**4th of July Family Celebration**

**Key verse**: *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”*

Psalm 33: 12

**Foods:** Traditional “freedom” foods like hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream. We are making homemade ice cream…Yum!

**Crafts:** luminaries; fork fireworks art

**Ice breaker:**

-Play patriotic music.

-Begin the crafts.

-Nail holes in the cans for luminaries. Paint the cans later.

-Paint the fireworks on the paper. Paint by dipping plastic forks in red, white, and blue paint and pressing the forks to paper in a crisscross pattern. Add a Bible verse to the paper after the paints dry.

**Educational** **Elements**:

-Discuss: Our forefathers wrote the Declaration of Independence stating the 13 colonies were breaking away from Britain. By doing this, they declared a new affiliation, a unified nation under God with the right to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

-Brain challenge: (quiz and give a prize to the winner.)

1. How many colonies wished to be regarded as the United States of America?

2. Five members of the Continental Congress drafted the Declaration of Independence. Who were they?

1. John Adams (Massachusetts)

2. Thomas Jefferson (Virginia)

3. Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania)

4. Roger Sherman (Connecticut)

5. Robert Livingston (New York)

3. Two of these men died on July 4, 1826. Who were they? (John Adams and Thomas Jefferson)

**Spiritual application:**

-True life, liberty, and happiness are found in Jesus Christ.

**Support verses:**

Ps. 144:15 “…**happy** is that people whose God is the Lord.”

Ps. 119: 44-45 “So shall I keep thy law continually forever and ever. And I will walk in **liberty**, for I seek thy precepts.”

2 Cor. 3:17 “Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**.”

John 1:4 “In him was **life**, and the life was the light of men.”

1 John 2:25 “And this is the promise that he hath promised us-even eternal **life**.”

**Additional point:**

-We can exercise independence from Satan and his hindrances to the life, liberty, and happiness that God intended for us to have.

Discussion question: How have you experienced the life, liberty and happiness found in Jesus?

Personal evaluation: What hinders your spiritual independence? What steps are you willing to take to exercise greater spiritual freedom?

**Prayer:**

-To help us appreciate the spiritual freedom we have

-To see the difference in the false life, liberty, and happiness that Satan offers and to grow in the life, liberty, and happiness found in Jesus.

Our family agenda

Begin crafts

Eat hamburgers

Have guests share war experiences while we eat

Make homemade ice cream

Complete crafts as ice cream is making

Gather for educational and spiritual moment

Eat ice cream

Play card games

Go to the patriotic concert and fireworks show

Priorities: God, family, others, patriotism