



“Proclaim Liberty” Discussion Guide Lesson Two

Lesson Two Blanks

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|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Bible | 4. author | 7. respected |
| 2. order | 5. cosmic | |
| 3. reasonable | 6. revealed | |

Materials Needed: bouncy ball, whiteboard and markers or another writing surface that everyone will be able to see.

Introduction: Learning to Think Like The Founders

Read: Several times during this lesson, you will be invited to discuss the definitions of terms. Even if you are familiar with the terms, it can be insightful to look up a definition. A recommended dictionary to use is the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary, which is easily available online.

Read: Introduction Paragraph

Who Influenced the Founders?

Read: First paragraph, Section A-C, and Part 1, Polybius

Discuss: What is a monarchy? An aristocracy? A democracy? What do you think the advantages of each form of government would be?

Read: Part 2, Marcus Tullius Cicero

Discuss: What is a republic? What is an empire?

Read: Part 3, Edward Coke

Read: Definition of common law: the part of English law that is derived from custom and judicial precedent rather than statutes. Often contrasted with *statutory law*.

Read: Parts 4-7, John Locke, Baron Charles de Montesquieu, William Blackstone, Adam Smith

Discuss: What is a monopoly? What is debauchery?

The Founders' Principles of Liberty

Read: Introduction and Section A

Activity: Hold the bouncy ball shoulder high. Drop it and then watch what happens, without touching it again. How many natural laws can you identify that influence the movement of the ball? How do these laws interact with one another?

Activity: Document Study

Individually, choose at least five words from the following quote to look up. Write down their definitions. Then, as a group, write this quote in your own words. Do not use any of the words in the original quote in your rewriting!

“True law is right reason in agreement with nature: it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrongdoing by its prohibitions...It is a sin to try to alter this law, nor is it allowable to repeal any part of it, and it is impossible to abolish entirely. We cannot be freed from its obligations by senate or people, and we need not look outside ourselves for an expounder or interpreter of it.”

Word #1

Word #2

Word #3

Word #4

Word #5

Read: Section B

Discuss: What has been the result in history when rulers have made laws that violated natural laws?

Read: Section C-D

Commitments

Each week, we make commitments to act on what we have learned and share our learning with others.

Act

From your individual pondering and group discussion, choose one thing you will do this week to act on what you learned.

Ideas

- Learn about a law that is being proposed in your community, state, or nation. Does it follow or violate natural law? Write a personal letter to an elected official explaining your beliefs about whether or not it is a sound law.
- Review the rules of your home. Are they in harmony with natural law? Do any of them need to be altered?
- Think about your personal life. Are there principles you are using to govern your personal behavior that need to be changed in order to be in harmony with natural law?

Share

Share what you learned today with someone else.

Ideas

- Post a quote from “Proclaim Liberty” on social media along with your personal thoughts.
- Do the bouncy ball activity with your family. Discuss natural law.
- Choose a few discussion questions to lead a family dinner discussion or a discussion with friends.
- Choose a quote from the lesson to discuss with family or friends.