



## “Proclaim Liberty” Discussion Guide Lesson Seven

### Lesson Seven: Blanks

Throughout Lesson Seven, there are places to fill in the blanks. Here are the answers.

- |                |                        |              |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. kings       | 6. checks and balances | 11. 1620     |
| 2. Parliament  | 7. improvements        | 12. 1639     |
| 3. aristocracy | 8. unwritten           | 13. power    |
| 4. mixed       | 9. Magna Charta        | 14. few      |
| 5. jealousy    | 10. American           | 15. numerous |

### Lesson 7: “Principles of Liberty 16-19”

#### Section 1, The Sixteenth Principle

**Read:** PL, Section 1, Introduction

**Definitions:** (Look up and write down definitions)

Aristocracy:

Oligarchy:

**Read:** PL, Section 1, Parts A-B

**Discuss:** Montesquieu said that “When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty...”

What is the meaning of legislative powers?

What is the meaning of executive powers?

Why would uniting these powers into one person or body eliminate liberty?

**Discuss:** Montesquieu also claims that the judiciary must be separate and distinct from the legislative and executive functions. What is the role of the judiciary branch? Do you agree that it must be kept separate in order to preserve liberty? Why or why not? Provide reasons for your thoughts from personal experience, history, or natural law.

**Read:** PL, Section 1, Part C

**Discuss:** In what ways does separating governmental power provide protection? Specifically, how are we protected by having 3 distinct branches in the national government? How are we protected by having 2 separate but intertwined law-making bodies? How are we protected by having national, state, and local governments?

**Read:** PL, Section 1, Part D

## **Section 2, The Seventeenth Principle**

**Read:** PL, Section 2, Introduction and Parts A-B

**Discuss:** Where in nature do you see examples of checks and balances?

**Read:** PL, Section 2, Part C

### **Document Study:**

“It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department, to encroach upon another.

“The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominate in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position.”

Step 1: Look up at least three words and write down their definitions.

Step 2: Rewrite these 2 paragraphs in your own words.

Word 1:

Word 2:

Word 3:

In Your Own Words:

### **Section 3, The Eighteenth Principle**

**Read:** PL, Section 3, Introduction and Parts A-B

**Discuss:** What is the impact of writing things down? What are some of the things in our personal lives that need to be written down? Why?

### **Section 4, The Nineteenth Principle**

**Read:** PL, Section 4, Introduction and Part A

**Discuss:** Alexander Hamilton says that those in power have a tendency to “look with an evil eye upon all external attempts to restrain or direct its operations...” What does this mean? Can you think of examples in history that provide evidence for this claim?

**Read:** PL, Section 4, Parts B-C

**Discuss:** What types of things are best done by national governments? State governments? Local governments?

## **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

- Create a written constitution to govern your family/group.
- Do research to discover what is being done in your local government.
- Research historical examples of people attempting to eliminate kingly government in their nations.
- Count and list the powers given to the three branches of government. How many did you find?

### **Share**

Share what you learned today with someone else.

#### Ideas

- Share a quote from this lesson, along with your thoughts, on social media.
- Find out an issue that is currently being addressed by your local government. Discuss it with a neighbor.
- Discuss with your family/friends the importance of writing things down.