

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

LESSON SEVEN

“Life”

The Words We Are Studying

“... that among these are Life ...”

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

The Big Idea

The very first right is the right to life. It comes first because without life, you cannot enjoy any of the other rights.

Words to Know

Life. Being alive. It is the first and most basic right, because everything else depends on it.

Precious. Very valuable and worth protecting. Every human life is precious to God.

Protect. To keep safe from harm. A good government protects people’s lives.

What It Means

When the Founders listed our rights, they named life first. That was not an accident. Life comes first because it is the foundation for everything else.

Think about it: you cannot be free, or play, or learn, or help others, unless you are alive first. Life is the ground that all the other rights stand on.

The Bible teaches that every human life is precious because every person is made in God’s image. That is why hurting an innocent person is so serious. Each life matters to God.

A Picture to Help You Remember

Imagine you want to build a tower of blocks. The very first block on the bottom holds up all the others. If you pull it out, the whole tower falls.

Life is like that first block. It holds up all your other rights. That is why the Founders put it first, and why protecting life is so important.

What a Founder Said

“Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life.”

— Samuel Adams, The Rights of the Colonists, 1772

In plain words: The very first right God gives every person is the right to be alive.

Why It Matters for You

Because every life is precious, you can treat people, and even animals, with care and kindness. You can stand up for people who are weak or who cannot protect themselves.

Remembering that life is a gift also helps you be thankful for your own life and use it well.

Let's Talk About It

1. Why do you think life is listed as the very first right?
2. How is life like the bottom block in a tower?
3. What makes every human life precious, according to the Bible?
4. How can you show that you believe every person's life is valuable?

Try This

Build a small tower out of blocks or cups. Point to the bottom piece and say, “This is like the right to life. It holds up all the others.” Then knock it out and watch what happens!

A Verse to Remember

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.”
(Psalm 139:13)*