

## Notes to the Leader for S134 – Freedom & Independence

### About this Session

This is intended as a Seasonal Worship service to be used during the early part of July to honor Independence Day. Since freedom is one of the main components and traditions of American independence, that concept forms the basis for reflection and exploration. Freedom is looked at from a variety of angles: natural/humanistic, political/social, spiritual/psychological, etc.

### Important Note about Session Preparation

The preparation for each session will require some time, so please ask members not to wait until the last minute to do it. Have extra copies available at the gathering for people who have forgotten theirs.

### Readings from the Bowl

Cut these apart and place into a bowl for people to draw and read when you get to that point in the service. SGM members were also invited in the preparation to bring a favorite quote or reading and may choose to read/share that instead of drawing from the bowl. Depending on the number of members in your group, you may want to omit some of the longer readings or choose to include more quotes if you think you may want to go around the circle more than once.

### Preliminaries

Prior to beginning the session, take a few minutes to go over the announcements of church events given at the last leader meeting or from a recent church bulletin. Also, remind members of the next meeting date. Get volunteers to light the chalice and read the readings.

### Timekeeping

The topic is “meaty” so we’ve tried to leave extra time for sharing and discussion.

Preliminaries.....	3 minutes
Opening .....	2 minute
Check-in .....	10 minutes
Reading.....	15 minutes
Singing.....	3 minutes
Meditation Words & Silence .....	3 minutes
Sharing/Deep listening .....	65 minutes
Prayer.....	3 minutes
Discussion.....	10 minutes
Singing.....	3 minutes
Closing.....	2 minutes
Total approx.	120