

JULY 4, 2021  
INDEPENDENCE DAY



*Freedom to love our neighbor.*

## INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observance.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 8:31-32</b>	<b>Truth will make you free</b>
	<b>Jeremiah 29:4-14</b>	<b>God has a plan</b>
	<b>Psalms 20</b>	<b>A prayer for victory</b>
	<b>Romans 13:1-10</b>	<b>Love one another</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:9b-10 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for Independence Day:**

God of the nations, we thank you for the freedoms we enjoy in this land. Give us courage and strength to use our freedoms not for selfish endeavors but for the good of all, motivated by the love of all, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundance, thank you for the fish of the seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with plenty of food. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God give you the grace and strength to love all people and live in peace.



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## HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*This Is My Song*



## INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you were free to do anything you want, what would you want to do?
- What is the difference between independence and freedom?
- How does the commandment teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves bless the world?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Jeremiah 29:4-14.

We are reminded that God has a plan. We may not understand God's plan or know what it may be but the message in this scripture gives us a future with hope. In Romans 13:9-10, the commandments are summed up to love your neighbor as yourself. We are reminded that love does no wrong to our neighbor. Out of this love, we have the freedom to speak up and act to defend the rights and needs of others. What are the needs of others that require support in today's world? How does God's message of a future with hope help us to reach out to people in the world whose freedom is limited?

*Pray:* **O Lord, be with those in our world who cannot see a future with hope. We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free. Amen.**

## SERVICE



We can often take for granted our public servants, those who manage and care for our public life and those who offer safety and protection. What gesture of appreciation can you send to those who serve your community, sometimes with their lives?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In the United States of America, we have been given the freedom to worship. This is something people in other parts of the world do not have. Think or talk about the different religious buildings in your community. Pray for each one and for its people and leaders. Give thanks in prayer for the opportunities you have to freely worship God. End your devotion time with this blessing: **May God bless America, all nations of the world, and you with peace.**

