

# DAVID BARTON

## Know the Bible

**Focus** The founding fathers of the United States of America knew the Bible. This nation is successful because of its biblical foundations. For your life to be successful, you must know and apply the Bible to your life.

**Fun** Would you rather go back in time 100 years or go 100 years into the future?

**Review** Key Scripture: Joshua 1:8

- The United States is about to celebrate 240 years under the constitution. No nation has gone this long under one single document. The success and blessings this country has experienced stem from one simple reason: it is founded on the Bible.
- For 150 years, presidents reminded people what the Bible stated regarding a specific topic. John Adams even wrote a book to help kids read the Bible in a year. Biblical references and idioms are everywhere in our culture. The Bible is woven through the fabric of our nation.
- Biblical literacy and biblical knowledge helped give direction to the formation of our government, including separation of powers, circuit judges, our economic system, and a score of other foundational systems. The father of education in the United States declared the importance of teaching the Bible in school. Today, we need to become biblically literate so we know what the Bible has to say about every issue in life.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** During a message like this, there is an opportunity to help each other grow spiritually beyond just the group itself. This message can be used as a springboard to help people begin a Bible-reading plan or encourage them to read and apply

the Bible to different areas of life. As a group, think of ways to take this message to the next level.

- Discuss**
1. What were you taught in school about the history, impact, and influence of the Bible in our society?
  2. Why do you think there is such an attack on the Bible from our culture?
  3. What are some blessings you think this country has experienced because of biblical foundations? What consequences do you think there will be if we remove the Bible and its principles from our culture?
  4. Is it easy or difficult for you to consistently read the Bible? In the past, what strategies have you found to be the most effective for you personally in reading the Bible?
  5. Read Joshua 1:8. How does this verse apply to your everyday life?
  6. Can you think of a time you read a Bible verse and were able to apply that verse to your life? Share your experience.
  7. How can we, as a group, encourage one another to become more biblically literate?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- This nation was founded on biblical principles.
- Biblical knowledge has brought many blessings.
- We need to become biblically literate ourselves.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the Bible. Thank You that our forefathers used the Bible when they founded this great country. Thank You for the blessings we've experienced because of biblical principles. We pray that You would bring our nation back to following and living by the Bible. Help us to be examples in this. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** A Gateway leadership principle is to always give from the overflow of your life. This means you need to be consistent in letting God fill you up. During your times of personal prayer and worship, let God fill you up and empower you with His Spirit. If you are

carrying any weights or burdens, lay them down at the feet of the Lord and let Him help and guide you.