



“Proclaim Liberty” Discussion Guide Lesson Five

Lesson Five: Blanks

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

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|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. light | 5. tyranny | 9. trusting |
| 2. abuses | 6. people | 10. jealousy |
| 3. majority | 7. good | 11. nature |
| 4. revolt | 8. necessary | |

Lesson 5: “Principles of Liberty 11-13”

Section 1, The Eleventh Principle

Read: PL, Section 1, Introduction and Parts A

Discuss: Do you agree that “mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed”? Why or why not? Use examples from history or personal experience to illustrate.

Read: PL, Section1, Parts B-C

Discuss: John Locke said that when a man becomes a part of a body under one government, he has an obligation to submit himself to the “determination of the majority”. Why is it important for an individual to agree to abide by the laws that are put in place by the majority? Are there instances when that obligation ceases? If so, under what circumstances?

Read: PL, Section 1, Part D

Discuss: Do you believe that the right to revolt resides only in the majority? What happens if that right exists with an individual, a group, or a minority?

Section 2, The Twelfth Principle

Read: PL, Section 2, Introduction and Part A

Discuss: What is a pure democracy?

Discuss: James Madison said that democracies lead to turbulence and contention. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

Discuss: Why do you think the Greek experiments with democratic mass participation led to tyranny?

Read: PL, Section 2, Parts B-C

Section 3: “The Thirteenth Principle”

Read: PL, Section 3, Introduction

Discuss: Government is force. The same power used to protect rights can also be used to take away rights. How do you place limits on the way governmental power is used?

Discuss: In what ways can citizens hold governmental officials accountable for the manner in which they used the power that is vested in them?

Read: PL, Section 3, Parts A-B

Discuss: What do you think Thomas Jefferson means when he says that “free government is founded in jealousy”?

Activity: Give historical examples of well-known figures who exhibit basically the same human characteristics.

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

- Choose an elected official. Learn more about their record in office. Write a letter expressing your gratitude for their service, thanking them for the positive things they are doing, and expressing any concerns that you have.
- Learn more about different forms of government. Write your own definition of a republic.
- Research websites that will keep you informed on the actions of your elected officials.

Share

Share what you learned today with someone else.

Ideas

- Share a quote from this lesson, along with your thoughts, on social media.
- Discuss with your family or friends your thoughts on how the Constitution guards against the frailties of human nature.
- Discuss with your family or friends the purpose for which government exists and your obligations as a citizen.