

## Holiday Lesson Series

# 4<sup>th</sup> of July - Independence Day

### Bible Verse:

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

### Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

Those living in the United States celebrate the Fourth of July to mark independence from Britain. We typically celebrate this day by sharing the day with friends and family with a good meal and by watching a fireworks show at dark.

### Lesson Ideas:

1. Free from Sin: Independence Day celebrates the freedom of the United States from British rule. You can tie this lesson into a bible lesson by talking about sin. Use this day to celebrate an independence from sin. Talk about the Ten Commandments and how these relate to the children's' lives.
2. Hard Work: It took years of hard work to gain our country's independence. The founding fathers took months to write the constitution and declare independence. This is a good lesson for children. Talk about how hard work and perseverance pays off.
3. Patriotism: It is important to love the country. Show the children the correct way to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Decorations:

1. Red, white and blue is the order for the day. Hang plenty red, white and blue streamers and balloons in the room.
2. Hang small American Flags around the room.
3. Decorate the table with red, white and blue placemats, napkins and plates.

### Craft:

#### Make Firecracker Painting:

You will need a sheet of white construction paper, red and blue acrylic paint, water, and a straw. Dilute the paint with a little water. Put the end of the straw in the paint and gently blow the paint onto the paper. This will give the kids a "firecracker" look on their paper. When the color dries, you can add another color on top.

Red, White and Blue Streamers: Cut dowel rods into 12 inches. Let the kids decorate the rods using red, white and blue streamers on one end. Let the kids wave the streamers around the room.

### Snacks:

1. Red, White and Blue Shortcake: Buy small shortcake cups for each child. Place on a plate and top with fresh sliced strawberries and blueberries. Add a spoonful of whipped cream.
2. Red, White and Blue Punch: Make red and blue ice cubes ahead of time by adding drops of food coloring to ice cube trays. Freeze. When ready to use, add the ice cubes to a cup and pour in a clear beverage such as white grape juice or ginger ale.

**Game:**

Balloon Bust: Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by playing a balloon bust. Blow up several balloons and set up an obstacle course, such as jumping through hula-hoops, and hopping over bean bags. Instruct the kids to carry the balloons between their legs. If it falls out, they have to start over. At the end of the course, the kids must pop the balloons by sitting on it or stomping on it. For a festival look, fill the balloons with metallic confetti.

**Gift Idea:**

Give each child a small American flag to take home to remember why we celebrate Independence Day. These serve as great reminders to the children to remember their independence and freedom.