Simplified Principles for Teaching Youth the
28 Great Ideas for Good Government

The 5,000 Year Leap for Families



Parent Handbook



Published by
Textbook Publishers, Inc.
© 2026

The 5,000 Year Leap for Families
Parent Handbook

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
by
Julianne Skousen Kimber
Copyright © 2026

ISBN: 9781630729998

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified in this manual, copying any portion of this manual is prohibited. Requests for permission to reproduce content should be addressed to the publisher or the author.

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter…… 1

Introduction, Part 1— Understanding Colonial Life in America…… 3
Introduction, Part 2 -- The Thirteen Colonies …… 11
Introduction, Part 3 – The Government Thermometer…… 15

Principle #1 Good Government is Based on God's Laws (*2 Parts*)…… 25
Principle #2 A Nation of True & Honest People will Stay Free & Happy…… 35
Principle #3 To Stay Free, Good Leaders Should Be Elected…… 43
Principle #4 Religion Preserves Government…… 57
Principle #5 "In God We Trust"…… 69
Principle #6 All Men are Created Equal…… 77
Principle #7 Good Government will Protect, Not Provide…… 85
Principle #8 All People Have God-Given Rights…… 97
Principle #9 God's Laws Protect Our Rights …… 101
Principle #10 The God-given Right to Govern is for All People …… 109
Principle #11 Governments and Leaders Can be Replaced…… 117
Principle #12 The United States is a Republic…… 125
Principle #13 The Constitution has Chains…… 133
Principle #14 People Have the Right to Own Property…… 137
Principle #15 Free Enterprise Produces Prosperity…… 145
Principle #16 The Constitution has Three Branches…… 153
Principle #17 The Constitution has Checks and Balances…… 159
Principle #18 Our Written Constitution Preserves Our Rights…… 163
Principle #19 Good Government has Only a Few Powers…… 167
Principle #20 The Majority Rules, but Minority Rights are protected…… 171
Principle #21 Local Self- Government Preserves Freedom…… 177
Principle #22 Governing by Law Preserves Freedom…… 185
Principle #23 Freedom Requires Education in Religion, Morality, and Knowledge… 193
Principle #24 A Free People Must Stay Strong to Survive…… 199
Principle #25 America was Designed to be a Separate Country of Peace…… 203
Principle #26 Governments Should Protect Families…… 207
Principle #27 Debt Destroys Freedom…… 213
Principle #28 The Constitution can Bless the Whole World!…… 223

Music Section …… 229

Appendix…… 255
Article – "Righteousness Exalteth a Nation"
Article – Overview of the Constitution

Dear Parents,

Thank you for purchasing "The 5,000 Year Leap for Families!" This parent manual is an explanation of the 28 Great Principles of Freedom in simpler terms. It is geared toward teaching family members ages 5 – 12 but can be adapted to any age. It is recommended that you supplement this material with the original book, *The 5,000 Year Leap*, by W. Cleon. Skousen. We so appreciate the late Dr. Skousen for his remarkable scholarship!

It is hoped that you and your family will come to understand what made America great and how *we the people* can keep it free. The rising generation will need to understand these basic principles of good government in order to preserve them.

It seems that technology continues to overtake the world. This distraction is the cause for so many to forget or ignore the core values of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These core values need to be restored in our schools and in our families. This manual can be a tool to refresh our memories on what God intends for the "manifest destiny" of our beloved America.

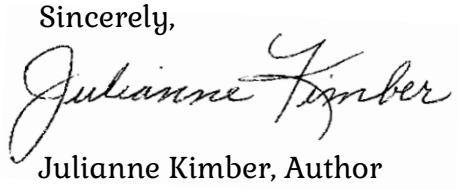
The lessons are only suggestions for presenting the material in a positive way to your family. Feel free to adapt the material in any way that will make the material meaningful and interesting. An Activity Book accompanies this manual, and family members should each have a copy to do the activities.

If desired, permission is given to copy the Activity Book pages for your immediate family members. Additional Activity Books, as well as *The 5,000 Year Leap* by Dr. Skousen, may be purchased at www.kimbercurriculum.com. Another excellent resource on the subject of Biblical freedom is also available on this website, called "The Bible – Handbook of Freedom," by David C. Skousen, son of W. Cleon. Skousen.

You will note that there are some references from the King James Version of the Bible, as well as Latter-day Saint scriptures that are options to enhance some lessons. Of course you may use these references according to your wishes, along with any other versions of the Bible.

Thank you again for purchasing this manual. With these principles of good government firmly established in the minds and hearts of our family members, our country will begin to turn back to its true roots – that is, back to God and the original principles of our inspired Constitution.

Sincerely,



Julianne Kimber, Author

Introduction, Part 1
Understanding Colonial Life in America

LESSON SUMMARY: The living conditions and environments our Founding Fathers experienced as they grew to be our nation's leaders.

Items Needed:

- ☐ Additional Background information (included)
- ☐ Pictures to color about colonial life (Activity Book)
- ☐ World globe, or map of Europe and England
- ☐ Map of the Thirteen Colonies

INTRODUCTION: As you discuss America's freedom story here, you may wish to summarize the additional material about colonial life found at the end of this lesson.

These lessons will cover the important men who bravely stepped forward to bring freedom to America by writing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Young children may not understand the meaning of "Founding Fathers," and that there were also founding mothers who helped shape our nation.

Founding means establishing or creating. Our Founding Fathers "found" a system of government to keep us free. Our Founding Fathers were men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.

These men also became like our Fathers for doing this great work for all of us. Some of the Founding Fathers even sacrificed their lives, their wealth, and their honor that we might have freedom.

The Founding Fathers were born into the world at a time when the Creator knew they each had a destiny to fulfill to make America the greatest country in the world.

An ancient prophet from scripture saw it all happen in a vision. He saw America as "the land of promise" for his people. Here is what he wrote:

> *"And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise;...And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles, and they did prosper and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful...And it came to pass that I...beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord; and the power of the Lord was with them....And it came to pass that I...beheld that they did prosper in the land;..." (1 Nephi 13:14-16, 20; See also Isaiah 2:2, Isaiah 52:10, Micah 4:1-2)*

Share the following, either in your own words or as written:

LESSON: You can color the pictures while you listen to what it was like when our country was first visited by people from other nations.

You know that the Native Americans were here when they arrived. The people from other countries called them

"Indians." You remember Plymouth Colony of the 1600s—the place where they held the first Thanksgiving. Did you know that because they didn't have the laws of freedom established, those people almost starved to death? Friendly "Indians" helped them many times. There were also unfriendly Indians who could see that their country was being invaded by "white people." There were many wars between the Indians and those new settlers who just kept coming.

The leader of the Plymouth Colony, William Bradford, brought peace and prosperity to the Plymouth Colony by letting the people own land. He gave them the liberty to get to work and provide for themselves. We will have a whole lesson about that later.

Before long, more colonies were established in the lush new country of America. When people heard of the successful colonies, more and more left their homelands in England and Europe where they "came out of captivity" to build a new life in the New World. Of course, there were hardships and everything wasn't always easy and fun, but freedom and liberty were what they came for.

You remember the story of Pocahontas and Jamestown. This was another colony that was settled a few years before Plymouth.

By the 1700s, there were over three million people living in the American colonies! They came from Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany, Spain, and England. *(Show these countries on a map or world globe.)*

Most of the people who settled in America were from England. At that time, England was called "Great Britain," because the king owned Ireland and Scotland as well as England. (*Show on map.*) These countries were also referred to as the "British Isles." England ruled so many countries, in fact, that it was said that "the sun never set on the British Empire." Because so many British people had moved to the New World, King George III appointed royal governors to oversee his people living in the American colonies.

The excitement of finding freedom and adventure in America attracted so many people, in fact, that shipping and trading became a very good business. England shipped glassware, wool and books to the American colonists. The colonists could not yet manufacture these things because the country was so new. But the colonists had things that England wanted! The people in the New World sent back to England things like sugar, tobacco and lumber. Lots of lumber!

It was during these growing years in America that many of our Founding Fathers were born. Listen to the names of four of them, and see if you recognize them.

Four Founding Fathers

The first Founding Father was born about 100 years after Jamestown and Pocahontas. The year was 1706, and he was the 13th child in his family! His parents named him Benjamin. Benjamin Franklin! He became the "Founding Father of Morality."

Benjamin grew up to be a well-known and respected printer. When Benjamin

was 16 years old, just after he left home to start his first printing shop, another Founding Father was born — Sam Adams. He became the "Founding Father of the Revolution," organizing the Sons of Liberty, and helping us win the war against King George.

Ten years after Sam Adams was born, George Washington came into the world in Virginia. The year was 1732. And as you know, George Washington became the "Founding Father of our Country," and grew up to become our very first president.

George Washington was just a three - year-old boy when his father taught him to write using a feather quill pen. By the time he turned eleven years old, Thomas Jefferson had been born. That was the year 1743. What do you remember about Thomas Jefferson? *(He wrote the Declaration of Independence.)* He grew up to become our *third* president.

Later, when Benjamin Franklin was 45 years old, and writing his famous "Poor Richard's Almanack," James Madison was born. He was the "Founding Father of the Constitution" and wrote down everything that happened when the Constitution was being written. The year of his birth was 1751, and he became our *fourth* president.

But, as you know, while these young men and boys were growing up, they did not know each other. They did not know that someday they would be the Founding Fathers of a great new nation! Just like you, they enjoyed playing games and going to school and learning various skills. And just like you, they didn't know what great destiny God had for them in the future.

Another George

When George Washington was six years old, across the ocean in the great empire of England, another baby was born. This baby was a royal prince, and his name too was George. His grandfather and great-grandfather were named George too. They were kings over England -- but they lived in Germany! They only spoke German and did not care much about England—the country they ruled.

But this little prince, George III, was born and raised in England and was taught all the proper ways of a royal Englishman. He grew to be very well-liked by the people, for they knew that one day he would rule the empire of Great Britain, and they were glad.

The colonists in the New World were glad, too, for Great Britain was the most powerful nation in the world! They were proud to belong to Great Britain, and those who lived in America were pleased to be called Englishmen.

Life in the American Colonies

It is important to understand what it was like for our Founding Fathers who lived in those days. We will learn what happened that made the Founders — and the other people of the colonies -- dislike King George and why they wanted to break away from the mighty British Empire. Understanding Colonial Life will help us visualize the exciting story that we will be learning in this manual.

Listen to these questions about colonial life in the 1700s. You may already know some of the answers!

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN THE 1700s?

(The following information is from the World Book Encyclopedia, 1979 ed., Vol. 4)

Additional Information – Establishing the 13 Colonies

"A Colony is a settlement established by people outside their native land and ruled by the mother country. Nations establish colonies to find more room in which people can live, to increase trade by providing a market for manufactured goods, to gain sources of raw materials, to secure military advantages, and to increase the prestige of the mother country.

"Climate has often decided how a colony develops. Temperate lands have attracted large numbers of colonists who have pushed out the inhabitants of the region. This occurred in the settlement of North America, where the new settlers drove the Indians farther and farther westward....

"Some colonies eventually become independent of the mother country. This happened when America broke away from England and became the United States. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and India once were British colonies, but now are independent members of the British Commonwealth

Information about Colonial Life

The story of the American colonists is one of the great adventure stories of all time. It is the story of brave men and women who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe, conquered a wilderness, and founded a new nation. This story of courage and achievement took place in a remarkably short time. The colonial period lasted less than 170 years. It began with the settlement of Jamestown in 1607, and ended with the start of the Revolutionary War in 1776.

Most of the colonists were English. But America also attracted thousands of Dutch, French, Germans, Scotch-Irish, and Swedes. The colonists brought different customs and religious beliefs, but they shared a common goal. All were unhappy with life in the Old World and wanted to make a better life in the New World.

The English here latecomers to the Americas, but they were the first Europeans to live in the New World in large numbers. England hoped to compete with other European powers for the riches of the New World. Spain had already developed a huge colonial empire in Central and South America. France controlled Canada and much of the Mississippi Valley.

The Spanish and French were interested chiefly in returning to Europe with furs, gold, and other riches. They also wanted to convert the Indians to Roman Catholicism. Their early settlements served as outposts to soldiers and traders, or as missions conducted by priests. On the other hand, the English colonies were settled by people from almost every walk of life. These people wanted to establish permanent homes in America.

In making America their homeland, the colonists were sometimes helped by the