

Lesson 23. What does it mean to be committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society?

Thirteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 17, 2019

General Concept: To be committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society means to consecrate our whole being to the work of ushering in the Reign of God.

Biblical Reference: 1 Samuel 3:1-19

Age Level Concepts

- We can help in the work to change the world.
- We should give of ourselves to the work of bringing about God's Reign.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Tell how children can help in the work for change
- Identify what they can offer that would be useful in the work for change
- Pray to God to use them in bringing about God's Reign

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, pens

Biblical Background

The book of First Samuel records the transition in Israel from the period of the judges to the monarchy. This change in Israel's national life revolved mainly around three men: Samuel, the last of the great judges; Saul, Israel's first king; David, whose early adventures before coming to power are interwoven with the accounts of Samuel and Saul.

The book records mixed feelings about the establishment of the monarchy. The Lord himself was regarded as the real king of Israel, but in response to the people's request the Lord chose a king for them. The important fact was that both the king and the people of Israel lived under the sovereignty and judgment of God. Under God's law the rights of the people, rich and poor alike, were to be maintained.

The little boy Samuel was called by God to do a special work for change Israel for the better.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn "My God is So Big" (Children Praise God, p. 143)

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.
The mountains are God's, the rivers are God's
The stars are God's handiwork too.
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.

Opening Prayer

"Lord, we give you praise for this wonderful Sunday. We thank you for this wonderful place of learning. Be in this place and in our hearts as we study your word. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready

Teach the song.

"Are You Sleeping? "

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping? Samuel! Samuel!
God is calling to you (2x). Wake up now, Samuel, Samuel.

Here I am Lord, Here I am Lord, I heard you, I heard you.
Speak to me, my Lord now (2x). I will do, I will do.

Learning Time

Say: In our lesson today, we'll find out how a young boy named Samuel helped in the work for change.

Read the story.

"The Lord Calls Samuel"

(Based on 1 Samuel 3: 1-19)

Once there was a mother named Hannah. He prayed to God to have a child. God heard Hannah's prayer. God gifted Hannah and her husband Elkanah a son named Samuel. When Samuel was young, his parents brought him to the priest Eli. They wanted Samuel to grow and serve in the Temple.

One evening, while Eli and Samuel were sleeping, the Lord called, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel heard a voice calling him. He thought it was Eli, So ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me?"

Eli said, "I did not call you. Go back to bed and sleep." Samuel went back to his bed and slept. Again, the Lord called Samuel. Samuel woke up again and ran to Eli and said: "Here I am. You called me?"

Eli said, "No, I did not call you. "Go back to sleep then."

For the third time, the Lord called Samuel. Samuel went again to Eli and Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel.

Eli said, "If you hear your name being called, you answer and say, "Speak, Lord for your servant is listening." Samuel went back to sleep.

The Lord came and called him again, "Samuel! Samuel!"

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel responded.

And the Lord said to Samuel about the things that Samuel will do for Israel. Then, the Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. Samuel obeyed God's word. Samuel offered himself in God's service.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

1. Discuss the story.

- a. How many times did God call Samuel? (Four times)
- b. Who did Samuel think was calling him? (The Priest Eli)
- c. What did Samuel tell Eli? ("Here I am. You called me.")
- d. Who realized that God was the one calling Samuel? (The Priest Eli)
- e. What did the Priest Eli teach Samuel to say to God? ("Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.")
- f. Why was God calling Samuel? (God wanted to tell Samuel the things Samuel will do for Israel.)
- g. How will you answer God when God calls you?

2. Show pictures of different workers or ask some volunteers from the class who can role play what each worker does (teacher, doctor, street sweeper, traffic officer, pastor). Ask the children to say something about each worker. Let

them follow the action of each worker. Tell them that every worker has a part and role in the work for change. Everyone offers something for the church and our society.

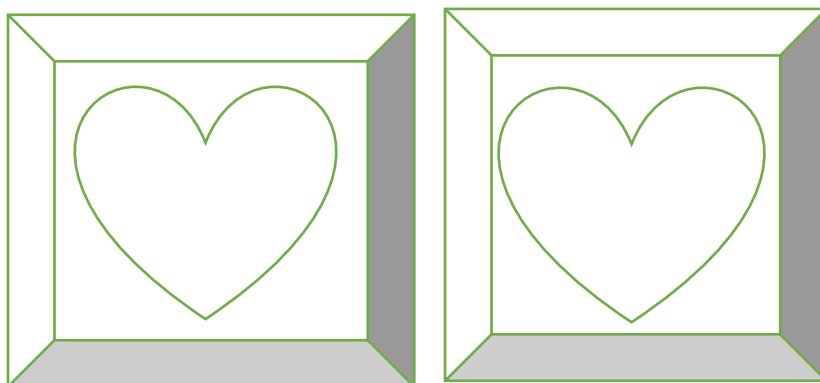
Lessons Learned

Ask: What are the things we can offer for the sake of our church and society?
Let them share.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Provide children with the materials needed for making a commitment card. Tell them to decorate the card and write whatever they are willing to offer that would be useful and helpful in the work for change.

Example: "I will hear God's calling!"
"I will do good things to others."



Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "The More We Work Together"

The more we work together, together, together
The more we work together, God's kingdom is built.

God's people and members are working together
When we do our part together, God's glory is served.

Closing Prayer

Thank you dear Lord for guiding us always. Thank you for the new learnings.
Thank you for giving us opportunity to offer our lives for the goodness of our
church and society. Amen!

Lesson 24: What does it mean to have an abundant life?

Fourteenth Sunday in
Kingdomtide

November 24, 2019

General Concept: Abundant life means resources are sufficient and equitably shared among everyone.

Biblical Reference: Luke 3:11

Age Level Concepts

- Abundant life means no one goes hungry and poor.
- Abundant life means life's resources are shared by all.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Explain in their own words what abundant life means
- Define what sharing of life's resources is

- Demonstrate what sharing according to one's needs is all about
- Mention ways of helping those who are hungry and in need

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, construction papers, scissors, markers or pens

Biblical Background

The Gospel according to Luke presents Jesus as both the promised Savior of Israel and as the Savior of all mankind. Luke records that Jesus was called by the Spirit of the Lord to preach the Good News to the poor and this Gospel is filled with a concern for people with all kinds of need. The preaching of John the Baptist is a strong statement about how we give importance to life, how we received the kingdom of God and how we share what we have to others.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. "Jesus Went about Doing Good"

(Children Praise God, p. 30)

Jesus went about doing good, Jesus went about doing good,
He told everyone God is love, God cares for you.

Jesus went about doing good, Jesus went about doing good,
He makes people well and he said, "God cares for you."

Jesus went about doing good, Jesus went about doing good,
He held children close and he said, "God cares for you."

Opening Prayer

Our loving God, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to be part of the ministry of our church through sharing what we have. Help us to be cheerful givers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

- Ask the children what are fruit bearing trees they know. Did they experience picking fruits of the trees? Watered the trees? Climbing the trees? Playing under the tree?
- Tell them to sing songs about sharing and recite 2-3 verses they learned earlier.

Learning Time

- If there is a guava tree or any fruit tree in your church lawn, let the children observe it. Let the children touch and describe it. You may use fruit bearing trees available in you church or if none use pictures of trees.
- Tell the story.

"Doring Gave Guava Cheerfully"

Doring cared for the guava tree. She watered it. Soon it bloomed. Its tiny flowers could be seen in its branches. Surprisingly a week after, the guava tree bear fruit to a sweet and delicious fruits.

Doring shared the fruits to everyone in the church, at school and in neighborhood. Children enjoyed the guava fruit. Doring is not alone.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions.

1. What did Doring promised to God? (To share the guava fruits)
2. What happened to her guava tree? (it bore plenty of fruits)
3. Tell the children to stand. Let us pretend that our arms are branches of the guava tree with plenty of fruits that it looked so heavy. *Let them pretend to be the tree and act out what the guava tree looks like.*
4. Did Doring fulfill her promise to God? (Yes)
5. How did the fruits of the guava tree help others? Allow the children to give varied answers.
6. What blessings do you have that you can share cheerfully? (Expect varied answers.)
7. Do you agree that if we share our resources, we let others live abundantly?

Lessons Learned

Group the children into three groups. Allow them to act out the following situations.

- a. Share food to the hungry.
- b. Share your toys to others.
- c. Eat all the food in your plate.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse.
Luke 3:11b- "Whoever has food must share it"
2. Make a Poster of commitment to God on how to share their blessings to others. Tell them to write their statement into the different shapes they want to use. Tell them to decorate their shapes. They may use the statement below:

" God wants everybody to live a good and happy life. I commit to share my _____ so that others will live abundantly."



Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "Lord I offer my life"

Lord, I offer my life to you, everything I've been through
Use for your glory, Lord I offer my days to you
Lifting my praise to you as a pleasing sacrifice
Lord I offer you my life

Closing Prayer

Dear thank you for all your blessings. We share to others these bountiful blessings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Lesson 25: What does it mean to have a meaningful life?

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

General Concept: A meaningful life is a life full of love, lived serving God and others.

Biblical References: John 6:1-14, 1 John 3:16

Age Level Concepts

- Life is meaningful if lived with love.
- Life has worth if it is spent serving God.
- Life has worth if it is spent serving others.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Show examples of acts of love
- Share how they can serve God and others
- Express how they feel when they are able to help others

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, cartolina, pictures of people (see activity)

Biblical Background

The Gospel according to John presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God who became human and lived among us. As the book itself says, this Gospel was written so that its readers might believe that Jesus is the promised Savior, the Son of God, and that through faith in him they may have life.

John emphasizes the gift of eternal life through Christ, a gift which begins now and which comes to those who respond to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. A striking feature of John's writing is the symbolic use of common things from everyday life to point to spiritual realities, such as water, bread, light, the shepherd and his sheep, and the grapevine and its fruit.

The story of the feeding of the 5000 showed the contribution of a boy to feed the crowd. The boy demonstrated a life full of love. He served God by giving what he had.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. "God is Love"

Praise God, praise God, all ye little children
God is love, God is love.

Praise God, praise God, all ye little children
God is love, God is love.

Love God, love God, all ye little children
God is love, God is love.

Love God, love God, all ye little children
God is love, God is love.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for gathering us again in your Church. Teach us how to live a meaningful life. Be with us O Lord, now and forever. Amen.

Getting Ready

Teach the following songs about love

"It's Love that Makes the World Go Round"

It's love, it's love, it's love that makes the world go round,
It's love, it's love, it's love that makes the world go round,
It's love, it's love, it's love that makes the world go round,
It's love that makes the world go round.

Roll over the ocean, roll over the sea
Roll over the ocean and the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean, roll over sea
Roll over the ocean and the deep blue sea.

“We love” Children Praise God,125
We Love because God first loved us
We Love because God first loved us
We Love, we Love
We Love because God first, loved, us.

Picture Study. Show the children pictures showing different expressions of love: a group of people hugging, kissing on cheeks, shaking hands, talking, laughing, smiling, etc. Ask: “What do you see in the pictures? What are they doing? What do you think are they saying to each other?” Then show the sentence: “I love you” and let them read and repeat it.

Learning time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the Story.

“Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand”

(Based on John 6:1-12)

Jesus looked around and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he asked Philip,
“Where can you buy food to feed all these people?”

Philip answered, “For everyone to have even a little, it would take more than two hundred silver coins to buy enough bread.”

Another disciple named Andrew who was Simon Peter’s brother said, “There is a boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two fishes. But certainly not enough for all these people.”

“Make all the people sit down,” Jesus told them. So all the people sat down, there were about five thousand of them.

Jesus took the bread and give thanks to the God and distributed to all the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish and they all had as much as they wanted.

And when they were all full, he said to his disciples, “Gather the left over, let us not waste a bit.”

And they gathered them all and filled twelve baskets with the pieces left over from the five barley loaves which the people had eaten.

Discussion: Ask the following questions

1. Who were the characters of the story? (Jesus, Philip, Andrew, Boy, Crowd)
2. What was their problem? (food to eat)
3. What did Jesus ask his disciples? (where to buy food)
4. What was the answer of his disciples? (no enough money to buy food)
5. Who gave the food? (The Boy)
6. What food did the boy bring? (five barley loaves of bread and two fish)
7. Was the food enough for the five thousand people? (Yes)
8. If you were the boy, will you also do the same?
9. Do you agree that the boy showed acts of love to the people? How? (Yes) (By sharing what he had). Allow them to share.
10. Do you agree the boy lived a life full of love? Why?

Lessons Learned

Ask.

1. How do you show your love to others? What are the ways and means? Let them share their personal experience. Show appreciation by giving them a round of applause.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the biblical verse in 1 John 3:16. Let the children say the words clearly following after the teacher.
2. Game: Group the class into 2 (two) Give the first set of words to group 1 and the other set of words to group 2.

Words for group 1 : "This is/ how we/ know/ what love is/: Christ gave /his life

for us./

Words for group 2 : We too/, then/, ought / to give /our lives /to others./

Write them on a sheet of cartolina.

Jumble the biblical references written in a cartolina. Tell the groups to arrange the words to form the verse.

3. Let them say the words for reflection, "I will love God through loving others."

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "Oh, I Love you with the Love of the Lord"

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for loving us always. Teach us to love one another like the way you have loved us. Help us to love by sharing what we have to the people who need it most. This is our prayer in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Lesson 26: What does "all" mean?

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

General Concept: "All" means all created beings.

Biblical Reference: Genesis 1:1-26

Age Level Concepts

- "All" means everything that God created.
- "All" includes those who are different from us

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Explain what "all" connotes
- Mention what and who are included when we talk of "all"
- Thank God that everyone, even if they are different, is included in God's world

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, Manila paper, pictures of God's creation (see story)

Biblical Background

Genesis means origin. The book tells us about the creation of the universe, the origin of humankind, the beginning of suffering in the world and about God's way of dealing with persons. One feature of Genesis is the creation of the world and the story of human race-Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the flood, and the Tower of Babel.

Genesis was written to record the stamp of a people's faith and to help keep the faith alive. Throughout the book, the main character is God who judges and punishes those who do wrong, leads and helps people and shapes their history. God is the author of all life here on earth.

The book also emphasizes that all created beings came from the same Creator, and that everything created served the plan of the hands that created it. Everything including human beings has a purpose connected to other creatures. Therefore, the existence and sustenance of all created beings is intertwined with each other. The destruction of one part of God's creation threatens the existence of the rest of creation.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. "Pananagutan"

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang.

Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang

Tayoy lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa' t isa

Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Dios na kapiling nya

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord help us today to know more about on how you created us. Be with us as we discover the secret of harmony and completeness of life.

Amen.

Getting Ready

Teach the songs about creation.

"God Said I Love You" Children Praise God, 91

God said, "I Love you" and God made the swimming fish,

God made the swimming fish, God made the swimming fish,

God said "I love you" and God made the swimming fish

God made the swimming fish for us.

- falling rain

- blooming flowers

- staying trees

- buzzing bees

Ask the children what were the things they saw along their way as they were coming to the church. Let them recall the living things and non-living things created by God.

Or you may say: "Look around us, what can we see?"

Learning time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Participative Storytelling

"God Created All in the World"

(Genesis 1:1-25 adapted)

(The teacher may distribute to the children cut outs of God's creation. Complete the pictures created by God from day 1 to day 7. Instruct the children to be the actors or characters in the story. They will rise as the teacher mentions the things in the story.)

Long, long ago there was nothing except God. The earth was very dark and disorderly. God said, "Let there be **light**" and **light** appeared. (The one holding "light" will rise). God called light day, and the dark was called night. God made a very wide space he called sky with **clouds** floating in it.

Then God made the **seas** and the **earth**. God made the **mountains**, and the **hills**. Then God said, "Let **trees and flowers and grass** grow on earth", and it was so. God also made the **sun** to shine during the day, and the **moon and stars** to shine during the night.

Then God said, "Let there be living things in the water." The **fish** started swimming. There appeared the **shrimps, the shells** and all the other sea creatures.

"Let there be birds," said God. And the birds came flying in the sky- **the eagles, the mayas** and other flying creatures like **butterflies, and dragonflies**.

Then God said, "Let there be all kinds of animals." The **elephant, the horses, cows, goats, dogs, cats, lions, bugs, worm** and other animals appeared.

Then God said, "And now we will make **human beings**, they will be like us. They will live with over creatures here on earth. They can also name them.

God looked at everything created. God said, "Oh, wonderful! They are all good!"

Discussion. Ask the following questions:

1. What was the story all about? (God created all the world)
2. What did God create?
3. What did God create on the sixth day?
4. What is our connection to other created beings and things in the world?
5. How would you treat the rest of God's creation?

Lessons Learned

Present the following statement and let them react. "All" means everything that God created. Or "All" includes those who are different from us."

Applying the Lessons Learned

Mural Making - "All in God's World"

Let the children paste the pictures used during the story telling on a sheet of Manila paper. Let them arrange the pictures in such a way that it shows the interrelatedness of every creature.

Let the children express how they felt about their mural.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn “Thank you God”

Thank you God for the beautiful world, for the sun and the blue, blue sky
For the wind and grass, and the birds in the trees and the bright little
butterfly.

Closing Prayer

Each child will say a sentence prayer thanking God for one or two things God
created. (Example: I Thank God for creating carabaos that help the farmers
flow the filed.)

Lesson 27: What does an abundant and meaningful life for all look like?

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

General Concept: An abundant and meaningful life is where everyone enjoys the fruits of their labor, basic social needs are met, and there is mutual respect for the dignity of life.

Biblical Reference: John 10:10b

Age Level Concepts

- Life is good when no one is hungry and homeless, and everyone gets what she/he needs in life.
- Life is good and meaningful when everybody respects each other.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to:

- Make a list of what a person needs in order to have a good life.
- Recite the rights of children
- Picture out how the rights of children need to be respected
- Ask God for help so that everyone can have a good and meaningful life

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, loaves of bread for sandwich, dressing or spread

Biblical Background

The Gospel of John was written so that its readers might believe that Jesus is the promised Savior, the Son Of God, and that through faith in him they may have life.

To explain further, Jesus likened himself to a door, by which people could come to God and so find life, freedom, protection and provision. But the Jewish leaders, instead of leading people to God, exploited and oppressed them ([John 10:7-10](#)).

Jesus was the true shepherd and spiritual leader of the people, but the scribes and Pharisees fought against him, setting themselves up as leaders. By teaching human traditions instead of God's commandments, they enslaved the Jewish people and strengthened their own power. Like thieves they robbed the flock, like wolves they destroyed it, and like hired labourers they worked for their own profit without any real concern for the flock. By contrast, Jesus sacrificed everything for his flock, even being prepared to die for it so that his sheep might be saved (John 10:11-13).

The flock of Jesus consists not merely of those in the sheepfold of Israel, but includes people of all nations and languages. They are drawn together as one flock under the shepherd Jesus. The understanding between the shepherd and the sheep is the same as the understanding between the Father and the Son (John 10:14-16). The basis of the relationship between Jesus and his flock is his death and resurrection. He has complete authority over life and death, and his enemies are powerless to take his life from him. Yet he willingly lays down that life so that he might save his people (John 10:17-18; cf. Acts 20:28).

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. "I'm a Special Person" Children Praise God,61

I'm a special person, there's no one like me

I'm glad I am _____, that's my name, that's me!

God thinks I am special, he thinks you're special too

He loves us 'cause I am me and you are you.

"Batang Katulad Mo" Children Praise God,66

Ang Dios ay lumikha ng batang tulad ko

May angking talino, nagsasabi ng totoo

ako'y nagmamahal at minamahal niya

Kaya kaming dalawa ay laging masaya.

" Rejoice in the Lord Always"

Rejoice in the Lord always

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice 2X

Rejoice, rejoice and I say gain rejoice 2X.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you again this beautiful Sunday. Teach us to learn the needs of person in order to have good life. Be with our teacher. Be with us O Lord. Amen!

Getting Ready

Ask the children what are their "NEEDS" and "WANTS".

Ask them what makes them happy and what them makes unhappy.

Learning time

Present the following story and prepare the class to listen.

STREET CHILDREN

(by Catalina Nazareno)

When we walk on the city streets we meet malnourished and dirty children. When they come near us, we can smell them and we know that they must not have had any bath for a long time. Sometimes these children come up in jeepneys with pieces of empty envelopes asking for help. Others bring with them a piece of cloth to wipe the passengers' shoes and slippers in exchange for a few centavos.

Kind hearted people give them some coins. Other people they encounter give them biscuits or bread for them to eat. But not all people they meet show kindness love and care. Some refuse to look at them through their eyes can clearly see. Others drive them away when they mingle in the group. House doors will be closed when they are approaching their house. A few people suddenly become deaf when they hear their asking for help.

These are the experiences of street children as they live their lives daily.

Sharing time. Ask these questions.

1. How would God feels when we are crying because we are not treated fairly?
2. Have you had any experience similar to that of the street children? What did you do?
3. What can you say about the situation of the street children? How are their basic needs being met?
4. In your opinion, what are needed so that these street children can live a happy life? What can we do?

Lessons Learned

Tell the learners to repeat after you. Read the following rights of children. You may explain briefly.

1. Every child has the right to be born well and must be cared and raised well.
2. Every child has the right to live with family who loves, cares and teaches good morals to him-her.
3. Every child has the right to have proper care and importance from other people.
4. Every child has the right to have the basic needs of people such as food, water, shelter, clothing and health care.
5. Every child has the right to have everything he/she needs for a better life.

6. Every child has the right to be educated.
7. Every child has the right to play and enjoy whenever they have opportunity.
8. Every child has the right to be protected from abuse of adults.
9. Every child has the right to live peacefully away from bad influences.
10. Every child has the right to be cared whenever their parents are not available or cannot sustain their needs.
11. Every child has the right to be living in good government who helps them strengthen their faith to become a better citizen.
12. Every child has the right to grow up peacefully and getting what they want for the good of their lives.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse.
John 10:10b , "I have come in order that you might have life, life in its fullness."
2. HOW TO MAKES OTHERS HAPPY
SANDWICH MAKING. Prepare the needed ingredients/materials for this activity. Tell the learners to make a sandwich by themselves. Let them give it to their classmate, loved ones or anyone they wish to share the sandwich with. Let them eat together! Process the activity afterwards. Ask how they felt about sharing something to others. Tell them that by sharing what we have, others may experience abundant and meaningful life.
3. Tell the children to draw a smiley face where they will write their prayer asking God for help so that everyone can have a good and meaningful life.



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Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "Make me a Servant"

Make me a servant humble and meek

Lord let me lift up those who are weak

And may the pray'r of my heart always be
Make me a servant, make me a servant today.

Closing Prayer

Lord help us to remember and uphold the rights of children. Help us to focus on what we can do for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lesson 28: Why do we need to be committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all?

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2019

General Concept: We need to be committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all because this is the will of God and we need to participate in the work towards its realization.

Biblical References: Genesis 22:1-14

Age Level Concepts

- We must give our life and help in the work for a good and happy life because this is what God wants us to do.
- We give whatever we have to help in the work for change to show that we obey God.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Give reasons why we have to help in the work for a good and happy life for all
- Make a promise to give whatever they have for the work for change

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, cartolina, art materials, scissors, yarn

Biblical Background

Genesis means origin. The book tells about the creation of the universe, the origin of humankind, the beginning of sin and suffering in the world and about God's way in dealing with persons.

Genesis can be divided in two main parts: chapters 1-11 and chapters 12-50. Chapters 12-50 narrates the history of the early ancestors- Abraham, and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel and the founders of the tribes of Israel. Special attention is given to Joseph and the events that brought Jacob, his other sons and their families to live in Egypt.

Genesis 22 narrates how Abraham obeyed God through offering of his son Isaac. Genesis was written to record the stamp of people's faith and to help keep their faith alive.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song. "I've Got Joy down in My Heart"

I've got joy down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart.

J-O-Y down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart.

Jesus gave it to me and no one can destroy it. Destroy! Destroy! Oopss!!!

I've got joy down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart.

J-O-Y down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart.

"It Could Be A Wonderful World" Children Praise God, 187

If each little child could have fresh milk each day,

If each working man have enough time to play,

If each homeless person have some place to stay

It could be a wonderful world.

If we could consider each other

A neighbor, friend, sister or brother

It could be a wonderful, wonderful world

It could be a wonderful world.

Opening Prayer

Dear God we thank you for this beautiful morning of learning in our Sunday school. We ask you're bountiful presence as we learn more about your doing good to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

1. Teach the action song "Do A Little Action." The teacher will start the action, then after the song, point the next learner to make an action until all the children are able to do the same.

"Do A Little Action" Children Praise God, 77

Do a little action 1-2-3, do a little action 1-2-3

Do a little action 1-2-3, everybody follow me.

Follow, follow, follow me; follow, follow, follow me

Follow, follow, follow me, and we will follow you.

2. Teach this familiar prayer. Make an action and teach them.

"Jesus, teach me day by day, what I have to do and say,

Make me gentle, kind and good. Make me loving as I should." Amen.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions, "Do you know who Abraham is? How did Abraham obey God?" We will discover the answer as I share to you the story.

Tell the story. Assign children to act out the character as you read the story.

"Abraham Obeyed God"

(based on Genesis 22:1-14)

Narrator: On one sunny day, God called Abraham.

God: "Abraham! Abraham!Abraham!"

Abraham: "Yes, here I am Lord!"

God: "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much. Go to the land of Moriah. Offer me a sacrifice."

Narrator: Early in the next morning, Abraham cut the wood, loaded it to his donkey. Two servants went with him to Moriah.

Narrator: Abraham made Isaac carry the wood needed to burn the sacrifice. Eh himself carried the knife and live coals to start the fire.

Isaac: "Father"

Abraham: "Yes my, son!"

Isaac: "I see that you have wood and coals, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"

Abraham: "God himself will provide one!"

Narrator: And the two of them walked on together until they reach the place where God told Abraham. Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied his son up and placed him on top of the altar, on top of the wood. Then he picked up the knife to kill him. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven.

Angel: "Abraham! Abraham! Abraham!"

Abraham: "Yes, here I am."

Angel: Don't hurt the boy. Now I know that you honor and obey God because you have not kept back your only son from Him.

Narrator: Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horn. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham named that place "The Lord provides!" Even today people would say, "On the Lord's mountain God provides!"

DISCUSSION. Ask the following questions:

1. Who are the important characters in the story?
2. Who is Isaac?
3. Why do you think God asked Abraham to offer his only son?
4. How do you think Abraham felt when God told him to offer Isaac ? How do you think Isaac have felt upon knowing he is to be sacrificed?
5. Did Abraham obey God?
6. If you were Abraham, will you also do what he did? Why?

Lessons Learned

Say: "Obedience is expected from God's children. When God calls us and we answer YES, God wants to be sure that we really mean what we say. God tests us to know whether we are true to our words and obedient. God feels very happy when we obey. We give what we have and help others have a good and happy life to show our obedience to God.

Galatians 6:9a "So let us not become tired of doing good."

You may write this verse on the board. God wants us to do good to others. Why? Because this is the will of God, so that others lived an abundant and meaningful life.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. Galatians 6:9a "So let us not become tired of doing good."
2. Bookmark Making
Provide the children with a strip of cartolina and 5" yarn. Tell them to make a book mark. Encourage them to color or decorate their book marks and write their promise to obey God through giving what they have and help in the work so that others will live a good and happy life.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "Trust and Obey"

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word
What a glory he sheds on our way
While we do his good will he abides us still
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey for there is no other way
to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 29: As a church, how do we become a responsible, empowered, self-reliant and caring community of Christian believers committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all?

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 29, 2019

General Concept: The Church must educate, mobilize and act.

Biblical Reference: Exodus 2:1-10

Age Level Concepts

- Our Church can be a responsible, strong, active and caring community of believers by teaching and nurturing its members to be so.
- Our Church can be a better church by encouraging people to join in the work.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Give examples of what the Church has taught them about being a responsible, strong, active and caring community of believers
- Identify specific activities of the Church that they and other people can participate in
- Express appreciation for the Church's efforts to become responsible, strong, active and caring through the help of the Holy Spirit

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, basin with water

Biblical Background

The name Exodus means departure and refers to the most important event in Israel's history- the departure of the people of Israel from Egypt, where they had been slaves. The book described what God did to liberate the enslaved people and formed them into nation with hope for the future.

The central human figure in the book is Moses, the man whom God chose to lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt.

Exodus 2 tells us about the Pharaoh's decree to cast into the Nile River all Hebrew boy-babies. But the water which can drown can also be used to float a watertight basket- and Moses' life saved by his mother and sister's responsible, caring and resourceful action.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day"

Read your Bible, pray every day, pray every day, pray every day

And you'll grow, grow, grow (twice).

Read your Bible, pray every day and you'll grow, grow, grow.

"With Christ as My Vessel"

With Christ as my vessel, I can smile at the storm,

Smile at the storm, smile at the storm.

With Christ as my vessel, I can smile at the storm until He guides me home.

Chorus: Sailing, I am sailing home (twice).
With Christ as my vessel, I can smile at the storm,
until He guides me home.

Opening Prayer

“Great and mighty God, we are thankful for your presence here with us today. We pray that you will teach us new lessons that will inspire us to know more about You and your will for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

Getting Ready

Teach the song and ask the children what lesson they can get from the song.

“I Can Do What Is Right”
I can do yes I can do what is right
Helping others and not hurting, yes, that’s right

I can give, I can share to people everywhere
I can do, yes, I can do what is right

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

“Miriam, the Caring Sister”
(Based on Exodus 2:1-14)

Miriam is the sister of Moses and Aaron. She is a happy Hebrew girl. She is very obedient and respectful to her parents, Amran and Jochebed. Like all Hebrew children, every girl in a Hebrew family had to be taught how to do the household chores. They are to learn also the values taught by their parents and elders. They are to fear and obey, love and serve God. The laws, decrees and values are important in a Hebrew family.

One day, the Pharaoh ordered to have all the newborn baby boys of the Hebrew families killed. To keep baby Moses safe, Miriam’s mother made a basket for him. When the basket was done, Miriam and her mother brought the basket with baby Moses in it to the Nile River. They hid in the tall bushes. When Moses’ mother went home, Miriam stayed at a distance to keep watch of baby Moses. She made it sure that nothing bad happened to her baby brother.

Then the Princess of the Pharaoh came and found the baby. Miriam approached the Princess and volunteered to find a nurse for the baby. She called her own mother. Miriam and her mother brought baby Moses back to their home and took good care of him.

DISCUSSION. Do the following.

1. Enumerate the characters of the story.
2. Mention the roles Miriam and her mother did for their family.
3. How did Miriam and her mother showed their care to Moses?
4. In the church, can you name a person who is responsible and caring?
5. In the church, can you name person who is strong and active?
6. What values would you like to imitate from these persons you identified? Why?
7. What makes you a caring and responsible member of the church?
8. What happens when all members of the church are caring and responsible?

Lessons Learned

Present the following ministries of the church. Explain the importance of these ministries. After explaining, ask the learners to identify the church ministry they wanted to participate in.

Church Ministries	Meaning
Worshipping	Worship is our response to the awareness of the presence of God.
Fellowship	Fellowship makes the relationship closer and stronger.
Making Disciples	A disciple is a learner and a follower of Jesus Christ. To make disciple is to train people to become followers of Christ.
Preaching	Preaching is to tell the message of God.
Teaching	Teaching is passing on the faith. Teaching also means enabling people to become responsible, active, strong in their faith and caring to one another.
Healing	Healing is part of our mission to restore good health and wholeness to people.
Service	We show our faith through serving others by responding to their needs.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. Psalm 133:1, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.
2. Making Paper Boat
 - a. Fold an 8 ½ in 11 in (21.5 cmx28 cm) sheet of paper. Lay the paper down vertically and fold it from left to right so it meet up.
 - b. Unfold the paper, rotate it 90 degrees and fold it half again. At this point, the paper should be lying down horizontally. Once you've adjusted the paper, fold from left to right.
 - c. Flip the paper so that the fold opens toward you. Then fold down the corners towards the middle of the paper while leaving 1-2 inches of space at the bottom. Make sure the folds line up with the crease. Crease along the edges to secure the folds.
 - d. Bring the bottom of the paper up to fold it against both sides. Grab the flap at the bottom of the paper and fold it up against the bottom folded triangles. Turn the paper over and do the same thing to the flap on that side. This will make a paper hat.
 - e. Take the bottom corners and fold them in. On 1 side of the paper, grab the corners of the rectangle that are sticking out over the triangle. Wrap this part of the paper around the edges of the triangle and crease. So that they stay wrapped around the edge of the triangle. Then, fold the bottoms flap around the edges of the triangle and back towards you.

Write on the paper boat their appreciation about the church efforts to become responsible, strong, active and caring through the help of the Holy Spirit. Prepare a basin and allow the children to put the paper boat on it. Children may write this statement, "*I am happy my church is doing its best to be responsible, caring, strong and active with the help of the Holy Spirit.*"

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn.

"Walking with Jesus"

Walking with Jesus, walking every day, walking all the way.

Walking with Jesus, walking with Jesus, our Lord.

Walking in the sunshine, walking in the shadow

Walking everyday, walking all the way

Walking with Jesus, walking with Jesus, our Lord.

(Note: the word "alone" of the song is changed with the phrase "our Lord")

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for allowing us to continue study your word. Thank you for shaping us to become responsible, active, strong and caring church member. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Lesson 30: What is the church's mission?

Epiphany Sunday

Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 5, 2020

General Concept: The Church has no mission other than the mission of Christ; the Church simply continues the mission of Christ.

Biblical Reference: Luke 4: 18-19

Age Level Concepts

- Our Church does the work Jesus did.
- Our Church continues the work of Jesus.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Recall the good deeds of Jesus.
- Identify the kind of people who were the recipients of Jesus' good deeds
- Enumerate the work the Church does
- Express appreciation that Jesus' mission has become the mission of the Church

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket)

Biblical Background

The Gospel of Jesus according to Luke affirms the divinity of Jesus, but the real emphasis is the humanity of Jesus- Son of Man. Luke accounts the ministry and work of Jesus. He gave a glimpse of Jesus at the age of 12. After the temptation experience, Jesus returned to Galilee to preach, teach and heal. Later, Jesus commissioned the disciples and sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God.

The text is a declaration taken from the words of Isaiah in the Old Testament which affirms that Jesus' mission in the world is not different from the mission that of the prophets. The same spirit of God called and sent them to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom. Jesus' declaration of his mission is a fulfillment of what has been proclaimed and promised to the people of Israel.

The same mission is being carried out by the church. As Christ's body in the world, the church is tasked to continue the work of Christ in the world.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn "The Spirit of the Lord"

The Spirit of the Lord is now upon me

To heal the broken heart and
makes the captives free.

To open prisoners and blind to see
the Spirit of the Lord is now in me.

Opening Prayer

"Great and mighty God, we are thankful for your presence with us today. We pray that you will teach us new lessons that will inspire us to know more about your mission through Jesus. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Getting Ready

Ask this question. Let the learners share their thoughts.

-What do we mean by the word "mission?" Or "What comes to your mind when you hear the word "mission?"

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Make a big scroll. Then write the verses in Luke 4:18-19. Tell the children that words from the Bible is written in scroll, then show them the scroll. Read the story.

"The Rejection of Jesus"

(Based on Luke 4:18-21)

Then Jesus went to Nazareth where he had been brought up. On the Sabbath, he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scripture and was handed the book of Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people."

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. All the people at the synagogue had their eyes fixed on Jesus as he said to them. "This passage of the scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

Discussion. Ask the following questions.

1. What was the story all about?
2. Who are the characters of the story?

3. What was Jesus' mission according to the scroll he read?
4. What should the followers of Jesus do?

Lessons Learned

Enumerate how Jesus' works was concretely expressed; who are the recipients of such concrete actions and the church's own expression of its work/task today.

Jesus' works	To whom it was given	Church's works
To bring good news	The poor	
Proclaim liberty	The captives	
Recovery of sight	The blind	
Freedom	The oppressed	
Announce the time when the Lord will save	God's people	

Applying the Lessons Learned

Teach the following memory verse. Luke 4:18-19. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people."

Operation Tulong. The teacher leads the children in identifying people (in class, in the church, in the family or community) who need help. They will list down the names and the kind of help they can offer to these people.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn "The Love of Jesus"

The love of Jesus sweet and marvelous (thrice), O..o.. Wonderful love...
Higher than the sky above, deeper than the ocean
Wider than the universe, O..o.. Wonderful love.

"I'm Part of You" (Tune: "His Banner Over Me")

I'm part of you and you're part of me together in God's family (thrice).
We're living together in God's household.

Closing Prayer

“We thank you O God for the lesson we learn that as a church we follow and continue Christ’s mission. Teach us to help and love others as you helped and loved us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Lesson 31: What does it mean to establish the community of faith?

Baptism of the Lord

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 12, 2020

General Concept: To establish the community of faith means to firmly root, propagate and strengthen it in order for it to last.

Biblical Reference: Matthew 13:1-9

Age Level Concepts

- To build up the community of believers means to make people understand their story and beliefs.
- To build up the community of believers, they have to grow, spread out and become strong.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Relate what they have heard from parents or other members about the Church’s Story
- Affirm the beliefs of the Church
- Ask God to help the Church in its effort to make it grow and be strong

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, mungo beans sprout, art materials, string and sticks

Biblical Background

The Gospel according to Matthew tells the good news that Jesus is the promised Savior, the one through whom God fulfilled the promises made to the people in the Old Testament. This good news is not only for the Jewish people, among whom Jesus was born and lived, but for the whole world.

The accounts in Matthew is carefully arranged. It begins with the birth of Jesus, describes his baptism and temptation, and then takes up his ministry of preaching, teaching and healing in Galilee. After this the Gospel records Jesus’ journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and the events of Jesus’ last week, culminating in his crucifixion and resurrection.

Jesus made many of his points by means of parables – stories that were meant to teach people the kingdom of God

“The parable of the sower draws its lessons from the four different kinds of soil rather than from the work of the sower. The preacher puts the message of the kingdom into people's hearts as a farmer puts seed into the ground. But people's hearts vary just as the soil in different places varies. Some people hear the message but do not understand it because they are not interested. Others show early interest but soon give up because they have no deep spiritual concern. Others are too worried about the affairs of everyday life. Only a few respond to the message in faith, but when they do their lives are changed and a spiritual harvest results (Matthew 13:3b-9,18-23; Mark 4:3-9; Mark 4:13-20).

Parables may provide a pictorial way to teach truth, but they are more than just illustrations. Their purpose is to make the hearers think about the teaching. Those who gladly receive Jesus' teaching will find the parables full of meaning. As a result their ability to understand God's truth will increase. But those who have no genuine interest in Jesus' teaching will see no meaning in the parables at all. “ (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

“Building up the Church”

(Tune: Building up the Temple,)

Building up the church (2x)

Building up the church of the Lord

The Lord is calling workers, the Lord is calling workers

To guide God's people in the church.

Building up the church (2x)

Building up the church of the Lord

Members care for pastors, Members help the pastor

We are one body of the Lord.

Opening Prayer

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us into this place of worship. Bless our ears and hearts O Lord as we listen and learn from your Word through our Sunday School. Bless also our teacher. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.”

Getting Ready

Prepare a sprouted mung beans (may buy it from the market or prepared it days before this lesson). Tell the children to touch it! Ask them of what they see and observed. Allow them to share. Explain to them that the Church is like a seed planted many years ago. Prepare them to listen to the story below.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

“The Seeds That Grow” (based on Matthew 13:1-9)

Many years ago, there was a man named Jesus who loves to teach. Many people wanted to hear him. He told them stories about things that can be found around them. So, one day he told them this story.

“There was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was a little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it burnt the young plants; and because the roots had not grown up deep enough, the plants soon dried up.

Some of the seeds fell among thorn bushes which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell on a good soil and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty and others thirty.”

And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then, if you have ears!

Discussion. Ask the following questions:

1. Who are the characters of the story?
2. Who was the teller of the story?
3. What happened to the seeds? Where do the seeds fall?
4. What happened to the seeds that fell on the good soil?
5. How do you feel knowing that the church was like the seeds sown many many years ago. It grew and became strong?

Lessons Learned

Present the following statement.

The **Church** was first established by the followers of Christ. They were educated, they mingled, and they build up the church. Then as the time goes by the help of the Holy Spirit the Church became strong until now.

MY FAITH COMMUNITY

Present the available video of UCCP. Search in the website uccp.com. Or invite the oldest member of the church to share the story of the local church.

BANNER MAKING. Divide the class into 6 groups. Tell the a groups to make a banner on what the UCCP believes in.

Group 1 -The UCCP believes in one God, (the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.)

Group 2- The UCCP believes in Person

- Group 3 - The UCCP believes in Church
- Group 4 - The UCCP believes in the Bible
- Group 5 -The UCCP believes in the Kingdom of God
- Group 6 - The UCCP believes in the Resurrection

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. Matthew 13: 8 “Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
2. Make a paper airplane.
Write on the paper airplane. “God bless UCCP ! May it continually grow and become strong”

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn “ Why we are UCCP”

Chorus: That’s why we are UCCP,
For we are taught what the Lord has said
To live a life in community with God and all
Assured of life even after death
No more sorrow and no more defeat
There’s only love, Justice and peace. UCCP!

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for this day. Thank you for your presence. Thank you for our dear UCCP. May we continue to grow and become strong. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Assignment: Please bring one selfie print out photo next Sunday.
We will use that for our next lesson.

Lesson 32: Why do we need to establish the community of faith?

Second Sunday after the
Epiphany
January 19, 2020

General Concept: We need to establish the community of faith so that it becomes a stronghold of faithful witnesses.

Biblical Reference: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Age Level Concepts

- We build up the people of God, the Church, so that it becomes a home of true believers in Jesus Christ.
- We need to build up the people of God so that they can help do the tasks of the Church.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Define what “building up God’s people” means to them
- Tell that building up God’s people means there are more people to help in doing Christ’s mission
- Appreciate that they are part of God’s people

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket

Biblical Background

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The church at Thessalonica was very young, having been established only two or three years before this letter was written. The Christians in Thessalonica needed to mature in their faith. In addition, there was a misunderstanding concerning Christ’s second coming – some thought Christ would return immediately, and thus they were confused when their loved ones died because they expected Christ to return beforehand. Also, believers were being persecuted during this time.

Paul comforted the Thessalonians by reminding them of the hope of the resurrection. Then he warned them to be prepared at all times, for Jesus Christ could return at any moment. When Christ returns, those Christians who are alive and those who have died will be raised to new life. Paul then gave the Thessalonians a handful of reminders on how to prepare themselves for the second coming. (*Zondervan Life Application Study Bible, p. 1973-1974*) Paul encouraged them to put on the armor of faith to keep them strong in life’s journey. He reminded them to remain active in doing their tasks, and also to encourage one another while waiting for Jesus’ return.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. “ I Am the Church, You are the Church”

I am the church, you are the church

We are the church together

All who follow Jesus, all around the world

Yes, we’re the church together.

The church is not a building

The church is not a steeple

The church is not a resting place

The church is people.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for gathering us again this morning. Thank you for the wonderful Sunday morning we spend with friends and church mates. Teach us to listen very carefully to your words. Be with our teacher, be with us now today and forever. Amen.

Getting Ready

Finger Play. "This is the Church"

This is the church (Clasp both hands tightly, fingers folded inside)

This is the steeple (point fingers touch each other)

Open the door (Open the clasped hands)

And you'll see people (reveal the rest of the fingers)

Learning Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Hope you are all well. I heard that you are confused as to when Christ will come again. I would like to say that you must be always ready because Christ may come like a thief in the night. When he comes, he would be pleased to see you doing good works. Always wear in yourselves love and faith like an armor and hope like a helmet. Help each other so that you will grow strong and alive while waiting for Christ's coming.

Sincerely Yours,
Paul

Listen to a letter. assign someone to read it.

Discussion. Ask the following questions:

1. What happened to the believers in Thessalonica?
2. Why did Paul write them?
3. Why is it important for the believers to stay awake and not asleep?
4. What should Christians do instead according to Paul?

Lessons Learned

The church should be a community in which believers remain faithful to God whatever happens around them. They cannot continue the works of Christ if they themselves are broken, scattered and confused. A strong community of believers can help continue the task of Jesus Christ in the world.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2. Build a body -size church structure. Let them paste their printed out selfie pictures inside the big church. Tell them to write below their picture. “Thank God I am Part of UCCP.”

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

"The Love of Jesus"

The love of Jesus is the love of God
The love Jesus sweet and marvelous
The love of Jesus is the love of God
Oh, oh, wonderful love.

Closing Prayer

“Dear God, thank you for your Spirit that continues to build us up as a church.

We want to tell others about your love by saying kind words and doing good deeds. May you find our works pleasing to You. This is our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Lesson 33: What does it mean to unite the community of faith?

Third Sunday after the
Epiphany
January 26, 2020

General Concept: To unite the community of faith means to become one in beliefs, aspirations and principles towards a common prophetic witness.

Biblical Reference: Ephesians 4: 4-6

Age Level Concepts

- To make God’s people come together as one means that they should have the same beliefs and dreams.
- To make the people come together as one means that they should have the same

understanding as to how Christ's life can be shared with others.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Tell stories of how their parents, teachers, pastors and elders share their belief in Jesus with them
- Discuss how these teachings help them keep their faith in Jesus
- Affirm God's help to make God's people come together as one

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, construction paper, cartolina

Biblical Background

People in the church come from various racial, cultural and social backgrounds, but they must not allow these differences to spoil the unity that God has created in the church (3). After all, they hold all the important things in common. They are in-dwelt by the same Spirit, they own the same Jesus as Lord and they are children of the same God. As fellow members of the same body, the church, they have experienced the same baptism, share the same faith and look forward to the same salvation (4-6).

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn. "We are One in the Bond of Love"

We are one in the bond of love

We are one in the bond of love

Let us join our spirit with the Spirit of God

We are one in the bond of love.

Opening Prayer

"Body Prayer"

Be in your comfortable position and just close your eyes. Be aware of God's presence who is with us and for us. Breathe in God's love, joy and peace. Let this breath fills every cell and fiber of your being. Breathe out God's shalom that people and other creatures seen or unseen around you will experience such love, joy and peace. Place your palms down in front of you or on your lap, symbolizing your desire to release whatever you need to tiredness, boredom, worries and problems-hold in that position for 60 seconds. Turn your palms upward, symbolizing your desire to receive from God whatever you need. Pause in that position for 60 seconds. Bring your hands together in a folded prayer position. Be still. Be in the position for 60 seconds. Let all God's children say, "Amen." (Amen.)

Getting Ready

Teach this action song.

“Parang Bangkang Nasa Ilog”

Parang bangkang nasa ilog ;tumihaya ,tumagilid
Ang puso ko, ang puso mo ay sa Dios lamang iibig.

Akoy’ hindi namimili, mga batang mapuputi
Kahit damit tagpi- tagpi, maganda lang ang ugali.

Pag-ibig ko’y limang bagay; may sa ulo, may sa kilay,
may sa pisngi, may sa binti; may sa dulo ng darili.

Learning Time

Game. **“A Little About Yourself “**

This game encourages the children to tell his/her experiences with others. This game aims to help the learners understand today’s lesson. Provide enough space for everyone to move around. You may divide the children by pairs. Choose from among the questions or statements listed below. Tell the children to share their answer or response to the question with their partner. After answering, tell them to find another partner or to exchange partners.

1. From whom have you heard the loudest voice?
2. Name the best game you have ever played.
3. Share the best cartoon character you love.
4. What was the funniest movie you have ever seen?
5. What was the best vacation your family had?
6. Who is your best friend and why do you consider him/her as such?
7. How did your teachers teach you about Jesus?
8. What did the elders in the church tell you about God?
9. What did your pastor teach you about believing in God?
10. How did your parents teach you about believing and worshipping God?
11. What did you know about Jesus?

Note to the teacher: (The teacher needs to ask questions that reflect the context of the learners. Other suggested questions like in numbers 1-5 may not be applicable to their situation. The teacher has to be creative and relevant.)

Processing the Activity. Ask the children about how they felt when they were telling others of their experiences. The teacher may ask the following to draw out responses from the learners.

1. Is it hard to share your experience with others?
2. What kind of experiences did you really want to share with another person?

3. What have you learned from your parents, grandparents, relative, members of the church about God that you want to share with others?
4. What are the beliefs and teachings about God did you learn from other children during the activity which are similar from what you have learned from your parents/grandparents at home?

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Write the biblical text in a Manila paper. Let the children read it aloud. The teacher should lead in the reading.

- a.) Verse 4- There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you.
- b.) Verse 5- There is one Lord, One Faith, One baptism
- c.) Verse 6- there is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all and is in all.

Lessons Learned

On a cartolina, draw a flower. Tell the children to fill the petals with the words mentioned in the texts that tells of the beliefs in which the church is one/united. At the center of the flower write ONE.

Say: "We are different from each other. We are raised by different parents. We have different family backgrounds. But we have come together because we believe in the same God who created the world, in Jesus Christ who gave his life for all of us and the Holy Spirit which guides and gives power to all who believe. These beliefs keep us, the church together and one. Together, we as a church, dream that we all live happily with God.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse in Ephesians 4:6, "There is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all and is in all."
2. Making a Prayer Card. Allow the children to color and decorate the card. Write inside, "Lord continue to make us one"

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

"Just One Song"

Tears when time are gloomy ;smile when we are sad,
The sun will soon come shining; peace will soon abound.

Love is all that matters, dreams may all come true,

As long as were together ,we'll sing just one song,

"Lord make us one united in your hand bind us together with love."

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 34: Why do we need to unite the community of faith?

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 2, 2020

General Concept: We need to unite the community of faith to manifest our commitment to effectively carry out Christ's mission and to be in accord with Jesus' prayer "that they may be one".

Biblical Reference: John 17:1-25

Age Level Concepts

- We must bind ourselves together as God's people to help each other in doing the work of Christ.
- We must bind ourselves together to make Jesus' prayer come true.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Explain why God's people should come together
- Read Jesus' prayer for people to become one
- Express their feeling and thoughts about Jesus' prayer

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials

Biblical Background

Jesus has accomplished all he's set out to do during his lifetime. He has passed God's message on. He has made God known. Now there remains only death, and beyond it the glory he renounced to become man. But his followers will be left bereft in a hostile world. So he prays that God will protect them: that their lives may be shaped by the truth of God's word; that they may display such unity among themselves that the world will be shaken out of its disbelief: and that they may, in the end, go to be with him and see his glory for themselves.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song. "My God is So Great"

My God is so great so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do (2X)

The mountains are his, the valleys are his,

The skies are God's handiwork, too.

My God is so great so great, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do

"God Answers Prayer"

God answer prayer in the morning
God answers prayer at noon,
God answers prayer in the evening
So keep your heart in tune.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for your guidance and love for us always. Help us again to understand your ways and will. Help us to listen to your word this morning. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

GAME. The Human Knot

When the group(s) have been formed, ask players to form a circle, shoulder-to-shoulder, urging them to stand as close as possible to subtly prepare them for close contact during the game. Have each player extend their left hand and take the left hand of another player in the group. It helps to have players introduce themselves to the person whose hand they are holding. Then have each player extend their right hand and take a different person's hand. Have everyone introduce themselves to those whose hands they are holding.

Explain to the players that they are not to let go of each other's hands while they remain in the circle and untangle themselves. Players may change their grip to be able to move comfortably, but they are not to unclasp and re-clasp their hands, because then the circle would be broken.

Untangling may be difficult at first but it will progress as they unite themselves as to how to untangle themselves without breaking the circle. Process the game afterwards. Point out what makes the untangling easy or difficult.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Listed below are the parts of Jesus' prayer. the teacher may write these parts on a piece of paper and assign readers for each part.

"Jesus Prays for His Disciples"

(Based on John 17:1-26)

Reader 1: "Father, the hour has come, give glory to your so, so that the Son may give glory."

Reader 2: "Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made."

Reader 3: "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me for they belong to you."

Reader 4: "Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one."

Reader 5: "Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth, your word is truth."

Reader 6: "I pray not only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their message."

Reader 7: "I pray that they may be one. Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you."

Reader 8: "May they be one so that the world will believe that you sent me."

Reader 9: "Father you have given them to me and I want them to be with me where I am, so that they may see the glory, the glory you gave me, for you loved me before the world began."

Reader 10: "Righteous Father! The world does not know you but I know you, and these know that you sent me."

Discussion. Ask the following questions.

1. What is the main concern of Jesus' prayer? (That those who believe may be one especially his disciples)
2. Why is there a need for Jesus' disciples to be one? (So that the world through them believes that God sent Jesus)

Lessons Learned

Mention the story of UCCP, how the UCCP came to be one. This can be a concrete example of being one in line with Jesus' prayer.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse in John 17:21, "So that they may be one".
2. Hands that Bind.
 - a. Ask the children to trace their hands on a cartolina or construction paper. Let them to cut it out and paste it on other children's hands 9 Let them paste both ends of the connecting hands. Write on the center, "That they may be one"



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Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

“Christian Unity” Children Praise God, 53

Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, that our life shall be

Living channels of faith and love, Christian unity

Bless O Christ we humble pray, that our Christian unity

so our faith and love shall be following your way.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus thank you for your prayer. May it become true in our time. May our church be an example of how your prayer came true. Guide us always along our way. Bless our unity in You. Amen

Lesson 35: What is life-proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 9, 2020

General Concept: Life-proclamation of the Good News is to make known God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ through our life and ministry.

Biblical References: John 3:16-17, John 13:34

Age Level Concepts

- We tell others about God’s love through Jesus’ by showing them our love.
- The Good News about God saving us through Jesus is shared by doing the work of Jesus

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners should be able to

- Tell how God loves us through Jesus Christ
- Picture out how the Good News of Jesus can be shared with others
- Thank God for the life of Jesus given for all

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, picture (selfies), Manila paper

Biblical Background

The keynote of John's Gospel is Jesus the Messiah and Son of God. John concentrates on interpreting and bringing out the meaning of what took place. He selects from Jesus' many miracles certain "signs" which show most clear who he was. Men need an entirely new spiritual re-birth in order to enter God's kingdom. The new age of Jesus was announcing was not to be bound by the old cycle of physical birth and death. It was to be radical new beginning, a new quality of life- eternal life. Verses 16-21 may be Jesus' words or John's comment. They contain the heart of the Gospel message- Jesus comes to save- but he consequence of his coming, for those who refuse him is judgement.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

"We love"

We love (clap-clap) because God first loved us (2x)

We love (clap-clap) (3x) because God first (clap) loved (clap) us (clap)

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Opening Prayer

Dear God thank you for this new day of learning your words. Use our ears and hearts as we again receive your words. Inspire us O Lord. This we ask in Jesus name we pray. Amen!

Getting Ready

Song Learning.

"For God So Loved the World"

For God so loved the world, He gave his only Son

To die in Calvary, from sin he set me free

Someday He's coming back, what glory that will be

Wonderful His love for me.

Ask: "What would you feel when someone gives you a gift?" "

Learning time

Prepare the children to listen to a short story about Jesus.

“Jesus: God’s Given Gift to us”
(Based on John 3:16)

Many years ago there was a man named Jesus. He was called by many names. But one thing many believed in - God loves the world so God gave Jesus to us. To those who believes in Jesus will receive everlasting life but for those who do not believe in him shall perish.

Jesus was full of compassion to the people who are poor. When he saw people in need, he extend his loving arms to them. When he saw people in deep sorrow, he comforted them. When he saw people hungry, he fed them. When he saw the sick, he healed them. He told stories about kingdom of God.

That’s how good Jesus was. People see God’s love through Jesus Christ.

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Ask the following questions.

1. Why did God give Jesus to us?
2. What happened to those who believe in him?
3. What happened to those who do not believe in him?
4. Why is Jesus a good gift God has given to us?
5. Are you willing to share this good news to others? How?

Lessons Learned

Tell Your Story about Jesus!

Provide the children with the activity sheet/picture of Jesus. Before you let them color it, ask them to tell a story about Jesus by using the picture. Ask as many volunteers to tell their story about Jesus.

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
2. Print out the coloring paper with the Picture of Jesus. Let them color it. Write below the paper. “Thank you God for giving Jesus to Us.”



Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

“Can Other See Jesus In Me?”

Can other see Jesus in me 2x

Oh how can the world see Jesus, if it cannot see Jesus in me.

.....God’s love

.....goodness

.....God’s peace

Closing Prayer

The teacher will say the prayer first then end up with all the children saying; “Thank you God for giving Jesus to us. In Christ name we pray.”
Amen!