

Use “The Scene” to introduce “The God of Powerful Beginnings” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for February 5, 2017. The lesson is found on page 63 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



In the month in which American citizens celebrate Washington’s birthday, it seems appropriate to consider for a moment who the first United States president was and some of what he did.

Though he is the only president to have never occupied the White House (since it wasn’t built yet), Washington certainly set in place many of the presidential traditions and elements of the country’s government right from the beginning. He started the concept of a cabinet of advisors—his included just four: Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of War, and the Attorney General. He established the strength and authority of the federal government, even going so far as personally leading a militia of nearly 13,000 men to squelch the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. Washington also reinforced the idea of religious liberty, saying in a letter to a Rhode Island synagogue that “the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”

Washington was also responsible for writing into law the establishment of the Supreme Court, rules granting national citizenship, the act that directed the federal capital to be located in its current spot in what we now call Washington, DC, the creation of the United States Mint and the dollar as currency, and the creation of a regulated militia and the United States Navy.

Some say still that he was the best president in American history, and he certainly did much to earn respect and honor while in that office. As his birthday, February 22, approaches this year, we might all do well to pray that the current U.S. president may seek to follow Washington’s example.

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

What stands out to you about George Washington? If you have some time, look up some facts about his life. Is there anything you find surprising?

Do you think it’s important for citizens to respect the office of the president? Why or why not?

Washington no doubt had one of the busiest presidencies (if not *the* busiest) in history as much work had to be done to establish the federal government and put systems in motion. Imagine for a moment that you were suddenly made the leader of a brand-new country. What would you want to do first?

Everything that exists today had a beginning point. Do you know how the church began? Today we’re going to see the steps God took to establish the church.