

SELF-EVIDENT
The Truths That Built a Nation
Young Explorers Edition • Grades Three through Six

LESSON FIVE
“A Gift From God”

The Words We Are Studying

“... that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights ...”

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

The Big Idea

Your most important rights are a gift from God, not from the government. That means no one has the power to take them away.

Words to Know

Rights. Things you are allowed to have and do that no one should take from you, like being alive and being free.

Creator. God, the One who made everything and everyone. The Declaration says our rights come from Him.

Gift. Something given to you to keep. Your rights are a gift from God.

What It Means

This is the most important part of the whole sentence. The Founders said our rights are endowed by our Creator. Endowed is an old word that means given as a gift. So they were saying: our rights are a gift from God.

Why does this matter so much? Think about it this way. If your friend gives you a toy, your friend could ask for it back. But your rights did not come from a friend, or a king, or the government. They came from God.

That means no king and no government can take away your most important rights, because they did not give them to you in the first place. Only God did, and He does not take them back.

A Picture to Help You Remember

Imagine your grandma gives you a special gift and says, “This is yours forever. No one can take it from you.” If a friend later tried to say the gift was theirs, you could say, “No, my grandma gave this to me. It is mine.”

Your rights are like that gift, but even stronger, because God gave them. When anyone tries to take away someone’s freedom or safety unfairly, we can say, “No, God gave that person these rights, and they cannot be taken away.”

What a Founder Said

“*The god who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time.*”

— Thomas Jefferson, 1774

In plain words: The same God who gave us life also gave us freedom. They come together as a gift from Him.

Why It Matters for You

Because your rights come from God, you can be brave and confident. You do not have to beg people to let you be valuable. God already made you valuable and free.

And because everyone else’s rights come from God too, you should help protect other people’s rights, not just your own.

Let’s Talk About It

1. Where do our most important rights come from, according to the Declaration?
2. Why does it matter that our rights come from God and not from the government?
3. If a gift is truly yours, what happens when someone tries to take it? How is that like our rights?
4. How can you help protect other people’s God-given rights?

Try This

Think of a gift someone gave you that is truly yours. Draw it. Then write next to it: “God gave me life and freedom, and those are mine because He gave them.”

A Verse to Remember

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” (Psalm 24:1)