

KIRK CAMERON PRESENTS

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FOR

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

MONUMENTAL

IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREASURE

KIRK CAMERON PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAMEFAM STUDIOS A PYRO PICTURES PRODUCTION "MONUMENTAL: IN SEARCH OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREASURE"
PRODUCED BY DUANE BARNHART, KIRK CAMERON & ANGELA ALVAREZ. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN BONA, BILL HOUGH & MARK GAMBEE. DIRECTED BY MARSHALL FOSTER. WRITTEN BY KEVIN MILLER. PRODUCED BY DUANE BARNHART

CAMEFAM



PYRO PICTURES

www.monumentalmovie.com

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ABOUT THE FILM

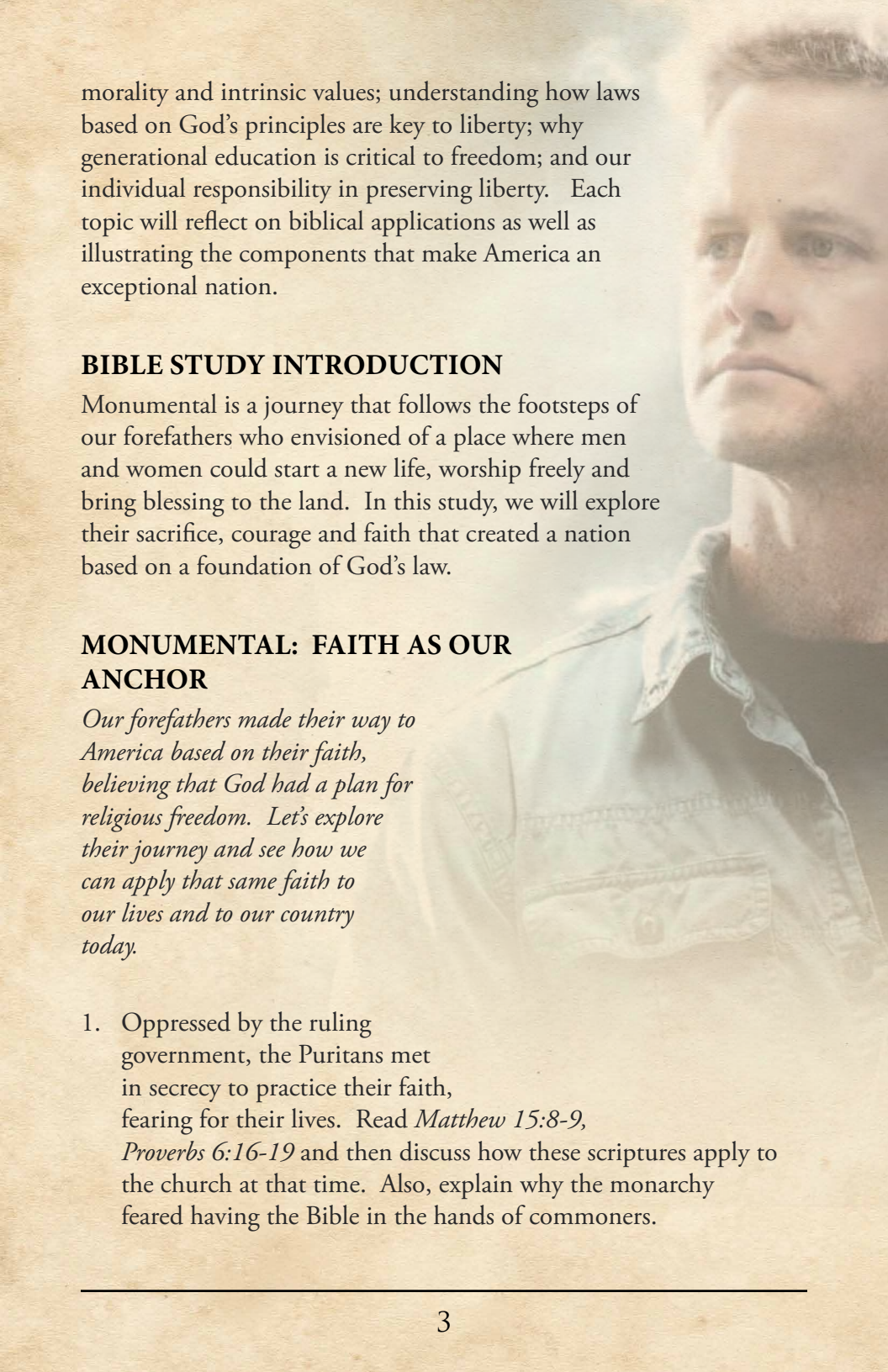
Monumental is the story of America's beginnings. Presented and produced by Kirk Cameron, the 90-minute true story follows the father of six across Europe and the U.S. as he meets with historians and experts in an effort to discover America's true "national treasure"—the people, places, and principles that made America the freest, most prosperous and generous nation the world has ever known.

Long regarded as "*the land of opportunity*," there is no question the tiny band of religious outcasts who founded this country hit upon a formula for success that went way beyond what they could have imagined. How else can you explain the fact that they established a nation that has become the best example of civil, economic and religious liberty the world has ever known?

What formula did they discover? What motivated them to come here in the first place? More importantly, how can we apply these same foundational truths today? Take your family on a new adventure to discover the true national treasure of America.

ABOUT THE BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

The Bible study draws on the themes in the film and provides an opportunity for personal or group discussion of such topics as keeping faith in God as our anchor; the importance of individual



morality and intrinsic values; understanding how laws based on God's principles are key to liberty; why generational education is critical to freedom; and our individual responsibility in preserving liberty. Each topic will reflect on biblical applications as well as illustrating the components that make America an exceptional nation.

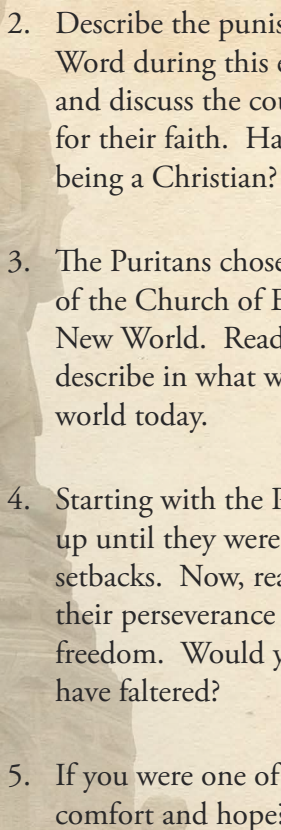
BIBLE STUDY INTRODUCTION

Monumental is a journey that follows the footsteps of our forefathers who envisioned of a place where men and women could start a new life, worship freely and bring blessing to the land. In this study, we will explore their sacrifice, courage and faith that created a nation based on a foundation of God's law.

MONUMENTAL: FAITH AS OUR ANCHOR

Our forefathers made their way to America based on their faith, believing that God had a plan for religious freedom. Let's explore their journey and see how we can apply that same faith to our lives and to our country today.

1. Oppressed by the ruling government, the Puritans met in secrecy to practice their faith, fearing for their lives. Read *Matthew 15:8-9*, *Proverbs 6:16-19* and then discuss how these scriptures apply to the church at that time. Also, explain why the monarchy feared having the Bible in the hands of commoners.

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2. Describe the punishment for worshipping and studying God's Word during this era. Now, read *John 15:18-21*, *Acts 7:51-8:3* and discuss the courage of early Christians who were persecuted for their faith. Have you ever been mistreated in some way for being a Christian?
 3. The Puritans chose to separate themselves from the unholiness of the Church of England and flee to Holland and later the New World. Read *Ephesians 4:22-24*, *Psalms 19:12-14* and then describe in what ways God calls us to be "Separatists" from the world today.
 4. Starting with the Pilgrims' first escape attempt to Holland, and up until they were finally thriving in America, recount their setbacks. Now, read *Jeremiah 29:11*, *James 1:2-4* and discuss what their perseverance says about their faith in God's plan for religious freedom. Would your belief in God's purpose and His promises have faltered?
 5. If you were one of the Pilgrims, how would *Psalms 126:5-6* offer comfort and hope?



LESSON TO LEARN:

The Pilgrims fled persecution from King James in search of a land where their faith could be practiced freely, where reading the Bible and worshipping God could be done without fear. These brave men and women believed their purpose was to establish freedom of religion not only for themselves, but for others as well. Even though the Pilgrims suffered numerous setbacks—double crossed by a ship captain; a destroyed printing press; treacherous seas that threatened their ship; illness and hardship at Plymouth—yet they persevered, continually keeping their faith in God. Failure was not an option for these brave souls.

We should be inspired by these fervent followers of Christ who were willing to sacrifice everything to provide opportunity and blessings for future generations. Their faith in the one true God and His Bible was worth fighting for; their struggles to advance the Christian faith for the glory of God, their mission. These Pilgrims had a cause and a purpose, one for which they were willing to die. What their faith accomplished in the pursuit of the religious freedom we enjoy today was—and still is—monumental.



MONUMENTAL: MORALITY FROM THE HEART

The Matrix of Liberty includes the statue representing morality, a pillar of freedom. As we study the following questions, discover the importance of intrinsic values based on God's Word.

1. Our forefathers understood that the stability of a nation depends on its morality. How important is it for us to live consistent godly lives? Read *Proverbs 28:2* and discuss this verse in the context of today's headlines.
2. In the film, there is concern about moral decay in America. Read *Ephesians 5:4*, *Matthew 15:19-21*, *Colossians 3:5-10* and then discuss indicators of immoral behavior. What is the current worldview of this type of conduct?

3. Character is an indication of what lies in our heart; a motivator for all other actions. Study *Luke 6:45*, *Romans 8:6-9*, *Galatians 5:22-23* and consider the freedom upright internal values bring to an individual. For an example of being governed from within, read *Genesis 39:2-10*.
4. The Pilgrims and Founding Fathers recognized the magnitude of moral living based on a heart transformed by God. Read *John 3:16*, *1 John 1:9*, *Romans 12:2*, *Ephesians 2:8-10* and discuss how our hearts and minds are transformed through Christ.



LESSON TO LEARN:

Ultimately, our individual character is a mark on society.

Our forefathers understood how internal values—an intrinsic system of principles—could impact our developing nation. As a reminder to those who followed in their footsteps, the Matrix of Liberty included the statue “Morality” that illustrates the need to continually evaluate what governs our actions. The eyes look within to examine the heart and its motivation.

No set of manmade laws can control a heart that operates on ungodly principles. In its wake there can be injustice, cruelty, discord, and immorality that threaten liberty. Only a transformation of the heart can create godly behavior; a change that comes through believing in Jesus Christ and inviting Him into our lives. This is why the Pilgrims risked so much to ensure the freedom to believe in the God of the Bible, to be allowed to practice their faith and moral code in a new land. Now, it is up to the generations that follow to uphold morality. Failure to do so will be monumental.

MONUMENTAL: LAW BUILT ON GODLY PRINCIPLES

Law in the hands of a tyrant brought the Pilgrims to the New World seeking respite. The Mayflower Compact became their first form of civil law. Let's discover the place God holds when developing law.

1. When the decision was made to settle permanently in New England rather than south in the Virginia Colony, the Mayflower Compact was drafted. Thinking back on the film, what was the purpose of this document?
2. The Mayflower Compact was the Pilgrims, and others onboard, first act of self-governance. It included the assurance that this civil law would be “as sure as any patent. Maybe even more sure.” What was the difference between this document and the laws established in England?
3. “Having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith...” is an opening statement in this new government charter. Read *Psalms 138:8 and Proverbs 16:3* and discuss why you think it was important to the Pilgrims to include this sentence?
4. This new free civilization required a society with order. What biblical principles did our forefathers use when setting up the law of the land? Read *Exodus 20:1-17* and discuss how these commandments are incorporated into the laws we follow in America.
5. The Matrix of Liberty displays the statue “Law” which features two smaller statues, “Justice” and “Mercy”, one on each side. Search for the premise of justice and mercy (included in our laws) in the following scriptures: *Isaiah 56:1-2, Acts 10:34-35, Psalm 86:15 and Luke 1:50*. Explain the symbolism of the sculpture “Law” holding a book in its left hand and extending the right toward those deserving justice.



LESSON TO LEARN:

In order to have a free society, there needs to be civil law to ensure freedom for the citizens. Our forefathers based the laws on biblical principles. The Mayflower Compact was the first form of self-governance before the passengers even left the ship. Each person was expected to abide by these laws that they developed themselves, rather than the traditional system of top-down management style—or tyranny this group had experienced in England. Consequently, there was a feeling of control and a more likely desire to adhere to the law.

These rules during the raw beginnings in the New World created an orderly society. Not only was there an expectation to follow the law, but if a crime were committed, there was justice and equity for all—rich or poor. But along with that justice, which was different from many societies, was mercy modeled after the mercy of God and His grace toward us. The fact that justice — equal justice — was included in the U.S. Constitution by our Founding Fathers to create a unique and exceptional nation is monumental.

MONUMENTAL: EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION

The preservation of our legacy as a nation is noted in the Liberty Matrix sculpture “Education.” What it illustrates can be traced to our roots of faith as we review the following questions and scriptures.

1. Pastor John Robinson taught the Pilgrims using stories in the Old Testament such as Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. What purpose did he hope to achieve as the Pilgrims journeyed to the New World, leaving him behind? Read *Deuteronomy 6:6-9* and describe what we can do to preserve our legacy of faith in God.
2. In the same way that the Israelites built a monument to God after crossing the Red Sea, our forefathers built the Liberty Matrix. Name the three components of the “Education” sculpture and describe the meaning of each.

3. Educating the next generation is the responsibility of parents and grandparents. Read *Proverbs 22:6; 6:20-22* and discuss what you are doing to instill in our younger generation an appreciation for our freedom, our faith in God.
4. Evaluate what or who may be teaching values to our children besides family. With whom are our youth spending the most time? Does your worldview differ from theirs? Discuss the implications for America's future.
5. Monuments are reminders to all generations of important truths. What happens to our historical truths if plaques or statements are either removed or have been changed? Retell the account in the film about Harvard Law School and discuss the implications.



LESSON TO LEARN:

The seeds we plant today in the minds of our children will blossom in the future. That begs the question of how we are going about preserving our faith and freedoms, if at all. The Pilgrims understood how important it was to remember the biblical stories of faith, courage and character such as the history of Moses as he led the Israelites to a new nation. In the same way, accounts of the greatness of our God, as well as symbols and monuments should be reminders to our children of our faith and why we believe.

Beyond our faith, we need to preserve the admiration and respect for what our forefathers did to create and protect our United States of America. This takes resolve and shouldering responsibility. Too easily we give the education of our children to others, including media such as television, the Internet and social sites. We must ask ourselves—parents and grandparents—if the worldview our youth are learning from these sources is the same as our worldview, our belief system. One Sunday at church—if that—cannot compete with the voices heard the other six days in a week. Can we adjust our priorities to include prayer, Bible reading and patriotic stories on a regular basis with our children, grandchildren? Education is generational, and if we miss one generation, the consequences for the future of America are monumental.

MONUMENTAL: PROTECT LIBERTY

Liberty is the fruit enjoyed by America for more than two centuries. The “Liberty Man” symbolizes the culmination of faith, intrinsic values, law and education. Let’s explore this hero through study questions and scripture.

1. Describe the “Liberty Man” sculpture. Take note of the chains that he holds in his hand. Discuss how this relates to the situation the Pilgrims endured in England, and to their escape to America in 1620.
2. Draped on the sculpture there is a claw and a slain lion, depicting the tyranny of King James. Read *Ephesians 6:10-18* and then compare the oppression by this monarch with the tyranny of Satan.
3. The “Liberty Man” sits over “Tyranny” with a sword by his side, alert to danger and ready to protect and defend freedom. Discuss what we as individuals can do to ensure that freedom in America continues.



LESSON TO LEARN:

Our liberty has been won by our forefathers who have protected and defended our country; its values, laws, character and faith. There has been a price, beginning with the Pilgrims who had a vision of what freedom in a new place would afford them. Their struggles and those of succeeding generations have allowed us to be free today. Nevertheless, we must not let down our guard. Evil can slip in simply by our failure to be responsible citizens.

Are we taking the time to study political issues, investigate candidates running for leadership positions in our government as well as filling out our ballot and making our voice heard? As individuals we must be involved, not only in the education of the next generation, but in the process that makes decisions for the future. Protecting our freedom—our rights, our faith, our values—is not to be taken lightly. This nation has been blessed in the past—a nation based on the foundation of God's law. Having God's blessing continue in the years ahead is monumental.

MONUMENTAL

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