

## Lesson Six

# Free To Create

### LESSON IDEA

One of freedom's greatest benefits is that under it, man will be at his most creative. While without freedom, creativity is stifled.

### VISUAL AID

Optional: an example of a tool or machine that is mass produced today, and otherwise would not be available.

**T**HE MASTER Creator, who declared, "Let us make man in our own image," has given every individual the ability to create. Man the dreamer is also man the builder, and when man's imagination and creative talents are given the opportunity to develop, they can bear fruit equivalent to that produced by the world's most bounteous orchards. Thanks to this gift, each of us has the ability to make significant contributions that can benefit our families, our country, and even the entire world.

The great sculptor Michelangelo translated his artistic thoughts into enduring marble. Beethoven, though deaf, walked in the woods with God, and in his glorious and enduring music expressed the triumph of the human soul over adversity. Shakespeare dipped his pen so deeply into the ink of human understanding that centuries later his plays and poems continue to enthrall each succeeding generations.

A group of courageous and inspired statesmen, after defeating England's armies, drafted the Constitution of the United States and secured liberty for a new nation. A century later, a child born into slavery, who did not even know his father's name, dedicated himself to a career of service that brought knowledge and skills to many tens of thousands of his people. Indeed, the life of Booker T. Washington included so many useful lessons about freedom, character, and achievement, that a future lesson will be devoted to review of his career.

We may not all become famous writers, painters, musicians, or scientists, but we all have creative capability. Do you think it is important to

develop and utilize such God-given talents? Why? [Let everyone answer.] Since we are happiest and most productive when we are exerting our talents, it is important to know the conditions under which our creativity can best thrive. What are some things that would encourage you to be creative? [Examples: necessity (the "mother of invention"), ambition, possible reward, opportunity, and encouragement.]

There are many factors that determine how creative we will be. One of the most important is freedom. The greatest potential invention benefits no one if the inventor is not allowed to create and develop it. The most beautiful music cannot inspire someone unless it is composed and performed.

Throughout recorded history most people have lived in poverty. In country after country, century after century, even most rulers lived in homes without windows, chimneys, and plumbing. Most of mankind has seldom had enough food to keep stomachs filled, clothes to keep bodies warm, or shelter to fend-off the elements. Yet within just a few generations, Americans grew to take for granted well-stocked refrigerators, an abundance of stylish (or non-stylish) clothing, and well-furnished homes replete with telephones, washing machines, indoor plumbing, furnaces, air conditioners, television sets, VCRs, and computers. They now drive automobiles equipped with CD players, cell phones, and other accouterments. Such common "necessities" that most Americans take for granted are unimaginable luxuries for much of the world's population.

The stunning advances made in America illustrate how individual creativity can benefit virtually everyone. Let us now take a brief look at the creative experiences and contributions of one of our forefathers, to see if we can discover in his example some truths about freedom and creativity that apply to us today.

