

## LESSON : PRAYERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY LINDA LEE HANDY

**1.LESSON PURPOSE:** To learn of the faith and prayers given by George Washington, General of the struggling Colonial Army in the Revolutionary War for freedom from the mighty Great Britain (and later first President of the USA.) To recognize God's hand in guiding and blessing this humble leader and this small Colonial Nation. To be inspired to also have faith, gratitude, prayers, and good works in our own times of struggle.

### 2.WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE PRAYERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON?

This prayer is read aloud each day at Mount Vernon's public wreath-laying ceremony.

*I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks of the Devine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Amen*

*Prayer adapted from Washington's Circular Letter to the States, which he wrote on June 8, 1783, as the commander in chief, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York. This circular was directed to the governors and states of the new nation. His reference to them has been replaced by the words "the United States." Otherwise, the words and the spellings are those of General George Washington of the Continental Army.*

### 3.TO SEEK GUIDANCE AND BLESSINGS FOR AMERICA, WHY WAS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S PRAYERS FOR THE NATION IMPORTANT TO US?

- a. Acknowledge the importance of divine guidance in leadership.
- b. Pray for unity and harmony among the people.
- c. Request strength and wisdom for those in power.
- d. Seek protection and peace for the nation.
- e. Encourage a spirit of humility and service to others.
- f. Foster a commitment to justice and righteousness in all actions.

**4.FAMILY DISCUSSION:** How can we FOLLOW the example of faith & prayers that George Washington gave us? How can we have dependence upon God's divine blessing to enable us to be a secure & happy land?

**5.RESOURCE:** <https://www.mountvernon.org/the-estate-gardens/the-tombs/george-washingtons-prayer-for-his-country>; [www.ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org) › valleyforge › Washington; [gfaclessons.com](http://gfaclessons.com)