

Lesson 36: What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2020

General Concept: The Good News is that Jesus came, died and rose from the dead so we have new life in Christ: life abundant and meaningful.

Biblical References: Matthew 5:21-37

Age-Level Concepts

- The life, ministry, and message of Jesus are Good News to many, especially to those who are poor and oppressed.
- Believing in the message of Jesus, following His way of life and doing His ministry gives meaning to the lives of many

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Contrast Jesus life-work from that of today's young people
- Draw out from Jesus' life-work important lessons that can serve as a guide for the young people's journey and faith
- Discuss how young people of today can be bearers of the Good News of Jesus

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse.

Biblical Background

Matthew 5:21-37

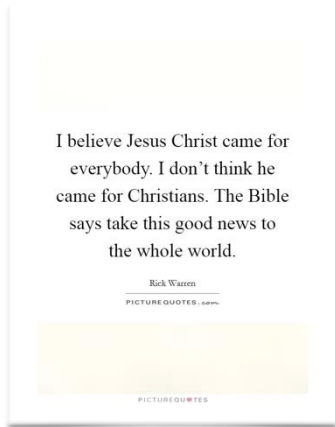
To proclaim the Good News is to experience Christ Jesus' presence with us. We respond to this proclamation by recognizing Jesus' life and work, ministry, death, resurrection and his coming again. This is more than the notions of following the traditions of the church but it is Jesus calling us to a new life in God and living life meaningful and abundant with all creatures especially the lost, least and last of the society.

The text is part of the Sermon on the Mount which contains straight forward teachings of Jesus. Jesus, the great Rabbi took the initiative of bridging familiar Jewish teachings to his ministry as he instructs his disciples about the demands of being his disciples.

The phrase, "You have heard that it was said..." followed by, "I say to you." were phrases which imply not to neglect or undermine the Jewish teachings and traditions. Instead, Jesus tries to make his learners understand the real context and essence of each law and tradition. "He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill the law (v.17). It is no longer about murder or adultery but looking closely at one's internal dynamics as well as external behavior of a person. Anger, slander, false generosity, litigious, arrogance, lust, temptation, alienation, divorce and religious arrogance are some of the behaviors a believer need to be watchful of before it leads a person to destruction of self and relationship with others.

The Good News of Christ is not just a reconciliation of God's people to God but it involves reconciliation amongst God's people. Jesus' approach to redirecting us and reshape our life into God's Reign-ship-driven-life involves our relationship with other creatures. To be reconciled with others means to look deeper into our relationship not just to avoid committing murders but to be aware of how to use our words without stabbing someone in the back. Our reconciliation with God is more than giving of offerings but rather being humble in accepting our frailty and courageous enough to be reconciled with those whom we have offended or hurt. There is no room for resentment, alienation, and estrangement.

Reign of God is the way of blessedness. The "word became flesh and dwell in us" is indeed a blessing to every creature. Such is the blessing we proclaim. God is present in our lives, not just a God who is just watching us from the distance.



Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose."

Songs of Gathering "CLAP DE HANDS" (Kids' Praise)
Chorus

Clap de hands, stomp de feet, Spread de love of Jesus to everyone you meet. Oh! Clap de hands, stomp de feet, Spread a little love around.

Verse 1

De Love of Jesus is a sweet, sweet song, That you can give to others as you walk along.
With a smile on your face, and His love in your heart,
You spread de love of Jesus, now everybody starts to

Verse 2

De love of Jesus is a miracle God has given every boy and girl.
His Son came to earth because He loves us so,
And now it's up to us to let His miracle show. Oh!

"The Love of Jesus"

The love of Jesus sweet and marvelous 3x Oh oh wonderful love.
Higher than the skies above, deeper than the ocean, wider than the universe

Oh O, Wonderful Love.

+Opening Prayer (Hold hands together)

We are all here again O God ready to experience your presence and have fellowship with one another. May you grant us the willingness to learn and eagerness to do your will in our lives. Amen.

Getting Ready

Have a game called, "Action Relay: Charades". Group the class into 2 and follow these instructions:

1. Each group will form a line and instruct all members to turn about -face.
2. The facilitator will ask the first person in line to face him/her for the word to be acted out.
3. The first person will then tap the next person in line to face him/her and act out the word. The same will happen until the action is relayed to the last person in line.
4. The last person in line will guess what the word was.

eg. Preach Teach Bible...

Movie title: Jurassic Park, Frozen, It, Avenger,

Songs: This is the Day, Jesus Loves Me

Process the game. Ask the following:

- a. What have you learned from the game?
- b. How do you communicate the message to others?
- c. Have you experienced being misunderstood by others?
- d. How do you feel when you are not able to communicate the message clearly?

Learning Time

With the same group, share your understanding of what the Gospel of Jesus means?

Define and share the group's work by giving meaning to every letter of the word GOSPEL. May these collective meanings sum up the group's understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

G- God is with us

What does the Good News of Jesus means for us young people today?	
Good News Means	Young People's Challenge
the Word became flesh and dwell in us	How do we live together with God's people specially the lost, least and last of our society?
In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled with God	How can we become an agent of reconciliation?
good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners, sight to the blind, set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of the Lord	How can we bearers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today?
Good News that Jesus show us the way, the truth and the life - living our faith daily.	How do we live our faith in Jesus Christ today?

O- overwhelming love of God
 S- saves us all
 P-people around the world
 E- everlasting life receive
 L- love experience, love must be shared

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the whole class read aloud the text found in Matthew 5:21-37 and make it a responsive reading. Discuss and answer the following questions:

- What messages did Jesus want to impart to his hearers?
- How does Jesus able to let his hearers understand about fulfilling God's law?
- What does Jesus meant about what he said, "I have not come to abolish the law but to fulfill them?"
- What is Christ's good news according to this passage?

Lessons Learned

The Gospel is God born in a manger who enters the miseries of life in all its dimensions seeking to heal and save. Jesus gives a new way of life, not rejecting laws but building upon it- putting the Word to the flesh. This is life meaningful and abundant.

Applying the Lessons Learned

How can we be bearers of the Gospel today? In what way we can bring the Gospel of Jesus to the community where our church is situated and to other places?

The UCCP has a three- fold ministry based on Christ's ministry- teaching, preaching and healing. How can we bring the gospel through our ecclesiastical ministries?

Ministry	Church Activities that we can organize or join
Teaching	Volunteering as teacher this coming VCS 2020
Preaching	Share your faith in Christ Jesus starting with your close friends Doing Evangelism Activity where one will share one's faith in Jesus to others
Healing	Volunteering assistance during the Medical Mission

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

"Jesus came to them and said," All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Offertory

Leader: The offerings we give are used to finance our spreading the gospel both here and afar. As we give, we become partners in doing God's Mission, spreading the Gospel of Jesus to all.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response (Doxology)

+Thanksgiving Prayer

All: With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, we rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, In Jesus' name. Amen.

+Closing Song

"Go Tell Everyone"

God's spirit is in my heart, He has called me and set me apart
This is what I have to do, what I have to do

Chorus:

He sent me to give the good news to the poor
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more
Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God has come 2x

Just as the Father sent me, So I'm sending out to be
My witnesses throughout the world; The whole of the world.

Don't worry what you have to say; Don't worry because on that day,
God's spirit will speak in your heart; Will speak in your heart.

+Prayer of Dedication

As you call us to proclaim the Gospel to the world, may we be in words and deeds be ever faithful to you alone O Christ Jesus. May our lives mirror your life so that people will come to know and experience your love. Amen.

+Response (Month of February) "Bind Us Together" (With Action)

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with love.

There is only one God, there is only one King, there is only one Body
and that is why we sing.
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with love.

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

Month of February:

Membership Month Project.

A. Volunteer to make a Membership database to all the members of the church.

B. Church Family Picture. Collect or take a Family Picture to all families of the church.

C. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board Section of the Monthly Birthday Celebrators.

D. Love Sunday. Organize a Date Night for all Couples in the Church. Prepare a Dinner and Program which include sharing the Love Story of the Couple.

E. Love for the Church Workers. Prepare a simple Fellowship Night with the church workers in your local church. Give them a simple token of love from your class.

F. #CYFSSLessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 37: What is the significance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the life and mission of the church?

Transfiguration Sunday

Last Sunday before Lent

February 23, 2020

General Concept: The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the very foundation of the life and mission of the Church.

Biblical References: *Psalm 99: 4, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:5-8*

Age-Level Concepts

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the heart of the life and faith of the Church.
- Jesus Christ's mission is the basis of the Church's mission.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Explain why Jesus is the heart of the life, faith, and ministry of the community of believers
- Draw out from experiences of believers the challenges and threats encountered in doing mission in Jesus' name
- Affirm that Christ's mission is the very foundation of the Church's mission in the world

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, video visual tech-

Smart TV or Laptop with internet connection for the Youtube short film showing, Creative art materials-crayons, pen, papers, colored papers, glue, and other creative materials.

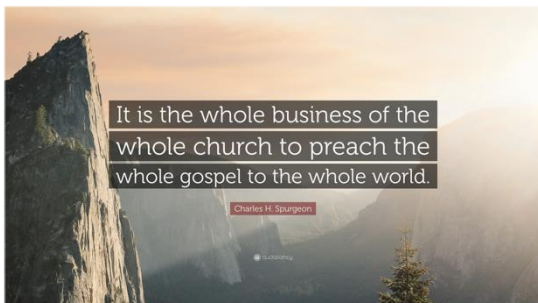
Biblical Background

Matthew 17:1-8

The transfiguration story of Jesus brings us all to a full knowledge of who Jesus is and how God is able to reveal God-self throughout history. Before this passage was the inquiry of Jesus to his disciples when he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" After a series of answers taken from the people's perspective, he then asks them personally, "Who do you think I am?" Peter answered it all, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Going back to the passage one might ask, "Why did Jesus go to the mountain top? Jesus brought his 3 disciples Peter, James, and John on the mountain not just to meditate but to let his core disciples be witnesses to God's affirmation of who Jesus is as God-beloved Son, the promised Messiah. This is the same revelation God revealed during Jesus' baptism, the difference though was the presence of the two Old Testament icons, Moses and Elijah. Their presence brings us to embrace that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophet. Jesus' life is the Law and the prophets' in flesh, living the kingdom of God. The voice of God saying, "This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased. Listen to him." is not just an affirmation but it also moves us to listen to Jesus. Listening means obeying Jesus' instructions and commands. It also means that we have to live as Christ' lived with God's people.

Christ's mission is our Church's mission. We cannot exist without Christ and we cannot live our purpose without doing Christ's mission to the world. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption and reconciliation from the Old Testament to the New Testament. He calls us to be God's bearer of this mission, letting God's light be seen to those who are in darkness. Jesus is the heart of the life and faith of the Church thus Christ's mission is the mission of the church, nothing more and nothing less.



Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are

here for a purpose."

Song of Gathering

"People of God, Let Us Adore Together"

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 241

People of God, let us adore together Christ
who has called us from the night and into day;
We've been redeemed by His eternal goodness;
To live up to His love and holiness.

Body of Christ magnificent is our name;
We are in holy communion with the Lord;
We trust Him for the life that He has given;
To save us from our death and sin and shame.

Called to be saints, all consecrated are we;
Christ's willing servants in service for the world;
We're called to serve the lost, the high, the lowly;
And anyone who needs His saving grace.

O Bride of Christ, from heaven He came to call us;
Into the baptism in His purity;
We are the new Jerusalem that will be;
People of God through all eternity.

+Opening Prayer (Unison)

Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you. Free us to trust your call and follow. Enable us to repent, forgive, and join in your work to make "all things new". In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen`

Getting Ready Have a film viewing entitled, "Who is Jesus?"
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bZFoD0cG88>). After the film showing allow each learner to answer the question, "Who is Jesus to you today?"

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

Let the whole class read aloud the texts responsively - men (odd number) and women (Even Number).

- *What does transfiguration mean?*
- *What is the importance of transfiguration in relation to knowing who Jesus is?*
- *How did the three disciples able to respond to such great revelation? Do you think it deepens their knowledge and faith in Jesus?*
- *How would you react if you are one of those disciples? What will you do with such opportunity?*

- *What is the intention of Jesus for keeping the revelation secret to others? What do you think will happen if such story leaked and was told anyway?*

Lessons Learned

JESUS' PORTRAIT: "Who is Jesus to me and our Church"?

Divide the class into groups of 5. Tell the learners to make a creative portrait of who Jesus is to the learners and the Church through a poem, a song, a visual art- painting or drawing and explain why Jesus is the heart of the life, faith, and ministry of the community of believers and to oneself.

Tell the learners to share their artwork, poem or song to the whole class. In sharing, include one's personal experience of the challenges and threats encountered as a follower of Christ and in doing Christ's Mission.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Make a group Art Collage by using all the artwork made by the learners. Make a circle and place the Art Collage at the center. Allow each learner to make one's commitment by completing this statement, "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior thus, I will follow him by _____."

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

"This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

-Matthew 17:5

Offertory

Leader: When we give our tithes and offerings, we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ. I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response

"Giving"

Giving, giving gladly giving every day,
Giving giving, gladly day by day.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

All: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God. Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people. And let the called and redeemed of God say,
Amen

+Closing Song

"The Church that is Called by God"
Hymnal of Faith Journey, 315

In the church that is called by God; Where the believers come to worship God

*With joy and gladness in their hearts, For Jesus Christ is the Lord that reigns
In their lives binding them in the pureness of his love.*

Refrain:

*Praise you, God, you are Lord of human kind, You are Savior of the world,
you are Savior of us all. Let all people their voices raise to the Lord,
Eternal praise, to the Lord eternal praise.*

*In the church that is called by God Where the believers strive to obey
And serve and to do the will of the Lord; In times of ease and in times of great need,
All would follow Christ's command.*

*In the church that you have called, O God, Where the believers strive to live in love,
And goodwill abound with joy and hope. O Strengthen them in your love and
spirit, Lord,
And may you be praised forevermore.*

+Prayer of Dedication

We came and we experienced your presence. You challenged us and we now say,
"Yes, Lord!" Be with us O Jesus through your Spirit that we received you empowering
might to preach the gospel in words and deeds, both here and abroad, and now and
forever more. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Way Facilitator: Send us into the world, O Holy One, ready to witness to your
generosity and forgiveness; ready to be recognized as those who follow your
and ready to shape a world of justice, peace, and joy.

+Response (Month of February) "Bind Us Together" (With Action)

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with love.

There is only one God, there is only one King, there is only one Body
and that is why we sing.

Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with love.

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
The month of February:

Membership Month Project.

- A. Volunteer to make a Membership database to all the members of the church.
- B. Church Family Picture. Collect or take a Family Picture to all families of the church.
- C. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board Section of the Monthly Birthday Celebrators.

D. Love Sunday. Organize a Date Night for all Couples in the Church. Prepare a Dinner and Program which include sharing the Love Story of the Couple.

E. Love for the Church Workers. Prepare a simple Fellowship Night with the church workers in your local church. Give them a simple token of love from your class.

F. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 38: Why do we need to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

First Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2020

General Concept: We need to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ because it is an expression of our faithful obedience as commissioned followers.

Biblical References: Matthew 28:16-20

Age-Level Concepts

- We need to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ because we are His followers who are commanded to do it.
- We need to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to express our obedience to His instructions.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Discuss the responsibilities of a true follower of Jesus Christ
- Mention examples of challenges a true follower of Christ may face in proclaiming the Gospel
- Resolve to continue obeying Christ despite challenges

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, cut-out drawing of candles, and pen or marker.

Biblical Background

Matthew 28:16-20

The passage is known to be "The Great Commission." Jesus Christ urges his disciples to make, "disciples of all the nations" and "baptize them." The word disciple, which is *mathetes* in Greek, literally means pupil or follower of the Way. Baptize refers to the Christian practice using water to remove the original sin which is an inherent fault that Christians believe marks all human beings at birth. Baptism is an important sign of entrance into the Christian faith.

The Great Commission aims in spreading the Christian message of the Gospel and converting others to Christianity. Sadly to say that the said "Great Commission" does not appear until late in Christian history. Some scholars argue that it was coined by Baron Justinian von Welz, a 17th Century Lutheran nobleman who argued that the words in Matthew 28 meant that all Christians

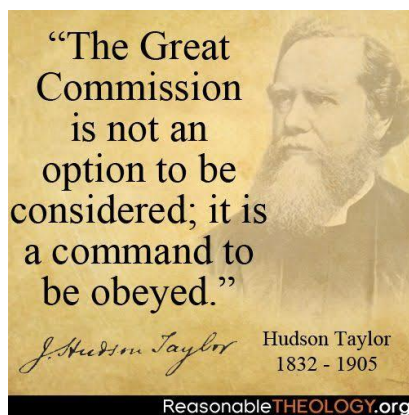
were required to spread the faith, not just Jesus' closet disciples. The passage indeed is a latter insert passage to the whole Gospel according to Matthew.

In the centuries later, Englishman Hudson Taylor is believed to have used the idea of the Great Commission to justify Christian missionary efforts, particularly the China Inland Mission that he founded in 1866. Taylor Mission attempted to bring Christianity to China's inland provinces. This was dangerous work and 79 China Inland missionaries were killed later, in what is referred to as the Boxer Rebellion.

Christian missionary activities predate the use of the term "Great Commission." The Apostle Paul was influential in establishing Christian churches throughout the Mediterranean after the death of Jesus. Much later, Catholic religious orders, such as the Society of Jesus, attempted to spread Christianity throughout the world, usually with the help of powerful nations such as Portugal and Spain. This was then Queen Isabela of Spain included the Island of the Philippines as one's divine mission to spread the gospel. In reality, though, it was a sword and the Bible, colonization in disguise of Christianity.

The Great Commission certainly motivated Protestant efforts to convert nations and peoples in Africa and Asia in the 19th century. It also fueled more recent efforts by evangelical Christians to "missionize" Catholic Latin America. Indeed, Latin America would not have become so Catholic without indigenous peoples being dominated by European imperialism and colonialism. Missionary efforts sometimes served economic interests relating to trade and resources as well as religious ones. Additionally, converting conquered peoples was a powerful way of extending political control.

Converting others to Christianity raises a fundamental question about whether religious diversity is a reality to be celebrated or an obstacle to be overcome. Given the complex history of missionary activity, the meaning of the Great Commission will continue to be a subject of debate as Christianity confronts a rapidly changing world.



Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a dance craze. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a

purpose and with fun and joy."

Songs of Gathering "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
Chorus

Go tell it on the mountain; Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain Our Jesus Christ is born.

When I was a seeker I sought both night and day
I asked the Lord to help me; And he showed me the way. (Chorus)

He made me a watchman upon a city wall
And if I am a Christian; I am the least of all

“People Need the Lord” By Steve Green
Everyday they pass me by I can see it in their eyes,
Empty people filled with care,
Headed who knows where,
On they go through private pain,
Living fear to fear,
Laughter hides their silent cries only Jesus hears.

Chorus

People need the Lord, people need the Lord,
At the end of broken dreams, He's the open door,
People need the Lord, people need the Lord
When will we realize people need the Lord?

We are called to take His light,
To a world where wrong seems right,
What could be too great a cost,
For sharing life with one who's lost?
Through His love, our hearts can feel
All the grief they bear,
They must hear the words of life
Only we can share. (Chorus)

end after Chorus: For people need the Lord, people need the Lord

+Opening Prayer

God, there are a lot of people who needed you to be their God. We thank you for calling us to preach the Gospel to all nations. May you give us understanding and knowledge to live it out daily in our lives. Be with us now, O God and move us to spread the Gospel to all. Amen.

Getting Ready

Film Viewing on The Gospel of Jesus Christ - In Six Words | What is the Gospel & How to Share the Gospel. (Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pC6clPukSMY>)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the whole class read aloud the texts (Isaiah 58:1-11 and *Matthew 5:13-20*)

Group the class into two (2) and let them discuss and answer the following:

Questions to Reflect On

1. What is Jesus' great commission all about?
2. Why is there a need to obey Christ's commission?
3. What does it mean to be Christ's followers? What are our privileges and responsibilities as Christ's followers?
4. What are the challenges a true follower of Christ may face in proclaiming the Gospel? Give a concrete example based on the experiences you have personally, in your local church and one's conference.
5. How can we continue obeying Christ despite today's' challenges?

Lessons Learned

The very outcome of doing the "Great Commission" of Jesus Christ is not for all people to become Christian, but to be Christ's disciples who are willing to be taught, who live-out God's kingdom here on earth, and who will make disciples too. God's kingdom is not about religion; it is present where love, justice, and peace prevail and it is present where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed.

Allow the two groups to make an interpretative dance of the song, "People Need the Lord." Let them practice for 10 minutes and let them present their piece to the whole class. After their presentation, allow each group to make a group reflection about the song especially on it's relevance and significance to our time as we follow Christ's Great Commission.

Applying the Lessons Learned

In what ways can the CYFers of your local church be able to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus?

<u>Suggested Activities</u>	<u>In-charge</u>	<u>Target</u>	Date	Needed Resources
Equipping to share the Gospel	President	All CYF	August 2020	Literature/ Speaker
Discipleship Training/Seminar	VP	All CYF	October to December	Budget for Materials

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

“18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Offertory

In the story of Adam and Eve, we see creation’s splendid possibilities and humanity’s tragic limitations. In Christ, we see humanity’s strength and God’s glory made manifest – the harmony of creation restored. We offer these gifts and tithes as we seek to restore balance and beauty to a world gone haywire with temptation and deceit.

Giving of our Offerings/ +Doxology

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen

Closing Song

“ I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus’ radiant glory, of Jesus’ endless love.
I love to tell the story because I know it’s true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Ref: *I love to tell the story, and when I am in glory,
I’ll tell the old, old story of Jesus’ endless love.*

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
Than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you;
Because I want to share it because I know it’s true.

I love to tell the story; it’s pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God’s own holy Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song,
Will be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

+Prayer of Dedication

We thank you O God for the opportunity to learn together about your Great Commission you entrusted us to do and not to bury it 6 feet below the ground. May your Spirit empower us to do this mission and to live God's kingdom daily as long as we live in this world.

Beloved of God, go now into the vast universe to be the people of God: Resist temptations that lead to destruction. We'll create more beauty. Resist temptations that lead to isolation. We'll reach out more to a world in need. Resist temptations based on false promises. We'll rest in the hope of God. Love creation: We'll rejoice in its balance and harmonies! And in all these things, let the Spirit of Christ fill and inspire all your deeds as you seek to be a faithful part of Christ's reconciling ministry. **Amen.**

+Response

"Gaelic Benediction"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixlFAyTBm8>)

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
(Till we meet again my friend, till we meet again.
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.) 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of March:

A. Lenten Month Project.

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Lenten Season Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.
3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board section for the monthly Birthday celebrators.

B. Make, develop, and maintain an FB Page for your local church CYF.

C. Make a two - minute CYF Promotional Video.

D. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 39: As a church, how do we establish and unite the community of faith for the life-proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ towards the transformation of both church and society?

International Women's Day

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020

General Concept: The Church must have a common understanding of faith that will impel believers to participate in and live out their prophetic witness.

Biblical References: Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:16-17, John 3:16-17

Age-Level Concepts

- The Church must have a common understanding of faith that will push them to participate in the work of transforming church and society.
- Believers must live out their faith through their prophetic witness.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Discuss our biblical faith heritage as a Church
- Study the responsibilities and functions of a local church and as an individual member
- Resolve to strengthen and live out their faith through prophetic witness

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, cut-out drawing of candles, and pen or marker.

Biblical Background

Genesis 12:1-4

God's promise to Abraham and Sarah. It begins with the command, "Go from your country and your kindred and our father's house." God commanded Abram to leave his larger family and sever his ties from his larger nation, his ties from his larger kinship group, and even from his father's household. God calls Abram to a loyalty and commitment that transcends even his family ties which is the most important of all relationships in the ancient world. This call comes with God's powerful promise. God promised to give Abram land, give him an offspring and make it a great nation with the implication of a long line of descendants. God promised Abram and Sarai new life, success, well-being and a good name. This is the goodness received by Abram that moved him and his immediate family to trust and obey God despite all life's challenges they had to face.

God's blessing to Abraham and Sarah affirms God's continuing concern and love for all humans and the world in spite of their rebellion, violence, and sinfulness. God will not let go of God's creation. God's selection of the old and barren couple to be a blessing to others proves that it is first and foremost God's power and initiative that will accomplish God's purposes. True enough,

human obedience is from the very beginning involved in the experience. God says, “Go...” and “Abram went.” But Abraham’s trust in God’s commitment in fulfilling the promises provided the courage and will to follow God’s commands.

John 3:16-17.

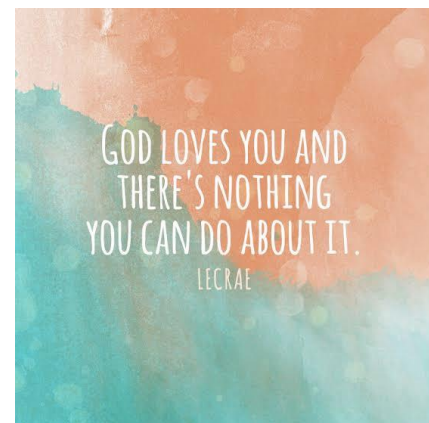
This famous text which is called, “everybody’s favorite text” somewhat summarizes the whole message of the Bible. This text tells us that the initiative in the work for salvation lies with God. It was God who made the first step by sending God’s beloved Son, Jesus the Christ. At the back of everything is the love of God that continuously opens one’s arms like a parent who cannot be happy until one’s wandering children have come home. The text provides us with the fact that God’s love is all-embracing and covers the whole world. God’s love includes and embraces all gender, race, status in life, those unlovable and unlovely. God’s love is inclusive and all-embracing. St Augustine well said this, “God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.”

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday’s lesson.

Welcome each student with a hug and tell that learner, “God loves you and there’s nothing you can do about it.” After gathering around, say this statement “ Whoever you are and whatever you are on life’s journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose.”



Songs of Gathering

“Salidumay Praise”

Ay, ay Salidumay, Let us give praise to God
Ay, ay salidumay, let us give thanks to God
Ay, ay salidumay, let us all dance to God
Ay, ay salidumay, let us be one in Christ

“He Came Singing Love”

He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing Love. He arose in silence.
For the love to go on we must make it our song;
You and I be the singers.
faith, hope.peace.love

+Opening Prayer

Loving God, You called us to love all of your people unconditionally. Be with us as we join together to understand Your word. Bless us so that we may become a blessing in your world, doing your work of justice, hope and truth, among all. Amen.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the whole class read aloud the texts (Genesis 12: 1-4 and John 3:16-17) Group the class into 2 and assign a text to each group. Discuss and answer the following questions.

Questions to Reflect On

Group 1 - Genesis 12:1-4

1. What is God's calling to Abram? How did Abram respond to the call of God?
2. If you were Abram/Sarai, would you obey God as Abram/ Sarai did?
3. What is God's calling to you? How do you realize God's calling for your life?
4. What is God's calling for our Church? How do we work together as a church in realizing God's calling in transforming the world?

Group 2 - John 3:16-17

1. What does the text mean to you? What is your understanding of the text?
2. How does the text relate to God's calling to you and our church?
3. How do we continue to live out our faith in God in spite of the persecutions and tribulations in these changing times?

Let the group make a creative presentation that summarizes the group's reflection and answers to the questions.

Lessons Learned:

In our UCCP By-Laws, Article 1 on Church Membership Section 9 states, "Commitments of Members. Membership in the Local Church entails the following obligations and commitments:

- a. To proclaim the Gospel and bear personal witness in both word and service in the context of one's immediate community, the nation and the rest of humanity;
- b. To lead a peaceable and godly life worthy of one's Christian calling, and to endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ;"

Say: "Proclaiming the Gospel and bear personal witness is our obligation as members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

- Have we been able to do this responsibility?
- Has our Church able to witness both in word and service to the community where our church is located?
- How can we live out our faith in God in our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?



Comment on these pictures;

a. UCCP Haran in Davao City is sheltering, welcoming, helping the Lumad in their fight for Rights and Peace in their Ancestral Land.



b. The slogan/call not to attack Churches and Church Workers who stand for the right of the oppressed and victims of injustices.

Applying the Lessons Learned

a. ***Make an FB Meme*** that depicts the UCCP's Proclamation of the Gospel in these changing times.



b. ***Prayer for the church workers and leaders who are persecuted and imprisoned because of doing God's mission.*** Gather the whole class and encourage every learner to light a candle and say a short prayer. After each learner has uttered one's prayer place one candle on the floor forming a peace sign.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16 NRSV

Offertory

Leader: Let us give generously of our time, talent, a treasure to further the work of God in our community.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response *"Give of Your Best to the Master"*
 Hymnal of Faith Journey, 282

Refrain

*Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth.
Clad in salvation's full armor, Join in the battle for truth.*

+Thanksgiving Prayer

+Closing Song *"What Does the Lord Require of You"*
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCcMdL8F5Ik>)
 1st Part: What does the Lord require of you? 4
 2nd Part: Justice, Kindness, Walk humbly with your God 4x
 3rd Part: To seek justice, and love kindness and walk humbly with your God 4x

+Prayer of Dedication

God's love calls us to live in community with all believers and share God's blessing among us. God's love sends us out into the wider community to be a blessing! Let us go forth from here in peace, bringing the blessing of God our Creator, Jesus Christ, our Wounded Healer, and the Empowering Holy Spirit. Amen!

+Response Gaelic Benediction
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixlFAyTBm8>)

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
(Till we meet again my friend, till we meet again.
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.) 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of March:

A. Lenten Month Project.

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Lenten Season Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.

3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board section for the monthly Birthday celebrators.
- B. Make, develop, and maintain an FB Page for your local church CYF.
- C. Make a two - minute CYF Promotional Video.
- D. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 40: Why is it important for a church to have goals?

Third Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2020

General Concept: The church needs to have goals to direct its mission to realize its vision.

Biblical References: Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:21-30, 39-42

Age-Level Concepts

- The Church needs to have goals.
- The Church must have goals to give it direction for doing its mission.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Define the word "goals"
- Talk about the consequences of not having goals as a Church
- Affirm God's guidance in attaining the goals set by the Church

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, cut-out drawing of candles, and pen or marker.

Biblical Background

Exodus 17:1-7

Exodus 17:1-7 talks about the continuing journey of the Israelites in the wilderness. This particular part of the people's story is indeed important because it entails God's vision and intention for the people. God does not intend for people to suffer and die but to experience a meaningful and abundant life by having a land of their own and a nation to call their own. The wilderness experience is a honeymoon for Yahweh and God's people, a divine-human relationship being worked out and tested during difficult times.

In this passage, the Israelites met another trial. They have camped at Rephidim but there is no water to drink. The complaining that was so prevalent in previous events begins to resurface and resulted in intense quarreling. The people continue to doubt why they have been chosen and

wonder if they have been brought into the wilderness to die along with their children and their livestock. They begin to doubt Moses' leadership and considered him to be like Pharaoh who will use them to gain glory.

God chooses to bring water to the people by striking a rock at Horeb which brings forth flowing water. This is symbolic of God's intention to bring the people into a new life, not death. Yahweh attends to their needs unlike the gods of Egypt who never bother about their lives' condition. Yahweh is not like Pharaoh who is always absent.

The goal of Israel is to define their standing as people of God. The promised land is a vision for all but such vision will never be realized if their relationship with Yahweh is not firmly established. God intends for the people to be aware that their identity, goals and visions in life are not separated from God's plan and will.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a big tight hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose."

Songs of Gathering "DUBIDAHDAH PRAISE"

BY GBB 19-25-07

We gonna um! Ahh! (dubidadidahdah 2x)
Let's praise our God 2x

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad
Together let us join our hearts in prayer
as we dance and praise God's name.

"MOVING PRAISE" GBB 10-25-0

I'm gonna raise my hands unto our God (2x)
I'm gonna raise my hands as I sing God's praise
I'm gonna raise my hands unto our God.

...shoulders... hands...hips.. legs.. knees.. body...

+Opening Prayer (Unison)

**...THE PEOPLE
WHO GET THINGS
DONE, WHO LEAD,
WHO GROW AND
WHO MAKE AN
IMPACT... THOSE
PEOPLE HAVE
GOALS.**

SETH GODIN

onfreelancing.com

God of grace and truth, we come together knowing that you are with us. Please teach us the lessons that we need to know, grant us the joy of being together, and grant us your love that we may also love others as you love them. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

Getting Ready

GAME. Scavenger Hunting. Divide the class into (2) two with a minimum of 5 members per group. Let them find and take a picture of the following:

1. Oldest member of the local church present
2. 3 favorite hymns of your pastor.
3. Church Membership Book
4. Latest Baptismal Certificate entree
5. UCCP VMG
6. 3 pioneering church families
7. Favorite Bible verse of your pastor's spouse
8. Local Church OGSM
9. Local Church Ecclesiastical Budget
10. Oldest Bible in your church.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

Let the whole class read aloud the text (Exodus 17:1-7). Group the class into (2) and let them discuss and answer the following questions:

1. What is the story all about? How do you relate this story to our lesson about goals?
2. What is the vision, mission, and goals of God to the people of Israel?
3. How does God lead the people in attaining their goals?
4. What important factor does the people have to reach their goals and vision?

Lessons Learned

The book entitled, "Lead On!" by John Edmund Haggai gives us a brief description of the Goal. He said, "A *vision* is the foundation of all leadership. The leader's *vision* requires a commitment to act, which is called a *mission*. But the vision and mission are put into practice with a set of specific, measurable steps designed to achieve the mission. Those steps are called *goals*. The vision and mission will remain constant, but the goals should be reviewed monthly or more often." Dr. Edmund added, a good goal-setting is an S-M-A-R-T which is Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Tangible."

Revisiting our UCCP VMG, does our local church aware of our UCCP VMG? What goals do our local church accomplished and what other goals that we need to focus on as a local church, as a conference and as UCCP as a whole?

The UCCP Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

The UCCP, 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

Mission

In light of such a vision, the UCCP, therefore, commits itself to the mission of establishing and uniting the community of faith for the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ towards the transformation of both church and society

Goals / Objectives:

Within the first 5 years of its jubilee, the UCCP life-work will focus on the restoration of its relationships— a foretaste of God's reign or SHALOM as reflected in the achievement of the following goals or objectives:

1. To strengthen the faith community.

(Relationships within the faith community at all levels and in all aspects of its life-work, individual and collective or institutional)

2. To enrich the life-work of communities where Local Churches are located.

(Relationship of the life-work of the local churches where expressions of the life-work of the whole UCCP are most meaningful, with the total life-work of the communities where they are located; the particularity of issues are more effectively and meaningfully addressed)

3. To deepen the impact of its collective response to societal issues and concerns.

(Relationship of the institutional church - whole UCCP - with issues and concerns that affect the total life-work of the whole nation and the global community and total creation)

Applying the Lessons Learned

Make concrete activities for each goal that which you can achieve.

Goal	Activities	Impact	Realization
1. Strengthen the faith community	a. CYF Fellowship b. CYF Retreat	Know each other Knowing our community	Need to establish deeper amongst the young people
2. To enrich the life-work of communities	a. Feeding for the Children b. Barangay Tambayan sa Kabataan	Nutritional Value Sports promotion hindering the influence of drugs	Education of Right Nutrition is needed Involve the Youth into the sport

3. To deepen the impact of its collective response to societal issues	a. Prayer Rally for the Victims of Extra-Judicial killings b. Participate in Anti-Human Trafficking Program	a. The church is the promoter of peace b. The church is a partner toward societal advocacy	a. We need to be conscious of our societal issues and concerns b. our prophetic role never changes

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (NRSV)

Offertory

Leader: Through Christ, we are called to be sowers of God’s truth and reapers of God’s blessings. Therefore, let us joyfully share a portion of what we have received from God so those in need may rejoice with us.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response

“Praise Our God Above”

New Century Hymnal, 424

Praise God above, Source of boundless love;
spring wind summer rain, then the harvest grain;
Pearly rice and corn fragrant autumn morn,
Though our work is hard. God rewards us.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Great Provider, bless these offerings and multiply them according to Your will. May they restore hope and wholeness to those who benefit from it. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

+Closing Song “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” New Century Hymnal, 588

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life,
Abundant, cleansing sure.

Let righteousness roll-on, as others' cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith, translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight, Define our measure true,

And justice, right, and peace pervades This world our whole life through.

+Prayer of Dedication

Facilitator: As we depart from this time of learning, restored and refreshed by the living water from Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Let us go forth, in the power of the Holy Spirit, into the world as witnesses of God, ambassadors of reconciliation, and praising God's holy name. Amen.

+Response

Gaelic Benediction

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixlFAyTBm8>)

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields
(Till we meet again my friend, till we meet again.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.) 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of March:

A. Lenten Month Project.

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Lenten Season Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.
3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board section for the monthly Birthday celebrators.

B. Make, develop, and maintain an FB Page for your local church CYF.

C. Make a two - minute CYF Promotional Video.

D. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 41:What does it mean to strengthen the faith community?

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020

General Concept: Strengthening the faith community means nurturing the faith of the members, equipping them with skills, and inspiring them to participate in the Church's ministry.

Biblical Reference/s: Ephesians 5:8-14

Age-Level Concepts

- Nurturing the faith of the members and teaching them will make the local church formidable.
- To strengthen the local church means to equip them with skills and inspire them to participate in the ministries of the Church.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Describe how their local church nurtures them to grow in faith and witness
- Identify the skills and capacities that the members need for them to help in Christ's mission
- Commit to participate in the ministries of the Church and inspire others to do likewise to strengthen the faith community

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, Manila paper, pentel pen, tape, and meta cards.

Biblical Background

Ephesians 5:8-14

Apostle Paul had his way of strengthening the faith community which he started. He wrote letters to give not just his greetings but also to follow up the community's whereabouts. He wrote his letter to resolve the ecclesiastical conflict that resulted to the disunity of the whole body of Christ. In this particular letter, Paul reminded the believers of their identity in Christ Jesus. In the first half of the letter, the author is celebrating the audience's common identity and status which God has fully accomplished in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1:4-11). The second part tackles practical ways to fulfill God's purposes in the Church which are unity within the body parts, maturity, renewal of personal life, and it's the relationship with one's family. The third part covers the strengthening of the church to face spiritual conflict.

Paul made it clear to the believers that transformation happens when they are in the Lord. Christ's light shines upon them which now made them as "children of light". They have to imitate God as they have become part of God's family. Paul used the metaphor of "light" which is commonly understood as doing what is the Lord's. The fruit of light can be manifested in this question, "What is good, righteous and truth?" Paul added that the believers must discern with the aids God has provided - God's spirit, Scripture, and the Church. "Letting our light shine" means exposing the nature of darkness which produces unfruitful works and absence of good. The presence of darkness could lead to corruption. When you expose light to the darkness,

transformation begins to happen. Paul's words brought clarity as to why believers need to unite themselves as one body of Christ and gave focus for the church to do its mission and purpose.



Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose."

Songs of Gathering

Oh, Jesus, celebrate Jesus.
Sing it with an open and a joyful heart
Oh, Jesus, celebrate Jesus; Sing it with an open heart.

"Chuga Praise"

Hi! You bro/sis ___ Com' on down,
don't be ashamed to praise our Lord.
We know that you have a lot of this and little of that
so com'on let us praise our Lord.
Chuga up! Chugachuga, chuga up!
...down, left., right...

Opening Prayer

We come together as your children willing to learn, may Your Spirit move us to live out the lesson we will be learning together to strengthen our community. This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Getting Ready

Film Showing entitled, "Ants vs Anteater"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ-eFaLGV0g>)

What is the importance of unity as told in this movie clip? How can unity be achieved?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

Let the whole class read aloud Ephesian 5:8-14. Group the class into 2. Discuss and answer the following questions within their group. After the group discussion, let them share their answers to the whole class.

Questions to Reflect On

- How did Paul able to nurture the believers in their faith and witness in Christ Jesus?
- What is the reason Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Ephesus?
- What do you think were the problems encountered by the believers and how did Paul try to resolve it?
- What lesson/s can we learn from Paul to address the problems of our church today?
- What are the 3 top problems that your Local Church is now facing?
- How do you as a church able to address and solve these problems?
- Describe how your local church nurtures you to grow in faith and witness in Christ Jesus?



Lessons

Tree of

fold Ministry of Jesus/ Church.

Learned

Life: 3-

In a Manila Paper, draw a large tree that describes the 3-fold ministry of Jesus which is also the ministry of the Church.

- a. Root- Teaching
- b. Trunk and branches- Preaching
- c. Leaves and fruits- Healing

Ask: “What skills and capacities of the members do we need to harness so it can be helpful in doing Christ’s mission?”

Tell the learners to write down their answers on a meta-card and place it respectively to the part of the tree.

Example: “Teaching Skills in Teaching Sunday School”

place it near the root part of the tree.

Applying the Lessons Learned

After placing all the meta-cards on the manila paper, allow each student to examine their gifts and encourage them to offer one's skills and capacities in doing Christ's ministry.

WORDS OF COMMITMENT. Encourage all learners to complete the statement of commitment.

"I offer to you O God my gift/skill of _____ to help _____ of Your Church.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

"For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord, you are light. Live as children of light- for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true."

Ephesians 5: 8-9

Offertory

Leader: O Jesus, the light of life, we offer to you a portion of our great blessing. We give to honor Your love in the world, to honor Your truth, to honor Your forgiveness. In this hour, let us share our treasure so that many more of your children may see the city on the hill a city that cannot be hidden by the world's gloom.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response "We Give Thee but Thine Own" [TH 620]

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

our All: In this moment of sharing, O Lord God, we give to You our song and our hope. Bless these gifts to the service of Jesus who shines in hearts and illuminates every corner of this world.

+Closing Song

"Once to Everyone and Nation"
(Tune: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

Once to everyone and nation comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new endeavor, offering each the bloom or blight
And the choice goes by forever between darkness and God's light.

New occasions bring new duties, making bloom or blight obsolete,
Christ's commission makes one decide, truth great cause may bring profit,
Then it is the brave, who chooses; while the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude makes virtue of the faith they had denied.

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
False forever on the gallows, truth forever on the throne,
Yet that gallows sway the future, and behind the dim unknown,
God is standing in the shadow keeping watch beside God's own.

+Prayer of Dedication

One: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden."

ALL: Let us shine, Lord.

One: Jesus said again: "Neither do you put your light under a bushel, where it cannot be seen." And they answered:

ALL: No, Lord, we will put our light on a stand where it can give light to everyone in the house.

One: "Let your light shine before all people" that they may come into the light.

ALL: We are shining, Lord Jesus. May all who see our good works glorify God in heaven! Amen!

+Response

Gaelic Benediction

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixlFAyTBm8>)

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields
(Till we meet again my friend, till we meet again.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.) 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of March:

A. Lenten Month Project.

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Lenten Season Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.
3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board section for the monthly Birthday celebrators.

B. Make, develop, and maintain an FB Page for your local church CYF.

C. Make a two - minute CYF Promotional Video.

D. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 42: Why do we need to strengthen the faith community?

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

General Concept: We need to strengthen the local church for it to be an efficient, effective, and empowered instrument in the attainment of the Church's Vision, Mission, and Goals.

Biblical References: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:25-27

Age-Level Concepts

- We need to strengthen the local church.
- A strong local church is efficient and effective in reaching the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Church.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Identify the traits of an empowered and strong local church
- Enumerate the factors contributing to the inactive participation of the local church to the wider tasks of the Church
- Explain why the local church should be strengthened

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, cut-out letters of CYF, one letter per Cartolina, 3 colored Paper and pen or 3 markers, and a Large Print out of your Local Church Front View Picture.

Biblical Background:

Prophet Ezekiel prophesied and ministered to the Israelites in Exile. About the year 593 BCE, he together with King Jehoiachin and other leaders of Judah was carried away in exile to Babylon. The message of Ezekiel could be divided into two periods. In the first seven years of his prophetic ministry (593-587/6 BCE), he was confronted with people full of hope: *"Babylon, the world power is soon to crush down"*, they thought, *"We will be home soon!"* The people did not need comfort at the time; they felt comforted already.

Ezekiel used all his prophetic talent to tell them that it would not happen that way. Their period of exile would not yet come to an end. Instead of returning more people would be deported, because - and that was absolutely shocking - the city of Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed!

Prophet Ezekiel gave reasons for this: The laws of the **Torah were not followed; other gods were worshipped** even in the temple (Ezekiel 8-11; 22:6-12). What a horrible message!

The deportees in Babylon did not want to hear it; they closed their ears and preferred to live in their sweet dreams of returning to Judah as soon as possible. In this first period of his preaching, Ezekiel was surely not comforting the people. Quite contrary he gave them **discomfort**.

In the next years of his ministry (587/6-573 BCE), Ezekiel's prophecies were proven right. Upon hearing about the **destruction of Jerusalem and the temple** and upon receiving a big new group of deportees, the first group of exiles lost their hope. *"We will never return"*, they thought, *"Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed forever!"* The people were desperate and homesick. In their despair they composed Psalms 137: *"By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion" (v.1).*

In this time of despair, Ezekiel preached **a new message**; he preached **hope**. The end of the temple is not the end of God. He left the temple (Ezekiel 11:23). And he will return to a new temple, which Ezekiel described in a long vision (Ezekiel 40-48). With his vision of the **"dry bones"** he made it clear, that **God could even bring new life** to dried bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14). This would be the time in which the deported Jews would return: *"As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so I will look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered..."* (Ezekiel 34:12).

In God there is always hope even in the midst of hopelessness. In God there is always life even for dried bones. The hope of the Israelites to return to their homeland was not only dead, but already dried up like dried bones. But even then, Prophet Ezekiel firmly believed that God could rekindle that hope of coming home to Judah and would soon bring it into fulfillment.

This is also the message of Jesus Christ our Lord in John 11. In God there is always life even in the midst of death; there is always hope even in the midst of sorrows and despair. Lazarus was raised to life even if he had already been buried for four days (v.39).

As Christians, we must always view death not as defeat but victory. For not until we look at death victoriously can we learn to live victoriously; and not until we live victoriously can we face death victoriously. Jesus' own teachings about life and death are our sources of hope, comfort and consolation.

First of all, Jesus teaches us not to fear those who can destroy the body only. Rather, we should fear him who can destroy both the soul and the body in hell (cf. Mt. 10:28). We do believe that we are not merely physical beings. According to the Scriptures, God has breathed the breath of life in us, and thus we have become a living soul (cf. Gen. 2:7). Our soul is our inner life. It is our sense of what is right and wrong, what is just and unjust, and what is true and what is false. This is a gift of God that no one could ever destroy.

The problem of our society today is that many of us have no more souls, or as one writer said have damaged souls. For instance, every election time, we put into power people who do not have the national interest at heart, but people whose ambition is only to amass

personal wealth. We applaud leaders who are merely verbose and bombastic rather than truly intelligent; the shrewd and merely clever rather than the wise; the dishonest and corrupt rather than the ones with integrity and mental honesty. We have become an economically impoverished nation, simply because our souls have been impoverished or seriously damaged, or simply disappeared.

Secondly, Jesus also teaches us that there are some things worse than dying. He said, *"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, but loses his own soul?"* (Mt.16:26). The loss of Christian virtues and respect for human rights, sacrificing human life for selfish gains, denying the truth for the sake of a lie - these things are far worse than dying physically. For the death of our souls is an eternal death.

And thirdly, Jesus also teaches us that the quality of life is far more important than the length of life. According to historians, Jesus started his ministry at the age of thirty, and he ministered to the people of his day for two to three years. He had never written a book; he had no letters attached to his name. He never established an empire nor built a mansion of his own. But of all the politicians who sat in parliaments, of all the generals who won in battles; no one had ever influenced the world like this man of Nazareth, who spent his short life in caring for the poor, the sick and the downtrodden.

Science has learned to preserve and lengthen human life. Modern medicine can cure our bodies of nearly every malady. It is marvelous, indeed. We take pride in long life, but what if we have nothing to live for? Martin Luther King, Jr. onetime said, *"He who doesn't know the thing he would die for is not fit to live."* There is no virtue in number of years, if we have not learned how to live. Quality life is more important than quantity.

Sometimes we actually live more in one day than we do in one month, or more in one hour than we do in an entire day. The most tragic death is that of the one who has never learned to live. When a person dies without friends: that is tragic. When a person dies without having contributed for the good of the world: that is disaster. When a person dies without having created within a spirit worthy of fellowship with God and others: that is ultimate failure.

Our life consists not in the things we possess, nor in the abundance of our years, but in the quality of our living. *Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live even though they die; and those who live and believe in me will never die"* (Jn. 11:25). This is the kind of life that live victoriously even in death. As one poet says, *"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He writes – not that you won or lost – but how you played the game."*

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose."



Songs of Gathering

Mambo Sawa, Sawa

Mambo sawa-sawa)^{2x} I esu Aki a izini (mambo sawa-sawa)^{3x}
(Things are getting better^{2x}) If you have Jesus in your hearts
(Things are getting better^{3x})
Lord Mighty God Bless and Keep You forever. Amen.

"Kaamulan" by gbb

(Kaamulan is the gathering of different tribes in Bukidnon. It aims to foster unity among the tribes and understanding between them and the lowlanders. Sulad is a native word for kin.)

Kalinaw, kaugmaon... (Kaamulan 2x)
Panagtigum, panaghiusa... (Kaamulan 2x)
Duyog na mga sulad, managdugtong kita, (kaamulan)6x

Kapayapaan, kinabukasan ...(Kaamulan 2x)
Pakikisama, pakisalamuha... (Kaamulan 2x)
Halina mga sulad, magkaisa tayo. (Kaamulan) 6x

Peace that last and hope for the future (Kaamulan 2x)
Fellowship of love abundant (Kaamulan 2x)
Come O come all you sulad, Let us all be one (Kaamulan)6x

+Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, may you strengthen our bond as brothers and sisters willing to know more about You. May Your Spirit unites us always to do your mission in these changing times. Amen.

Getting Ready

Film Showing about “UNFPA video against gender violence 2016”

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFNF_6u7c9k).

Say, “Ending violence against women is a concern for all. The world situation, especially in relation to violence against women can be changed by our awareness and participation in the discussion on gender equality so that all women will be safe and well.”

Ask the learners about the film:

- What is the film all about?
- How does the film address the problem of violence against women?
- What does it propose to eradicate violence?
- What does the film say about strengthening the community as a way of overcoming violence?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

Let the whole class read aloud the texts (Ezekiel 37:1-14 & John 11:25-27) Group the class into 2 and assign a text to each group. Discuss and answer the following questions.

Questions to Reflect On

Ezekiel 37:1-14

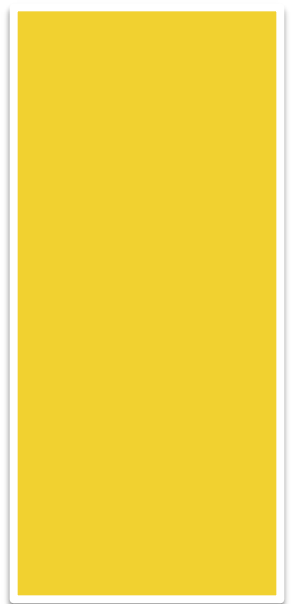
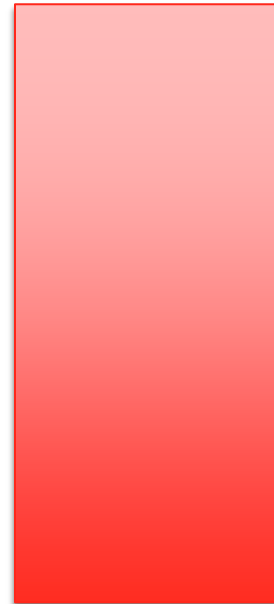
- What is the passage all about?
- What is the intention and purpose of God in bringing Prophet Ezekiel in the middle of a valley of dry bones?
- What is the message of the passage? How does the message relate to our lesson about strengthening the faith community?

John 11:25-27

- What is the passage all about?
- What was the conversation between Jesus and Martha all about?
- How does Jesus’ proclamation of being the “Resurrection and the Life” help in strengthening the community of faith?
- What does the resurrection power of Jesus mean today?
- How does the message of resurrection relate to our lesson about strengthening the faith community?

Lessons Learned

Print out a large portrait of your Local Church and paste it on a Manila paper. Paste also 3 different colored papers. Write on the first paper the heading, “Traits of an Empowered and Strong Local Church.” Write on the 2nd paper this heading, “Factors



that makes a church the Inactive.” And on the last paper a heading, “Reasons Why We Need our Local Church to be Strengthened.” Invite each learner to write their answers on each paper. they may also use symbols to represent their answers.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Acronym CYF Commitment Activity.

Cut Out three letters- C, Y, & F. Cut each letter in a Cartolina Paper. Invite the learners to write a word of commitment to help strengthen one’s local church in doing its mission.

Example:

C- Christ-Centered Life, Communion with other believers

Y -Yes to involve in doing Mission like Outreach & Feeding

F- Follow Jesus at all times, Fill the gap between youth and the elderly of the church

Closing Worship

Memory Verse

“I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.”
Ezekiel 37:14

Offertory

Giving of our Offerings

Learner: Like Lazarus, we awake from sleep at the sound of Jesus’ voice. Like Lazarus, we have a new life in front of us – a resurrection life not meant to be hoarded but to be shared. Like Lazarus, we live in a state of thanksgiving for all that has been and hope for what is to be. Like Lazarus, we have been given a gift that is meant for all. So let us make our offerings at this altar, and pray that the wind of God may breathe upon all that lives upon the earth.

+Offering Response Offertory NCH 784

Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore in me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

dry All: Spirit of Life, we breathe our lives upon these gifts that they maybe become a
most fertile plain of green life and strengthened hope for all who live in the valley of
 bones. May the wind of your love carry these gifts far beyond us to the places
 in need of your compassionate grace. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

+Closing Song "Faith in the Service of the People"

Refrain: Faith in the service of the people, Faith in the service of the poor,
This is our response to the call of God, Faith in the service of the poor.

Peasants of the field have the vision of land that is rich and free
They till the land from the dawn to the setting sun, yet they remain to be poor.

Women of the land have the vision of people with dignity
Then work and struggle, caring for their young, hope for the nation that is free.

Tribal of the mountains have the vision of land that is rich and free,
They work and struggle and protect the land, from the greed of powers that be .

People of the church have the vision of the reign of God on earth
A reignship of justice and righteousness, a reignship of joy and love.

Let us come and celebrate together our joys in the service of God
And giving thanks for all the work well done, pray for years to come.

+Prayer of Dedication

One: "Come out!", Jesus commands. And calls us from the tombs of our existence
 into the brightness of a new day.

Two: "Come out!", Jesus cries. And unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Men: "Come out!", Jesus calls. And entices us into a world filled with grace and
 possibility. So:

Women: Go out! Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

One: Go out! Into a world that needs the Spirit of God, carried on our lips
 and in our loving arms.

Two: Go out! Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

All: Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!

+Response

Gaelic Benediction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xixlFAyTBm8>

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields
(Till we meet again my friend, till we meet again.
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.) 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
The month of March:

A. Lenten Month Project.

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Lenten Season Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.
3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board section for the monthly Birthday celebrators.

B. Make, develop, and maintain an FB Page for your local church CYF.

C. Make a two - minute CYF Promotional Video.

D. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session

Lesson 43:How do we strengthen the faith community?

Liturgy of the Palms

Sixth Sunday in Lent

April 5, 2020

General Concept: We strengthen the local church through continuing education, fellowships, faith-formation, and mutual concern.

Biblical References: Psalm 118:19-21, *Matthew 21:8-11*

Age-Level Concepts

- We strengthen our local church by studying and reading Scripture together and listening to each other's and the people's stories and struggles.
- We strengthen our local church by having fellowships, sharing food and having fun together.
- We strengthen our local church by caring for and showing concern for each other and responding to the needs of others.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

- Mention programs and activities of the local church that have influenced their point of view, principles in life, attitude towards others and the rest of creation, and their love for the Church

- Suggest ways to further strengthen the local church

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, TV or Laptop - Internet Ready for Video Presentation, cut-out drawing of candles, and pen or marker.

Biblical Background

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus started his ministry not in Jerusalem like in the Gospel of John, but outside the city, among the poor people of Galilee. But time came when Jesus and his disciples had to go to the center of power. Jesus instructed two of his disciples to go to the village ahead of them, and there they would find a colt tied up. They would untie it and bring it to Jesus. Then, if someone would ask them why they are untying it, they would tell him that the Master needs it. There were silent (or secret) followers of Jesus in the surrounding towns and villages of Galilee.

And so, the disciples went on their way and found everything just as Jesus had told them. They brought the colt to Jesus. And after placing their cloaks over the animal, they helped Jesus ride on it. Then, Jesus and his disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, while people were spreading their cloaks on the road. Some cut branches of palm trees and spread them on the road (Mt. 21:8).

And when they came near Jerusalem, the large crowd of his disciples began to thank God and praise him in loud voices for all the great things that they had seen. *"God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"* they shouted. *"Peace in heaven and glory to God!"*

In the Lukan version of the incident (Lk. 19:21-40), some of the Pharisees in the crowd spoke to Jesus and said, *"Teacher, command your disciples to be quiet!"*(v.39). Perhaps, the Pharisees viewed the cry and shout of Jesus' disciples as mere noise or a threatening sign of a revolution or uprising in the making. Thus, they wanted them to stop and keep quiet. But Jesus answered, *"I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out!"* (Lk. 19:40).

Now, what were the disciples shouting about making the Pharisees very angry at them? Certainly, the Pharisees got angry not merely because the disciples were crying out very loudly. There must be something in their shouts that irritated the Pharisees.

According to the Biblical story, the disciples were shouting: *"God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God!"* Other versions put it this way: *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, glory in the highest!"*

These are not bad words! The Pharisees should have been glad that the disciples were praising the glory and majesty of God because the Pharisees were supposed to be very religious people.

But if we would analyze the words carefully, we would perhaps realize that the Pharisees had reasons to be angry and to stop the disciples from crying out loudly. The cry of the disciples was not an ordinary cry. Rather, it was a deep cry of hope and faith in God. That through *“the king who comes in the name of the Lord”*, the genuine change will finally be realized. The word, *hosanna* which means *save us*, is a cry for the fulfillment of God’s saving act among the masses of people.

During Jesus’ time, the Pharisees were part of the ruling powers who claimed to have control over the lives of people, not only on earth but even in heaven! And experiences would tell us that when we talk of genuine change, the first who are against it are those who are in power. Those who would benefit from the existing structural arrangement of things would never allow genuine change to happen. They would rather find ways and means to strengthen the status quo.

No wonder in the Lukan version of the story, the Pharisees had to stop the disciples from crying out, because the disciples were shouting *“hosanna!”* – God save us! God transforms us! God renews us! The disciples, indeed, were crying out for genuine change.

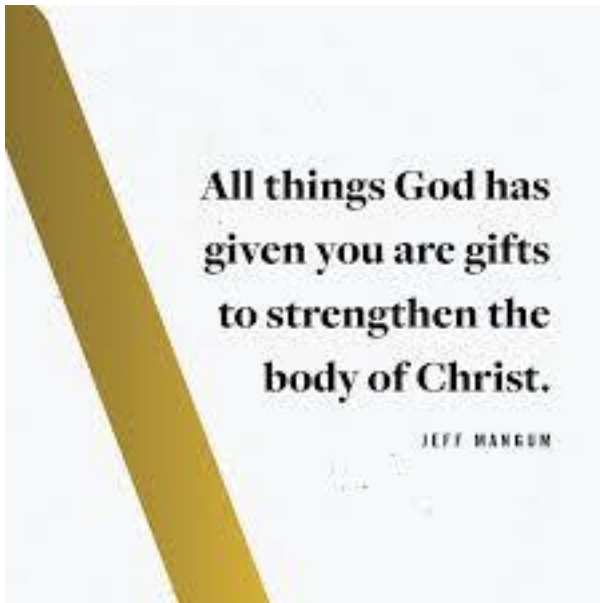
Jesus’ response to the Pharisees according to Luke was very significant. *“If these were silent,”* he said, *“the stones would cry out”* (Lk. 19:40).

The cry of our time, the cry of Palm Sunday is a cry for change – a genuine and meaningful change in government, in our society, in the church, but even more importantly in our selves. This is more than just a charter change! This will necessarily involve a radical change in our way of life. Such genuine change is not easy to achieve. But the words of Jesus remind us of the truth that the purpose of God for humanity cannot be hindered by anyone, not even by those in power. *“If these were silent,”* Jesus said, *“the stones would cry out!”* (Lk. 19:40).

Genuine and meaningful change ultimately comes from God. It is God who is *“at work to make new beings in Christ and the whole world as God’s Kingdom”* (UCCP Statement of Faith). It is God who is making *“new heavens and the new earth”* (cf. Rev. 21:1-2). But God calls us to be bearers as well as instruments of God’s mission in the world. And this would make us humble and hopeful at the same time. Humble in the sense that it is God who will make all things new, and therefore, there’s nothing we could brag about. And hopeful in the sense that despite all our weaknesses and limitations we have the assurance that God will make all things new in his way and in his own time.

It is significant to note that “stones” in the Scripture refer to the masses of people. The “people of the land” were the downtrodden and marginalized sector of society in Jesus’ time. They were the victims of the oppressive structures of the Roman Empire. They were the ones longing for genuine change. Yes, they would be the ones to cry out as Jesus said if and when the disciples would become silent. Genuine and meaningful change, indeed, comes through the victims themselves.

Hence, the call of the hour is for us not to stop crying out for genuine change. For if and when the church becomes silent, then the stones will cry out. God, indeed, is never left without a witness (cf. Acts 14:17).



Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday’s lesson.

Welcome each student with your great smile and hug. After gathering around, say this statement “ Whoever you are and whatever you are on life’s journey, all are welcome here. We are here for a purpose.”

Songs of Gathering

"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"

Lord, We Lift Your Name on High, Lord we love to sing Your praises,

We're so glad You're in our lives, We're so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.

From the earth to the cross our debts to pay.

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,

Lord, we lift Your Name on High.

Let’s Sing God’s Praise

Common everybody let us all be one,
let us join our hearts to sing God’s praise
Common everybody let us live in peace,
Living together as God’s family

Make Me A Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek Lord, let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayr of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

+Opening Prayer (All)

Hosanna, O God in the highest! How you come to us in ways we never expect. A king on a donkey? A Savior on a cross? How can we recognize you, with us, among us? Will your message come through? Will the palms we wave with joy today be thrown down tomorrow with doubt? May your Spirit guide us through this Holiest of Weeks, beside us, around us, before and behind us, within us, as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught saying: (UCC Worship Way)

Getting Ready

Let the learners describe these following



pictures:

(Fellowship,
the Bible,
the Gospel,
to those who



Praying Together, Studying
Fellowship Meal, Sharing
Teaching, Giving Services



are in need, and Caring for

How do these activities
strengthen a local church?

Learning Time
Discovering the
Truth.



Creation)

able to

Biblical

Let the whole class read aloud the text (**Matthew 21:8-11**) Group the class into 2 and let them discuss and answer the following questions.

1. What is the story all about?
2. What was the instruction of Jesus to His disciples about untying the colt?
3. Why is it important for Jesus to ride a colt in his triumphant entry to Jerusalem?
4. How did people respond to Jesus' entry? What is the meaning of Hosanna in the highest?
5. What is the implication of this story in terms of strengthening our faith community?

Lessons Learned

Allow the learners to identify a program or activities of one's local church that influenced their point of view, principles in life, attitude towards others and the rest of creation, and their love for the church.

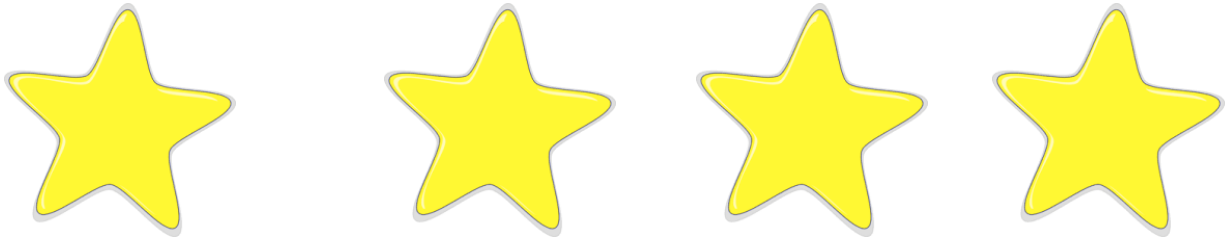
Write their answers on a hand-shaped paper- cut-outs and paste around a church. Before pasting it, each one may share his/her personal experiences of how such

activity
influenced
him/her.



Applying the Lessons Learned

Tell the learners to think of a program or activity that can strengthen their church more especially for young people. Let them write their answers on a star- shaped paper-cut-outs. One activity per star. Example: Sports Fellowship, Movie Night, Board Game Night, Tutorial Program, Crib for the Youth, Bible Study, Sunday School.



Closing Worship

Memory Verse

“The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Matthew 21:9

Offertory

ONE: In this week ahead we will be asked to walk the hard road of faith and face the full cost of discipleship. The sacrifice we are called to share involves true commitment and devotion. In that spirit, may we share freely our gifts, tithes, and offerings.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Response “We Give You But Your Own” New Century Hymnal, 785

We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully

+Thanksgiving Prayer

All: Loving God, as Hosannas fade to cries of despair, may these gifts be used for peacemaking that settles strife and justice-seeking that creates all good hope.
Amen.

+Closing Song

“Hymn of Faith Journey”

The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer is the Great Triune God of our lives.

All creation finds purpose and meaning

And fulfillment in God’s wondrous plan.

In Christ, God became flesh to dwell among us;

Through the spirit we’re guided along.

God empowers us all to live out our faith,

To the glory of the triune God.

We’re created to be in God’s image, Men and Women in equality.

God anointed us all for the service, and be steward of all God’s great works.

To live in communion with all creation, and establish a just social life.

God created the world for us to enjoy all the blessings that tell of God's love.

God's inspired instrument to instruct us is the Bible, the great Word of God,
To illumine, to guide and correct us, and to brighten our pathway to heaven.
God is working to make us new being in Christ, and the whole world, God's kingdom to be,
Where God's presence is felt, the hungry are fed the oppressed and the captives are freed.

We have triumphed over death with our Savior, Jesus Christ is our own risen Lord.
He will gather us all in his fullness, to inherit the Kingdom of God.
He has given the gift of eternal life, so that all who believe may be saved.
We all look forward to his coming again, to gather us all in his fold.

+Prayer of Dedication

All: Today we shout Hosanna. May this blessed word remain with us in the week ahead.
God grant us all to follow faithfully where Christ leads us, and may we all
know courage and certainty that God's Three-in-One presence will lead us
ever closer to the grace that is ours to share. Amen

+Response

"You Shall Go Out With Joy" by: André Kempen

You shall go out with joy And be led forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy And the trees of the fields
Will clap, will clap their hands.
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of April:

a. Lenten Month Project

1. Volunteer to assist your Local Pastor in preparing for the Holy Week Celebration.
2. Samaritan Goods. Collect weekly goods (Canned Food, Clothing, etc) as stock goods ready for emergency purposes.
3. Monthly Birthday Post. Make a Bulletin Board Section of the Monthly Birthday Celebrators.

b. Develop and maintain an FB Page for your Local Church CYF.

c. Create a CYF Prayer Messenger. Post your prayer requests and encourage every member to pray for such requests.

D. Make a 2 -minute CYF Lenten Inspirational Video.

E. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Twitter account the lessons you've learned from the session.