

# AMERICANS EPIC ADVENTURE™

THE MIRACLE OF LIBERTY

Sam



Creation Truth  
FOUNDATION®

Sample



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# Introduction

*America's Epic Adventure™* was developed for the purpose of helping churches defend against the relentless attacks by those perpetrating a secular, evolutionary worldview. For decades the Church's foundation (Christ and His Word, Ephesians 2:19-20) has been attacked in a manner unbeknownst by many.

To remove the prevailing Christian worldview from the American culture, secularists first eliminated Bible reading and prayer from America's public schools through laws enacted by the Supreme Court in the 1962 *Engel v Vitale* and 1963 *Abington School District v Schempp* cases [these were violations of Article's I and III of the U.S. Constitution as only Congress is to make laws, not the Supreme Court]. As a whole, Christendom in America did nothing in response, continuing to send their children to institutions in which God's Word and prayer were no longer part of their daily education.

Eventually, there were many who would no longer conform to the pressures of the culture or government. Many churches and Christians started Christian schools or homeschooling, refusing to let their children be indoctrinated by those who stand firmly against the Lord God.

In the midst of these aggressions against the Lord and His Church, secularists began teaching a revised version of American history. For several decades, they attempted to describe the country's founders as unreligious deists. They were not devout Christians and did not use the Bible for any inspiration in seeking independence or crafting our new forms of government. This, however, was easily refuted by simply reading the founders' own words.

Since the founders were extremely faithful and turned to the Lord and His Word regularly in the formation of the United States of America, the secularists have taken a different approach in more recent years. The current paradigm they are now pushing is, yes, the founders were faithful, orthodox Christians. They did use the Bible as the foundation for America, its Constitution, and its laws. That is why America has been and still is racist, sexist, bigoted, etc. Therefore, America needs a complete remaking by purging and erasing this foundation and its influence upon the culture.

What does this have to do with the Church? The Church has the same foundation – Christ and His Word! If, then, that foundation must be removed by the secularists



from any influence upon American culture, then the Church must also be removed by the secularists from any influence upon American culture.

AN ATTACK UPON AMERICA'S FOUNDING IS AN ATTACK UPON THE CHURCH.

This is a secular, godless, evolutionary worldview they are trying to force upon us, and Creation Truth Foundation's entire purpose is to help the local church combat that influence and save the lost from its eternal consequence. This is why we offer the *Our American Founding*™ program and *America's Epic Adventure*™ VBS for churches.

We do not believe or teach that God needed America to bring about some divine plan. Rather, we teach that those who came to America and established this country were faithful unto the Lord and His Word, and God in return faithfully blessed them and this country with endless, immeasurable blessings. If we desire to see similar results in our day, then we need a return to Him beginning in the Christian house, overflowing into the church house, that will set ablaze a revival fire that may spread to the neighbor's house all the way to the state house.

*Training disciples to trust the Bible's history for its accuracy  
so they will trust its promise for their destiny*

CREATION TRUTH FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO DEVELOP THIS CURRICULUM

Calvary Chapel of Norman, OK  
Holmesville Church of Christ, OH



# Program Options



CTF historian Ryan Cox has presented the *Our American Founding™* program across the country for all ages and has now brought a version of it to students and families through the *America's Epic Adventure™* VBS. We invite you to have Ryan bring his displays, hands-on artifacts, and costumed presentations for your church and/or VBS.

**TO SCHEDULE RYAN COX  
FOR YOUR EVENT**

405-872-9856

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[creationtruth.com/vbs](http://creationtruth.com/vbs)





Sample

# Week Overview

VBS	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
<b>THEME</b>	<i>A Miraculous Storm</i>	<i>A Miraculous Shield</i>	<i>A Miraculous Covering</i>	<i>A Miraculous Birth</i>	<i>A Miraculous Victory</i>
<b>LESSON</b>	<b>The Pilgrims:</b> walking and living by faith even in the face of storms	<b>The Protected:</b> the Lord provided a shield of protection for one who was faithful	<b>The Patriots:</b> those seeking freedom were blessed by a special covering	<b>The President:</b> the first President was dedicated to the birth of a nation and the birth of the King	<b>The Proclamation:</b> there has been a constant war between good and evil – good will win
<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	Proverbs 3:5-6	Joshua 1:9	Romans 4:7	2 Cor. 5:17	1 Cor. 15:57
<b>CRAFT</b>	Paper Plate <i>Mayflower</i> / Storm in a Jar	Foil Shield / Quill Pen	Miraculous Fog / Tea Bags	Tricorn Hat / Making Ink	Breaking Chains
<b>SNACK</b>	<i>Mayflower</i> Hot Dog	Lunchmeat Shield	Pizza Pocket Tea Bags	Patriotic Pig in a Blanket	Lunchmeat Cannon

NOTES:

# Sample Schedule

TIME	K	1 <sup>ST</sup> GRADE	2 <sup>ND</sup> GRADE	3 <sup>RD</sup> GRADE	4 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	5 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE
6:00-6:25	<b>Opening / Missions</b>						
	5-minute passing period						
6:30-6:45	<b>Group Meeting</b>						
	5-minute passing period						
6:50-7:15	Lesson	Lesson	Crafts	Crafts	Snacks	Activity	Activity
	5-minute passing period						
7:20-7:45	Crafts	Crafts	Snacks	Snacks	Activity	Lesson	Lesson
	5-minute passing period						
7:50-8:15	Snacks	Snacks	Activity	Activity	Lesson	Crafts	Crafts
	5-minute passing period						
8:20-8:45	Activity	Activity	Lesson	Lesson	Crafts	Snacks	Snacks
	5-minute passing period						
8:50-9:00	<b>Closing</b>						

## OPENING – MAIN ASSEMBLY ROOM

- Welcome
- Music
- Missions\*
- Offering

## GROUP MEETING

- Attendance
- Memory Verse

## LESSON

- Taught by volunteer or CTF speaker

## CRAFTS

- Crafts help remember the day's theme

## SNACKS

- Snacks reflect the day's theme

## ACTIVITY

- Be prepared for indoor activities in case of weather

## CLOSING

- Announcements
- Music
- Dismissal

**\*Missions** – This time can be used in a number of ways:

1. The ministry of Creation Truth Foundation can be shared.
2. A CTF speaker can teach a lesson, followed by a **session for adults** once students are dismissed to their rotations [**we highly recommend this option**].



# Lessons

*America's Epic Adventure*™ lessons challenge students with the historical accounts of America's founding. The lessons relay the faith and dedication to God's Word of those who helped establish the country. Students will see how God blessed, even with apparent miracles, when people were faithful to Him, but also how things did not go as well when they were not faithful.

During the week, CTF speaker Ryan Cox can teach the lessons or a VBS volunteer can teach while Ryan teaches an adult session. Each lesson is thoroughly written for any VBS volunteer willing to teach and make applications.

In the first lesson, students will see how the faithfulness of the Pilgrims was rewarded while the unfaithful men of Jamestown often encountered disaster. Lesson 2 shares the thrilling encounters of George Washington and how he was miraculously protected in battle. The third lesson explains why the colonists sought to be free from England and how the Lord provided a miraculous covering of safety. Lesson 4 explores the life and faithfulness of George Washington as he became the first President. And Lesson 5 addresses Abraham Lincoln and the fight to end slavery. Incorporated in every lesson are spiritual connections that provide a Biblical application for every student and adult.

If a volunteer teacher has any questions or would like further materials for preparation, please consult the resources on page 72 and/or contact us – we will be more than happy to help.

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# Lesson I

## A MIRACULOUS STORM

### THE PILGRIMS

**A Miraculous Storm (Pilgrims)** – Walking by faith in the Lord - Proverbs 3:5-6

#### Lesson Outline

1. Those who settled Jamestown cared more about money than sharing the Gospel.
2. Pilgrims sought freedom of religion.
3. A miraculous storm helped them escape England.
4. They eventually seek freedom in America.
5. A series of storms force them to settle in Plymouth.
6. By living according to the Bible, the Lord blessed their colony and their relations with Native Americans.

#### LESSON

#### Jamestown

On May 14, 1607, after a rough and scary 5-month journey, 104 men started the colony of Jamestown, Virginia. To get people to join this daring adventure, they were told that part of its mission was to tell people in the New World about Jesus. Even the charter (the paper from the king that said they could start a colony) said they were to tell the Native Americans about Jesus. 104 men signed up! The problem was only one of them, Robert Hunt, was a minister, and he was the only one who regularly tried to tell others about Jesus. The rest of the colonists did not care about that. All they wanted to do was discover gold.

In fact, they never spent any time planting or tending crops or digging wells for water. By the end of the first year, they had humbled themselves to not just buying, but begging and stealing corn from the natives. And the only thing they ever found was pyrite – fool’s gold!

To help fix things, on September 10, 1608, John Smith was named the president of the colony’s council. He immediately demanded discipline and work by ALL the colonists. He had a well dug, crops planted, and declared that 2 Thessalonians 3:10 was to be strictly enforced, “...*that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*”

Captain Smith also tried to work with the Native Americans. Back in December of 1607, he was captured while out looking for food and brought to chief Powhatan. Smith feared for his life, but wrote that he was saved when the 11-year-old Pocahontas threw herself across him “at the minute of my execution, she hazarded the beating out of her own



brains to save mine; and not only that, but so prevailed with her father, that I was safely conducted to Jamestown.”

The encounter allowed John Smith to build good relations with the Natives, often relying upon them for food supplies to save the colony. Many, though, did not like the new working conditions under Smith, even though things had started to turn around. They even had a corn harvest! In the fall of 1609, a mysterious gunpowder explosion in the canoe in which Smith was sleeping left him badly injured. He sailed for England that October, never to return to Jamestown.

With the mosquitoes, malaria, tainted water, misplaced priorities, self-serving relations with the natives, and no work ethic, 2/3 of the settlers died. This would be the continuing story for Jamestown for many years as they regularly did not obey God and served only themselves.

### **The Pilgrims**

At the same time Jamestown was beginning in 1607, back in England, the government had begun raiding homes in the town of Scrooby in Nottinghamshire, imprisoning those who would not adhere to the Church of England. A group of separatists led by William Brewster and other religious men were gathering to worship God according to their understanding of the Bible and not by the demands of King James.

It was illegal to leave the country, yet the separatists attempted to do so in the spring of 1608, bound for Holland. They decided to split up to draw less attention to themselves. The women and children journeyed down river to the coast; the men went overland. They would board a Dutch ship when they all arrived. The women and children arrived early, saw no one was there, got seasick, and went back up the river so not to draw attention at the port. But then the tide went out and their boats got stuck in the mud!

The men arrived the next morning, also saw no one was there, but went ahead and started preparing for their trip. All of a sudden, a great company of officials arrived to arrest them. The Dutch captain weighed anchor and began to take off! The men who were still on land ran and hid. The men on the ship begged the captain to go back because they did not know where their families were.

The captain finally decided to turn around when just as he did, a fearful storm rose up against them. The ship was driven off course to the coast of Norway. For 14 days the storm raged! They often could see neither sun, moon, nor stars. The captain believed God was punishing him for not returning the men to their families. However, if the storm had not suddenly risen against them and kept them from returning, there may not have been an America as we know it today.

When the authorities arrived and found only the women and children who had made it to the coast, they felt awkward about arresting them. After some questioning, they were allowed to go freely. The families eventually found another ship and joined the men in Holland. If the storm had not stopped the men and they had returned, they very well may have been arrested and perhaps kept from ever leaving – the pilgrims may have never made it to America.

They all finally made it safely to the Netherlands (between France and Germany on the North Sea coast; the area they lived in was called Holland). However, King James eventually sent out an international manhunt for them! After several years, they would finally decided to a great risk and move to the New World to establish a colony where they could worship and live in freedom.

### **The New World**

The pilgrims set sail from Holland on the *Speedwell*. The ship, however, developed leaks. They had to squeeze together with other passengers from England on board the *Mayflower*. A total of 102 passengers with 30 or so crew left Plymouth, England on September 6, 1620, headed for America. The trip was challenging to say the least. It seemed to storm the whole trip. They were stuck below deck for two months with bad food, tainted water, no bathrooms, and only one set of clothes – the set you were wearing. Yet, they thought it was worth it to be able to worship God and live according to the Bible.

Land was sighted on November 9<sup>th</sup>! They all ran up on deck and began to praise God for bringing them to the New World. They celebrated for so long that Captain Jones had to force them below deck so he could continue operating the ship. They had arrived at Cape Cod, north of where they were supposed to settle. They attempted for a few days to sail south, but strong winter storms and winds kept them from making any progress.

They floated into the Provincetown Harbor of Cape Cod on Saturday, November 11, 1620. With the next day being Sunday, they stayed on board to worship together instead of unloading, despite two months of being cramped up in the *Mayflower*! That's how important the Lord's Day was to them! Then on Monday, November 13, 1620, the pilgrims set foot in the New World. They settled on a location on December 21<sup>st</sup> and began home construction on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The winter was harsh with freezing temperatures, disease, and lack of shelter. Of the 102 passengers, only 53 would survive to the following November. They remarkably didn't give up and stayed when the *Mayflower* went back to England on April 5<sup>th</sup>! They believed God would take care of them if they were faithful to Him.

Just a few weeks before the *Mayflower* left, a man named Samoset walked into their village. He had learned English from being captured and released by English fishermen in present-day Maine. His friend Squanto had been captured in 1605 and returned home for

good in 1619 (Squanto crossed the Atlantic 6 times in his life). When Squanto heard of this new group, he went to meet them. His people had been wiped out by a plague while he was in captivity. He was so pleased to see people living on his tribe's land that he stayed with them. He attended their worship services and listened to them read the Bible and pray. He was amazed at their "brotherly love."

The colonists became so fond of him that when he was captured by a rival tribe, Miles Standish led a group to rescue him, which, after Squanto did some negotiating, would lead to another 50 years of peace. Following his safe return, Governor Bradford showed him the story of Joseph and how he too had been captured, but God worked it out for His good. Squanto and Bradford became close friends, and Squanto became a Christian.

Through all those storms, God had led the pilgrims to the one place in the whole continent where (1) the natives were happy for someone else to live there, (2) the land had already been somewhat prepared for them, and (3) there was a native who spoke fluent English who could show them everything they needed to know to survive and prosper. The pilgrims were right – God did take care of them!

The colonists established good relations with the natives through the love of Jesus. In return, the natives worked side-by-side with the pilgrims. After the harvest of 1621, they all got together (90 Indians and 53 colonists, most likely in October) for a three-day celebration.

### **Living by the Bible**

Problems came with the arrival of the *Fortune* in November of 1621. New colonists came with new rules from England. The rules said that no one could own their own land, they had to rotate from one piece of land to the next as they planted and harvested, and then they had to bring all the food into one place and give everyone the same amount. It did not matter if you worked really hard or had been lazy and did nothing, everyone got the same amount of food. Many who did not follow the Bible did not work hard. This meant there was not nearly as much food as there had been, and it was soon realized that there would not be enough to last the winter.

Governor William Bradford said the answer was in the Bible. He, just as John Smith had 15 years earlier, operated by the Scriptural teaching of 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "...*that if any would not work, neither should he eat*" and 1 Timothy 5:8, which says that if you do not provide for your own family, you have denied the faith like someone who does not believe in God! Therefore, because of what the Bible says, Bradford and the council declared that if you did not work, then you would not receive any food. Guess what everyone who had been lazy began to do? WORK!

A LOT more crops were planted in 1623, and everything was going well, until a really bad drought from May to June looked like it would kill all their crops. The colony came

together for an entire day of fasting and prayer. That night, Governor Bradford wrote, "...it began to overcast, and shortly after to rain, with such sweet and gentle showers, as gave them cause of rejoicing, & blessing God. It came, without either wind, or thunder, or any violence, and by degrees in abundance, as the earth was thoroughly wet and soaked. Which did so apparently revive & quicken the decayed corn & other fruits, as was wonderful to see, and made the Indians astonished to behold... For which mercy (in time convenient) they also set apart a day of thanksgiving."

And that's how this nation was founded – upon God's Word, with full faith and dependence on Him, giving Him all the praise and honor, including a special day of Thanksgiving unto God.

### Questions

1. Who was in charge of the church in England? **The King of England**
2. The Pilgrims wanted to follow only what? **The Bible**
3. To find the freedom to worship and follow only the Bible, the Pilgrims decided to travel to where? **America**
4. Did the Pilgrims work with the Native Americans or attack them?  
**Worked with them**
5. What happened as Squanto and William Bradford became friends?  
**Squanto became a Christian**
6. Which was better for Plymouth: taking all the food and distributing evenly to everyone even if they had not done any work, or doing as the Bible says and giving everyone land to work hard and grow their own food?  
**William Bradford recorded that much more food was produced when they did it the Bible's way, giving everyone more food. God also sent rains at just the right time, providing a great harvest. For that they had a special day of thanksgiving.**