



Honoring God & Country

Lesson 1 — One Nation Under God

SCHEDULE

1. **Pre-Service**
 - Group playtime
2. **Warm Up**
 - Color page
3. **Pre-Large Group**
 - President
 - Pastor Mac & Lynne
 - Offering
 - LG Rules
4. **Large Group**
5. **Small Group**
 - Small Group Notes
 - Prayer
6. **Wrap Up**
 - Snack
7. **End of Service**
 - Parent pick up
 - Put on video-if needed

HERE IS WHAT I SAY!

Father God,
 Help me be a
 light to the world
 and tell them
 how much You
 love them & all
 You have done
 for them through
 Jesus.

In Jesus' Name I
 pray, Amen.

THE BASICS

1. **BIBLE VERSE: Psalm 33:12**, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!"
2. **BOTTOM LINE:** God's plan for the United States of America is to take the Gospel to the world!
3. **BIBLE STORY: You are the light of the World** (John 1:4, 8:12, 13:34-35; Matt. 5:14-16, Eph. 5:8, Phil. 2:15; Matt. 28:19-20, Mark 16:20, Acts 1:8, 13:47, 14:3 & 7; II Cor. 4:5-6, 5:18-21, I Peter 3:15)

Jesus told his followers, and that includes us, that we are the light of the world. His light is supposed to shine through us! We are the ones who represent Him on the earth, while He represents us up in Heaven. God has even given us His Spirit, the same Spirit Who lived and worked through Jesus, to give us the same power and authority that Jesus had! When we both show and tell of His love for them, people are drawn to the light and want to know more about Jesus. When Paul and Barnabas told people about Him, God healed people. And, God is still healing people today as we tell them about Jesus! God uses people, and nations, to show the world His plan for them. America is a blessed nation *because* we have chosen to honor God and use our wealth to tell others about Jesus.

Point To Make: God wants to use each of us to tell others about Him!

MAKE IT REAL

Picture: (*American flag; Marines raising flag at Iwo Jima; Bible; World*)

- Throughout the world the American flag stands for freedom. Red is for blood, courage, & bravery; white is for purity, honesty, and integrity; blue is for heaven watching us; stars mean we are a light to the world .
- This freedom came at a great cost as men & women laid down their lives to make sure we could always show and tell the world about Jesus.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus died and rose again for everyone.
- We need to go into the world and tell them how much Jesus loves them.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Who is supposed to let Jesus' light shine through them? (*Us!*)
2. Does God still want to save and heal people today? (*Yes!*)
3. What is God's plan for America? (*To take the Gospel to the world!*)
4. What do the colors of the flag mean? (*Red = blood, courage, bravery; White = purity, honest, integrity; Blue = heaven is watching; Stars = a light to the world*)

Spiritual Exercise: XXXX



Kids
4 years–K

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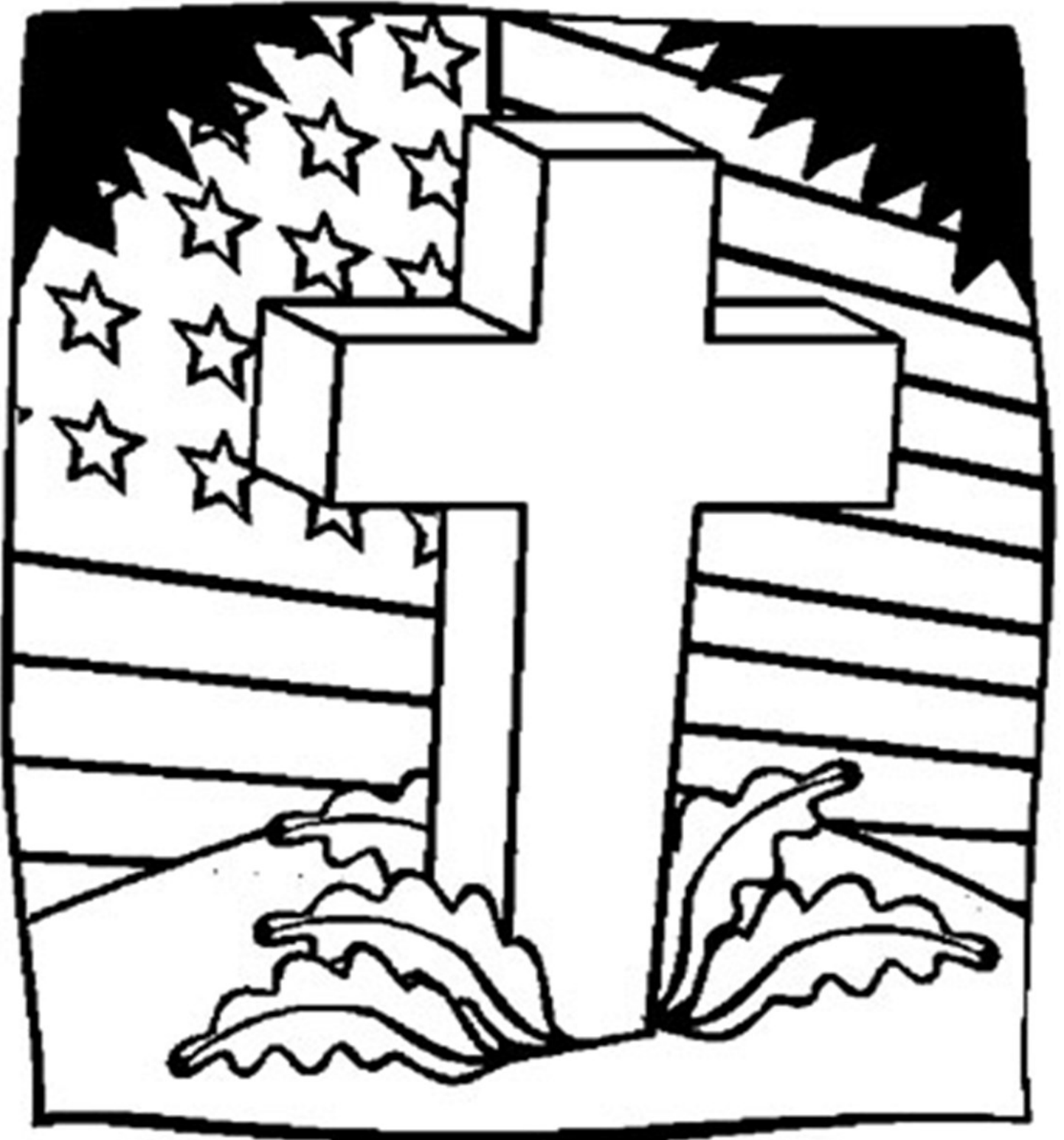
One Nation Under God





Bible Verse: Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!”

Bottom Line: God’s plan for the United States of America is to take the Gospel to the world!





HONORING GOD & COUNTRY

“One Nation Under God”

Scriptures to study: [Romans 13:7](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#);
[Mark 16:15-20](#)

Big Idea / Central truth: God has a plan for the United States of America: taking the Gospel to the world!

1. Introduction...*(Something wild and crazy, loud and silly to grab the kid's attention and burn up their calories!)*
2. Greetings/Rules/Announcements
3. Silly songs/Praise songs
4. Offering Verse/Lesson & Offering
5. Memory verse (*“PowerVerse” for Children's Church, “ExtremeWord” for P.t.Xtreme*): **Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord!”**
6. Worship
7. Set the stage... *Puppet skit #1: (Garbonzo, Devil. Here is where you “present the problem” that the sermon will provide the answer for.)*
8. Music Video: “America Again” *(From Carman's “The Standard” music video)*
9. Illustrated Sermon: God has a plan for the United States of America: taking the Gospel to the world!
10. Puppet Skit #2: *(Garbonzo, Heart, Devil. Here is where you “apply the answer” from the sermon)*
11. Object lesson: The Colors of the Flag *(Red = blood, courage, bravery; white = purity, honesty, integrity; blue = heaven watching down on us; stars = being a light unto the world. End with “The American Flag – A True Story”)*
12. Music Video: “Mission 3:16” *(From Carman's “Video Hits Collection” music video)*
13. Review *(Review the problem, the answer, and the application)*
14. Spiritual Exercise *(Confessions from God's Word reference today's lesson)*



The American Flag - a true story

(Condensed from a speech by Leo K. Thorsness, recipient of The Congressional Medal of Honor.)

You've probably seen the bumper sticker somewhere along the road. It depicts an American Flag, accompanied by the words "These colors don't run". I'm always glad to see this, because it reminds me of an incident from my confinement in North Vietnam at the Hao Lo POW Camp, or the "Hanoi Hilton," as it became known. Then a Major in the U.S. Air Force, I had been captured and imprisoned from 1967-1973. Our treatment had been frequently brutal. After three years, however, the beatings and torture became less frequent.

During the last year, we were allowed outside most days for a couple of minutes to bathe. We showered by drawing water from a concrete tank with a homemade bucket. One day as we all stood by the tank, stripped of our clothes, a young Naval pilot named Mike Christian found the remnants of a handkerchief in a gutter that ran under the prison wall. Mike managed to sneak the grimy rag into our cell and began fashioning it into a flag.

Over time we all loaned him a little soap, and he spent days cleaning the material. We helped by scrounging and stealing bits and pieces of anything he could use.

At night, under his mosquito net, Mike worked on the flag. He made red and blue from ground-up roof tiles and tiny amounts of ink and painted the colors onto the cloth with watery rice glue. Using thread from his own blanket and a homemade bamboo needle, he sewed on stars.

Early in the morning a few days later, when the guards were not alert, he whispered loudly from the back of our cell, "Hey gang, look here". He proudly held up this tattered piece of cloth, waving it as if in a breeze.

If you used your imagination, you could tell it was supposed to be an American flag. When he raised that smudgy fabric, we automatically stood straight and saluted, our chests puffing out, and more than a few eyes had tears.

About once a week the guards would strip us, run us outside and go through our clothing. During one of those shakedowns, they found Mike's flag. We all knew what would happen.

That night they came for him. Night interrogations were always the worst. They opened the cell door and pulled Mike out. We could hear the beginning of the torture before they even had him in the torture cell. They beat him most of the night. About daylight they pushed what was left of him back through the cell door. He was badly broken; even his voice was gone.

Within two weeks, despite the danger, Mike scrounged another piece of cloth and began another flag. The Stars and Stripes, our national symbol, was worth the sacrifice to him. Now whenever I see the flag, I think of Mike and the morning he first waved that tattered emblem of a nation.

It was then, thousands of miles from home in a lonely prison cell, that he showed us what it is to be truly free.



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Scriptures to study: [Romans 13:7](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Mark 16:15-20](#)

Romans 13:1-14 (NIV)

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

7 Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (NIV)

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

Mark 16:15-20

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (NIV)