

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 4:18-19

Age Level Concepts

- Our Church helps and joins in the life of our community.
- Our Church helps make the life of the community better

Learning Objectives

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

- Draw ways by which the Church may get involved in the life of the community
- Enumerate how the Church helps in the life and work of the community
- Ask God to help the Church as it helps make the life of the community better

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, Picture of a peaceful and harmful environment, pictures of jail ministry, optical mission, relief delivery operation, materials that you need in making picture exhibit.

Biblical Background

Luke 4 presents Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth where he proclaims the prophecy from the Book of Isaiah saying, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor." This gospel is filled with concern for people with different kinds of need. Jesus was declaring that such prophecy is to come true in his time and that his authority for bringing the Good News is God himself who sent him. Jesus intends to bring this Good News to those who needs it most - the poor by living with them and participating in the life of the community. Only through this that the Good News could be given flesh and the life of the community could be enriched.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

"You Are the Salt For the Earth" Hymnal of Faith Journey,
You are the salt for the earth O people salt for the kingdom of God
Share the flavor of life O people, life in the kingdom of God

BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF MERCY
BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF PEACE
BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM OF JUSTICE
BRING FORTH THE CITY OF GOD.

Opening Prayer

Most gracious God, we worship you in Spirit and in truth. We pray for your Holy Spirit to help us understand our lesson today so that we would know more how we can participate in the life of the community. This we ask in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

Show the pictures of (A) the church helping the community and (B) community that does not care.

Ask the students the following questions:

1. What do you see in picture A?
2. What do you see in picture B?
3. If you are to choose between the two pictures which of them will you prefer? Why?

Learning Time

Write the passage in manila paper and ask the student to read it altogether.

Luke 4:18-19

“The Lord’s Spirit has come to me because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor. The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, “This is the year the Lord has chosen.”

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions.

1. What does the Spirit of the Lord want Jesus to do?
2. What is the good news for you?
3. The Church can tell who Jesus is by helping the community become a better place for everyone to live in. Do you agree?
4. If that is the case, what else can the church do to help the community? Enumerate activities the church have participated in the community.

Lessons Learned

MY COMMUNITY. Divide the class into two groups. Tell each group to draw their community with the church helping in its life and work. Provide a Cartolina and coloring materials for them to use. Tell them to explain their work later.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- A. Teach the memory verse found in Luke 4:18-19, “The Lord’s Spirit has come to me because he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor.

The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers, and to say, "This is the year the Lord has chosen."

B. FISH BOWL

Make fish- patterned paper cut-outs. Write the words "life-work" and "thank you" on some on some of the cut-outs. Then roll the papers and put them on a fish bowl.

Tell learners to pick one paper from the fish bowl and open it. If they picked the paper with the word "life-works", learners will finish the sentence, "I am happy when my local church help in the community by _____." But if they picked the paper with "thank you" they can go back to their seat.

Distribute bond papers. Tell them to write a short prayer asking God to help the Church as it helps to make the life of the community better.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give

I will ever love and trust him in His presence daily live.

I surrender all (twice). All to thee, my blessed Savior. I surrender all.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for this wonderful day. Thank you for making us instruments of love and peace in the community. 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: Exodus 3:1-12

Age Level Concepts

- Our Church can help the community by uniting the people.
- Our Church can help guide the community in making decisions.
- Our Church can encourage the people to work together to solve their problems.

Learning Objectives

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

- Listen to a Bible story about how to help lead the people in the community

- Show appreciation that the Church helps in the life and work of the community
- Thank God for the blessing of being part of the community

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

Biblical Background

The word Exodus means “departure” and refers to the most important event in Israel’s history, which is described in this book- the departure of the people of Israel from Egypt, where they had been slaves. The book has four main parts: a) the freeing of the Hebrews from slavery; B) their journey to Mount Sinai; c) God’s covenant with his people at Sinai, which gave them moral, civil and religious laws to live by and d) the building and furnishing of a place of worship for Israel and giving of laws regarding the priests and the worship of God.

Above all, this book describes what God did. It also proclaimed God’s participation in liberating the enslaved people and formed them into a nation with hope in the future. The central human figure in the book is Moses, the man who God chose to lead his people from Egypt and with whom the salvific intention of God was manifested.

Through Moses’ leadership, the enslaved people understood God’s intention to liberate them from slavery but they must organize themselves into a decisive force and mobilize all affected people to pursue with faith God’s promise. Otherwise, God’s initiative through Moses is of no use.

The church is believed to be God’s body in the world. It’s mission comes from God. Through its leadership and participation in the life-work of the community where it is located, the church can lead people to pursue God’s kingdom- a life with God, a life promised by God.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” by Carolyn Arends

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

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord (2x)

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

They will know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side (2x)

And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love,

They will know we are Christians by our love.

Opening Prayer

“Dear God, we praise your name. We thank you for the new life you have given us. We thank you for the church teaching us Your truth. Help us now, as we learn Your words through this Sunday school. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

RELAY GAME. Prepare the class to play a relay game. In one corner of the room, put some building blocks. Divide the class into two teams. Call the first team as the “building group”. Tell the first team to stay on one side of the room. On your signal, tag the first pupil to get one block and put it on the table. As the child goes back to the line, let him or her tag another child who will get a block and put it on the table to start building a structure. Let the children continue doing this until they have built a structure. Give this group two minutes to do this.

Tell the second team to take turns in taking away one block at a time to tear apart the structure. Give the second team two minutes to do this.

Give the first team one minute to rebuild the structure followed by the second team who will remove the blocks one by one. Give each group one minute to do this.

Process the activity. Ask the learners the following:

1. How does it feel when the structure you’ve built is destroyed?
2. How does it feel destroying someones’ work?
3. What can you suggest the group should do to prevent the structure built be destroyed by the other group?

Learning Time

Tell the children to listen to the story.

“MOSES, THE GREAT LEADER”

(Based on Exodus 2 – Deuteronomy 34)

Moses was born from a Hebrew family. Seeing that the Hebrews are growing in number, the Pharaoh was scared. They might rebel against him. So, the Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew children be killed. Moses family saved him from harm by hiding him in a basket. He was later found and brought up in the palace. Moses was educated as an Egyptian.

When he was grown up, Moses was so angry at the cruel ways the Hebrews were treated that he killed one Egyptian overseer. When the Pharaoh heard about it, Moses was forced to escape from Egypt. He lived

as a shepherd in the dessert and married a daughter of Jethro, the man who gave him a home.

After forty years God appeared to Moses. He saw a dessert bush which flamed but did not burn up, and knew God was speaking to him. God told him to go back to Egypt and ask the Pharaoh to let his people go. Pharaoh refused. God made the Egyptians suffered ten plaques. Then the Pharaoh let Moses lead the Israelite out of Egypt. But he quickly changed his mind -the Egyptians pursued the slaves as far as the Red Sea. They escaped into the dessert but Pharaoh's army was drowned.

After three months the people reached Mt. Sinai. Here, Moses the leader became Moses the law-giver. God gave him the Ten Commandments and instructions for building the worship tent (tabernacle). The group of slaves are then called Israelites. Moses led the people into the oasis at Kadesh.

Moses gave God's law to the new generation before he handed over the leadership to Joshua. When he had blessed the people Moses climbed Mt. Nebo so that he could see Canaan.

Moses was 120 years old when he died in the land of Moab.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions.

1. Who is the main character of the story? (Moses)
2. Who was Moses? (the great leader- the law-giver)
3. What happened to him when he was in Egypt?
4. After 40 years, what important event happened that changed Moses' life?
5. What did God tell Moses about the slaves in Egypt?
6. How did Moses respond to God?
7. What could be the reasons for the success of Moses in getting the people out of Egypt?

Lessons Learned

A.) Read the following statement. Let them react.

1. God used Moses to help the community of Israel.
2. God used Moses to unite the people of Israel.
3. Moses obeyed God with no excuses.
4. We, the church, are the living Moses in these changing times.
5. The church should make the teachings of Moses come true in these changing times.

6. We allow God to use the church to unite the people in the community by participating in the life and work of the people.

B.) Cite some examples on how the Church helps in the life and work of the community.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Teach the memory verse found in Proverbs 11:25, "Be generous and you will be prosperous. Help others and you will be helped."

Tell the children to choose from the list a situation that shows their local church is helping in the life-work of the community. Encourage them to explain their answers.

- a.) Giving relief goods to the people in the community during disasters
- b.) Reading the Bible
- c.) Sing praises to God
- d.) Forgiving our enemy
- e.) Feeding the children
- f.) Ignoring the lessons taught in school
- g.) Being kind to beggars
- h.) Attending in meetings to talk about the situation of the community
- i.) Helped in cleaning and beautification activity of the community

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

"They'll Know we are Christian"

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand (2x)

And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

They will know we are Christians by our love

By our love, by our love.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

they will know we are Christians by our love

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for inspiring us always. May your Holy Spirit teach, guide and help us to remember to do what is right and pleasing in your sight. Thank you for the community where we all belong. We are happy our church is part of our community. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 Reference/s: Acts 2:42-47

Age Level Concepts

- When others need help, our Church helps.
- We work together as a community to help others.

Learning Objectives

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

- Cite examples of situations where other people have needed help
- Share how they helped as a Church
- Reflect on what happens when people work together as a community
- Ask God to teach the Church to work as one people

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

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

- Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings
- Opening Hymn

“Walking with Jesus”

Walking with Jesus, walking everyday, walking all the way.

Walking with Jesus, walking with Jesus alone.

Walking in the sunshine, walking in the shadow,

Walking everyday, walking all the way.

Walking with Jesus, walking with Jesus alone

Opening Prayer

Lead the prayer and tell your learners to follow after you:

“Dear God, we honor you and we thank you for your love and care. Give us understanding as we learn your word today. Help us to value the gifts we each received from You like this day of study, our friends and teacher. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Getting Ready

Game

Use this game to start the lesson. It is good to start the morning right by doing and saying what is right. The objective of the game is to learn and appreciate the value of unity, giving and receiving.

Divide the children into (2) two teams and let them form one line. Give the fruit to the first player. He then passes it to the next player behind him without looking back or turning around. When the fruit reaches the last player, the player will shout “Thank you!” . The last Player then passes the fruit back, this time to the player on his front who will in turn receive the fruit also without looking back or turning around. When the fruit is back in the hands of the first player on the starting line, the first player will shout “You’re Welcome!” The first team who finishes first wins.

After the game, have a short reflection. Ask the children the following:

1. What makes giving difficult?
2. How does it feel when you don’t see the one’s giving?
3. What do the words “Thank You” and “You’re Welcome” remind you of?

Learning time

Tell the story.

“ What Are We Going To Do?”

(based on Acts 2:42-47)

After the Spirit was poured out to many people, many were added to the church in Jerusalem. Everyday, people come to join the believers. There were children, widows, orphans, elderly and young people. They were eager to listen to the words of the teachers and preachers. They eat together. People are tasked to take care of the sick while others are assigned to preach. Others are to find money for their food.

“What are we going to do?”, said one woman assigned to take care of the widows and orphans. “There’s too many of us to feed and to take care of. We do not have enough money to buy for our daily needs.”

The apostles and other church leaders talked about the problem. “We need to ask help from other churches who are rich,” an apostle said. To solve the problem, some of the members sold their possessions to buy food and medicines. The apostles asked help from other churches. Some of the churches sent help for the church in Jerusalem.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions.

1. Why did the church needs help?
2. What were the needs that the church should attend to?
3. How did the early Christians solve their problem?

Lessons Learned

“THEY NEED OUR HELP” COLLAGE. Prepare magazines, pictures that shows situations in the community that needs help. Tell the learners to cut out and paste the pictures that show the situations in the community that need help.

Ask someone to explain the collage. After the presentation, ask the learners, “Can our church help our community?” If the answer is “Yes”, how can the church help the community?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Below are examples of possible responses of the learners to the question as to how the church can help the community. They may give very simple answers and ideas appropriate to their developmental capacity, the teacher may accept it as well.

WE HELP WITH ACTION

- a.) Give them food and clothing
- b.) Share them toys
- c.) Befriend and play with them
- d.) Open your home to them
- e.) Help them with their medical needs

WE HELP WITH WORDS

- a.) Saying kind and polite words like “Thank You”
- b.) Avoid calling them names
- c.) Greet them with “Hi” and “Hello”
- d.) Say that they are also God’s children

WE HELP WITH OUR THOUGHTS

- a.) Praying for them
- b.) Thinking good thoughts about them

BOTTLE DECOR. Cut out the colored paper into small pieces. Let the children cover the jar or bottle they brought with the small pieces of colored papers. Insert a small piece of paper into the middle part of the bottle with the writings, "Lord, teach our church to work as one."

Closing Worship

Offertory

Teach the memory verse. Acts 2:45, "They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all as any had need."

Closing Hymn

"I am a Christian"
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N.
And I have C-H-R-I-S-T In my H-E-A-R-T,
And I will L-I-V-E E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y.

Closing Prayer (ALL)

Thank you God for teaching us to be caring and to help our community. Thank you for the stories about the early church, which inspires us to take care of others in need. Create in us a heart that will continue to share and care. And most of all help us to become a church that is one and that works together in helping our community. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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 Reference/s: I Samuel 25:1-35; Isaiah 32:17

Age Level Concepts

- When we give the right kind of help, the effects on people will be lasting.

Learning Objectives

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

- Review examples of how the Church helped people who needed it

- Share whether the people still remember the Church and what the Church did
- Say that when we give the right kind of help, the effects are lasting
- Ask God to teach us to be wise when we help others

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

Biblical Background

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

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

God used Abigail for a right kind of help.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

"Shake a Friend's Hand"

Shake a friend's hand, shake a hand next to you

Shake a friend's hand and sing la-la!

Shake a friend's hand, shake a hand next to you

Shake a friend's hand and sing, sing a song.

La-la la-la, la-la la-leluia

La-la la-la, la-leluia

La-la la-la, la-la la-leluia

La-la la-la, la-leluia!

"Come Holy Spirit"

Come, Holy Spirit we need You.

Come, Holy Spirit we pray.

Come in Your strength and Your power.

Come in Your own gentle way .

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for today. Thank you for Sunday School where we can learn together about You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

To review last Sunday's lesson, ask the children what they have done in the past week that express sharing, helping, and caring. Have them share their experiences.

Learning Time

Listening to a story.

“ABIGAIL, THE PEACEMAKER’

(Based on I Samuel 25:1-35)

David and his men were in the desert, preparing to fight the enemies of the people of Israel. He sent several of his young men to Nabal. Nabal was a very rich man whom David had helped. David sent a messenger to say to him, “Help me and my men. Please give us some food. We run out of food in the dessert.” But Nabal did not give anything to David.

Abigail the wife of Nabal, noticed the men who came. She asked one of Nabal’s servant about them. The servant told Abigail what happened. Abigail became so afraid of the danger they were in. She thought, “They might take revenge on my husband and his men!”

Hurriedly, Abigail gathered two hundred loaves of bread, two bottles of wine, five roasted sheep, five measure or parched corn, a hundred bunches of raisins, two hundred cakes, and dried figs and loaded them on donkeys. She sent servants to David with the laden donkeys, and she followed behind them.

When she came before David, she prostrated herself at his feet saying, “Sir please accept this gifts and forgive the wickedness of my husband. The Lord will look on you favorably if you don’t take revenge on him.”

David replied, “Blessed be the Lord that has sent you to me, for he has prevented me from getting into trouble and from taking vengeance with my own hands. Thank God for your good sense.” Then David accepted what she brought to them. Abigail returned home with peace in her heart.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Use the following questions for your discussion:

1. Who are the characters of the story?
2. What was the request of David?
3. How did Nabal reply to the request?
4. What kind of a person was Nabal?
5. What did Abigail do to stop the trouble that could have happened between his husband’s men and David’s men?
6. If all people are like Nabal, what do you think will happen to our community?
7. If all people are like David, what will happen to our community?

8. If all people are like Abigail, what will happen?
9. What can say about Abigail and her actions?

Lessons Learned

PICTURE STUDY. Show pictures to the learners that show how the church(UCCP) or the local church helped the community in responding to a particular need.

Examples: Giving out of relief goods for those affected by the eruption of Taal volcano; giving out of relief goods during the COVID 19 pandemic; distribution of alcohol and masks, etc..

Questions:

1. What particular need was being met as shown in the pictures?
2. What do you think people feel when help was given at times of great need?
3. What do you think people will remember most when help is given?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Teach the memory verse found in Isaiah 32:17, "Because everyone will do what is right,there will be peace and security forever."

HELPING HANDS. Give each child a cut-out hand. It may be better if hand-cut-outs are in different colors. Tell the learners to write on their cut-out hand what they can do as children in the church to help those in need or the teacher may identify a particular need for children to respond.Connect the hands and paste it on a cardboard or Cartolina.

Example: " What can your hand do to help make the community a better place to live in? Or what can your hand do to help the poor and sick children in your community?"



(The photo is just an example of how the result of the activity will look like)

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

“We are the Church”

The church is not a steeple, the church is not a building,

The church is not a resting place

The church is people.

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together

All who follow Jesus all around the world

Yes, we're the church together!

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, help us to do what we promised to do to make this world a better place. We want your new heaven and new earth to happen now. Thank you for helping us through the Holy Spirit. This we pray in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

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 Reference/s: 1 Peter 5:6-11

Age Level Concepts

- We can reach our goals as a Church if everyone helps.
- We trust God to help us reach our goals.
- We can reach our goals by sharing our talents and skills and doing our best for the work of the Church.

Learning Objectives

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

- Enumerate ways by which we can work together as a Church to reach our goals
- Mention our need to trust that God will help us to reach our goals
- Ask God to help us share our talents and skills and do our best for the work of the Church

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

Biblical Background

The first Letter from Peter was addressed to Christians, here called as God's chosen people of God, who were scattered throughout the northern part of Asia Minor. The main purpose of the

letter is to encourage the readers, who were facing persecution and suffering for their faith. The writer does this by reminding his readers of the Good News about Jesus Christ, whose death, resurrection, and promised coming gave them hope. In the light of this, they are to accept and endure their sufferings, confident that it is a test of the genuineness of their faith and that they will be rewarded on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed. Along with his encouragement in time of trouble, the writer also urges his readers to live as people who belong to Christ.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn

“We are One in the Bond of Love”

We are one in the bond of love;

We are one in the bond of love.

We have joined our spirits with the Spirit of God;

We are one in the bond of love.

Let us sing now, everyone;

Let us feel God's love begun.

Let us join our hands, that the world will know;

We are one in the bond of love.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for uniting us and bringing us together through the Holy Spirit. Be with us as we fellowship together as believers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

WHEEL OF FUN QUESTIONS. Make a wheel chart. Divide the wheel into parts. In each part, write a question. Each learner will take turns to turn the wheel and answer the question to where the pointer of the wheel stops.

Questions:

1. If you meet a genie, what would your first wish be like?
2. If you won a lottery, what would you do with it?
3. If you had a superpower, what would you do with it?
4. If you meet Jesus, what would be your first request?
5. If you had a superpower, what would you like to change first?

Learning Time

Present the biblical reference. Ask them to read the following verse by verse. (1 Peter 5:6-11.)

Verse 6: Humble yourselves, then, under God's mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time.

Verse 7: Leave all your worries with him, he cares for you.
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Verse 8: Be alert! Be on watch! Your enemy the Devil, roams around you like a roaring lion, looking someone to devour.

Verse 9: Be firm in your faith and resist him because you know that other believers in all the world are going through the same kind of sufferings.

Verse 10: But after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength and a sure foundation.

Verse 11: To Him be the power forever! Amen.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the following questions for discussion.

1. What are the instructions of Peter?
2. How can these instructions help us reach our goals?

Lessons Learned

LEARNING STATIONS. Prepare the room with three stations/corners for the children to visit.

First Corner - Concerted efforts

Present pictures that show the unity and solidarity of our church. Explain further how important it is for the church to work together in order to reach its goals. (Meetings of organizations, conferences, assemblies, camps, fellowship meetings)

Second Corner- Strong faith in God

Present pictures of the church worshipping, praying, studying the Bible and Sunday School. Explain how the church are working for strong faith.

Third Corner- Deep Commitment to the Work

Present pictures that show commitment of the church in doing its mission. Explain further that the ministries of the church need the participation; sharing of talents and skills of people; and sharing of resources in order to reach its goals.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Teach the memory verse in I Peter 5: 10b " He will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength and a sure foundation."

"MY CHURCH'S GOALS BOARD". Provide a cardboard or illustration board. Let them make a " My Church's Goals Board". Write the goals of the UCCP in the middle of the board. Tell the learners to draw or cut pictures that represent their talent or skills which they willingly like to share to

help the church reach its goals. Decorate and color. Post it somewhere people can see it.

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn.

“God is So Good”

God is so good,

God is so good

God is so good to me

“The More We Work Together” (Tune: The More We Get Together)

The more we work together, together, together

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

Members and members are working together

when we do our part together, God's glory is served.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for entrusting to us your church. Bless us with wisdom. Clothe us with humility, faithfulness, and concerted effort, strong faith in you and deep commitment in attaining our goals. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 Reference/s: Isaiah 65:17- 24

Age Level Concepts

- As God's gathered people, the Church is proud and happy when our dreams come true.
- We are proud and happy when we are able to continue the work of Jesus.
- We are proud and happy when our Goals are reached

Learning Objectives

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

- Express their feelings when our dreams as a Church come true
- Ask God for help in continuing the work of Jesus
- Tell ways to thank God when our Goals are reached

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

Biblical Background

The Book of Isaiah is named after a great prophet who lived in Jerusalem in the latter half of the eight century B.C. This book was divided into three parts, chapters 1-39, chapters 40-55 and chapters 56-66.

Chapters 56-66 are for the most part addressed to people who were back in Jerusalem, and who needed reassurance that God was going to fulfill the promises made to the nation. Concern is expressed and justice and also Sabbath observance, sacrifice and prayer.

Isaiah 65 is God's answer - a new heaven and a new earth. God will answer the prayer of the people in a way which exceeds their wildest dreams. But the answer will be two-edged: for those who align themselves against God -total destruction; but for the faithful ones - life, joy, peace beyond imagining in a heaven and earth made new.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn *"My Dream" Children Praise God, 116*

I am but a little child, but I have a dream like you
I hope that every day we all live peacefully
I hope that someday we'll live in harmony.

Opening Prayer

Today, we thank you for the lives of our Sunday School teachers who teach us and lead us into your path. Be in our place and in our hearts as we study your word. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready

PAPER BLOWING

1. Give a small piece of paper to each child. Divide them into two groups. Tell them to blow the paper one by one until they reach the set goal or finish line. The group who finishes first wins.

Present the following questions for discussions.

- a.) What was the goal of the game?
- b.) What did you do to achieve your goal?
- c.) Are you happy when you finish the goal?
- d.) Do you have goals, dreams and aspirations?
- e.) How can we participate in reaching the goals set by our church?

f.) What can we do to help the church's dreams come true?

Learning time

Present the following story.

“I Am Happy for the Vision of a New World”
(based on Isaiah 65:17-25)

Long time ago, the people of God did not live a good life. They did bad things. They had stopped worshipping God. They worshipped idols. So God punished them. God allowed them to experience oppression and suffering. They were harassed by other nations. Their houses and lands and properties were taken from them, and even their children. In their desperate situation, they called to God and asked for God's help. God answered their call and promised to create a new and beautiful life for them.

In the new and beautiful world, there will be no more pain and fear and crying – no more suffering. Children will not die early. They will live long. People will live in their houses. They will eat the fruits from their plants. The people will no longer quarrel with each other. Babies will play with wild animals and they will not get hurt. Even the animals will not bite nor hurt each other. There will be food for everyone and no one will go hungry. There will be peace and rejoicing in the land.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask the children the following questions:

1. Why were the people punished? What did the people do?
2. Describe the beautiful world God promised.

Lessons Learned

Creative Story Telling. The teacher may lead in telling the story. Tell the learners to envision the community that UCCP dream to have or live in. They should also remember in their story the tasks the church should do and how they can participate in achieving it.

The teacher may start the story by saying, “ I dream of a world that is_____.”

After saying few sentences he/she stops to let the child on his/her left continue the story. The child on his/her left develops the story a little bit more and then stops to give the next child his/her turn. The learners should contribute in order to finish the story. The learners may be given several

turns to achieve the goal of finishing the story.(Record this activity as much as possible so as to review the story later.)

Ask the children

1. How do you feel about the story?
2. How would you feel if our story will come true?\
3. How would you feel if the dreams of our Church come true?

Applying the Lessons Learned

1. Teach the memory verse in Isaiah 65:18, “Be glad and rejoice.... The new Jerusalem I make will be full of joy, and her people will be happy.”
2. Teach the song, “THE VISION OF SHALOM” and then group the learners into four groups. Have them interpret through movements each stanza in the song.

THE VISION OF SHALOM

(Group 1)We want to live the vision, the vision of shalom
To learn of peace and harmony, in church, at work, at home

Chorus

Shalom, shalom, the vision of shalom
We'll learn to live the vision, in church, at work, at home

(Group 2)The vision shows us sharing, it teaches us stewardship
It helps us learn to laugh and love through kindness and respect

(Group 3)No one will be a big shot if we live in Shalom
But everyone is special child of God who loves each one

(Group 4)So let us live the vision, the vision of shalom
Give up on fights and arguments, let's bring God's spirit home

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer

“The Vision of Shalom”
(with the interpretative movement of each group)
(to be led by the teacher)