

- What is the Constitution? Why do we have a constitution? How can the Constitution protect liberty? How can it provide justice?
- In America, who is to have liberty and justice? Is it for anyone? Or just a few?
- Do all nations have the same liberty?
- How can each one of us help to “keep” our civil government “true to God’s plan”?

What is God’s plan?

- *Student Activity Page 25-1.* Students may record the Student Notes on the activity page.

Suggested Student Notes

The U.S. Constitution protects American liberty. It provides justice for each person.

***Leading
Idea***

***“I pledge allegiance to the flag of
the United States of America”***

Student Text, page 194

- The flag, banner, or standard of a people identifies who they are and to whom they are showing their loyalty or allegiance. When the Children of Israel traveled in the wilderness, each tribe had his own standard, around which the families pitched their tents. As nations go to battle, the standard, or flag, precedes them into battle.

As individuals pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, it is to declare our loyalty to the nation for which the flag stands.

- “Credit is generally given to Francis Bellamy, a socialist and 37 year old former Baptist Minister, and a member of the National Education Association, for encouraging then President Benjamin Harrison in 1892 to have schools throughout the nation use a pledge (that did not have ‘Under God’) as part of their Columbus Day celebration. Then, in 1942, in the middle of the Second World War, the Pledge (also without ‘Under God’) received formal recognition by the 77th Congress. However, in 1954, when America was in the midst of exposing the influence of Communism and the athe-

ism upon which that view of man is founded, the 83rd Congress passed a law, signed by President Eisenhower, which added the words, ‘UNDER GOD’ to our Pledge of Allegiance and explained the reason for the law as follows:

“At this moment of our history (1954) the principles underlying our American Government and the American way of life are under attack by a system (Communism) whose philosophy is at direct odds with our own. Our American Government is founded on the concept of the individuality and the dignity of the human being. Underlying this concept is the belief that the human person is important because he was created by God and endowed by Him with certain inalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp. The inclusion of God in our pledge therefore would further acknowledge the dependence of our people and our Government upon the moral directions of the Creator. At the same time it would serve to deny the atheistic and materialistic concepts of communism with its attendant subservience of the individual . . .’

“In 1956, under the Eisenhower Administration, ‘In God we Trust’ would be

added to the United States coins and currency and become our National Motto.”¹⁰⁵

James B. Rose, *One Individual Under God*

- The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D. C. plays an interesting role in the history of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reverend George Docherty preached a Lincoln Day sermon on February 7, 1954, to a congregation that included President Dwight Eisenhower. The sermon, titled “One Nation Under God,” prompted the U.S. Congress to amend the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, inserting the phrase “under God”.

“What, therefore, is missing in the pledge of allegiance that Americans have been saying off and on since 1892, and officially since 1942? The one fundamental concept that completely and ultimately separates Communist Russia from the democratic institutions of this country. This was seen clearly by Lincoln. Under God this people shall know a new birth of freedom, and ‘under God’ are the definitive words. . . .

“The pledge of allegiance seems to me to commit this theological implication that is fundamental to the American way of life. It should be ‘One nation,

indivisible, under God.’ Once ‘under God,’ then we can define what we mean by ‘liberty and justice for all.’ To omit the words ‘under God’ in the pledge of allegiance is to omit the definitive character of the American way of life.

“Some might assert this to be a violation of the first amendment to the Constitution. It is quite the opposite. The first amendment states concerning the question of religion: ‘Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion.’

“Now, ‘establishment of religion’ is a technical term. It means Congress will permit no state church in this land such as exists in England. In England the bishops are appointed by her Majesty. The church, by law, is supported by teinds or rent. The church, therefore, can call upon the support of the law of the land to carry out its own ecclesiastical laws. What the declaration says, in effect, is that no state church shall exist in this land. This is separation of church and state; it is not, and never was meant to be, a separation of religion and life. Such objection is a confusion of the first amendment with the First Commandment.”¹⁰⁶



For Reflection and Reasoning

- Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance and discuss the proper posture for reciting the Pledge.
- What does the American flag represent? What does it mean that it is a banner? Discuss the use of banners to identify nations in battle or as used by the Children of Israel to represent the tribe to which they belonged.
- How do you show allegiance to a nation? Must you obey the laws? Should you try to protect its laws? Or would you tear

down the laws? How could that be done?

- When you *pledge* your allegiance, you are making a promise. What is the promise you are making?
- The American flag represents the liberty of this nation. What two national landmarks are symbols of American liberty?
- *Student Activity Page 25-2 and 25-3.* Students may label the page: “Symbols of American Liberty”. Cut and glue the picture of the flag, Statue of Liberty, and Liberty Bell.

**Leading
Idea**

***“To the Republic for which it
stands”***

Student Text, pages 194-195

- Webster defines a Republic as “A state in which the exercise of the sovereign

power is lodged in representatives elected by the people.”

For Reflection and Reasoning

- Review: What is a representative? When was the idea of choosing representatives established? See Chapter 6.
- Review *Student Activity Page 7-2*. Which illustration represents a Republic? What does a Republic depend upon in the people?

- What is the responsibility of the representative in a Republic? What is the responsibility of the people in a Republic.

Suggested Student Notes

**America is a Constitutional Republic.
We are governed by the Constitution.
We choose representatives
to make laws.**

**Leading
Idea**

***“One nation under God,
indivisible”***

Student Text, page 196

- In 1892, when the pledge was first written, Americans had a vivid memory of the difficult years through which they had just passed, as a result of those who thought the nation could be divided. Now they were pledging their loyalty, alle-

giance, to a nation which they are declaring as “indivisible.”

- Webster defines indivisible as “That cannot be divided, separated or broken; not separable into parts.”

For Reflection and Reasoning

- How many people are in your family?

Yet it is only one family. How many individuals and families are in your church? Yet it is only one church. There are many

individuals, communities, towns, and states working together to form one nation. How many states are in the United States of America? But how many nations do we have?

- Who gave us our nation? Is it God's Providence that we have a nation of 50 states?
- What does it mean to divide some-

thing? Do you divide it into more than one part? "In" as a prefix means *not*. Indivisible means it cannot be divided. Why can't this nation be divided? What great war was fought over the idea of whether the nation could be divided?

- *Student Activity Page 25-4.* Outline the borders of the United States on a map and label the body of the map: "One Nation under God".

**Leading
Idea**

***Can we keep a nation with liberty
and justice for all?***

Student Text, page 196

• "A republican form of government is evidently the most rational form that men have devised for the protection of person and property, and for securing liberty. But hitherto no means have been devised to guard this form of government from abuse and corruption. Men in republics are as wicked, and as selfish as in monarchies, and with far more power to introduce disorders, both into legislation and into the administration of the laws. In republics, the influence of selfish and

ambitious men over the weak, the ignorant and unsuspecting, has its full range of operation; and sooner or later, this influence will place in office incompetent men, or men who will sacrifice principle to personal emolument or aggrandizement. The corruption of the electors is the first step towards the ruin of republics; and when the sources of power are corrupted, the evil hardly admits of a remedy."¹⁰⁷

Noah Webster, *Letters to a Young Gentleman*

For Reflection and Reasoning

• Why would Benjamin Franklin have said we have a Republic, if we "can keep it"? Why would people not keep a Republic?

• Upon what does a Republic depend?

• *Student Activity Page 25-5.* The students may record a statement: "I must help protect American liberty and justice." They may sign their name to the statement.

Supplemental Activities

- Review the rules for proper flag etiquette.