

1. **Watch chapter 28** from *A More Perfect Union: America Becomes a Nation* DVD. Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

2. **Sing:** Hymn #340 “The Star–Spangled Banner” verse #1.

3. **Read:** D&C 101: 77, 80

“According to the laws and constitution of the people, which I have suffered to be established, and should be maintained for the brights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles;”

“And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood.”

4. No constitution on earth has endured longer than this one [U.S. Constitution]. We seek, and usually find, the answers to today’s questions in this document of yesterday. ...It is an inspired document written under the guidance of the Lord. James Madison, commonly called the father of the Constitution, recognized this inspiration and gave the credit to “the guardianship and guidance of the Almighty Being whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to this rising republic.” *Mark E. Petersen, The Great Prologue, Deseret Book Co., 1975*

5. **How can we best help to preserve the Constitution of the United States?** (Discuss ideas.)

“...Are we reading the Constitution and pondering it? ...Are we abiding by these principles and teaching them to others? ...Can we recognize when a law is constitutionally unsound? ...We must become involved in civic affairs to see that we are properly represented...” *Ezra Taft Benson, Ensign, Nov. 1987, © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

“...it is our duty to seek diligently for and support and uphold good, honest, honorable, and wise representatives to govern us.” *N. Eldon Tanner, New Era, July 1977, © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

6. **How can we best show our appreciation to God for these marvelous blessings of freedom, for a place where his true and everlasting gospel was restored?**

“We must remember what the Lord told the Jaredites when they were first brought to this land: ‘Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written.’ (Ether 2:12.) ...Our job is to learn and benefit from the past and to go forward in righteousness, keeping the commandments of God. ...Only as we accept and live the teachings of the gospel can the destiny which God planned for America be realized and the world united in peace and brotherhood.” *N. Eldon Tanner, Ensign, May 1976, © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

7. Read the Constitution Pledge (See Activity) to your family. Explain that it is our duty as American members of the Church to uphold the Constitution to ensure our freedom and the freedom of the United States of America. In order to uphold the Constitution you need to read it. It is not necessary for children to understand what they are reading, but that they understand the importance of the Constitution. Ask your family if they will agree to the pledge.

8. **Read** the U.S. Constitution and sign the Pledge (See Activity).

Quote: “If we keep the commandments we’ll be good citizens. ...We’ll exercise our right to vote. We’ll follow the counsel which the Lord has given in the revelations regarding our obligation to seek out ‘honest men and wise men’ (D&C 98:8–10) who will stand for principle, men who will put principle ahead of political expediency.” *Ezra Taft Benson, Conference Report, Oct. 1950 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*