

SELF-EVIDENT

The Truths That Built a Nation

Young Explorers Edition • Grades Three through Six

LESSON TWELVE

“From Knowing to Doing”

The Words We Are Studying

“... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

The Big Idea

Knowing what is true is only the beginning. The real question is: what will you DO with the truth you have learned?

Words to Know

Pledge. A serious promise. The Founders pledged everything to stand up for what was true.

Honor. Being someone people can trust and respect because you do what is right.

Courage. Doing what is right even when it is hard or scary.

What It Means

We have learned a lot together in these lessons. But here is the big question at the end: what will you do with what you know?

The Founders did not just believe these truths in their heads. At the very end of the Declaration, they made a serious promise. They pledged their lives, their money, and their honor to stand up for what was true. That took great courage, because it was dangerous.

Truth is meant to be lived, not just learned. It is like learning to ride a bike. You can read about it all day, but at some point you have to actually get on and ride.

A Picture to Help You Remember

Imagine you learn that a new kid is sitting all alone at lunch. Now you know something true: that kid is lonely and just as valuable as anyone else. But knowing is not enough. The real test is whether you get up and go sit with them.

That is the difference between knowing and doing. The Founders knew the truth, and then they had the courage to act on it. God calls us to do the same, in big ways and small ways, every day.

What a Founder Said

“The People can never be enslaved but by their own Tameness . . . Sloth or Corruption.”

— John Adams, 1772

In plain words: People stay free by being brave and doing what is right. We lose our freedom when we get lazy or stop caring.

Why It Matters for You

You do not have to wait until you are grown up to live out the truth. You can be brave and kind and honest right now, today.

Be the hero of your story. Know what is true, hold onto it, and have the courage to do what is right. That is what the Founders did, and it is what God made you to do too.

Let’s Talk About It

1. What is the difference between knowing something is true and actually doing it?
2. How did the Founders show courage at the end of the Declaration?
3. Which lesson in this series stuck with you the most? Why?
4. What is one true thing you have learned that you can start doing this week?

Try This

Pick one truth from these lessons and make a plan to live it out this week. Maybe include someone who is left out, tell the truth when it is hard, or stand up for someone. Come back and share how it went!

A Verse to Remember

“Do not merely listen to the word . . . Do what it says.” (James 1:22)