

## Lesson 6: *What do we mean by “Holy Church of Jesus Christ”?*

Rural Life Emphasis Sunday

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

**General Concept:** *The Holy Church of Jesus Christ means being set apart for special purpose by and for God.*

**Biblical References:** 1 Peter 2:9; Leviticus 20:26; Colossians 3:12-14

### Age Level Concepts

- The holiness of the church is derived from Christ’s holiness.
- We live a life of righteousness to model Christ’s holiness.

### Learning Objectives

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

- Tell their understanding of the “Holy Church of Jesus Christ”?
- Give examples of the church’s expression of being set apart for God’s purpose
- Ask God’s guidance on how to live a life that models Christ holiness.

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

### Biblical Background

1 Peter 2:9

People in general might see no worth in Christ and reject him, but God sees him as the chosen one through whom sinners have eternal life. Those who receive new life through Christ are likened to living stones who form a temple in which God is worshipped. They also form the priesthood that offers the worship (4-5).

Christ is the chief cornerstone in this living building, and those who believe in him will never be disappointed (6). The people of Israel, who were originally intended to build God a living temple, threw out the main stone when they rejected Christ. A rejected building stone lies in the way and becomes an obstacle to the builders, preventing them from doing their work as they should. In the same way Jesus Christ, whom the people of Israel rejected, becomes an obstacle to them, so that they cannot do what God requires of them. God has now taken this rejected stone and made him the chief cornerstone in a new living temple, the Christian church (7-8).

During the period of the Old Testament, Israel was God's people, God's chosen nation; but now all believers are God's people, regardless of race. They pass from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. They have received God's mercy, and their task now is to tell others about the great and merciful acts of God (9-10; cf. [Exodus 19:4-6](#)). (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

As God's chosen ones and made holy by Christ, Paul reminded the people to clothe themselves with a new life, a new self that which reflect the image of the Creator - compassionate, kind, humble, meek, forgiving and loving. (Colossians 3:12-14)

Leviticus 20:26

When the Israelites occupied the land promised by God, they slowly fell into the well of sinfulness and got attracted to the life of the Canaanites. Many forgot the covenant and the laws that goes with it.

“The law now sets out penalties for the more serious offences outlined in Chapters 18 and 19. People who offered their children to the gods were to be stoned to death (20:1-5; for Molech see note on 18:21). Those who looked for guidance through witchcraft were guilty of rebellion against God and were to be punished by being cut off from the life of the community. A person who consulted the spirits of the dead was to be killed (6-9,27).

Most of the perverse sexual unions mentioned in Chapter 18 were also punishable by death (10-21). The Israelites had to be holy before God, and this meant they had to separate themselves from the sinful practices of the Canaanites. If they failed in this, God would destroy them as he would the Canaanites (22-27)”. (the Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

## **Suggested Lesson Outline**

### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs      [I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy \(George Willis Cooke\)](#)

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart (Where?)  
Down in my heart! (Where?)  
Down in my heart!  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay.

Refrain:

And I'm so happy  
So very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart  
And I'm so happy So very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus,  
love of Jesus Down in my heart (Where?)  
Down in my heart! (Where?)  
Down in my heart!  
I've got the love of Jesus, (Refrain)  
love of Jesus Down in my heart (Where?)  
Down in my heart to stay.

“Rise and Shine”

Rise and shine  
And give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine  
And give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine  
And give God the glory, glory  
Children of the Lord.

#### Opening Prayer

Lord, thank you for the new day  
Please go before me and clear the way,  
thank you for protecting me,  
Thank you for guiding me,  
Thank you for loving me,  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Getting Ready

Footsteps Bulletin Board (*adapted from Pinterest.com*). Prepare an illustration board (1/2 size). Paint the learners' foot and tell them to step on the board. Set aside the board with footsteps for the activity during the later part of the session.

#### Learning Time

*Discovering the Biblical Truth.* Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group a biblical text. Let each group answer the following questions:

1 Peter 2:9

- a. How did the writer describe the believers?
- b. Why did God call the people out of darkness?
- c. What makes the people of God holy?

Leviticus 20:26

- a. What makes the people of God holy?
- b. How can we distinguish other people from the people of God?
- c. Why did God's people separate from other people?

### *Lessons Learned*

Distribute meta-cards colored yellow and blue to the learners (one meta-card each). Tell them to write their answer on the card.

Blue: "Where does the holiness of the believers or the church come from?"

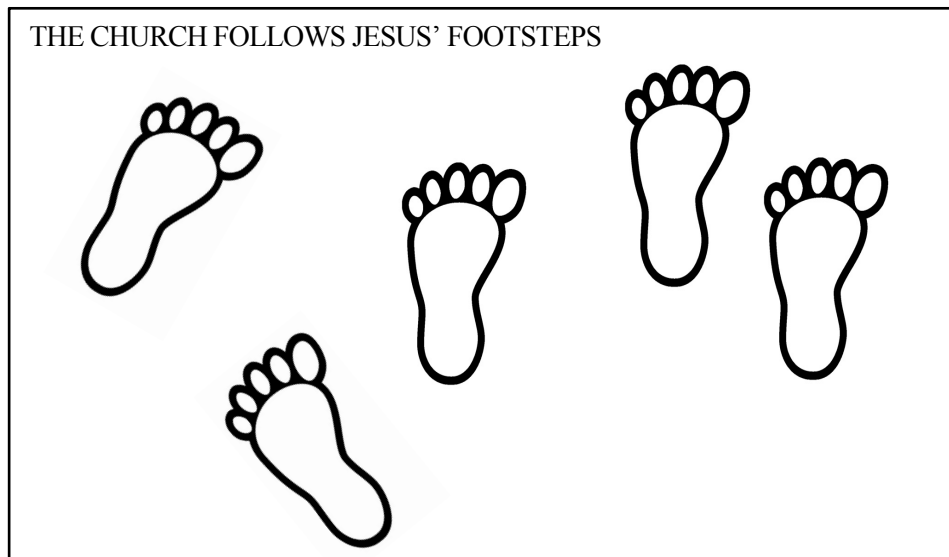
Yellow: "How can we show Christ's holiness in our lives?"

Let the learners share their answer to the class while showing their answer. Let them post their cards to the board. Synthesize the answers of the learners after sharing.

The facilitator may say, "The holiness of the church comes from Christ because we received God's mercy through Christ. We are to model Christ's holiness. We are to show the world about Christ's goodness and mercy. The church is called to do this task and fulfill a purpose.

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

Footstep Bulletin Board. Tell the learners that if we are to model Christ to others, write on their footstep the particular deed or value taught by Christ that they want to model in their daily lives. They may write on their footstep like love, feeding the hungry, care, patience, obedience, good friend etc.



### **Closing Time**

Teach the key verse found in Leviticus 20:26a, "You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy."

Closing Song "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back, no turning back.

Cause Jesus' holy, he makes us holy  
Cause Jesus' holy, he makes us holy  
Cause Jesus' holy, he makes us holy  
We do his works, we show he's Lord.

Offering

Closing Prayer

We thank you for making the church holy because you are holy Lord.  
We are not perfect but you called us Your people and chose us to show your  
goodness to others. Guide us Lord as we try to model Christ's holiness in  
our lives. Amen

### *Lesson 7: What do we mean by "catholic Church of Jesus Christ"?*

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

**General Concept:** The catholic Church of Jesus Christ means it extends throughout the world and during all times. It means that the Church is universal.

**Biblical References:** Psalm 145:8-14; Acts 1:7-8, John 10:16

#### **Age Level Concepts**

- The UCCP is catholic.
- We recognize and respect the different faith practices and traditions.

#### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Tell the meaning of "catholic"
- Show creatively their understanding of "Catholic Church of Jesus Christ"
- Affirm that UCCP is part of the Catholic Church of Jesus Christ

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

#### **Biblical Background**

Psalms 145:8-14

It seems that the collection of the psalms was made by a number of people over a long time. Although each psalm is a unit in itself and not necessarily connected with the psalms before or after it, certain psalms have been grouped together.

In this psalm, the writer talks about God being merciful and gracious who is great and worthy to be the object of people's praise, day and night, for ever and ever (145:1-3).

Those who know God's greatness should meditate upon it and proclaim it to others (4-7). Not only is God great, but also full of goodness, showing covenant faithfulness to the people and gracious love to people everywhere (8-9). Those who have tasted God's love should show their gratitude by praising and telling others of God's mighty works. In this way they will help spread God's rule to the lives of others (10-13a).

The generous help and free gifts of God are always available to all the creatures (13b-16); always on the side of those who call, honour and love God but against those who in their sin reject the offer of God's mercy (17-20). All creation, and in particular the chosen people, should bring him unending praise (21).

Acts 1: 7-8

On the occasions when Jesus appeared to his apostles after his resurrection, he taught them the significance of his death and resurrection in relation to the kingdom of God that they were now to proclaim. They would be able to begin this work within a few days, after Jesus returned to his heavenly Father and sent them the gift of his Spirit as he had promised (3-4; cf. [John 14:26](#); [John 15:26](#); [John 16:7](#); [Mark 1:8](#)).

Jesus told them not to spend time thinking about things that God did not intend them to know, but to go and tell people everywhere that he was alive and triumphant. Jesus would no longer be with them physically, but through the Spirit he would come and live in them to enable them to carry on the work that he had started (5-8; cf. [John 14:12](#); [John 14:16-18](#)). He would make no more appearances to the apostles for the time being, but some time in the future he would return to be physically with his people again (9-11).

Jesus' plan for the expansion of the gospel was that it spread out in ever widening circles - from Jerusalem into the surrounding province, then into neighbouring regions, and eventually into every part of the world (v. 8). The book of Acts shows how the work started in Jerusalem (Chapters 1-7), expanded through Judea, Samaria and Syria (Chapters 8-12), and kept on moving out till it reached the heart of the Empire (Chapters 13-28). (The Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

## **Suggested Lesson Outline**

### **Greeting Time**

Announcement and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s      "He's Got the Whole World"

*He's got the whole world in his hands*

*he's got the whole wild world in his hands*

*He's got the whole wild world in his hands*

*he's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He's got the little bitty baby in his hands*

*he's got the little bitty baby in his hands  
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands  
he's got the whole world in his hands  
He's got the whole world in his hands...*

*He's got you and me brother in his hands  
he's got you and me sister in his hands  
He's got you and me brother in his hands  
he's got the whole world in his hands  
He's got the whole world in his hands...*

*He's got everybody here in his hands  
he's got everybody here in his hands  
He's got everybody here in his hands  
he's got the whole world in his hands  
He's got the whole world in his hands...*

#### Opening Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for our school. We pray it would be a safe place of learning, fun and friendship. Please watch over all our teachers, children and families. Help us to learn new things, to explore the world together and to play and be happy. Help us to have love for each other, to have forgiveness at our heart, and to build kindness into every day. Amen.

#### Getting Ready

**Find the Synonyms.** The teacher should prepare this beforehand. Write on meta-cards different words but has the same meaning. You may also include words that has no connection with the other words. Instruct the learners to find words which they think has the same meaning and group them. Let them explain later as to why they chose those words.

The teacher may write these words:

CATHOLIC	UNIVERSAL	WIDE	ALL- AROUND
LIMITED	SELECTIVE	CONFINED	ALL-OVER
BOUND	UNLIMITED		

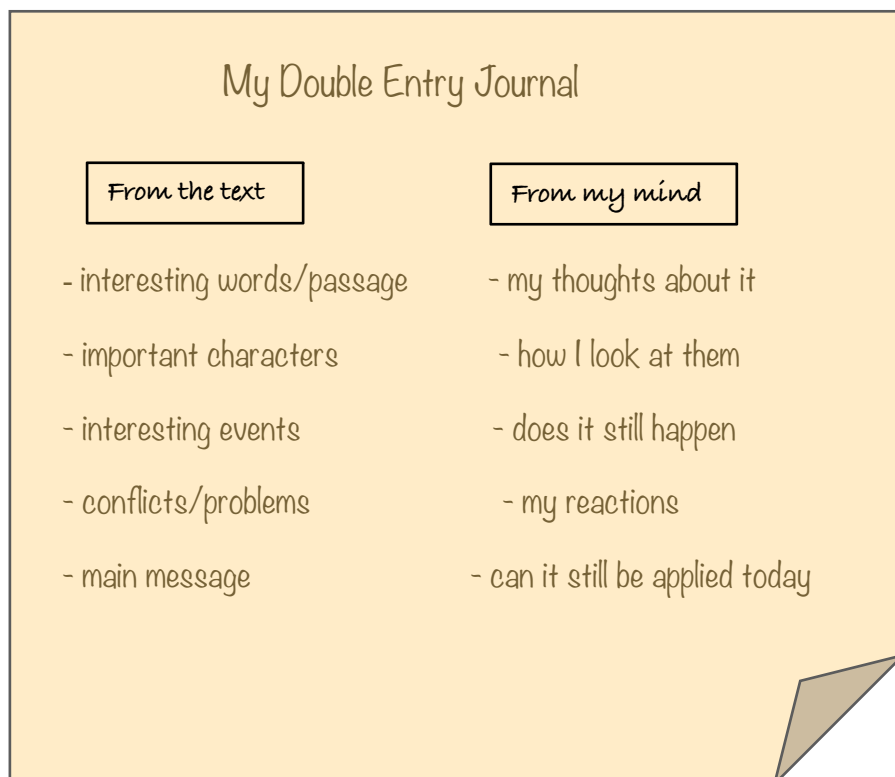
After they have grouped together the words with the same meaning, qualify their choices to check if they chosen rightly. Reveal to them the correct words that have similar meaning.

Words with the same meaning: catholic (not Catholic), universal, wide, all-around, all-over, unlimited  
The rest are words of opposite meaning.

### Learning Time

#### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Double Entry Journal. Tell the learners to read the biblical texts silently. On a piece of paper, tell the learners to let make a journal by filling in answers to the following points:



*My Double Entry Journal*

<i>From the text</i>	<i>From my mind</i>
- interesting words/passage	- my thoughts about it
- important characters	- how I look at them
- interesting events	- does it still happen
- conflicts/problems	- my reactions
- main message	- can it still be applied today

#### *Lessons Learned*

Sharing of Journal. Engage the learners to share their journal. If it takes too much time for all to share their journal, the teacher may ask for volunteers.

Group Work. After sharing, divide the class into two groups. Taking into consideration the words they have chosen to group together because of its similar meaning and their responses to the points raised in the journal, tell each group to present creatively - acted out or through art work their understanding of the word “*catholic*”

Let the groups be guided by the following questions for their presentation:

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “catholic”?
- What does the word “catholic” really mean?
- How can the church express the idea of being “catholic” today?



Say: "The catholic Church of Jesus Christ means it extends throughout the world and during all times. It means that the Church is universal." The body of Christ is not bound to a territory, region, country or any land area. It is not even limited to a single group of believers but extends to all believers in all corners of the earth. We cannot make a claim that Christ's message is only sown in the Philippines, because it also take root and grown to as far as the one can reach."

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

There are people today who does not understand the word "catholic". How can we share to them this new learning? Let the learners discuss how to do it.

### **Closing Worship**

Teach the key verse. "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8b"

### Offering

Closing Song        "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine ,I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it  
shine,        let it shine

Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine  
Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine  
Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it  
shine

Even when I'm afraid I'm gonna let shine  
Even when I'm afraid I'm gonna let shine  
Even when I'm afraid I'm gonna let shine, let it shine, let it shine, let  
it shine

This little light of mine,I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine,I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine  
I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine (x3)

### Closing Prayer

Dear God, we are happy to know that your Church reaches all lands and

places. We learn today that our church is part of your *catholic* church.  
Guide us as we try to share the lessons we learned today. Amen

**Lesson 8: *What do we mean by “apostolic Church of Jesus Christ”?***

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

**General Concept:** The apostolic Church of Jesus Christ means that we trace back our beginning with the call, orientation of the apostles, and their teachings as handed to them by Jesus Christ.

**Biblical References:** *Matthew 16: 13-18; 28:19-20, Acts 2:14-41; Acts 3, Romans 10:17-18*

**Age Level Concepts**

- Our church started from the apostles of Jesus.
- Our church follows the teachings and calling of Jesus’ apostles.

**Learning Objectives**

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

- Listen to a story of how the church started.
- Mention what the church has learned from the apostles
- Suggest ways on how the church can follow the footsteps of the apostles

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

**Biblical Background**

Matthew 16: 13-18; 28:19-20

Jesus and the apostles travelled up to Caesarea Philippi, in the far north of Palestine. While there, Jesus asked the apostles who they believed him to be. Peter, probably speaking for the group, replied that he was the promised Messiah, the Son of God (Matthew 16:13-16).

Delighted at this insight, Jesus told the group (through words addressed to their spokesman Peter) that they would be the foundation on which he would build his church, and no power would be able to conquer it (Matthew 16:17-18; cf. Ephesians 2:20). By preaching the gospel they would open the kingdom to all who wished to enter. They would carry Jesus' authority with them, so that the things they did on earth in his name would be confirmed in heaven (Matthew 16:19; cf. Acts 2:32; Acts 3:6; Acts 3:16; Acts 3:19). But that was still in the future. For the present they were to support him in his ministry, but they were not to proclaim his messiahship openly till the appointed time had come (Matthew 16:20).

The apostles had an indication why Jesus had told them to go to Galilee when he took them up one of the mountains. From there they could look out to the next stage of the kingdom's mission, the Gentile nations beyond. The three and a half years public ministry of Jesus had been limited to Israel (cf. Matthew 10:5-6; Matthew 15:24; Romans 15:8), but the ministry that the risen Jesus now passed on to his disciples extended to all nations without distinction. His power would be in his disciples, preserving them through dangers and enabling them to perform remarkable works (Matthew 28:16-17; Mark 16:15-18).

Jesus' purpose in this activity was to establish his church (cf. Matthew 16:18), as his followers preached the gospel, baptized those who believed, and taught the converts to understand and follow his teachings. As the converts, in turn, passed the message on to others, the church would continue its worldwide expansion, assured always that the victorious Jesus was working with his people (Matthew 28:18-20). (*The Bridgeway Bible Commentary*)

Romans 10:17-18

Before people can believe this message, they must hear it. Therefore, Christians must be sent to proclaim it (14-15). Not all will accept the message, but Christians must proclaim it nevertheless. And the message they proclaim is the good news concerning Jesus Christ (16-17). The Jews have indeed heard this message, so they have no excuse (18). Their problem is not that they have not heard or understood it, but that they have refused to believe it (see v. 16). They become angry and envious when they see their supposedly ignorant Gentile neighbours accepting the gospel, but they themselves will not listen to it (19-21).

*The Church begins with Jesus. The apostles were taught by him and were "sent out/forth" (the meaning of apostle) to spread Christ's teachings. (Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza)*

## **Suggested Lesson Outline**

### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/ or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs "Jesus' Apostles" Tune: "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus called them one by one,  
**Peter, Andrew, James and John,**  
Next came **Phillip, Thomas** too,  
**Matthew and Bartholomew.**

Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
He called them one by one.

**James**, the one they called the less,  
**Simon** also **Thadaeus**,  
Twelve apostles **Judas** made,  
Jesus was by him betrayed.

Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
Yes, Jesus called them,  
He called them one by one.

([www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/songs/twelve-apostles](http://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/songs/twelve-apostles))

### Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, come be with us today  
Fill our hearts with joy; fill our minds with learning.  
Fill our classroom with peace, fill our lesson with fun.  
Fill our friendships with kindness. Fill our school with love. Amen

### Getting Ready

**The Tree Stuff.** Post a drawing of a tree on the board. Ask the learners about the the function of each part of the tree. It is important that learners point out how the tree become a tree.

### Learning Time

*Discovering the Biblical Truth.* Listen to a story.

“Who Do People Say I am?”  
(Based on Matthew 16:13-23)

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say I am?”

“Some say you are John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Others also say that you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets,” answer the disciples.

He said to them, “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

“You’re blessed, Peter,” said Jesus. “No man told you this. My Father in heaven has shown it to you. This is the rock on which I’ll build my church. You, Peter, are a stone in that building. And the church I’ll build is stronger than the gates of Hell.”

He sternly told them, “Don’t tell anyone I’m the Christ.”

He began to tell his disciples what would soon happen: “I will go to Jerusalem. There I will suffer and be killed. Three days after, I will return from death.”

“God forbid it, Lord,” declared Peter. “This must not happen to you!”

Jesus rebuked Peter. “If you think that way, you will block my plans. Your words are from Satan. You see me as a human king. Instead, you must understand: God sent me so that these things could happen.”

After telling the story, ask the following questions:

1. Who was Jesus according to Peter? (The Christ/Messiah, the Son of the Living God)
2. Why do you think this affirmation of Peter about Jesus is important?
3. What did Jesus try to build?(church)
4. Who was called as one of the stones of the church which Jesus tries to build? (Peter)
5. What is the “rock” on which the church of Jesus will be built? Is it a person (Peter) or the affirmation of Peter (that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God)?

Go back to the tree and ask the learners to locate where in the tree should Jesus, the apostles and church should be.

### *Lessons Learned*

**Lessons from the Apostles.** Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group an apostle. Instruct them to write down the teachings they’ve learned from them. Let them write their answers on a Manila paper.

<b>PETER</b> (Acts 2: 14-41, 3)
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<b>PAUL</b> (Romans 10:17-18; 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Galatians 5)
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Let each group choose a reporter to share their work. Sum up their report and synthesize their discussion by emphasizing the following points:

- The Church begins with Jesus. The apostles were taught by him and were “sent out/forth” (the meaning of apostle) to spread Christ’s teachings.

- Like the disciples who were later called the apostles (sent out), the church is also called and sent out to the world to proclaim Christ, his message of the kingdom and the promise of a life with God.
- The message concerning Jesus as the Messiah is the rock from which the church will stand and expand.
- The UCCP is part of the apostolic Church of Jesus Christ that traces our beginning with the call, orientation of the apostles, and their teachings as handed to them by Jesus Christ.

*Applying the Lessons Learned*

**How to follow the Apostles.** Let each group suggest simple ways to follow the apostles. Let them fill in the acronym:

**A -**

**P-**

**O-**

**S-**

**T-**

**L-**

**E-**

**S-**

**Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” Matthew 16:18

Offertory

Closing Song “Lord I want to Be a Christian” Children Praise God,137

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

- Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart

- Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart

- Lord, I want to be a Christian in my ways, in my ways

#### Closing Prayer

Lord, you have called people and teach them your ways. You also send them to preach what you have taught them. We learn and grow from the teachings of the apostles but you also called us to tell others about You. Teach us and give us courage to follow the ways of your apostles and guide our church to be true to the teachings and ways of the apostles.

Amen

#### *Lesson 9: What do we mean by “Protestant heritage?”*

##### Communion Sunday

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 02, 2020

**General Concept:** Protestant heritage is a set of traditions and beliefs which we inherit from the Protestant reformers.

**Biblical References:** Deuteronomy 26: 5-10; 2 Timothy 2:2

#### Age Level Concepts

- Our beliefs are based on the Protestant faith and tradition.
- We bear witness to our Protestant beliefs and traditions.

#### Learning Objectives

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

- Familiarize with the story of the Protestant reformers
- Mention beliefs and traditions we inherited from the Protestant reformers
- Affirm the beliefs and traditions which we inherited from the Protestant reformers

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

#### Biblical Background

Deuteronomy 26:5-10

The first harvest season after the Israelites settled in Canaan would be of particular importance, bringing to a climax the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel of a permanent homeland (26:1-4). The harvest first-fruits offered to God on this occasion would have special significance as the people recalled their humble beginnings, their slavery in Egypt, and the miraculous release that allowed them to possess the land God had prepared for them (5-11).

Besides offering the first-fruits to God, the people had to make an annual offering of tithes. Every third year this tithe (or an additional tithe) was not taken to the central place of worship, but was given to the Levites and the poor in the offerer's own locality (see 14:28-29). This meant that the distribution of this tithe was not under the general supervision of the priests. The law therefore laid down a special requirement to prevent dishonesty and ensure that people kept in mind the religious nature of the offering. According to this requirement, the offerer, after distributing his tithe, had to go to the central place of worship and declare before God that he had carried out his responsibilities fully (12-15).

Moses had now finished his instruction on the covenant's detailed requirements. The two parties to the covenant then made declarations that bound them together. The people declared that Yahweh was their God and they would keep his commandments, and God declared that they were his people and he would exalt them above all nations (16-19; see also 29:10-15).

#### 2 Timothy 2:1-2

When the government authorities in Rome laid their charges against Paul, he was deserted by friends that he thought would help him. But God rescued him from violence and enabled him to proclaim the gospel to his captors (2 Timothy 4:16-17). Nevertheless, Paul did not have the optimism of his first imprisonment. Instead of expecting release, he expected execution (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

With time running out, Paul wrote to Timothy to give him final encouragement and make some urgent requests. Because the church in Ephesus was still troubled by false teachers, Paul encouraged Timothy to persevere in giving wholesome Christian teaching and to avoid wasting time with senseless arguments (2 Timothy 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:14-16; 2 Timothy 2:23-25; 2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Timothy 4:5). He also wanted Timothy to come to Rome quickly (2 Timothy 4:9).

Like Onesiphorus, Timothy must persevere for the sake of Christ and endure hardship. He must push on vigorously with his task of passing on the truth Paul has taught him. He should do this wisely and carefully, by instructing people who are trustworthy and have the ability to teach others (2:1-2).

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/ or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s "Come, Let Us Gather" Children Praise God,58

Come, let us gather now to sing

Praises and thanks to God our king

God's love is greater than anything.

"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, 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.

#### Opening Prayer

Dear God, we come not because we are forced to but because we wanted to. We always look forward to see our friends and members of God's family. May this day be full of learning and joy in hearing words about You. Amen

#### Getting Ready

**FORM THE WORDS.** Print in bold letters the words "PROTESTANT" and "REFORMERS". Cut out the letters and mix it all up. Tell the learners to form two words from all the letters provided.

#### Learning Time

##### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

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

Group 1 - Deuteronomy 26: 5-10

- What did the Israelites do after they have occupied and tilled the land promised them by God?
- Why did they offer the first fruits of their harvest?
- How would this practice impact the younger generation?

Group 2 - 2 Timothy 2:1-2

- what do you think happened to Paul?
- Who was Timothy?
- What did Paul want Timothy to pass on?

Say: "After the Israelites settled and tilled the land called Canaan -the land promised to them by God, they made an offering of the first fruits to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise and to celebrate their humble beginnings. It is also a way of reminding the next generation of God's faithfulness and love. This way, their testimonies, beliefs and traditions can be passed down to the next generations. At trying times, Paul also wanted to remind the younger missionaries like Timothy to pass on the faith that Paul has passed on to them so that other believers may be strengthened by it. The church today inherited such testimonies and beliefs and has become the foundation of our Protestant faith and tradition.

### *Lessons Learned*

Tell a story about one of the Protestant reformers or show a video clip about Protestantism (*National Geographic, A Fun, Animated History of the Reformation and the Man who Started It All: Short film Showcase*).

Aside from other assertions of Luther, there were three (3) main assertions that has become the basis of arguments and debates during his time.

- a. Salvation by faith alone - Faith in God was the only way of salvation.
- b. The Bible is the only authority - The Bible should be the only authority when it comes to knowing God's message.
- c. Priesthood of all believers - every believer has a personal relationship with God.

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

Poster Making. Divide the class into three groups. Assign each group a belief we inherited from the Protestant reformers like Martin Luther. Tell them to make a poster out of it. Display the posters inside the classroom.

### **Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: "And what you have learned from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well." 2 Timothy 2:2

Closing Song        "Faith of our Fathers"  
Faith of our fathers, we will love  
Both friend and foe in all our strife,  
And preach thee, too, as love knows how  
By kindly words and virtuous life.  
Faith of our fathers! holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

### Closing Prayer

Though times change, but we are still grateful for the heritage that has been passed on to us which becomes part of our life and identity as a Protestant church. Thank you Lord for the lives of our fathers and mothers in faith who fought and died to advance your message. May our lives become witnesses of that faith. Amen

### *Lesson 10: What do we mean by being a "reformed" church?*

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 09, 2020

**General Concept:** *The UCCP aligns itself with the Reformation movement of the 16<sup>th</sup> century that brought significant changes in the beliefs, system and structure of the Church then.*

**Biblical References:** *Acts 15: 5, 28-29, Ephesians 2:8*

### **Age Level Concepts**

- Our church is a reformed church.
- Our church went through changes in its beliefs and practices to make it in line with the Bible.
- We claim our reformed beliefs and practices.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Differentiate the word “reform/reformed from transformed/transform
- List down examples of ”reforms” that Reformers wanted to happen in the church during the time of Luther.
- Evaluate how these reforms are practiced till today.

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

### **Biblical Background**

Acts 15:5-29

After the Pentecost event, people convinced of the work of the Holy Spirit and who became believers in the message of Jesus Christ proclaimed by the apostles flocked the church both Jews and Gentiles. The work of the apostles became more challenging especially when old practices of those who have joined the church confronts the faith and not-so-established structure of the church. Changes has to be made to straighten out issues and matters confronting the church.

There was no rule that forced people to sell their property. When Ananias and Sapphira sold some property, their sin was not that they kept part of the money for themselves, but that they lied through saying they had handed over all the money. After the unbroken triumphs of the weeks since Pentecost, this entrance of deliberate sin into the church must have shocked the apostles. As often happened when there was deliberate sin at the start of a new stage in God's unfolding plan for his people, God emphasized the seriousness of sin in a dramatic judgment (5:1-10).

Such severe judgments emphasized the holiness God demanded. They also reminded his people that all were sinners, and only his grace kept them alive and allowed them to serve him (11).

Far from slowing down the growth of the church, the judgment removed the sin that could have hindered growth. Although people saw that insincerity had no place in the church, vast numbers continued to join the church. Meanwhile, the healing ministry of Jesus continued to operate through the apostles (12-16; cf. *Matthew 14:35-36*).

To say that UCCP is a “reformed” church basically means that the church as a Protestant church aligns itself to the Reformation movement that happened long ago. This movement was not intended to divide the church but to make “corrections” within its structure and system. The vanguards of such movement were called the “Reformers”. They strongly stressed that the Church should go back to where it should be (based on the Scriptures as expressed in Acts 4 and 5) because they felt that the church has veered away from its original intention and direction. The movement brought about changes in the system, practice and structure of the Church. Later on, those who profess the same as that of the Reformers were called “Protestants” and so the church broke into two - the Roman Catholics and the Protestant church. The UCCP adhere to such changes and consider itself as “reformed”.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs       ”Kumusta Ka” Children praise God,68

Kumusta ka, halina’t magsaya

Pumalakpak, pumalakpak, ituro ang paa.

Padyak sa kanan, padyak sa kaliwa

Umikot ka’t umikot at humanap ng iba.

“I’ll Do My Best” Children Praise God,87

I’ll praise, I’ll praise, I’ll praise the Lord forever

I’ll praise, I’ll praise, I’ll praise the Lord forever.

*I’ll do my best, I’ll do my best, Oh...*

*I’ll do my best for you, Oh....(2x)*

I’ll do my best for you.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, come be with us today

Fill our hearts with joy; fill our minds with learning.

Fill our classroom with peace, fill our lesson with fun.

Fill our friendships with kindness. Fill our school with love. Amen

#### **Getting Ready**

Draw a structure of a church. Cut it into pieces and then ask the learners to form it back into its original form. Glue the assembled image of the church into a cardboard or cartolina.

## Learning Time

### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask two learners to read the biblical text found in Acts 15:5- 29. Ask the class the following questions:

- a. Who were in-charge in the affairs of the church? (Apostles,elders)
- b. How did the church grow?
- c. What were the problems or issues encountered by the church that caught the attention of the apostles and other church leaders?
- d. How did they resolve the problem?
- e. What changes were made to settle the problem of the church?

### *Lessons Learned*

Video clip on Reformation. Play again *the videoclip* from last Sunday's lesson. Emphasize the discussion on the changes Luther wanted to happen inside the church. Ask the learners the following questions:

1. What did Luther notice inside the church where he belongs?
2. What was the intention of Luther in raising questions to the church when he nailed the 95 theses?
3. What were the wrong practices that Luther wanted to be corrected?

After the sharing, divide the class into two. Assign these tasks to each group:

Group 1- Define the word "reform"

Group 2 - Define the word "transform"

<b>Reform/reformed</b>	<b>Transform/transformed</b>
-to make corrections or to correct the problems within	- to undergo total change for the better
- to change some wrongs for the better	- to dramatically change things for the better
- to turn back into the way things were	- to drastically improve appearance or usefulness
- to turn things into its old form our way	-to dramatically change into something or someone.

List down the things that Luther wanted the church to be reformed of.

- a. The abuse in using indulgences - the paper that gives assurance to a person of his/her forgiveness from sin. People can buy forgiveness through paying for indulgences.
- b. The use of the Bible. The available Bible translation was in Latin. The common people cannot understand and has no access to the Bible.
- c. The power of the Pope. Pope cannot sin according to the Church. The Church represents God. His words is final and holds authority. Reformers argued that the highest power is attributed only to God.
- d. All people can have access to God. There is no need to have people in between. People can call and talk to God, can have relationship with God.

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

Divide the class into four. Tell each group to make a slogan about the reforms made before that our church still adheres to. Let them write their slogan on an illustration or cardboard. Let them decorate it.

Group 1 - the Bible, the Word of God should hold highest authority and the words of the Pope and teachings of the church should be subjected to the word O God through the Scriptures.

Group 2- on salvation or forgiveness of sins through grace by faith

Group 3 - the authority of God not the Pope

Group 4- People can have access to God through Christ

Let each group present their slogan and explain it to the big group.

### **Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: "On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." Acts 15:11

Offering

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.

Come, let us all remember, a heritage of faithfulness  
Of ardent men and women, devoted to Christ's way,  
Covenanting as one together, With God's spirit sole enabler.

Closing Song

We are glad to know that we belong to a reformed church. May we continue

to see what needs to be done so that Your church will continue to change for the better. May we transform ourselves into a church that truly proclaims Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### *Lesson 11: What are our distinguishing characters being a reformed church?*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2020

**General Concept:** A reformed church is Christ-centered, biblically grounded, missionary in character, has its own polity and set of beliefs.

**Biblical References:** *Romans 1: 16-17 (faith alone) 3:22-24, 4:4; 5:1-2, (Grace, justification); Acts 4:12, Matthew 28:19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

#### **Age Level Concepts**

- A reformed church is Christ-centered, biblically grounded, has its own beliefs and way of governing itself.
- The UCCP is a reformed church.
- We appreciate the characters of a reformed church found in UCCP

#### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Mention some of the characteristics of being a reformed church
- Identify the characteristics of a reformed church that are present in their local church
- List down the things they wanted to reform in their church

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

#### **Biblical Background**

**Romans 1:16-17, 3:22-24,4:4,5:2**

The church in Rome was already well established when Paul wrote this letter to it. Paul did not found the church in Rome, and at the time of writing he had not even visited the city (*Romans 1:13; Romans 15:22*). The church may have been founded by Roman Jews and proselytes who responded to Peter's preaching in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost and then took their new-found faith back to Rome (*Acts 2:10*). Christians from other parts of the Empire who went to live or work in Rome would also have helped to establish the church there (cf. *Romans 16:3-15*).

At the time of writing, Paul was nearing the end of his third missionary journey. He was in Corinth (*Acts 20:2-3; Romans 16:23*; cf. *1 Corinthians 1:14*), making final preparations to go to Jerusalem with a gift of money that a number of the Gentile

churches had donated to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-27; cf. Acts 19:21). Upon completing his work in Jerusalem, Paul intended going to Rome (Romans 15:28).

Paul then gives a summary of the subject that he will expound in the following chapters. He wants his readers to have the same confidence in the gospel as he has, for the gospel is humankind's only hope. People, because of their sin, are weak and unable to save themselves, but God in his power can save them from sin and accept them as righteous in his sight. Through the gospel God can put people right with himself and still be righteous in doing so. But though this salvation is available to all, it is effective only in the lives of those who believe. Only by faith, and never by works, can sinners receive the status of righteousness that God in his grace gives (16-17).

Concerning the relationship between sinners and God, justification means that God declares repentant sinners righteous before him. He makes them right with himself. Sinners are not made righteous in the sense that they are made into perfect people who cannot sin any more. Certainly, their lives will be changed so that righteousness, not sin, becomes their chief characteristic (as Paul will explain later in the letter; cf. Romans 6:1-2; Romans 6:15-19; Romans 8:10; Romans 8:12-13). But the truth that is emphasized in justification is that repentant sinners are declared righteous. They are given a righteousness that is not their own. God gives them a new status through Christ, a new standing that makes them fit for the presence of a holy God (Romans 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). God now sees them as being 'in Christ', and accepts them not because of anything they have done, but because of what Christ has done through his death and resurrection (Romans 3:27-28; Romans 4:24-25; Philippians 3:9).

Only through the work of Jesus Christ is God able to be righteous in justifying those who have faith in him. Jesus bore their sins in his body on the cross, so that God can give his righteousness to them (Romans 3:24-26; 1 Peter 2:24). And once God has declared them righteous, no one can condemn them as sinners or even lay a charge against them (Romans 8:33-34). God does all this freely by his grace, his good favour which they do not deserve (Romans 3:24; Titus 2:11; Titus 3:4-7).

## **Suggested Lesson Outline**

### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs      “I AM A CHRISTIAN”

I am a C

I am a C-H-

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.



“Jesus Is In Me”

Jesus is in me, and Jesus is in you  
Jesus is in us for he loves us  
Jesus is in me and Jesus is in you  
Jesus is in us for he loves us.

**Learning Time**

*Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Divide the class into two groups. Let them read the biblical text within their group. Tell the groups to underline the phrases or statements that says about the beliefs that the church has embraced even up to now. Let them write it down on a bond paper. Post their answers on the board and group the similar answers.

Examples:

Salvation if found in no one else.	the righteous will live by faith
Are justified freely by his grace	Since we are justified through faith
Go and make disciples off all nations	All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching

*Lessons Learned*

Ask the learners

a. What characteristic of the reformed church does the statement belong to?

MISSIONARY	CHRIST-CENTERED	BIBLICALLY GROUNDED	STATEMENT OF BELIEFS
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*Applying the Lessons Learned*

Tell the learners to identify the characteristics of a reformed church which they think are present in their local church. Let them explain their choices.

Let them go back to their small groups. Tell each group to list down the things they wanted their church to be reformed of/from. Have each group

share their lists. Ask them how could they can help change things/ ways in their church for the better.

### **Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “The righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.” Romans 3:22

Offering

Closing Song “A United and Uniting Church”

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 244

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.

Come, let’s reclaim together the vision of the pioneers  
To serve beyond all burdens, reach out to one and all  
In obedience to God’s divine will, we seek for the Reign of God.

Closing Prayer

May the characteristics of a reformed church continue to shine in our church today with the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, O Lord. As we depart from each other, we bring with us the message that we can be of help to make changes in the church. amen.

*Lesson 12: What do we mean by “reforming church”?*

**Mission Sunday**

First Sunday in Kingdomtide

August 23, 2020

**General Concept:** The UCCP as a reforming church continues to uphold changes in accordance to God’s word and the call of times.

**Biblical References:** Isaiah 48: 18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Luke 5:37

### **Age Level Concepts**

- Our church is a reforming church.
- Our church is reforming in accordance to God’s word.
- We participate in the work of reforming our church.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Tell the meaning of the word “reforming”

- Demonstrate the concept of being a “reforming church”
- Ask God’s help in reforming the church

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

### **Biblical Background**

Isaiah 48:18-19

God has been very patient with his people. He likens his work with them to that of a refiner, who puts silver in the fire to burn up the rubbish and leave the metal pure. In the same way God has 'refined' the people of Israel, but they have proved worthless. However, for the sake of his own honour, God does not destroy them (9-11).

The God who called Israel to be his people still looks after them. The God who made the world still controls its history. He brings Cyrus to Babylon to conquer Israel's oppressor and free the captive people (12-15). God has always spoken openly with his people, and now he does so again, by sending his messenger the prophet to make his plans known to them (16).

Because God wanted only the best for his people, he was saddened to see the suffering they had brought on themselves through their stubborn disobedience. If they had paid attention to his instruction, they would have enjoyed unbroken peace and prosperity (17-19). God is now delighted that they are about to leave Babylon and return to their land. He will protect and provide for them, but if they want to enjoy peace in their land they must live uprightly (20-22).

2 Corinthians 5:17

Before he became a Christian, Paul had judged Jesus by the standards of the ordinary person of the world, and in so doing had judged him wrongly. Now he no longer judges Jesus, or anyone else, from a merely human standpoint, because in Christ he sees everything in a new light. Old attitudes go and new attitudes replace them (16-17).

This changing from the old to the new is done by God through Jesus Christ. It is part of the total work that God does as he reconciles people to himself, and turns sinners into his friends. Having reconciled them, God then sends them out to preach the message of reconciliation to others, so that other sinners might be brought to God (18-20)

Luke 5:37

Jesus reminded his hearers that, now that he had come, they should not expect to continue the old traditions of the Jewish religion. He had not come to repair, improve or update Judaism. Judaism was useless, worn out, finished. Jesus brought something

that was entirely new. Judaism was like an old worn out coat that could not be mended; it was like a brittle old wineskin that could not stand the pressure of new wine (Mark 2:21-22; Luke 5:36-38). Yet the Pharisees preferred their old worn out religion (Luke 5:39). (The Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

## **Suggested Lesson Outline**

### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs “When the Spirit of the Lord” Children Praise God, 203

When the spirit of the Lord is in our hearts,  
We can sing like Mary sang.  
When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts  
We can sing like Mary sang.

We can sing O Lord, we can sing O Lord  
We can sing like Mary sang,  
We can sing O Lord, we can sing O Lord  
We can sing like Mary sang.

- we can preach like Peter preached
- we can lead like Moses led
- we can change like Zachhaeus changed

“It Could Be a Wonderful World” Children Praise God, 187

If each little child could have fresh milk each day,  
If each working man have enough time to play,  
If each homeless person have some place to stay  
It could be a wonderful world.

If we could consider each other  
A neighbor, or sister or brother  
It could be a wonderful, wonderful world,  
It could be a wonderful world.

Opening Prayer

We praise you God for the opportunity of letting us come together for learning and fellowship with each other. Guide us as we study and our teacher as s/he instructs in understanding your message for us. Open our hearts and minds to your voice speaking to us through our Sunday School. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### **Learning Time**

### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Divide the class into three groups. Assign each group a biblical text and tell them to answer the questions assigned to them.

#### *Group 1 - Isaiah 48: 18-19*

- What are the things that God remind the people of?
- What could have been the consequences if people changed by following God's word?

#### *Group 2 - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

- What is expected from a person who is in Christ?
- What is the consequence when one becomes new?
- What does this mean to a believer in Christ?

#### *Group 3 - Luke 5:37*

- What did Jesus use to teach about change?
- Why was it necessary to change the old wineskin with the new one?
- What happens to the old wineskin?

Let each group share their answers.

### *Lessons Learned*

A. Unlock the Word. Based on the biblical text discussed, ask the learners, "What does the word "reforming" means?" Let the learners respond.

*Reforming means* to put or change into an improved form or condition; to improve or change of form by removal of faults and abuses; or to put an end to evil ways by introducing a better method or course of action.

*Reforming* could also mean to continually change things or ways according to the need of times.

B. MIME. Divide the class into three groups. Tell each group to give a presentation through mime on how does the church continue to change in the various aspects of its life.

Group 1- Worship life

Group 2 - Mission life

Group 3- Teaching/Study life

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

Give each learner a piece of bond paper (cut in half). Tell them to write on the paper how they can help the church as it continue reforming or change for the better. Do not let them explain their answers. Tell them to post their paper on the board for everybody to see.

### **Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Offering

Closing Song       ”Time to Change”

It’s time for us to make our dreams come true  
A guiding voice will tell us what to do  
It’s the time to change ourselves and show the world  
That we still care for all and we’ll lead them there.

Closing Prayer ( The teacher may lead in prayer taking into focus the resolutions of the learners on how to help the church change for the better.)

### ***Lesson 13: Why do we need to continuously reform?***

Second Sunday in Kingdomtide

August 30, 2020

**General Concept:** The UCCP continues to reform itself in order to be relevant and responsive to the challenges of these changing times.

**Biblical References:** 1 Corinthians 13:9-11; Jeremiah 26:12-13

### **Age Level Concepts**

- Our church is changing to effectively respond to the challenges of times.
- Our church make changes in itself to effectively respond to the needs of its members.
- We feel proud for the changes that happen in our church.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Articulate the reasons for the church to continually change itself
- List down the advantages of changing continuously as needed and vice versa
- Affirm the changes that happen in the church

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

### **Biblical Background**

1 Corinthians 13:9-11

This text is related to the discussion of various gifts mentioned by Paul which could render useless if it is not used with love. The various gifts are temporary and imperfect, for they are limited to life in the present world. But love is permanent, and endures into the age to come (8-10). The gifts Christians exercise are likened to the changing abilities and capacities in the life of a growing child, but love is likened to the maturity of adulthood (11). In the present world Christians have only a limited understanding of eternal things. Their view of the age to come is unclear. When face to face with Christ they will know these things clearly, just as God knows them clearly (12). The important issue for Christians is not the display of their spiritual gifts, but the exercise of faith, hope, and above all, love (13). (The Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

Paul is introducing the idea that believers should not remain child-like in the exercise of their faith and witness but should undergo changes as it grows to maturity in its life and practice.

Jeremiah 26: 12-13

Again Jeremiah went to the temple, where he could preach to people who came from all over Judah to worship. He stood in the open court and urged the worshippers to give up their sinful ways and return to God (26:1-3). If they refused, the temple would be demolished, as the tabernacle had been at Shiloh several centuries earlier (4-6; see notes on 7:1-15; cf. also 19:14-20:6).

Religious officials and ordinary citizens alike were so angered at Jeremiah's words that a riot threatened to develop and Jeremiah was in serious physical danger (7-9). When the city officials rushed to the temple to intervene in the crisis, the leaders among the crowd demanded that Jeremiah be executed (10-11).

Jeremiah defended himself by pointing out that he had only been speaking the message God gave him. His real desire was that the people repent, for only by such action would they save themselves and their temple from destruction (12-15). The city officials accepted his defence (16). Other respected leaders supported them, adding that instead of trying to kill the prophet, people should take notice of his warnings. If they changed their ways, they would save themselves from disaster. In this they would be following the good example of a former Judean king, Hezekiah, who heeded the prophet of his day (17-19; cf. [Micah 3:12](#)).

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

## Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs "Not My Brother nor My Sister"

Children Praise God, 51

Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me O God,  
Standing in the need of prayer;  
Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me O God  
Standing in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, it's me O God, standing in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, it's me O God, standing in the need of prayer.

"It Takes a Lot of Growing"

Children Praise God, 185

It takes a lot of growing for a tree to reach the sky  
It takes a lot of rain to let it grow  
It takes a lot of running for a child to catch the wind  
It takes a lot of walking to learn to run.  
Yes, I'm growing in Jesus, growing stronger  
Each and everyday in every way, cause Jesus is growing in me.

Opening Prayer

Despite the threat to our lives because of the pandemic, we are grateful O Lord to wake up knowing that You have brought us to a new day, a new hope, new gift of life and new opportunity of embracing your love and mercy. Thank you for friends and family and this moment of bringing us together to study and learn. Amen

## Learning Time

*Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group a biblical text. Tell the groups that instead of explaining the text, they are to present it through a role play.

Group 1 - 1 Corinthians 13:9-11

Group 2 - Jeremiah 26:12-13

Give them 5 minutes to practice and 5 minutes to present. After the presentations, ask the following:

- a. What happens if the people of God refuse to change their ways?
- b. What should be the goal of all believers in the practice of their faith?



*Lessons Learned*

ADVANTAGE VS DISADVANTAGE. Draw a two-column graph on the board, one for the advantages and the other the disadvantages of change in the church.

Example:

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
- more room to grow - church is alive and active - action is timely	- no permanence, always moving - cause confusion - disrupt what is already established

Say: “The UCCP as a reforming church continues to uphold change to be able respond to the needs of the members and to the needs of the community outside its four walls. As time and situations change, the church is confronted with the challenge to make its faith expression and mission responsive and relevant. Hence, the church needs to be creative and innovative in its responses through its programs and ministries.

*Applying the Lessons Learned*

Write the provision taken from *Article 2 section 2 of the Constitution and By-Laws of UCCP*, on a cartolina and let the learners decorate it. Hang it on the wall of the classroom for all to see.

***Section 2. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines affirms its Protestant heritage as a reformed and reforming church.***

**Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God.” Jeremiah 26:13a

Offering

Closing Song        ”It Takes a Lot of Growing”  
Children Praise God, 185

It takes a lot of growing for a tree to reach the sky  
It takes a lot of rain to let it grow  
It takes a lot of running for a child to catch the wind  
It takes a lot of walking to learn to run.  
Yes, I’m growing in Jesus, growing stronger  
Each and everyday in every way,  
Cause Jesus is growing in me.

Recite section 2 of the Declaration of Principles

Closing Prayer

Dear God, if we cannot be brilliant, let us be kind. If we cannot change the world, let us inspire just one other to do so. If we cannot give away riches, let us be loving. Let us your body be known for kindness, for it is the greatest glory. May your name be praise for the change we make. Amen

#### *Lesson 14: Why is UCCP a united church?*

##### CEN Sunday

Third Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 06, 2020

**General Concept:** We are united because we have a common mission to proclaim Christ and our unity gives credibility to our witness and service.

**Biblical References:** Psalms 133:1; Ephesians 4:3; John 17:21

#### **Age Level Concepts**

- Our church is a united church
- Our church comes from different denominations that united together
- We pray and help to keep the unity of our church

#### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Tell why UCCP is a united church
- Name the denominations that united together to become UCCP
- Thank God for the unity achieved and ask help to keep it

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])  
song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, bond paper, markers,  
Manila paper/cartolina, colored papers

#### **Biblical Background**

Psalms 133:1

The psalmist rejoices to see Israelites from all parts of the country worshipping together in unity in Jerusalem. He considers it a precious sight, having a pleasantness that he likens to the perfume of the sweet-smelling oils used to anoint Israel's high priest. It has a freshness like the dew that falls on Mount Hermon (133:1-3).

Ephesians 4:3-5

People in the church come from various racial, cultural and social backgrounds, but they must not allow these differences to spoil the unity that God has created in the church (3). After all, they hold all the important things in common. They are indwelt by the same Spirit, they own the same Jesus as Lord and they are children of the same heavenly Father. As fellow members of the same body, the church, they have

experienced the same baptism, share the same faith and look forward to the same salvation (4-6).

John 17:21

In the final part of his prayer, Jesus prays for those who will believe through the preaching of that initial group of disciples and so become God's new people, the Christian church. He prays that the same unity as exists between the Father and the Son will bind the believers together, so that through them others too will believe ([John 17:20-23](#)). (*The Bridgeway Bible Commentary*)

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs "Higala Tang Tanan" Children Praise God, 161

Higala ko ikaw, higala mo ako

Ay, ay kaniadto ba, higala tang tanan.

Kaibigan ko ikaw, kaibigan mo ako

Ay, ay atong saya kung kaibigan lahat.

I'm glad to be your friend, I'm glad you are my friend

Oh, oh I am so happy that we are friends.

"We're All Together Again" Children Praise God, 172

We're all together again, we're here, we're here

We're all together again, we're here, we're here.

Who knows when we'll be all together again

Singing all together again, we're here, we're here!

Opening Prayer

We wake up in the morning with glad and grateful hearts. For you sent us to a restful sleep and brought us to very hopeful day. With these blessings, we come with humble hearts. Be with us today in our Sunday School. Bless everyone present here today and even with those who cannot be with us. Amen

#### **Getting Ready**

Cut-out Activity. Give out colored papers (5 colors)- yellow, blue, red, green and purple. Out of the colored papers, tell the learners to cut out human figures. Make sure that the learners won't take up much time doing this. Limit time to 5 minutes.

#### **Learning Time**

*Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Divide the class into three. Assign each group a biblical text. Let them read it silently. After a given time, tell the groups to complete the sentence based on their readings.

- a. Unity means \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. God is pleased when \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. We all have the same \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. In unity, there is \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. We need to be one because \_\_\_\_\_.

Let each group be given time to complete the sentence.

### *Lessons Learned*

A Brief Story about UCCP.

Our church, the UCCP, was formed on May 25 1948 in an assembly held in Ellinwood Malate Church in Manila. The churches who joined the assembly were: first, the Evangelical Church of the Philippines (whose members were the ***Church of the Disciples of Christ*** and segments of the IEMELIF – ***Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas***); second, the United Evangelical Church (whose members were the ***Presbyterian Church***, the ***Congregationalist Church***, and the ***United Brethren Church***); and third, the Philippine Methodist Church (a split from the Methodist Episcopal Church). During the assembly, the leaders and representatives from these different churches agreed to unite and form the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

This is the reason why we say that our church is composed of many churches, but are united for a common mission to proclaim Christ.

COLLAGE. On a cartolina or Manila paper, ask the learners to paste their human figure cut-out with 5 different colors. Those of the same color should be pasted side by side. Human figures should form a circle. On the center, write UCCP. Each color represents the denominations which joined to form a united church. Learners may label each color the name of the denomination.

Hang or post the collage on the wall of the classroom.

### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

Tell the learners to express their affirmations by completing the sentence,

“ I am proud I belong to UCCP because \_\_\_\_\_.”

## **Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred  
live together in unity!” Psalms 133:1

Offering

Closing Song       ”Christian Unity” Children Praise God,53

Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, that our life shall be  
Living channels of faith and love, Christian unity  
Bless, O Christ we humbly pray, this our Christian unity  
So our faith and love shall be following your way.

Closing Prayer ( the teacher may print this so that learners can read  
altogether)

Help us Lord, to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace in our homes and church communities,  
and give us grace we pray, to diligently seek after all those things  
that are well-pleasing in Your sight, so that we may live in unity, one  
with the other, to Your praise and glory. In Jesus' name we pray,

(Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-Unity-in-the-Church#925>)

### *Lesson 15: What are the manifestations of our being a united church?*

#### Children’s Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 13, 2020

**General Concept:** The UCCP being a united church is manifested in its collective  
confession, in its common practices despite diverse heritage; in its common vision,  
mission and goals; polity and programs.

**Biblical References :** Exodus 20: 1-10; Philippians 2:1-7; Ephesians 2:19-21

#### **Age Level Concepts**

- Our church’s unity is seen through its own Statement of Faith, its programs, through  
its VMG and laws.
- Our church is able to integrate practices and traditions from the different churches.
- We affirm the unity of our church.

#### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Identify the traditions, practices, programs, and other expressions of being a  
united church.
- Distinguish the practices and traditions that are incorporated and integrated in the  
united church.

- Appreciate the prayer of UCCP found in the Constitution and By-Laws of the church.

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV])  
song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, bond paper, markers,  
Manila paper/cartolina, colored papers

### **Biblical Background**

Exodus 20:1-10

After the introduction came the basic covenant obligations, summarized in ten easily remembered commandments. These were not laws in the legal sense, for they carried no penalties. Rather they were the principles on which the nation's laws would be built and by which the nation should live.

Ephesians 2: 19-21

For centuries there had been bitterness and tension between Jews and Gentiles, mainly because of the way proud Jews looked down on Gentiles. Jews had circumcision as the sign that they were God's people; Gentiles did not. Because they were not God's people, Gentiles enjoyed none of Israel's privileges through the covenants and promises. They had no hope for a Messiah and no knowledge of God (11-12). The Jews, having been chosen to receive God's law, considered themselves close to God but the Gentiles far from him. They did not even allow Gentiles into the holiest part of the temple. It was as if a solid wall separated the two. But Christ, through his death, broke down this wall, abolished the offensive law and commandments, destroyed the hatred and made peace (13-16).

No longer are the 'near' Jews more privileged than the 'far off' Gentiles. In Christ there is no longer a distinction between Jews and Gentiles, for all who believe are God's people. All have equal status as citizens of God's heavenly city, all are members of his family, and all come into his presence through the one Spirit (17-19). The new temple in which God dwells is not a building like the old Jewish temple. It is a spiritual dwelling place. Apostles and prophets form the foundation, other believers form the main building, and all is built around and built into Christ (20-22).

Philippians 2:1-7

Paul gives four reasons why Christians should have greater unity between them: the encouragement given them by Christ; the power of Christ's love working in them; the common sharing they have in the same Spirit; and the sympathetic kindness that God's children should show to each other. Although the Philippians bring Paul much joy, that joy will not be complete till there is genuine unity among them (2:1-2). They are not to be concerned solely with their own spiritual progress, for this can lead to self-satisfaction and pride. They must learn to look for and admire the good points in others (3-4)

## Suggested Lesson Outline

### Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Songs "Masayang Magkakasama" Children Praise God,58

Masayang magkakasama, magkakasama, magkakasama  
Masayang magkakasama, tayo'y maligaya.  
Kaibigan mo'y kaibigan ko, kaibigan ko'y kaibigan ko,  
Masayang magkakasama, tayo'y maligaya,

"We Are One In Community" Children Praise God,56

We are one in community, united by the Spirit  
And bound with freedom and love, we are called to be  
Brothers, sisters, family; We are bound in Jesus Christ  
In him we work and praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
The Good News of salvation proclaimed in words and deeds.

### Opening Prayer

We call on your name O Lord because we need you. As we enter into another session of our study, we ask for your Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may truly hear your message through our lesson today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Learning Time

#### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

*Questions in the Box.* The teacher needs to write the questions on pieces of paper, place it in the box before the class starts.

Tell the learners to read the biblical texts silently. After a given time, sing the first 2 lines of "Masayang Magkakasama" while the box is passed around. As the song stops, whoever is holding the box will get a piece of paper from the box and has to answer the question written on it.

Questions:

- a. Why do you think was the reason God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites? (To unite them as God's people and remind them of their relationship with God)

- b. In Exodus 20, what is that one event that is common among them? (Liberation from bondage with God's help)
- c. Who are referred to as no longer aliens but members of God's household? (The Gentiles)
- d. Why should Gentiles and Jews unite themselves? (Because they now belong to the church- the household of God which was built by the apostles in the name of Jesus Christ)
- e. In whose name was the church built and joined together? (Jesus Christ)
- f. How should Christians show their unity? ( of same mind, in full accord, same love, regard others with humility, not conceited, no selfish ambition, look at the interests of others, live a life like Christ, give oneself for others)

*Lessons Learned*

Show this graph to the learners. Better yet, write it on a Manila paper so that everyone can clearly see it. Tell them that these are examples of the traditions and practices that were incorporated when the denominations joined together to become a united church.

Congregational Church	Presbyterian Church	Church of the Disciples of Christ	United Brethren	Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas/ the Philippine Methodist Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The congregation is the highest decision making body of the church.</li> <li>● Emphasizes on the autonomy of the local church.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ruling elders/presbyters govern the local congregation / church (</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Local churches should be independent and autonomous.</li> <li>● Church membership should be based on the New Testament.</li> <li>● Call themselves as</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopted a simple church organization and adopted the Methodist polity</li> <li>● Started to Self-support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Government of local church is Episcopal in nature, which is governed by the bishops or overseers.</li> <li>● Bishop has the highest authority over the affairs of the local church.</li> </ul>



		Brotherhood rather than denomination.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christian character is the measure of church membership.</li> <li>● Christ is the center of worship and the Bible as sufficient rule of faith.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Practice simple form of worship.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jesus Christ is the only Lord and Savior.</li> <li>● Adult baptism</li> <li>● Practice foot washing</li> <li>● Celebrates communion every week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopted Methodist practice and beliefs</li> <li>● Singing is their distinguishing mark like the Methodist.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Believes that a sinner is justified before God by faith alone</li> <li>● Practice strict study of the Bible and worship</li> <li>● Singing is a distinguishing mark</li> <li>● Hymns are one of the vehicles of their beliefs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Built hospitals in Mindanao and started literacy among adults which is later called Adult Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build school in Visayas like Silliman Institute and hospital in Ilo-ilo.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Established schools and schools in North Luzon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Started Women's Bible Training School, organized Christian Endeavour Societies and Tithers League</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Established schools in the North</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Undertook extensive evangelistic work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Influential in the rise and growth of ecumenical movement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missionary-minded and deeply interested in ecumenism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missionary-minded and good in literacy education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missionary-minded and deeply interested in education</li> </ul>

*(Taken from the study material "Reclaiming Our dynamic Heritage: renewing our Commitment to Mission and Unity)*

Encourage the learners to ask questions regarding these practices and traditions. But it is important to teach them that after the churches joined together as UCCP, they agreed to *”preserve all of the heritage of faith brought into the Union by each of the Constituent Churches and hereby declare as our common faith and message: Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, our Lord and Saviour. (Article III, Basis of Union, May 25, 1948) and congregations may follow their customary practices and worship. (Article IV, Basis of Union, May 25, 1948)*

*Applying the Lessons Learned*

Know the Acronyms. After discussing the traditions and practices, ask the learners to fill in the acronyms of the different ministries, programs and organizations that manifest the unity of the church:

CEN -

CM-

ECD-

JPHR-

PER-

CSRD-

UCM-

CWA-

CYF-

CYAF-

UCWO-

VMG-

SOF-

**Closing Worship**

Memorize the key verse: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Jesus Christ.” Philippians 2:5

Offering

Closing Song "We Are One In Community" Children Praise God, 56  
We are one in community, united by the Spirit  
And bound with freedom and love, we are called to be  
Brothers, sisters, family; We are bound in Jesus Christ  
In him we work and praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
The Good News of salvation proclaimed in words and deeds.

Closing Prayer (Write this prayer on a Manila paper or cartolina. Tell the learners that this is the UCCP Prayer for unity and commitment. Let the learners read it aloud. This prayer is found in the Constitution and By-Laws of UCCP. Hang it on the wall for all to see.

### PRAYER

O gracious God, behold your people. You have called us to remain in covenant with you and with one another.

From the beginning you have always been the solid foundation of the Church. Your providence has been our shelter in the storms of life; your strength our stay as we pursued the vision of our founding parents for a united and uniting, reformed and transforming Church.

You have given us diversity of heritage in our union - which has enriched our capacity for witness and reconciliation as a community of faith.

As we renew this covenant,

May your Spirit guide us into greater sensitivity, openness of hearts and minds, and a truly creative response to the challenges of our time;

May the guidance, blessing and the empowering presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, be upon us, even as we strive to be faithful to the true spirit of the covenant we today have forged anew.

Grant, we beseech you, O God, that this symbol of our resolve for greater service may be accompanied by your most assuring love and mercy.

To you alone we give glory and honor, knowing you are the Author of all perfect wisdom and truth.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

