

News Story Summary

Flag Day, which is celebrated every year on June 14, marks the day America officially adopted its flag. This year's holiday was the 100th celebration of that day.

Originally, the American flag was not created to be patriotic. It was actually used to identify military equipment and for communication. History professor and author Marla Miller said, "Flag makers like Elizabeth Ross thought of themselves as suppliers of military goods." It was not until June of 1861 that American's view of its flag changed. An editor of the *Hartford Evening Press*, Charles Dudley Warner, spearheaded the change when he proposed that June 14 be a holiday that honored the stars and stripes as a banner that represented all the American people.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "surprising history of US flag.")

Focus Attention

As the group arrives, call on them to share thoughts as the American flag was raised during any gold medal presentation at the summer Olympics. After most have arrived, share the story about Flag Day 2016 and the history of the American flag. Remind the group of the loyalty one feels toward the flag of their country. Emphasize the relationship between loyalty to a country and actions that demonstrate that loyalty.

Explain that today's session focuses on an opportunity that was before David to kill Saul, who had been leading a campaign to take the life of David. However, instead of seizing the moment to end Saul's life, David chose to honor God by honoring Saul.

Challenge

Remind the group of the news summary, emphasizing the loyalty a person feels toward his or her country's flag. Explain that Saul had earned the loyalty and respect of David because Saul was characterized as God's anointed. In disrespecting Saul, David felt he would be disrespecting God. The American flag has earned the respect and loyalty of most every American citizen because it represents the body of people it represents. Share that every human being deserves respect because of one important characteristic, people are made in the image of God. Challenge group members to read Genesis 1:27 and reflect on the respect that every person has earned because they are made in the image of God.