



## FAITH AND FREEDOM: CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY WITH PURPOSE

Honoring God's Providence in the Founding of America

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this resource is to equip churches, schools, and communities with practical ways to observe Constitution Day in a manner that honors both God and country. The Constitution is not only a legal framework, but a blessing entrusted to us by God. This guide offers tools to give thanks, teach the next generation about the freedoms it secures, and encourage faithful stewardship of those freedoms. By approaching it through the lens of faith, leaders can connect biblical principles with civic engagement, reminding us that liberty is both a gift and a responsibility.

### FEDERAL REQUIREMENT TO TEACH CONSTITUTION DAY

In 2004, Congress passed a law requiring all schools that receive federal funds to provide educational programming on the United States Constitution each year on September 17. This provision was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 ([\*\*Public Law 108-447, Section 111\*\*](#)).

- **Who must comply:** All educational institutions that receive federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education.
- **What is required:** Schools must hold a program or lesson specifically dedicated to the U.S. Constitution on September 17, Constitution Day.
- **Purpose of the mandate:** To ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn about the Constitution, its principles, and its role in securing American liberty.

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS AND HOMESCHOOLERS

Constitution Day is an opportunity to make civic learning come alive. The activities below provide simple, engaging ways to connect students with the Constitution's principles while grounding the lessons in faith and responsibility.

- **Scripture & the Founders:** Teach how biblical principles influenced the Constitution's framework. Discuss verses on justice, liberty, and governance.
- **Prayer for Our Nation:** Begin the day with a prayer asking God to guide our leaders and preserve our freedoms.
- **Reading the Constitution:** Conduct a school-wide assembly and incorporate readings of the Preamble and Bill of Rights.
- **Student Debates with Biblical Principles:** Host debates or mock trials, encouraging students to integrate faith-based reasoning in civic issues.
- **Guest Speakers:** Invite pastors, Christian historians, or veterans to speak to your class or school on how faith shaped America's founding. Homeschoolers may want to gather with others and host a talk.



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- **Choir and Band Concert:** Organize a school, church or community concert with the singing and playing of patriotic music.
- **Naturalization Ceremony:** Take a field trip and observe a U.S. Naturalization ceremony. These ceremonies are commonly held in U.S. Court Houses and are free and open to the public.
- **Constitutional Essay Contest:** Organize a school sponsored essay contest on the Bill of Rights and how they pertain to biblical principles.

## IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Constitution Day is a chance for communities to unite in gratitude and action. The ideas below highlight simple ways to celebrate our founding and strengthen shared freedoms.

- **Public Prayer Gatherings:** Organize a prayer service at a church, courthouse, or public square, thanking God for our freedoms and seeking His blessing on our nation.
- **Faith-Based Constitution Study Groups:** Host small group Bible studies connecting scriptural truth to principles in the Constitution or **host a Biblical Citizenship class** at your church or in your home or neighborhood community center.
- **Patriotic Worship Services:** Incorporate hymns like *America the Beautiful* and *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* into a special Constitution Day service.
- **Organize a Fundraiser:** At your school or church and use the proceeds to donate pocket constitutions to local schools.
- **Visit to Local Veterans' Hospitals and Homes:** Honoring those who served by bringing students or community members to share gratitude, prayer, and patriotic music.
- **Initiate a Letter-Writing Drive:** To thank and encourage local veterans.

