

LET FREEDOM RING!

by Gail Gaymer Martin



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Let Freedom Ring!

A patriotic program
for children

by Gail Gaymer Martin

INTRODUCTION

As a country, we have dealt with issues of national safety, security, and defending our democratic way of life. Our forefathers have reminded us that we are endowed by our Creator with the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Since this country was founded on religious freedom for those persecuted for their beliefs, a patriotic program for church or Sunday school seems appropriate. This patriotic program for children may be used for church, Sunday school, or a special holiday program. It brings together what our Constitution guarantees and what God has promised all believers. While we often take our rights and God's gifts for granted, this program will benefit both youth and adults, serving as a reminder that we are a unique people in a blessed country.

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CAST OF SPEAKERS

Narrator

Speaker 1

Speaker 2

Speaker 3

Speaker 4

Speaker 5

Speaker 6

Speaker 7

Child 1*

Child 2

Child 3

Child 4

Child 5

Child 6

Child 7

* For a small congregation, Children 1–7 may be the same children as Speakers 1–7.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This program script is written to be presented from a podium, music stands, or hand-held folders. You will also need an easel. Microphones are recommended. No costumes or sets are needed, and memorization is not required.

Props are minimal and may be drawn and colored on sheets of posterboard. A large circle representing a coin with the words "In God We Trust" written on it is needed along with seven posters with large block letters spelling "AMERICA." These will be arranged to spell "I AM" and "CARE," then rearranged to spell "AMERICA." You will also need some coins and a bank. For the final song, some or all of the children may also hold small American flags, which may be purchased in any paper and party store.

Each of the parts may be read by different individuals, or one person may read more than one part. This will accommodate both a small or large congregation.

The playing time for this program is approximately ten to twelve minutes, making it easy to fit into a worship service or other special program.

1 *(Enter NARRATOR and SPEAKER 1 to center beside an*
 2 *easel. SPEAKER 1 is dropping coins into a bank or*
 3 *container.)*

4 **NARRATOR:** What are you doing?

5 **SPEAKER 1:** Putting coins in my bank.

6 **NARRATOR:** Have you ever read what's on every coin?

7 **SPEAKER 1:** Sure, their value. Quarter, nickel, dime —

8 **NARRATOR:** *(Cuts him off with a chuckle.)* That, too, but I
 9 mean the words. *(While SPEAKER 1 looks at the change,*
 10 *NARRATOR sets a circular drawing of a coin with the*
 11 *words "In God We Trust" on the easel. SPEAKER 1 looks*
 12 *from his coins to the drawing.)*

13 **SPEAKER 1:** *(He holds up the coin.)* It says "In God We
 14 Trust."

15 **NARRATOR:** Our country was founded on religious
 16 freedom. People came to America to free themselves
 17 from religious persecution. The Declaration of
 18 Independence and the Constitution give Americans the
 19 right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and
 20 it protects our nation and our lives.

21 **SPEAKER 1:** That might be true, but aren't the laws of the
 22 country and God's laws different? Jesus said: "Give to
 23 Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's"
 24 *(Matthew 22:21).* How can we follow both?

25 **NARRATOR:** It means Americans are governed by two sets
 26 of laws: the Constitution of the United States and the
 27 Holy Bible. Because our forefathers were Christians,
 28 they set up our country's laws following God's rules
 29 and promises. Our country promises to be fair and just,
 30 and God promises to be faithful and to give eternal life
 31 to those who believe in him. "Let us hold unswervingly
 32 to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful"
 33 *(Hebrews 10:23).* *(SPEAKER 2 enters as SPEAKER 1 steps*
 34 *back.)*

35 **SPEAKER 2:** Americans have freedom. America is the land

of the free and the home of the brave. Our country works to protect us from terrorists and people who want to destroy our land. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17). (*SPEAKER 3 enters as SPEAKER 2 steps back.*)

SPEAKER 3: America strives for peace in the world. We fight to defend people whose peace and freedom are threatened. God also promises us a peace beyond all understanding. Though we often face problems, Jesus offers us a peace we cannot understand until we live with him in heaven. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). (*SPEAKER 4 enters as SPEAKER 3 steps back.*)

SPEAKER 4: Americans are protected. The United States has strong military forces and police officers to protect us from our enemies. In America, we are innocent until proven guilty. God also protects us from our worldly enemies and from Satan's evil. "The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one"

(2 Thessalonians 3:3). (*SPEAKER 5 enters as SPEAKER 4 steps back.*)

SPEAKER 5: Americans are blessed. People come from all over the world to live in the United States of America. An inscription on the Statue of Liberty says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." These people believe God has blessed America, and he has. God said, "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2).

1 He was speaking of Israel, but this promise could also
 2 apply to America. The Pilgrims landed in America with
 3 almost nothing. Yet today, we are a powerful and
 4 blessed nation. God has kept his promise. “For the Lord
 5 your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all
 6 the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete”
 7 (Deuteronomy 16:15). (*SPEAKER 6 enters as SPEAKER 5*
 8 *steps back.*)

9 **SPEAKER 6:** Americans can choose happiness. Our country
 10 was founded on the right to the pursuit of happiness.
 11 Though life is not always perfect, each day we can hear
 12 laughter and see smiles. We have joy in our lives. God
 13 has promised us eternal joy in heaven. “I have told you
 14 this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy
 15 may be complete. My command is this: Love each other
 16 as I have loved you” (John 15:11-12).

17 **NARRATOR:** God says to love each other, but what about
 18 evil, killing, and wars? The Bible says, “Therefore put
 19 on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil
 20 comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after
 21 you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).
 22 (*SPEAKER 7 enters as SPEAKER 6 steps back.*)

23 **SPEAKER 7:** Americans have God’s help to turn to in times
 24 of trouble. We must fight the good fight. God doesn’t
 25 promise our land will not have problems, but he
 26 promises he is with us if we set our eyes on Jesus. “If
 27 God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). God
 28 asks us to support our country by following the laws of
 29 the land and by defending it from the enemy. When the
 30 Lord asks what we have done for America and for him,
 31 he wants to hear us say, “I have fought the good fight,
 32 I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy
 33 4:7).

34 **NARRATOR:** (*Points to words on the easel*) In God we trust.
 35 The Lord has blessed America with freedom,

1 prosperity, security, peace, and joy. America allows us
 2 to worship God as we choose. (*Three children — CHILD*
 3 1, 2, and 3 — enter, each carrying a large alphabet letter
 4 drawn on posterboard. The three letters spell “I AM.” They
 5 stand center holding the letters so they may be read by the
 6 audience.)

7 **THREE CHILDREN:** (*Speaking in unison*) **God is the great I**
 8 **AM.**

9 **CHILD 1:** He is almighty.

10 **CHILD 2:** He is faithful.

11 **CHILD 3:** God is love. (*Four children enter — CHILD 4–7 — each*
 12 *carrying large letters drawn on posterboard, forming the*
 13 *word “CARE.”*)

14 **CHILD 4:** America is free.

15 **CHILD 5:** America is secure.

16 **CHILD 6:** America is blessed.

17 **CHILD 7:** America is in God’s loving care. (*CHILDREN*
 18 *rearrange themselves and move into a row to form the word*
 19 *“AMERICA.”*)

20 **CHILDREN 1-7:** (*In unison*) **In God we trust. Let freedom**
 21 **ring!** (*CHILDREN carrying small American flags join them*
 22 *to sing two verses of “America” [“My Country, ’Tis of Thee”]*
 23 *— the first verse and the lesser-known but appropriate fourth*
 24 *verse. Words for both verses can be found on the next page.)*

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32 NOTE: The numerals running vertically down the left margin
 33 of each page of dialogue are for the convenience of the director.
 34 With these, he/she may easily direct attention to a specific
 35 passage.

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)
by Samuel F. Smith

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride.
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring.

Our father's God to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King.



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