

Lesson 46: What does it mean to enrich the life-work of communities?

Third Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

General Concept: To enrich the life-work of communities means to participate in the endeavors of the community towards the attainment of an improved quality of life.

Biblical Reference/s: [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Key Verse: Luke 24:35 “ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known by the breaking of the bread” .

Age Level Concepts

- Our local church takes part in the life of the community.
- Our local church helps in the efforts to improve the life of the community

Learning Objectives

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

- Mention the efforts of the community to improve their quality of life in which the local church actively participates
- Share how they feel when their local church participates in the efforts of the community
- Affirm that the local church as part of the community should actively involve in its life and work

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

Biblical Background

Luke 24: 13-35

The story also tells us that fellowship in community and shared practice lead us to new insight. Listening to Jesus interpret the Scriptures was absolutely crucial for the disciples to come to understanding, but it wasn't enough. Their eyes were opened only when Jesus sat at table and broke bread with them. We do not gain a grasp of Scripture's significance solely through lectures on the text; we come to understand it as we participate in the shared life of the community, enacted in meals shared at the table. To say that our eyes can't really be open to the truth of scripture unless we are practicing it in community is a profound claim. We see and understand Jesus not only in libraries and lecture halls, in pulpits and pews, but in the community that re-embodies his practices; we see as we participate in the story together with each other. The task of interpreting and studying Luke 24 will not be complete until we talk about it over lunch together, practice hospitality, invite the stranger to join us, pray together, share communion.

Seeing Jesus and following him faithfully requires developing habits and practices that embody and remember who Jesus was. As the church practices forgiving others as God in Christ has forgiven us, as we generously share our wealth and possessions with others as Jesus gave himself to us, as we share bread with people whom society has forgotten or ignored, we re-enact the practices we have learned from Jesus. We remember in our bodies who Jesus was and we see him more clearly. When those two disciples sat at a table with Jesus, seeing and doing what they had done with him before, their eyes were opened. So, may our eyes be opened when we, too, participate in the shared life of the body of Christ. (Dr. Luna Dingayan)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. **Say hello**, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and **ask them a question** about their day and listen actively.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Song Learning "Magkaisa Tayo"

Magkaisa tayo, Magkaisa, Lalalalalalala (2x)

Napakagandang pagmasdan kung tayo'y magkakaisa

Napakagandang pagmasdan kung tayo'y magkakaisa.

Magtulungan tayo, Magtulungan ,Lalalalalalala

Napakagandang pagmasdan,kung tayo'y magtutulungan

Napakagandang pagmasdan, kung tayo'y magtutulungan.

"Ako ay Maligaya"

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasama kita, (partners hold hands)

Pag kasama kita 'pag kasama kita.

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasama kita

'Pag kasa-kasa-kasama ka.

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasi ko kita (partners touch elbows)

'Pag kasiko kita, 'pag kasiko kita.

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasiko kita

'Pag kasi-kasi-kasiko ka.

- 'pag katuhod

- 'pag kabalikat/ ka-Abigail

- 'pag kasiko

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Getting Ready

GAME. "Help Your Neighbor"

Divide the class into three or four groups (depending on the size of the class). Instruct each group to gather 10 items found inside or outside the classroom. Then, tell each group to build a miniature house by using the materials they have gathered. Encourage them to help other group/s or their neighbors in building their house. Give the groups time limit to do their task. The first to finish wins.

Process the game by asking the following:

1. What kind of help did you extend to other groups?
2. How did you feel when you were able to help others?
3. Why did you extend help?
4. What was the reason why you refuse to help others?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Creative Reading. Ask someone to read the lines of Jesus, the disciples and the narrator. After reading, ask the following questions for discussion:

- a. Based on the story, what important events occurred that day that concerns the whole community?
- b. How did the men who were walking to Emmaus felt about the news? Why?
- c. Why do you think Jesus ate with them?
- d. How would you look at the event that day?
- e. Should the community or other people know about the story of Jesus' resurrection? Why?

The facilitator may share the background of the text and explain why there is a need for the believers to be involved in the life of the community.

Lessons Learned

MY LOCAL CHURCH AND MY COMMUNITY (A Pantomime)

Divide the class into three or four groups. Instruct the learners to think of an activity in the community in which their local church actively participates. Let them role play this activity through a pantomime. Let the other groups guess the activity portrayed.

Example: *Dayong Or Bayanihan; Community Clean-Up*

A. Why should our church get involve in the life of the community?

- b. What did you feel when your local church helps in the community?
- C. What do you think people feel when the church helps to improve the quality of life of the community?
- D. What could happen if the church does not involve itself in the life of the community?

Applying the Lessons Learned

AFFIRMATION ART. Prepare a Cartolina or an illustration board. Write in the middle the words “ MY LOCAL CHURCH HELPS MY COMMUNITY”. Then tell the learners to paint their right palms and print it around the words. Make sure that their palm print connects. They may also decorate the art with images that describes their community.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse

Closing Song “Pananagutan”

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang
 Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang.
 Tayong lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa’t isa
 Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Dino’s, na kapiling Nya.

Closing Prayer

We fervently pray that local church with the help of the Holy Spirit may become a great help to our community, dear Lord. Move us always to get involve in the life and struggle of our neighbors. May our efforts help in improving the quality of life of the whole community. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lesson 47: How can a local church enrich the life-work of communities?

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

General Concept: The local church must partake in the life-work of the communities through organizing, leading, and mobilizing the people.

Biblical Reference/s: 1 Corinthians 7:17; Matthew 5:13-16

Age Level Concepts

- Our local church can help make life in the community better by uniting and organizing the people.
- Our local church can help lead the people in making right decisions.
- Our local church can encourage the people to work together to solve their problems

Learning Objectives

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

- Share stories about how the local church help lead the people in the community
- Show appreciation that the Church is involved in the life and work of the community
- Thank God for the blessing of being part of the life of God's people

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

Biblical Background

Matthew 5: 13-16

Salt can be used to preserved food from delay and to give food flavour. Christ's people should have a similar effect in the world or in the community where they belong. They need to resist from the corrupting effect of just thinking about themselves. Rather, Christ's people help make the world a better place to live in. But if they fail to do their task and lost its salt-quality and purpose, then they will lost its use before God.

1 Corinthians 7:17

In this letter, Paul reminded the believers that God wants Christians to be patient and to accept the fact that God has willed a different life for them. This is what God wants all the churches to follow. People in the community may differ in marital, race and social status but these should not hinder them from enriching their lives according to what God has intended for them. What is important is obedience to God's commandments.

Suggested Lessons Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. **Say hello**, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and **ask them a question** about their day and listen actively.

Announcements/ Birthday Greetings

Song Learning "Two and Two Fifty"

One man's hand can't tear a prison down
Two men's hands can't tear a prison down
But if two and two and fifty, makes a million
We'll see that they come round

We'll see that they come round.

Opening Prayer (by the teacher)

Getting Ready

SALT TASTING. Prepare an amount of salt. Pass the salt for all learners to taste. Ask the following:

1. What does it taste like?
2. Why do we need salt?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let someone read the text. Ask the following questions:

1. What thing does God's people is being compared to?
2. What are uses of salt to the life of the people?
3. As compared to salt, how should God's people be like?
4. How can salt be useless?

Lessons Learned

PICTURE STUDY/ STORY-TELLING. The facilitator needs to prepare pictures of activities in the community wherein the local church has actively participated in. If pictures are not available, ask the learners to tell stories about how the local church participated in the life of the community.

The facilitator may ask the following:

1. How does the salt-quality or saltiness is expressed by the local church?
2. How do you feel when your local church participated in the life and work of the community?
3. What do you think the community feels about your local church?

Applying the Lessons Learned

APPRECIATION FAN-ART. Tell the learners to cut a shape that they desire. Make sure that they cut 2 identical shades. Make it big enough for the writing of the words, "My Local Church is a Salt to the community" or " I Am Proud of My Local Church!". Tell the learners to paste together the shapes placing the stick in the middle.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse. 1 Corinthians 7: 17

Closing Song “Magagawa Natin”

Magagawa natin ang lahat ng bagay, Lahat ng bagay dito sa mundo

Isang bagay, hindi magagawa, hindi magagawang nag-iisa

Malulutas natin ang mga problema kung tayo’y nagkakaisa,

Ang suliranin dagliang magpaparami at may bagong buhay.

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 48: What is a collective response?

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

General Concept: A collective response is a shared and united action to an expressed need.

Biblical References: Acts 2:42-47

Age Level Concepts

- When others need help, we respond as a community.
- We are united in our work to help others.

Learning Objectives

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

- Share stories about people working together to respond to the needs of others
- Draw out lessons from the stories of people united in action
- Reflect on the outcome of working on your own

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

Biblical Background

Life in the new community

The early Christians had such a strong sense of unity that they brought their money and possessions together to form a central pool, from which all could receive help as

they had need (43-45). Perhaps they were too hasty in sharing out their collective wealth, because soon none was left. As a result other churches (who did not copy the idea of a central pool) had to send money to help them through their difficulties (cf. Romans 15:26; Galatians 2:10).

In addition to having fellowship in each others homes, the Christians went to the temple for public prayer and witness day by day. Their numbers increased continually, as others who were attracted by this new life of joy and love joined them. They enjoyed the goodwill of the citizens of Jerusalem in general (46-47). (The Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

The strong sense of community and the life of care and concern for others made the Christian church a force that moves people to embrace the life exemplified by the believers. In a sense, the Christian community did not only show a different kind of life but also lead people to live such.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. **Say hello**, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and **ask them a question** about their day and listen actively.

Announcement/ Birthday Greetings

Song Learning "Ako ay Maligaya"

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasama kita,
'Pag kasama kita,'pag kasama kita.
Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasama kita
'Pag kasa-kasa-kasama ka.

Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasiko kita,
'Pag kasiko kita,'pag kasiko kita.
Ako ay maligaya 'pag kasiko kita
'Pag kasi-kasi-kasiko ka.

- katuhod
-kabalikat

Opening Prayer

We come with joy today because we are going to learn about You, our Loving God. We are happy to be part of a community who listens to Your Word and cares for the needs of people. Be with us today Lord and be our Teacher. Amen

Getting Ready

Game. "HELP!"

How it Works: Ask five volunteers from the learners. Tell the rest of the class to turn their backs while the five volunteers do something (tangle themselves). Tell the rest of the class that when the five volunteers shout, "HELP" they will turn around and solve the problem posed before them. The thing is, they have to solve it in five steps only. So they need to plan out how to do it carefully.

Process the game. Ask the following:

1. What was the problem that needs to be solved?
2. What contributes to the solution of the problem?
3. What makes the problem hard to solve?
4. How do you feel when you fail to help solve the problem?
5. How do you feel when you are able to help?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let someone read the text. Divide the class into pairs or 4's. After reading the text, assign each pair/group a question to answer :

Pair 1: What do you think was the life condition of the people during the time of the early Christians?

Pair 2: What were the reasons or factors that brought the believers together?

Pair 3: What did the early Christians do that make them different from other groups of people?

Pair 4: What do you think is the great need that moves the early Christians to respond to?

Pair 5: What did the early Christians do to answer to the needs of the people?

Pair 6: How can we say that the early Christians was one in helping others?

Pair 7: What values can we get from the life of the early Christians that Christians today need to live out?

Lessons Learned

Listen to this story. "Swimmy" (taken from *yumpu.com*)

Have you ever heard of a school of fish? So it was. A school of little fishes. They were all very happy and lucky to be part of the big ocean.

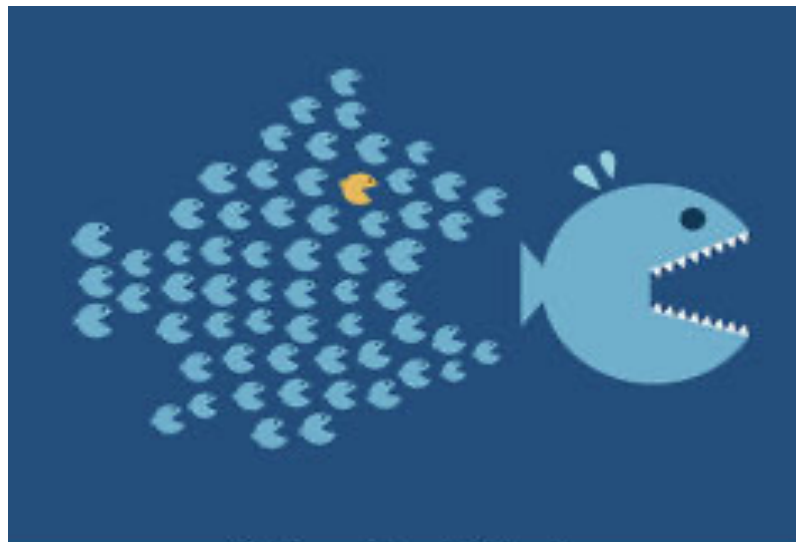
There was one fish among them of very extra-ordinary qualities. that's why all his friends gave him a name: "Swimmy".

One day, a big fish came alongside the school as if passing by. Then, oops, the big fish ate them all except, Swimmy.

Because of that, Swimmy was very cautious and every time he saw a fish bigger than himself dodged and escaped. He was wise and too smart for them all. Sometimes, he would dangerously play with a lobster and then laugh away when he wriggled through, almost within a hair's breadth. That made the big fish very angry.

After a long time of lonely exploration, he came across another school of little fishes like himself. Oh, how happy he was. He related to them all his experiences. He told them how his old school was eaten up by a big fish and how he only escaped.

One by one, when all the small fishes were very scared of the big fish roaming around, he told them, "If we are to remain alive, there is only one possible way: unity. Let us group ourselves into a very big fish in such a way that from afar we shall look like one big fish. Looking like a very big fish, we shall move together so that the big fish will be scared of us and leave us alone.



© Can Stock Photo

Ask the learners:

1. What was the great need/situation expressed in the story?
2. How did the fishes solved the situation they are into?
3. What are the results of working together?
4. What are the results of working alone?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Sharing of Stories. Ask the learners to share stories they've heard or experienced wherein their local church or community worked together to help others.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse Acts 2:47a ...”praising God and having the goodwill of all people.”

Closing Song “Thank You For My Hands” Children Praise God,53

Dear God, I thank you for my hands

To use in many ways

To help myself and other too

In kind and friendly ways.

Closing Prayer (led by the teacher)

Lesson 49: How do we deepen the impact of our collective response to societal issues and concerns?

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

General Concept: We deepen the impact of our collective response when we appropriately address the needs and concerns in society.

Biblical References: Isaiah 58: 3b-7

Age Level Concepts

- When we respond in the right way to needs and concerns in society, the results will be effective

Learning Objectives

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

- Review examples of how the Church as a community of faith responded to those who needed help
- Share how the help the Church gave resolved the problems and/or needs
- Observe how people in the community look at the Church in relation to our responses to needs and concerns in society
- Affirm that when we are discerning in our response, we become effective

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])
song chart, offering plate or basket, construction paper or cardboard, dice,
bond paper, tape

Biblical Background

Isaiah 58: 3b-7

The Jews thought they were a righteous people because they carried out the daily rituals required by the law. The prophet is about to show them that in spite of all this they are still sinners. In fact, their attitude towards these rituals is their chief sin (58:1-2).

For example, many practice fasting not because they are truly humble before God, but because they hope God will be impressed with their actions. But at the same time as they fast, they oppress their workers and fight with one another. They act and dress in a way that shows they are fasting, but such fasting is worthless in God's sight (3-5). God would rather that they cease oppressing others and begin to help the poor and needy (6-7). Only then will he be pleased with them; only then will he accept their worship and answer their prayers (8-9a). (The Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

When the people stop treating others with contempt, God will show kindness to them. When they sacrifice their comfort for the sake of those who are ill-treated and hungry, God will bless them. God will give them a different life - a new life, in fact and restore their country to the strength of former days (9b-12). Religious observances are important, but people must carry them out with right motives. Whether practicing fasting or keeping the sabbath traditions, the important thing is to honor God, not to seek personal benefit (13-14).

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. Say hello, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and ask them a question about their day and listen actively.

Announcements/ Birthday Greetings

Opening Song "I Love My Jesus" Children Praise God, 109

I love my Jesus, deep down in my heart

I love my Jesus, deep down in my heart.

I talk about a deep, deep, down and down

Deep down in my heart.

I talk about deep, deep, down and down

Deep down in my heart.

"I Will Share" Children Praise God, 109

I will share with others, I will share with others
 Pleasing God in all I do that will make me happy too.
 I'll be kind to others, I'll be kind to others
 Pleasing God in all I do that will make me happy too.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical text. To help explain the text, guided by the biblical background, tell the learners to fill out the graph written on the board.

Example:

<i>What people do</i>	<i>What God wants people to do</i>
Fasting but oppress the workers	Loose the bonds of injustice
Fasting but they fight with one another	Let the oppressed go free

Ask the following:

1. How can we say that God was not pleased with what people do when they are fasting? (their practices are not appropriate in responding to the real situations of people)

Lessons Learned

GAME. "Empathy Board Game" (taken from *thepathwaytosuccess.com*)

How It Works: Learners may work in partners or small groups to get through this empathy game. For a person's turn, they will roll the dice. After rolling the dice,tell the learner to pick a card from the deck of cards. The number of the dice will tell them how to answer each card. Write the questions on a bond paper and post it on the board. For example, they might have to answer:

1. Why does it matter?

2. How might the church feel?

3. What might the church be thinking?

4. What might the church do?

5. How might the church feel?

6. What will the church say?

The following situations may be written on the cards (one situation for each card)

- Many of the children in the community are malnourished
- The Lumad kids have to evacuate their homes because of the ongoing conflict between the rebels and military
- Families have to fled their homes because of volcano eruption
- A strong earthquake destroyed buildings including the houses and churches of UCCP members
- A mining company is trying to get into your community
- More get pregnant at an early age
- More young people are engaged in drugs and alcoholism
- Young people commit suicide
- Children are hooked in the internet
- Broken families are increasing
- Kids are being bullied in school and in the community
- Children are victims of violence at home
- Members of the church are quarreling with each other
- the community is vulnerable to natural disasters like typhoon and landslide
- Many are poor in the community

Applying the Lessons Learned

Ask the learners the following:

1. What are examples of how the Church as a community of faith responded to those who needed help?
2. How did the help the Church gave solved the problems and/or needs?
3. How did the community look at the church after responding to the needs of the community?

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse: Isaiah 58: 6 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke?” (NRSV)

Closing Song “ I Will Share” Children Praise God,109

I will share with others, I will share with others

Pleasing God in all I do that will make me happy too.

I'll be kind to others, I'll be kind to others

Pleasing God in all I do that will make me happy too.

Closing Prayer (led by the teacher)

Lesson 50: How can we, as a Church, achieve our goals?

Ascension Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

General Concept: The Church can achieve its goals through concerted efforts, strong faith in God, and deep commitment to the work.

Biblical References: Acts 2:1-41 Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 3:9

Age Level Concepts

- The Church can achieve its goals if there is cooperation from everyone.
- We have strong faith in God to be with the Church in achieving its goals.
- We can reach our goals by offering our talents, skills and self to the work of the Church.

Learning Objectives

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

- Point out that cooperation from everyone is needed for the Church to achieve its goals
- Affirm that God is with the Church in achieving its goals
- Determine the factors that may delay or stop the Church from achieving its goals

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])
song chart, offering plate or basket, construction paper, Manila paper,
pentel pens, glue or paste, bond paper, tape

Biblical Background

Acts 2:1-41

The story of the Pentecost event as recorded in the Book of Acts was about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon God's people in a way and with a power that was never seen before. Christ promised the disciples before his ascension that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. But like many of what Christ told them, the disciples did not fully understand what he meant.

Now, ten days after Christ's ascension the disciples gathered together for the Festival of Weeks, called *Pentecost* in Greek, which celebrated the harvest. At about 9:00 o'clock that morning, there was a sudden whooshing sound like a great

wind that filled the house where they were sitting. Next, there appeared to them what Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts, would call *“like tongues of fire, distributed and resting on them”* (Acts 2:3).

And then, the people began to speak in tongues in a unique way. In the New Testament, speaking in tongues means speaking in unknown “languages” just as it does today. But at Pentecost, these “tongues” are real languages from all over the known world at that time, so that people from every corner of the world can hear the mighty works of God being proclaimed in their own language.

Now, in what way the coming of the Holy Spirit would empower us? **First and foremost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us would make us experience unity.** This does not mean we would suddenly all think alike or do everything the same way. Rather, it means that we would love one another and accept these differences rather than letting them divide us.

If we were totally immersed in the Holy Spirit, we would no longer be divided by issues of language or theology, of economics or politics. If we were united in the Holy Spirit, it would be impossible anymore to speak of rich or poor in the Christian community as well as in the larger society. There would simply be Christian communities filled with people blind to differences in language, in theology, in income or social status.

Secondly, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us would also make us experience power. Apostle Peter, infamous for his threefold denial of Christ, boldly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, no longer afraid of the consequences. The result was the power to convert 3,000 people with one sermon and the faith to spread the Gospel throughout the world. For it is actually the Holy Spirit, not us, that really converts and transforms people’s lives. (Rev. Luna Dingayan)

The Holy Spirit enables Christian communities to work together to achieve its goals. A community of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit joyfully and willingly offer its resources - material and human to the work of the Church.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Paul and Apollos are not in opposition. Their work is not against each other. They are working together. The work of God in Corinth is likened to a field in which Paul did the planting and Apollos, the watering. Though two have different functions, both are necessary but neither of them can make the plants grow. Only God can do that (5-6) Those who plant will not see as much fruit as those who water as those who reap. For that reason the reward does not depend on the fruit people see but on the work they faithfully carry out (7-9).

Thus, members of the community of faith need not look at their work as more important from those tasks carried out by others. Instead, we do our tasks according to the abilities and capacities to achieve a common goal towards the fulfillment of a common vision. In this way, we could say that “all things work together for good For those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Suggested Learning Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. Say hello, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and ask them a question about their day and listen actively.

Announcements/ Birthday Greetings

Song Learning. “Let Us Sing Together” Children Praise God,59

Let us sing together, let us sing together
One and all, a joyous song.
Let us sing together, let us sing together
One and all a joyous song.
Let us sing again and again
Let us sing again and again
Let us sing again and again
One and all, a joyous song.

“Magkaisa Tayo”

Magkaisa tayo, Magkaisa Lalalalalalalala (2x)
Napakagandang pagmasdan Kung tayo’y Magkaisa is a
Napakagandang pagmasdan Kung tayo’y magkakaisa.

- Magtulungan
- magmahalan

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, we are grateful that You are with us everyday even as we study Your Word today through our Sunday School. Thank you for taking away all the reasons and excuses for not being being to come. Bless our study today. In Jesus’ name. Amen

Getting Ready

GAME. “Egg Drop”

How it Works. Divide the class into two groups. Tell each group to collect ten (10) items only which they can see within the classroom -paper, stick, pencil etc. Give each group a raw egg. Instruct each group to construct

something (from the items they have collected). Place the egg inside the structure they made. Make sure that the egg is well protected. After a given time, tell each group to stop constructing finish or unfinished. Then, tell each group to throw the egg upwards (which is inside the structure) as high as they can. The group whose egg is not broken is the winner.

Process the game by asking the following:

1. How do you feel when the egg is broken/intact?
2. What could be the reasons why the egg broke/ remained intact?
3. What should the group have done to protect the egg?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group a biblical text and tell them to answer the following:

1. Where does the story happen?
2. Who are involved in the story?
3. What important events happen in the story?
4. What do you think are the challenges and problems involved in the story?
4. What lessons can we get from the story?

Lessons Learned

POST IT. Distribute to the learners a meta-card. Tell the learners to write on the card a reason/challenge/hindrance that delays the Church to achieve its goals. Have them post it on the board after explaining to the class the words s/he wrote.

After all have shared their ideas, give the learners a human figure cut-out or a smiley as many as you can give them. Tell them to paste the cut-out to the word which they agree to. Check afterwards what reason/challenge/hindrance the learners think causes delay in achieving the church's goals.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Say: " We sometimes forget that God is part in the work of achieving our goals. We rely so much to our capacities and strength forgetting that we need God. With the Holy Spirit empowering the community of faith, despite challenges and hindrances, goals can be achieved and visions are realized. Let us always affirm that God is with the church to help achieve its vision, mission and goals.

ACT OF AFFIRMATION. Prepare a Manila paper. Tell the learners to paste the words on the sides of the paper. At the center write the words, "GOD IS WITH THE CHURCH TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS".

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Closing Song "Magkaisa Tayo"

Closing Prayer (led by the teacher)

Lesson 51: How can the Church strongly uphold its Vision, Mission and Goals?

Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020

General Concept: The Church united affirms and celebrates the living out and fulfillment of the Vision, Mission and Goals.

Biblical References: Philippians 3:12-14, Joel 2:21-28

Age Level Concepts

- As God's united people, our Church acclaims and takes joy when our Vision is fulfilled.
- We acclaim and take joy when we are able to continue the mission of Jesus.
- We acclaim and take joy when our Goals are achieved

Learning Objectives

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

- Tell what the Church should do when we fulfill our Vision
- Ask God for help in continuing the mission of Jesus
- Show ways to thank God when our Goals are achieved

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])
song chart, offering plate or basket, construction paper, Manila paper,
pentel pens, glue or paste, bond paper, tape

Biblical Background

Another result of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us is the fulfillment of a vision. Quoting from Prophet Joel, who prophesied of the day in which God's Spirit would come upon the people, Apostle Peter said that the day has come when the sons and

daughters would prophesy, the young would see visions and the old would dream dreams (Acts 2:17). The fulfillment of a vision is perhaps the most remarkable result of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Day of Pentecost was so great. But within days or weeks after, we already hear stories of confusion, conflict and strife. Ananias and Sapphira, for instance, sold some land and claimed to have given all of it to the Christian community in order to gain prestige in the eyes of their fellow believers (cf. Acts 5). However, in reality they held some of the money back, which was their right, anyway. Their sin however was in lying. They lied against the Holy Spirit.

Then, we also read that a dispute arose between the Christians who spoke Greek and those who spoke Hebrew (Aramaic). The Greek-speaking Christians felt that favoritism was shown to the widows of the Hebrew-speaking Christians in the daily distribution of food (cf. Acts 6). Thus, there came division and strife over ethnic and language differences.

We can go on cataloguing these disputes in the Early Christian Community, for there were lots of them. This is not however necessary for the point is simply that the Early Christians seem to have failed to live up to the great possibilities revealed to us at Pentecost.

However, it would be wrong to suggest that nothing substantial happened at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came upon the Christian community with power and in a manner that was never seen before. True, there was division between Gentile and Jewish Christians, like many Christians today. But only the Spirit of God could lead these two kinds of people to worship together in spite of differences.

There were and there are conflicts and divisions in the church as well as in society, but only the Holy Spirit could open our eyes to see this reality as sinful. The Christian community often fails to have a vision that transcends the mundane self-centeredness of this world, but only the Holy Spirit could have kept the church from surrendering to the world and from disappearing many years ago.

We should not let our disappointments blind us to the many signs of God's presence in the Christian community and in the world around us. But we press forward towards the goal and hold fast to what we have attained in Christ (Philippians 3:12-14). We are the church, and we are justified by grace and not by works of the law. What happened at Pentecost is a sign of what God has done, is doing and will do in and through us to bring about unity, power, and vision in our hopelessly alienated and fragmented world. It is the Pentecost experience that provides us a sense of direction that would help us overcome every crossroad in our common journey to genuine peace and freedom.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Be kind to each other each and every day. Say hello, good morning, and goodbye with a handshake, high five, or hug. This may mean reminding yourself to take a break from preparing so you can greet kids and their parents as they arrive to school. Take this a step further and ask them a question about their day and listen actively.

Announcements/Birthday Greetings

Song Learning "We Love Our Church, O God" Children Praise God, 2

We love our church, O God
We love to gather here
To worship, work and learn of Thee
With Christian friends so dear.

"Ako Ang Iglesia" Children Praise God, 5

Ako, ako, ako ang iglesia
Ako, ako, ako ang iglesia
Ako, ako, ako ang iglesia
Ako ang iglesia.
Sumayaw-sayaw at umindak-indak
Sumayaw-sayaw katulad ng dagat,
Sumayaw-sayaw at umindak-indak
Sumayaw-sayaw katulad ng dagat.

- ikaw
- tayo

Opening Prayer (A Poem) "Teach Me Lord" by Shirley Strawter
(taken from learnreligions.com)

Teach me Lord, the ways of truth
So I may not abuse my youth
In idle things that will not give
Instructions in the way to live.
Bless me with a godly mind
That I may walk and be most kind
To all those who may not know
The Christian way in which to go.
Teach me Lord, in my old age
To see your goodness in every page
Of my Bible as I read
Of how you'll meet my every need.
Please teach me Lord, this prayer I pray

to serve you now in every way.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into two groups. Assign a biblical text to each group. Instruct the groups to pick out important words and/or phrases from the text. Let them write the words or phrases on a meta-card, or bond paper - one word/phrase, one paper. Tell them to choose from their group to explain one person for every word. Synthesize the sharing of the learners using the biblical background provided.

Lessons Learned

Divide the class into three groups. Give each group a Cartolina or illustration board. Assign to each group the following tasks:

Group A - Write the UCCP Vision on a Cartolina/illustration board and decorate it.

Group B - Write the UCCP Mission on a Cartolina /illustration board and decorate it.

Group C - Write the UCCP Goals on a Cartolina/illustration board and decorate it.

Find a place in the classroom where their work will be displayed.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Since this is the last lesson on the Vision, Mission and Goals of UCCP. Encourage the learners to respond to the following:

- How would you feel when UCCP will achieve its Vision, Mission and Goals?
- What are you going to do when the church achieve its Vision, Mission and Goals?

Closing Worship

Offertory

Memory Verse Philippians 3: 14 “ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Closing Song “A United and Uniting Church” Children Praise God,4
A united and uniting church, that we may all be one
Reformed and transforming in mission and in faith
Onward UCCP, building God’s Kingdom of peace.

Closing Prayer (led by the teacher)

