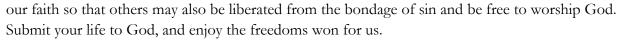
## **Independence & Liberty**

On July 4, America celebrates its independence from England. With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our country declared separation from the rule of England. John Adams was a signer known as the "Father of the American Revolution." Adams is the only founding father who argued for independence from England before shots were fired at Lexington. He was the spokesperson for the American Revolution who convinced the Continental Congress to vote for independence. Samuel Adams also worked with Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin in writing

the Declaration of Independence.

I recently read that Samuel Adams signed the Declaration of Independence to express his faith. Some other leaders sought reconciliation with England at the time rather than separation from the mother country. Adams sought liberty. It wasn't just political liberty. His goal was to no longer submit to Great Britain but, instead, to submit to the Lord.

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. Religious freedom is a foundational principle of the United States as a free country. We can freely and boldly share



Celebrate the freedoms we have to live in a country founded on faith as a cornerstone of our lives.

**The Bible Says**: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).

**Question**: What freedoms are you most thankful for in your life?

**Prayer:** (Say your own prayer today, thanking God for the many blessings, including the freedom from sin and the freedom to worship Him.)