him. Be sober, modest, and cheerful in your behavior; honest, just and sincere in your dealings, and kind, obliging, and charitable to all mankind.

- Copy of *Washington's Prayer for the United States* for each member of the audience
- Copies of the words to "America the Beautiful" for the audience
- The *George Washington in Prayer* plaque from the Foundation for American Christian Education (www.face.net)
- Other framed pictures or posters of George Washington at various ages

Characters and Costumes

- George Washington in revolutionary military General's uniform with a pistol of that period

Blocking

Study the George Washington, Father of Our Nation monologue and be able to read it with ease.

Decorate the room with the *George Washington in Prayer* plaque and any other framed pictures or posters of Washington. Distribute copies of *Washington's Prayer for the United States* and the song "America the Beautiful" to each member of the audience. Have available for perusal a copy of George Washington's *Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior In Company and Conversation*.

Have a small table with a plain black leather Bible and a replica of his gun or any other Washington paraphernalia.

Monologue: George Washington—Father of Our Nation

Introduction

Address the audience with the question, "What do you know about George Washington?" Allow time for responses. Now introduce Mr. Washington:

"We are blessed today to have this great man with us. Ladies and Gentlemen, let me introduce to you George Washington!"

*(Play period music while the re-enactor **George Washington** enters the stage in costume, carrying his Bible. Fade out the music after he begins talking.)*

George Washington: Hello everyone, I am humbled and blessed to be here today to speak to you on the occasion of my birthday. *(Teasing)*. Which one of you made my birthday cake?

(Address a student in the audience:) I like carrot cake best. I live in Mount Vernon near our nation's capital . . . go ahead and deliver it there! . . .

In a few minutes I am going to tell you an exciting war story. But first I want you to understand the most important part of my life, and that is the fact that I am a believer and follower of Jesus, just like you. Let me tell you a little about my spiritual life.

How many of you pray before you go to sleep? (*Allow them to raise their hands*) That's good. I do too. I believe that prayer is so important to a Christian. I have two times of prayer every day. Every night from 9–10 pm I go into my study, get down on my knees and talk to my God. I have my Bible (*hold up*) open too, and spend some time reading it because God speaks to me through His Word. After this, I go to bed, because I get up early. Every morning I arise at 4 am. I go back into my study and have my morning time with God for one hour. By the way, I pray out loud, so if you are ever at my house, you will know when I am praying, and you will have to wait until I am finished before we can talk.

I have written many prayers that I pray according to the day of the week. Here is one of them:

“Bless my family, children, friends and country; be our God and guide this day and forever; for His sake, who lay down in the grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.”

Every Monday I pray this prayer: “. . . let the whole world be filled with the knowledge of you and your son Jesus Christ.” Every Sunday I pray: “. . . increase my faith and direct me to the true object Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.”

These are just part of my prayers that I have written. There is much more.

When I was leading the army I believed that prayer was so important that I did not change my prayer habits. If there were no private place to pray, I would just get on my horse and ride out into the woods to find a quiet place.

(*Show the George Washington in Prayer plaque.*)

I know that many of you have played in the snow, but I prayed in the snow! I prayed to the God of the Bible and believe the Bible is the most important book in the world! It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.

(*Give a student his Bible to hold*)

When I was sworn in as the first President of the new nation of America, I added something to the ceremony. After I repeated my oath of office I leaned over and kissed the Bible and added, “. . . so help me God.” (*Demonstrate*)

Now let me tell you one exciting story of when I was almost killed, but God saved me. This happened during what is called the French and Indian war, which was just before the War for Independence or Revolutionary War. The American Colonists and the British were fighting against the French and Indians. I was 22 years old and was the aide (assistant) to the British General Braddock. We were trying to find the French and Indians and attack them. We had decided to go to Pennsylvania to one of their forts, named Fort Duquesne.

We had reached a river called the Monongehela River. By using their scouts, the French had found out that we were coming to attack their fort, so they left their fort to try and attack us first, by surprise. We were walking in a ravine when they ambushed us. They were hiding behind trees and rocks; arrows and bullets seemed to be coming from everywhere.

I was ready to tell the men to get behind trees and rocks, too, but General Braddock had another plan. British soldiers do not hide behind something when they fight. The General told the men to line up in a straight line, and fight like Englishmen! Since the men had on red coats, they were easy targets for our enemies, the French and American Indians.

I did the best that I could to help our men. I was riding back and forth on my horse, so I was also an easy target. I had two horses shot out from under me. Sadly, General Braddock was killed.

After the battle I discovered bullet holes through my coat and I found bullet fragments in my hair. (*Demonstrate*)

Five days later I wrote to my brother and said: "By the all-powerful help of Providence (God), I have been protected beyond all human expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me!"

What do you all think of that? (*Encourage responses.*) How could that have possibly happened? (*Encourage responses.*)

God saved me many times during the wars I was involved in. There is one more point to this story. Fifteen years after that incredible battle of Monongehela, I was traveling near the battle site. A company of Indians, led by their chief, approached me. The chief spoke through an interpreter and said this to me:

(*Another person, dressed as an Indian Chief, may step in and give this Indian quote.*)

"I am a chief, and ruler over my tribes. My influence extends to the waters of the great lakes, and to the far blue mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. It was on the day when the white man's blood mixed with the streams of our forest, that I first beheld this chief (he was speaking about me, Washington). I called to my young men and said, Mark the tall and daring warrior! He is not of the red coat tribe—he has an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do—himself is alone exposed. Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies. Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss. It was all in vain, a power mightier far than we shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle. I am old, and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but there is something bids me speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destinies—he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire."

Yes, the Indian chief was right; God (whom Indians refer to as the Great Spirit) had protected me for His purposes. God had much work for me to do for Him. And indeed, as that Indian chief foretold, I did become the President of my nation, and I am regarded by many as "first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Let us conclude our time together by joining in this prayer that I wrote for our nation:

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large.

"And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

I love my country so dearly, and I'm sure you do, too.

Let's sing a song together, written about her: "*America the Beautiful.*"

America the Beautiful
 words by Katharine Lee Bates, melody by Samuel Ward

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the fruited plain!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet
 Whose stern impassioned stress
 A thoroughfare of freedom beat
 Across the wilderness!
 America! America!
 God mend thine every flaw,
 Confirm thy soul in self-control,
 Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
 In liberating strife.
 Who more than self their country loved
 And mercy more than life!
 America! America!
 May God thy gold refine
 Till all success be nobleness
 And every gain divine!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream
 That sees beyond the years.
 Thine alabaster cities gleam
 Undimmed by human tears!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 From sea to shining sea!*

Always remember that God uses men and women of Christian character for His purposes. God can use you, just like He used me and other great men and women of history, if you will love and serve Him and be totally obedient to Him. Farewell my friends!

Sources

Lucile Johnson, *Celebrations of a Nation* (Willmar, MN: Biword Publications, 1987)

Verna M. Hall, compiler, *George Washington: The Character and Influence of One Man* (San Francisco, CA, 1999)

William Wilbur, *The Making of George Washington* (Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, 1973)