

IN THE WORLD



John 17:9-19

LESSON 13
May 31, 2026

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

CELEBRATION FOR THE NATION

In 2026, the US marks two hundred and fifty years since the nation's founding. In anticipation of the summer festivities, a recent "Rededicate 250" event was held on the National Mall near the Capitol building. It was billed as a time to worship, pray, and fellowship as Christians. Attendees were specifically encouraged to express gratitude for nation's freedoms and to seek divine guidance and blessing for the country's future. The event garnered a variety of reactions from Christians—some calling the event an appropriate response, others showing concern for the mixing of faith and politics. Discussions online and from public-facing Christians revolved around the definition of a Christian nation and what it means to follow the mission of Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE CHURCH

After rising from the dead and appearing to many people, it is time for Jesus to return to heaven. He leaves the disciples as his messengers to grow the mission field. They are to make more disciples from every nation—going, baptizing, and teaching. Jesus promises to be with his followers, even after ascending to heaven. Later the writer of Hebrews encourages Christians to go before the throne of God as a people who have been redeemed. Through faith, hope, and love, we too can uphold the ministry of Jesus. And to patiently await Christ's return, we need the encouragement found in one another.

1. What about your country makes you grateful?
2. What about your country makes you want to see change?
3. How are you encouraging other Christians to be faithful to the mission of Jesus

Additional Resources

Any videos or web materials are for your personal use. If you play any media files in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Playlists

[Contemporary Worship Weekly](#)
[Echoes Worship Weekly](#) (featuring African-American music artists)
[Traditional Worship Weekly](#)

Study Resources

Commentary: [Osvaldo Vena's "Commentary on Matthew 28:16-20"](#)
Devotion: [Theology of Work on "Go and Make Disciples \(Matthew 28:16-20\)"](#)
Commentary: [Thomas L. Constable's "The Danger of Willful Sinning \(The Fourth Warning\) 10:19-39"](#)

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