



**TODAY'S TOPIC:**  
**Celebrating Our Freedom**  
 You are welcome to use this lesson to inspire spiritual conversation in your family or youth classroom. It is written for elementary age but could be adjusted as needed.

**THINKING JOB:** Ask a "thinking job question" to get everyone thinking about something pertinent to the lesson. This could be asked moments or hours before your conversation.

***What does the word "freedom" mean?***

**Lesson**

Materials	Things to Prepare	Today's Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chalk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	Know that we have a lot of freedom because of where we live, and we are free to choose our thoughts.

**ASK:** What do you like about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? What fun things will you do? (fireworks, bbq's, camping)

**ASK:** Why do we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Our country declared its independence from Great Brittan. We wanted to make our own rules and choices. Do you ever want to make your own rules? Declaring independence helped us do that.

**ASK:** What freedoms do we have by living in the USA?

**NATIONAL** – Freedom from foreign control. Other countries can't tell us what to do.

**POLITICAL** - We get to participate in our government – vote for our leaders and our laws. Be involved in the government by representing a town, state, or even president of the whole USA.

**INDIVIDUAL** – We can do and say what we want if it does not harm other people. Examples – freedom of speech, freedom to gather,

freedom of religion, freedom to choose where to live, freedom to choose your job, freedom to choose how to spend your money, freedom to choose the size of your family.

DISCUSSION: You can compare these freedoms to other countries where you don't get to choose your government, you're told what church to attend and what to believe, you're told the size of your family (would you still have brothers and sisters?), you're told what to wear (would you get to wear your favorite color?), you're told what kind of job you will have (would you get to do something you like?).

IDEA: You can choose your thoughts and beliefs no matter where you are or who you are with!

ACTIVITY: Chalk it Up! Go outside on the plaza and use the chalk to draw pictures about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Use words and pictures of what we are grateful for. Draw a picture about freedom. See how much we can "Chalk it Up" by covering large portions of the plaza with our pictures and words.

AFFIRMATION -I am grateful for my freedom. Repeat x4

**AFFIRMATION** –repeat 4X

Note: Printable affirmations and coloring sheets for this lesson are available at <https://www.milehichurch.org/youth-family/> .