



## Words of Wisdom....

George Washington wrote more than just about any man in colonial America. In 1904 over 60,000 of his papers were transferred to the Library of Congress. According to Frank Grizzard, one of the editors of the Washington papers, “Tens of thousands of other papers are scattered around the world in nearly 300 American and more than seventy foreign places.” To say the least, this man could write! What follows are a few of his many quotations. What do they mean and what do they tell us about the man and what he values?

With your group:

1. Read the quote.
2. Define boldened words.
3. Discuss and paraphrase the quotation meaning.

“It is easy to make **acquaintances**, but very difficult to shake them off, however **irksome** and **unprofitable** they are found, after we have committed ourselves to them.” 1783

“I know of no **pursuit** in which more real and important service can be **rendered** to any country than by improving its **agriculture**.” 1794

“I had always hoped that this land might become a safe and agreeable **asylum** to the **virtuous** and **persecuted** part of mankind, to whatever nation they might belong.” 1788

“At this **auspicious** period, the United States came into existence as a nation, and if their citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be entirely their own.” 1783

“It is to be **lamented**... that great characters are seldom without a **blot**.” 1786

“Let your heart feel for the **afflictions** and distresses of everyone, and let your hand give in **proportion** to your purse, remembering... that it is not everyone who asketh that deserveth **charity**.” 1783

“Be **courteous** to all, but **intimate** with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your **confidence**.” 1783

“**Discipline** is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers **formidable**, **procures** success to the weak, and **esteem** to all.” 1759

“There is one reward that nothing can **deprive** me of, and that is the **consciousness** of having done my duty with the strictest **rectitude** and most **scrupulous** exactness.” 1780

“My anxious **recollections**, my sympathetic feelings, and my best wishes are irresistibly excited whensoever, in any country, I see an **oppressed** nation **unfurl** the **banners** of freedom.” 1796

“A slender **acquaintance** with the world must convince every man that actions, not words, are the true **criterion** of the attachment of his friends.” 1779

“I do not think we are more **inspired**, have more wisdom, or **possess** more **virtue** than those who will come after us.” 1787

“**Integrity** and **firmness** is all I can promise; these, be the voyage long or short, never shall **forsake** me although I may be deserted by all men.” 1789

“Patience is a **noble virtue**, and when rightly **exercised** does not fail of its reward.” 1783