

Lesson 16 :Why is UCCP a “uniting church”?

Youth Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 20, 2020

General Concept: The UCCP is a uniting church because we continue to seek organic union, as well as conciliar union, with other faith communities.

Biblical References: Luke 9:49-50; John 17: 21-23

Key Verse: “Do not stop him, “Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.” Luke 9: 50

Age Level Concepts

- Our church continues to connect and relate with other churches.
- We continue to seek union with other faith communities in doing God’s mission

Learning Objectives

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

- Tell the meaning and significance of being a “uniting church”.
- Identify different churches with whom the UCCP relates/connects with
- Enumerate areas of concerns or ministries of UCCP with other faith communities, as expressions of unity.

Materials: Bible, Song chart, Offering plate, pictures of different UCCP activities with other churches, paper, pens, etc.

Biblical Background

Luke 9:49-50

In this passage, John (Jesus’s disciple) reports to Jesus about someone driving out demons in Jesus’s name. When he saw what the man did, John rebuked and tried to stop him because he is not one of them. Jesus reprimanded John by reminding him not stop them from doing good things, for whoever is not against Jesus’ doing is not against them. Jesus gave a clear concept of being one or united in the service of the people. Jesus is clear in his statement that whoever do good works/services is not an enemy of Jesus and the disciples should not hinder them for their doing is not against Jesus’s teachings and purpose. *“If people do acts of kindness to others, and do them with the right motives, God will reward them no matter how insignificant those acts may appear”.* (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

John 17: 21-23

This Bible text is about Jesus’s prayer calling for unity and cooperation of all believers as a part of the body of Christ. Jesus had high hope that the believers will “become one” just as God and Jesus is one. In his prayer, Jesus intercedes for the believers to attain the same unity between God and the Son, that in so doing, others may believe that there is only One God. Unity and being one as believers of the body of Christ becomes a concrete expression of the unity of the triune God. The unity of all believers and the cooperation they share in the service to the people becomes proof that they are true followers and disciples of Jesus Christ.

The church, regardless of affiliation/denomination, must adhere to Jesus’s prayer of unity in their mission to the world. The world will believe that God is One when all believers and followers will live out their faith!

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Learning a Song: "A United and Uniting Church"

Refrain:

A united and uniting church, that we may all be one
Reformed and transforming in mission and in faith
Onward U-C-C-P, Building God's kingdom of peace!

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

Come let's reclaim together of 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. (Refrain)

Come, dreamers, visionaries, examples of true witnesses,
Leaving the trace of footprints; for people to tread on
With a burning faith and commitment,
proclaiming God's message of love. (Refrain)

Getting Ready

Introduction to the Lesson

"Word Study/Word Association" - Uniting and United

Ask the learners to give their ideas or understanding or association of the words -united and uniting. As they hear the word united and uniting, what words do they have in mind?

Give them strips of paper where to write their answers. Instruct them to tuck or tape the papers on the board. Let them share and discuss the meaning of each word to the whole class.

Example: UNITED

Togetherness

Oneness

Bonded

Tied as One

UNITING

On the process of being One

Building relationship

Kept as One

These are the words that should be remembered in today's lesson. These words are important to our church since these describe the true nature of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

The UCCP, since its unity in 1948 from 5 different denominations, adheres to the prayer and intercession of Jesus that the believers/churches may become one, as God, whom we believe, is One! But being united in the past years, does not mean that we stop the endeavors. Our principle to be "united and uniting", summons us to continue the cause for unity in all aspects of our church life, with

other churches and organizations, guided by the ideals of service (mission-task) to the whole of God's creation.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Exploring the Biblical Text - Luke 9:49-50 and John 17: 21-23

Allow learners to explore the biblical text. Group them into two and assign a passage to each group. Let them study and reflect on the message of the texts. Ask them to analyze, reflect on, and write the central message and meaning of the texts:

- a. What do the verses suggest in obtaining unity among people/believers?
- b. What values or traits one must possess to pursue unity?

Lessons Learned

Listening to a Story.

“Lessons Learned”

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?”

“It was great, Dad.” “Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked.

“Oh yeah,” said the son. “So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?” asked the father.

The son answered: “I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.”

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, “Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are.”

Reference: <https://www.moralstories.org/lesson-learned-by-son/>

Discussion-Sharing

Guide Questions:

- a. What was the story all about? What is its content?
- b. What did the boy, in the story, learn?
- c. How would you connect the lesson about “united or uniting” in this story?
- d. In what ways are people “united or uniting”?

Synthesis: No matter how rich people are or may believe that they have obtained all the wealth in this world, without recognizing that they still need others and learn from them, still, life is empty. We can learn great things and find meaning, when we share the wonders and abundance of the world, with others. The richness and meaning of life rest on the diversity of experiences and realities in life. After sharing their responses, the teacher will share the UCCP's statement about her endeavor towards unity.

Explain these policy statements to the learners are simple and concise as possible:

The UCCP's Policy Statement of Ecumenical View and Relationships (General Assembly May 20-24, 1986)

The statement clearly states that the *UCCP is open to the spirit of new ecumenism* which goes the traditional denominational lines to the new and progressive sectoral groupings. It's objective is not primarily the survival of the churches but *the welfare of Filipino masses especially those most depressed and oppressed*.

With the above understanding and spirit, the UCCP adopts the following policy statements:

“For a more united and effective Christian witness and service of the Christian churches, the UCCP relates herself with some churches and denominations and world confessional bodies through the framework and structures of the National Council of Churches (NCCP), World Council of Churches (WCC), Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), and World Methodist Council (WMC). These relationships are defined in the constitution and by-laws Memorandum of Agreements and Concordat adopted by these churches. The NCCP-member churches with which the UCCP relates are the following: Philippine Independent Church (PIC), United Methodist Church (UMC), Lutheran Church of the Philippines (LCP), Salvation Army Church (SAC), Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC), Philippine Episcopal Church (PEC), Iglesia Evangelica Metodista en las Islas Filipinas (IEMELIF), Iglesia Unida de Cristo (UNIDA), and the Christ-Centered Church (CCC)”.

POLICY STATEMENT ON ECUMENICAL RELATIONS Council of Bishops 1986

“The UCCP is open to the spirit of new ecumenism which goes beyond the traditional denominational lines. This new ecumenism has come out of the Church's ministry in identity and solidarity with the people's struggle for justice, peace, and freedom. Its main objective is the restoration of the individual to full humanhood and the transformation of society to usher in the Kingdom of God”.

In the ecumenical effort, partner churches are given the provision to work on mutual programs/projects as expressions of ministry to respond and serve the common good of the people. They may also conduct ecumenical activities and gatherings provided the activities are truly ecumenical in nature, content, agreed upon, planned together and participated in by the churches concerned.

Reference: UCCP Statements and Resolutions

<http://website.informer.com/visit?domain=uccpchurch.com>

Applying the Lessons Learned

Assignment for the Collage Project:

Title: Unity in Doing Mission”

Instruct the learners to bring pictures from the church's album or from the members showing activities or efforts of unity. Let them create a collage with a title: “Unity in Doing Mission”. The pictures

should display the church's activities with other churches (UCCP or non) in the community or other places. This project could be a month-long activity. Encourage the learners to add in new picture/s every time the class meets.

Closing Worship

Song "A United and Uniting Church"
Recitation of Key Verse
Offertory
Closing Prayer – by the teacher

Lesson 17: Where do we base the UCCP doctrines and beliefs?

Fellowship of the Least Coin Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 27, 2020

General Concept: The doctrines and beliefs of the UCCP are based on the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Scripture.

Biblical References: Matthew 16: 13-20; 2 Timothy 3:16

Age Level Concepts

- Our doctrines and beliefs are based on the Holy Scripture
- We affirm and practice the doctrines and beliefs of our church

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, learners are expected to

- List down some basic doctrines and beliefs of UCCP
- Cite some Bible verses where UCCP based her basic doctrines and beliefs.
- Connect the Bible verses to life situations as they are guided by the doctrines and beliefs of UCCP.

Materials: Bible, song chart, strips of paper with bible verses, container, copies of the UCCP Statement of Faith, Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, Magna Carta, Statements and Resolutions, Hymnal of Faith Journey and Constitution and By-Laws, Offering Plate, Papers and Pens, copies of the Wise Sayings.

Biblical Background

Matthew 16: 13-20

The event happened when Jesus and his disciples entered the coasts of Caesarea Philippi. There are two basic questions that Jesus asked about his identity. Jesus wanted to hear, both from the public and from his disciples, their personal knowledge about Jesus. The basic question Jesus asked, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" and "Who do you (disciples) say I am?" The disciples reported what did the people say; some said John the Baptist, others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." When Jesus asked his disciples about their reply, Peter said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus recognized and bless Peter for such revelation, for it was not revealed by anyone in flesh, but by God, the Almighty. For this reason, Jesus gave Peter authority and leadership in the church built on solid foundations that the powers of this world could not outstrip.

This event is quite significant, especially to Jesus and believers, to clarify the issue of his true identity and the assurance that people are devoted to the One and True God, and not to the gods (kings) created by the Roman Empire.

This passage gives enlightenment on the basic teachings about Jesus and our belief about Jesus. During this time, believing on Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the Living God is an outward denial and rejection of the authority and power of the kings, since they believe that kings were God-sent.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

This particular passage is part of Paul's letter to Timothy, a young church worker of his time. Here, Paul was discussing to Timothy basic doctrines of the church reminding him that *the more we know the doctrine of the church (through Jesus Christ), the more diligently we shall embrace it.* (Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary). Here, the fundamental belief about the Bible is mentioned, "the Bible is given by inspiration of God" and this inspiration, considered as a divine revelation, comes with authority, truth, goodness, meaning and significance to the life and work of believers. As the scripture conveys, it has various uses and responds to different life purposes and ends; it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction of all errors and for instructions in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is our confession, that the bible is a faithful witness to God's revelation as we believe that this contains the story of God's love, grace, and salvation to the whole of creation.

Suggested Lesson Outline

(Teacher's Preparation)

Before the class starts, the teacher has to prepare several bible passages for the day's lesson. Print the bible verses on strips of paper and put those in a container and set aside.

On a piece of paper, prepare short and familiar life situations of children that they have to resolve using the given bible verses guided by the doctrines and beliefs of UCCP. The teacher needs to prepare copies of the Basic UCCP documents (please ask the Church Workers to provide) such as UCCP Statement of Faith, Apostle's Creed or Nicene Creed, Magna Carta, Statements and Resolutions, Hymnal of Faith Journey and Constitution and By-Laws (whatever is available).

Also, the teacher has to prepare, copies of "Wise Sayings" to be distributed during the introduction of the lesson. The answer key is available as the teacher's guide in checking the correct answer.

Greeting Time

Arrival and Greetings

As soon as the learners arrive, ask them to help the teacher prepare the materials for the session. Let them browse copies of the UCCP's Basic Documents, just to let them be aware of the materials. When most of the learners arrive, greet them, and let them greet each other. Lead them to sing greeting or fellowship songs to set the atmosphere of the session.

After the singing, ask a learner to lead the opening prayer.

Getting Ready

Activity: **"Wise Sayings"**

To introduce the lesson of the day, ask the students to quickly answer the “Wise Sayings” questionnaire. Distribute the copies and follow the instructions indicated. Give the learners at least 5-8 minutes to answer. The answer’s key is provided to guide the teacher of the correct answer.

WISE SAYINGS
Which of these wise sayings are from the Bible?

Bible	Not	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. A penny saved is a penny earned
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Bad company corrupts good character
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. It is better to be silent and thought a fool than to open your mouth and prove it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. A lie stands on one leg, truth on two.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. It is better to give than to receive.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Cleanliness is next to godliness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Give me liberty or give me death
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. We must obey God rather than men.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. A friend loves at all times.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Haste makes waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. A word rightly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Smile and the whole world smiles with you.

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WISE SAYINGS
Which of these wise sayings are from the Bible?

Bible	Not	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. A penny saved is a penny earned
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Bad company corrupts good character (1 Corinthians 15:33)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. It is better to be silent and thought a fool than to open your mouth and prove it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. A lie stands on one leg, truth on two.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. It is better to give than to receive. (Acts 20: 35)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Cleanliness is next to godliness.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Give me liberty or give me death
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5: 29)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. A friend loves at all times. (Proverbs 17: 17)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22: 6)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12. Haste makes waste.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (Proverbs 14: 12)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. A word rightly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. (Proverbs 25: 11)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered. (Proverbs 22: 24)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16. Smile and the whole world smiles with you.

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Reference: <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/activities/wise-sayings>

The objective of the activity is to motivate the learners to familiarize Bible verses which they could use in their daily lives. Let them know that the Bible is full of verses that would guide believers in their daily undertakings. Our life is guided by the teachings and instructions found in the Bible. The teachings in the Bible do not only guide our life personally but even as a church. UCCP’s basic teachings and beliefs were founded and grounded in the Bible. We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and that the teachings, therein, could be used to guide, illumine, and correct our ways to live out a life worthy before God.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth Matthew 16: 13-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The teacher will explain the passages to the learners. These are some passages where the teachings and beliefs of our church are founded upon. (Refer to the biblical background for information)

The two bible passages are only but a few solid foundations of our faith, teachings, and beliefs. We based our teachings and beliefs on the Holy Scripture that we may be guided as we live out our faith.

Lessons Learned

Introduce to the learners the Basic Documents of the UCCP. These documents were written and studied for use of all UCCP members to have a unified and clearer understanding of the church’s nature and work. The objective is that all the members may have a solid grasp, ownership, and articulation of the basic teachings and beliefs.

Most importantly, these documents were not just a product of the leader’s intelligence and profoundness but from the inspiration and faithfulness of God’s revelation through the Bible.

Divide the learners into 2 groups. Hand in the documents to the learners and let them list down some biblical passages used in the documents as bases of our statements/teachings/beliefs. They may just choose one document each. Let them list down some (3-4) passages each to avoid duplication.

Example:

Document	Bible Verses
Statement of Faith	John 17: 22; Genesis 1: 26-31
	Exodus 3: 20; Mt. 28; Acts 1
	Micah 6:8
Constitution and By-Laws	Luke 4: 18-19
	Ephesians 4: 11-13

Applying the Lessons Learned

“Bible Verse Connection”

From the following life situations, choose from the given passages appropriate teachings/instructions that you may use to respond to the given situation/s. Explain your answer according to the teachings/beliefs of our church.

- a. In your school, you witness an incident of bullying by co-students from a higher level. They kept on teasing the student because of his physical disability. It so happened that one of the bullies was your cousin. What advice will you give to him based on the passage you have chosen below. What’s the basic teaching of the church regarding the situation?
- b. You and your best friend were on your way home. While walking, you were eating your snacks. Suddenly, a beggar came asking for food to be shared with her family. Your friend was so afraid and ask you to stay away from the beggar. How will you react to the situation, considering the bible verse (from below) and the teaching of the church?
- c. You are at the church attending children’s choir practice. You heard your church mates proudly chatting about their versatile talents. They are not only good at singing, but they also have other talents that other children do not possess, so they treat others boastfully. What bible verse and teachings fitting to used to remind them of their attitude?

John 17:22
Ephesians 4: 11-13

Genesis 1: 26-31
1 John 3:23

Micah 6:8
Luke 4: 18-19

Closing Worship

Closing Song ” Thy Word is the Lamp Unto My Feet”

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Amy Lee Grant / Michael Whitaker Smith

Recitation of Key Verse
Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 18: *What doctrines and beliefs are articulated in the historic Christian creeds?*

World Communion Sunday/CYAF Sunday

Seventh Sunday in Kingdomtide

October 04, 2020

General Concept: The doctrines and beliefs of the UCCP that are articulated in the historic Christian creeds are: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, church, sin, judgment, salvation, resurrection, eternal life, and second coming.

Biblical References: Exodus 3: 1-15; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 1:5

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you as well.

Age Level Concepts

- Our doctrines and beliefs are expressed in the Christian creeds
- We affirm and practice the doctrines and beliefs expressed in the Christian creeds

Learning Objectives

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

- Define the important words/beliefs discovered in the Christian creeds.
- Compare and find out the similarities and differences of the basic beliefs expressed in both creeds.
- Tell ways on how to apply or practice the church's doctrines/beliefs on their everyday experiences.

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Copy of the Apostle's Creed and Nicene Creed, Bond Paper, Pens, Kraft or Manila Paper, color pencil or Crayola, offering plate and music player.

Biblical Background

Exodus 3: 1-12 "The Burning Bush"

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sunday School Material 2020-2021
Older Elementary

The setting of the story happened while Moses was tending sheep in Mount Horeb or Mount Sinai. At that very moment, the Unseen God, who was guiding Moses for eighty years, appeared to him. This guiding acts had proven God's mighty and sovereign power. No amount of hiding could Moses execute from God; for God's omniscient power would find him wherever he goes.

God appeared to Moses to use him to deliver the people from slavery in Egypt and bring them to the land that God promised, into the new homeland in Canaan. At first, Moses was hesitant when he thinks of the task at hand, but God gave Moses assurance of divine help in verse 12; *"I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."* When Moses followed and obeyed God, truly, the power and might of God were magnanimously displayed. Moses, the Israelites, and even other peoples and countries who do not believe in God witnessed God's might and power. (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

Psalm 78:1-8

The central message of the chapter is in verses 6-8 that is, that the Israelites would learn to hope and trust God and faithfully keep God's laws, instructions, and covenant. The main and great lesson is for them to keep on passing the laws and teachings to the next generations. They should also keep in mind the practices of their forebears, their stubbornness, and unbelief, which led them to destruction and punishment. God had shown them how their ancestors doubted God's faithfulness and goodness, despite God's great provisions while traversing the long-barren wilderness towards the promised land.

The passage calls on the people to attend to the instructions of God and the lessons learned, which are of utmost importance to the present and future generations.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival

As the children arrive, let them greet each other. Give them time to chat and welcome each other with joy. Allow them to sing greeting and fellowship songs as part of their welcoming. After the greetings, welcoming, and singing, encourage them to read the creeds posted in the Kraft or Manila paper.

Ask them to write words that need clarification/meaning/explanation, in pieces of paper available.

Set aside for later discussion.

Getting Ready

Introduction of the Lesson

Word Definition

Instruct the learners to bring out the papers, where the words were written. Let them form a circle as they are seated. As the music plays, the learners will pass papers clockwise. When the music stops, ask 2-3 learners to read the word written and share their thoughts, definition or views about the word. Repeat the cycle until all the words written were answered and had been clarified. The teacher-facilitator will give added words, especially those important words in the creeds, e.g. God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, church, sin, judgment, salvation, resurrection, eternal life, and second coming.

God = Almighty, Creator of all things, the Supreme Being, the True and One God

Jesus Christ = Savior of the World, the Anointed, the Begotten Son, the Promised Messiah, Emmanuel

Holy Spirit = the Sustainer, the Counsellor, the Helper, the Presence of God in the world, One who equips people of spreading the Gospel.

Church = the community of faith, the body of believers, the body of Christ, the believers

Sin = any thought, word, desire contrary to the law of God; missing the “mark”. Mark means the perfect standard of the divine will; the breaking of relationship with God and with other creation

Judgment = the act of judging; the act or process of the mind in comparing its ideas to find their agreement and disagreement, to ascertain the truth or in examining facts and argument; to ascertain propriety and justice or the process of examining the relations between one proposition and another. (Webster Dictionary)

Salvation = deliverance or preservation from disease, dangers, sufferings, death and the consequences wrongdoing; the act of saving, redemption of person from the bondage of sin.

Resurrection = a rising again; the revival of the dead of the human race; people who died and were brought back to life; an entirely new order of existence, where death has no more power. (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

Eternal life = the newness of life which the believer derives from Christ; the future of the redeemed; the final reward and glory into which the children of God enter. (Easton)

Second coming = Christ’s return and final triumph; the prophesied return of Christ to earth at the Last Judgment.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

The teacher-facilitator will discuss to the learners the summary and lessons learned from the passages. Though the passages do not directly discuss the beliefs, the story and instructions would challenge the learners to give importance to the instructions and continue to adhere to the beliefs and teachings of the church about God, the Almighty!

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,*
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

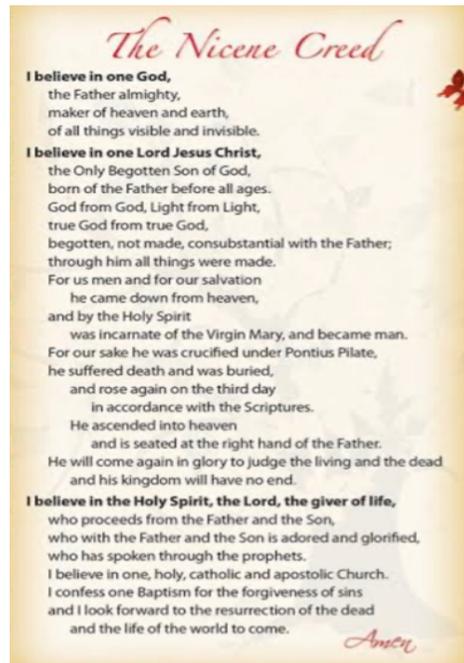
Thamesworth.com

Lessons Learned

Analyze and Compare

Group the learners into two groups and ask them to compare the two historic Christian creeds.

They have to find out what are the similarities and differences of the basic beliefs mentioned in the creeds.



Encourage them to write their answers. Share to the group the result of their work.

Beliefs	Similarities	Differences
God		
Jesus Christ		
Holy Spirit		
Resurrection		
Salvation		
Judgment		
Second Coming		

Applying Lessons Learned

Beliefs and Application

This activity would lead the learners to take action as they keep on following and heeding to the basic beliefs of the church. Beliefs and doctrines are an important part of the lives of believers, but they also have to know it by heart, showing ways how to apply those in their everyday lives.

Encourage the learners to put into writing the ways on how to apply the beliefs and doctrines in their daily experiences.

Example:

Beliefs/Doctrines	Application
God, the Almighty	Trust God and never doubt, in all circumstances

Closing Worship

Closing Song "Proclaiming Christ Today" Children Praise God, 123

Proclaiming Christ today is to remember our past,
Learn the lessons of history, redeem the time at last.

Proclaiming Christ today is to rekindle our dream
For a world of genuine peace for all of us to won.

Recitation of Key Verse

Offertory

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 19: What doctrines and beliefs are embodied in the Statement of Faith?

PEACE Sunday/ NCWA Sunday
Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 11, 2020

General Concept: The doctrines and beliefs of the UCCP are embodied in the UCCP Statement of Faith: one God, persons, bible, church, kingdom of God, and resurrection.

Biblical References: Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 119: 33-40

Key Verse: Psalm 119:34

"Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart."

Age Level Concepts

- Our doctrines and beliefs are expressed in the Statement of Faith
- We affirm and practice the doctrines and beliefs expressed in Statement of Faith

Learning Objectives

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

- List down the topics or articles in the Statement of Faith.
- Study the article and come up with a summary of each article.
- Affirm the article by coming up with a personal statement of their belief.

Materials: Bible, song chart, copy of Statement of Faith, bond paper, pens, Crayola, offering plate

Biblical Background:

Genesis 1: 26-27

These two verses from Genesis 1 was part of the six-day creation work of God, the creation of human. These verses were, basically, the basis of our statement about human beings. God created human beings on the last day, following after all of the other creations. There are several concerns mentioned in the passage that is worth reflecting on.

First, humans were created in God's image or likeness. This is our basic belief. The significance of our life and dignity is grounded on this notion. In this created manner, we believe that human life came from God (the Creator) and with that God's holiness and likeness were bestowed upon. Our life is connected to God; for it is

very same breath (ruach) that God has given to human beings. The formless, breathless, and lifeless creation was turned into a living, dynamic and empowered creature.

Second, God created human beings on the sixth day, the very last day, in the whole of God's creation. This reminds human beings not to think that he/she had been a helper to God in the creation of the world. Instead, this must bring him/her to a humbling and debasing attitude before God.

Third, human beings were created to, primarily, take good care of God's created world. This mandate has to be seen not as a privileged or God-given authority to dominate and optimized the creation's resources. The mandate that was given does not mean authority to rule but rather an authority to maintain the balanced system and relationship of a creature with the rest of the creation. (Barnes Commentary and Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary)

Psalm 119: 33-40

This is King David's prayer to God, asking God to be his teacher above and beyond prophets, wise men, and priests. He begs to be taught and instructed in the law of God and to be taught, no less than, by God, knowing that none teaches like him (Job 36:22). King David expressed his desire to be taught, not on the notions of God's statutes but the way of applying them and governing them into his life. To teach him the way of his duty and in every doubt that might come on his way, that God would give him the rightful resolve.

The very thing that King David desires from God is to give him understanding - an enlightened understanding that enables him to lead the people and use the power and faculties God has given, towards greater things and for the common good.

Furthermore, King David promise to be a faithful and good scholar and use his wisdom to a good and faithful purpose. If God, by the Spirit, gives a right and good understanding, good things will happen:

- a. We shall be constant in our obedience – shall keep God's law until the end as proof of sincerity;
- b. Affectionate in our obedience – to observe it wholeheartedly, with pleasure and delight, with vigor and resolution. (Matthew Henry's Whole Bible Commentary)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival – Welcome and Greetings

Song Learning "Why We are UCCP" Children Praise God, 1

We believe in one God; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of every one's life;

In Jesus Christ God became human and rules as Lord of Lords

In Spirit God guides us all along.

Refrain:

That's why we are UCCP for we are taught what the Lord has said,

To live a life in community with God and all,

Assured of life even after death, no more sorrow and no more defeat,

There's only love, justice and peace all creation.

There's only love, justice and peace..UCCP!

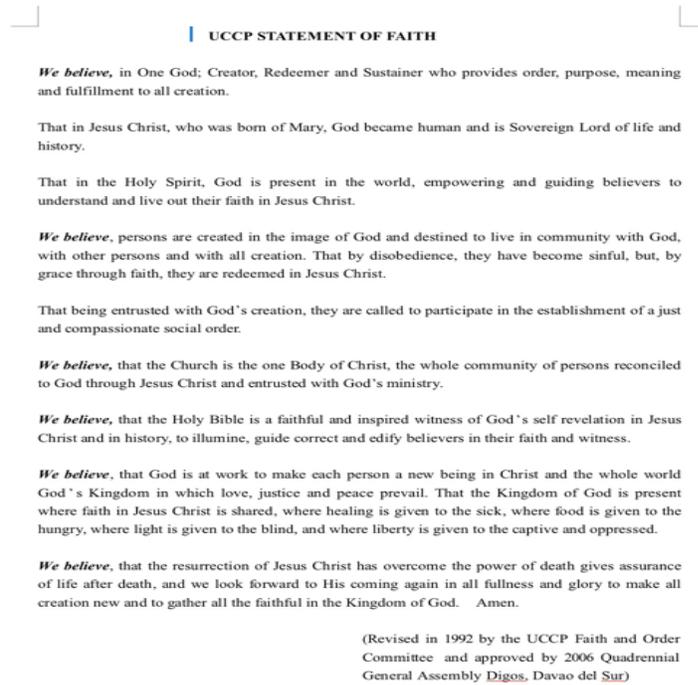
Getting Ready

Introduction to the Lesson

Show to the learners a copy of the UCCP Statement of Faith. Let them read through, silently. After reading, ask them to write the different articles in the statement. Writing the articles will give them an overview of the basic content of the statement.

Example: Article 1 – What we believe about God

Article 2 – What we believe about...



Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Genesis 1: 26-27; Psalm 119: 33-40

Re-group the whole class into two (2) and assign each group a passage to work on. Instruct them to read through the passage, again and again, to understand and comprehend the content of the text.

After reading, allot another minute to respond to the following questions:

1. What is the main theme of the passage?
2. What is the main message of the passage?
3. In what article of the Statement of Faith does the passage belong?
4. Make a short statement (like a Statement of Faith) about the passage.

Lessons Learned

Study the Article

Give the learners time to study closely the Statement of Faith and come up with a summary of the whole statement. The teacher-facilitator may divide the whole class into smaller groups for a thorough study. Let them follow the example below.

When they are done, let each group share their work with the whole class and allow them to ask questions or clarifications about the statement.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Belief about</i>	<i>What we Believe</i>
<i>God</i>	<i>One God: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer</i> <i>Jesus Christ</i> <i>Holy Spirit</i>	<i>God provides order, purpose, meaning, and fulfillment to all creation</i> <i>Born of Mary, became human, Sovereign Lord of life and history. In the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world; empowering, guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ</i>

Applying the Lessons Learned

Affirming the article

Choose one article from the Statement of Faith and re-write the article making it a personal statement of faith. Encourage them to be as creative as possible. They can add a design or creative arts to be more colorful and attractive.

Closing Worship

Closing Song “ Why We are UCCP” (2nd stanza)
 As persons we are created reflecting God’s image,
 The Lord made us stewards of the world,
 The Church is the Body of Christ, redeemed and reconciled,
 Entrusted with God’s own ministry. (Refrain)

Key Verse:

“Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.” (Psalm 119:34)

Affirmation of Statement of Faith (Personal)

Offertory

Closing Prayer

Lesson 20: What are the fundamental values that are at the heart of our witness to the world and our service to the church?

<p>UCM Sunday/ Indigenous People’s Sunday Ninth Sunday in Kingdomtide October 18, 2020</p>

General Concept: *The fundamental values of love, justice, truth, and compassion are essential to our witness to the world and service to the church.*

Biblical References: Micah 6:8 Matthew 18: 21-35; 1 Jn. 4: 7-12

Key Verse: “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8

Age Level Concepts

- Love, justice, truth and compassion are the fundamental values of our church
- The fundamental values are important to our witness and service
- We practice love, justice, truth, and compassion

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the meaning of love, justice, truth and compassion as fundamental values of our church
- Tell why these fundamental values are important to our witness and service
- Demonstrate ways on how to practice love, justice, truth, and compassion in the family, church, and community.

Materials: Bible, song chart, bond paper, cartolina, color pencil or crayons, offering plate, construction paper

Biblical Background

Micah 6:6-8

This passage happened in the 8th century B.C.E. Judean society in the midst of injustices and violence brought about by the political oppression and economic exploitation against the weak and oppressed (v. 12); how they distort the right (vv. 1-3). This passage is called a “prophetic covenant lawsuit” which focuses on the broken relationship between God and the people of Israel. The very question that is of significance is “what does the Lord require of us?” in the context of service or worship, wherein, verses 6-8 manifest the rightful answer. There is a need for the people to be reconciled to God and to each other. The reconciliation could not be done through material offerings and sacrifices, for it is not what the Lord requires. The passage in verse 8 faithfully manifests God’s demand, “*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

As faithful and obedient servants of God, Micah invites the people of Israel to restore and reconcile the broken relationship with God and with the neighbor.

God’s requirement is clear; doing justice and loving-kindness. The first command concerns the love of neighbor and the second command concerns the love of God. These two commands resemble the two greatest commandments of God; to love God and to love the neighbor (Old and New Testament)

The third command is to walk humbly. To walk humbly is the opposite of walking proudly or walking self-righteously. This manifests people’s show of arrogance, self-sufficiency, and independence.

Walter Bruggemann suggests that the term “walking humbly” is to pay attention to others. In this way, the command to walk humbly is the journey of self-giving, self-sacrificing, and self-emptying. If we walk humbly, then we acknowledge others who will be our companions along the way.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/micah-6-1-8-what-does-god-expect-of-you-a-pilgrimage-of-reconciliation-with-god-and-with-our-neighbor-by-jin-yang-kim>

Matthew 18: 21-35

The parable was preceded by Peter’s question to Jesus; “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus related the parable of the Unforgiving Servant to illustrate the lesson about forgiveness. Jesus confronted the issue both in the human practice of forgiveness and of the

nature of God. As we all know, parables talk about the nature of God's kingdom in its earthly context; on how to view the Kingdom's values in relation to our everyday existence.

In the passage, the Kingdom of Heaven is likened to a King who settles accounts with his servants. The king orders that the servant who cannot pay the debts be sold to slavery until the payment be fully made. The servant pleaded to the king and he was spared mercifully and the debt was forgiven. After a little while, the forgiven servant met co-servant indebted to him. The co-servant pleaded to be given time for repayment, but he refused to, instead, he ordered for his imprisonment together with the family until the full payment. Another servant witnessed the incident and approached the king about the injustice he had seen. So the King confronted him and was handed over to a prison guard until payment for his whole debts.

The moral of the story is that people are to forgive their brothers and sisters just as God forgives them. We should extend forgiveness to others as we have been forgiven and humbled by the grace of forgiveness and salvation by God through Jesus Christ. Mercy, love, justice, and forgiveness are the lessons the parable is trying to portray.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival

The teacher-facilitator has to prepare for the day's lesson. Song, bible verses, teaching aids/materials, and other props must be prepared ahead.

As the learners arrive, give them time to greet and chat with each other.

Fellowship Song or an Opening Game "The More We Get Together"

The more we get together, together, together
The more we get together, the happier are we
For your friends are my friends,
And my friends are your friends.
The more we get together, the happier are we.

Opening Prayer (ask a learner to lead in prayer)

Getting Ready

Introduction of the Lesson "Positive Feelings as Compliments"

To start with the lesson, give the learners time to give compliments to each other. Give the learners papers to write on the positive thoughts or feelings they might have had with their co-learners.

Allow them to go around and put positive feelings at the back of their co-learners. When time's up, let them sit down in their places and remove the papers from the neighbor's back and read them aloud to the class what is written on the paper.

After the sharing, the teacher-facilitator will affirm the positive attitude/behavior displayed by the learners.

Each person has a positive attitude to live out. These positive attitudes are important in dealing with people in our everyday lives. We can make use of these positive attitudes to befriend and help people in our family, church, and community. These positive attitudes are also called values.

The teacher-facilitator will explain the meaning of values and its importance:

Meaning of Values and its importance/significance:

- the principles that help you to decide what is right and wrong, and how to act in various situations. (Cambridge Dictionary)
- Values are basic and fundamental beliefs that guide or motivate attitudes or actions.
- They help us to determine what is important to us.
- Values describe the personal qualities we choose to embody to guide our actions. (Ethics Sage)

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/values>

<https://www.ethicssage.com/2018/08/what-are-values.html>

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

After the discussion about the meaning and significance of values, the class will then learn about some fundamental values of the UCCP: love, justice, truth, and compassion.

The teacher-facilitator has to explain that these fundamental values are important to our witness and service. These values must be our guide in doing mission and service to the community and society. It is important for the learners to know and internalize the meaning of each value; to embrace and work for it as they continue to seek understanding and meaning about their faith.

To deepen their understanding of the fundamental values, encourage the learners to explore some biblical passages, and discover the truth behind and correspond the passages to the fundamental values that the UCCP espouses.

Biblical Passages: Matthew 18: 21-35; Micah 6:6-8; 1 John 4: 7-12

The teacher-facilitator will assign learners to participate in the short play which they will portray. The short play is about the parable of the Unforgiving Servant found in Matthew 18: 21 – 35. Give the assigned learners 10-15 minutes to prepare for the play, together with the teacher-facilitator. But the play will only portray the scenes until verse 28. Leave the other parts of the parable open-ended for discussion of the whole class.

Ask the rest of the learners to read the other two passages, Micah 6:6-8 and 1 John 4: 7 – 12.

Lessons Learned

Ask the whole class to be observant about the story being portrayed. After the presentation, encourage discussion and sharing with the following guide-questions:

1. Who were the main characters of the story?
2. What was the plot of the story?
3. If you were the king, how would you react to the servant's attitude toward his fellow servant?
4. If you were the second servant (not forgiven) how will you react to what was done to you by the forgiven servant?

5. What does the text suggest as to the meaning of love, justice, truth, and compassion?
6. How do the learners define (self-definition) the values of love, justice, truth, and compassion?

As the discussion goes on, relate the lesson/s on the play to other passages in Micah and 1 John. What are the significant lessons in Micah and 1 John that we can apply to the lesson given in Matthew?

The teacher-facilitator will give the summary and synthesis of the three verses giving emphasis on the call and practice of the fundamental values: love, justice, truth and compassion.

Why are these values important to each person and how will these affect our lives if we don't practice them?

Applying the Lessons Learned

“What Does God Require of Me?”

At this point, the learners are asked to demonstrate ways to foster love, justice, truth, and compassion in their everyday life towards family, church, and community. They can create mural or collage, banner or poster, bookmark or cards, statement or poems, drawing or text. Encourage them to adopt the theme, “What Does God Require of Me?”. This will serve as a guide to formulate their ideas and thoughts.

Example: How to respond to these situations?



Closing Worship

Closing Song

“Panagutan”

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang,
Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang
Tayong lahat ay may pa a Agusan sa isa't-isa,
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Diyos na kapiling Nya.

Key Verse: 1 John 4:8

Offertory

Closing Prayer (teacher)

Lesson 21: What do we mean by “love” in relation to our witness to the world and service to the Church?

Reformation Sunday

Tenth Sunday in Kingdomtide

October 25, 2020

General Concept: Love means selfless giving of oneself to the task of witnessing to the world and service to the Church.

Biblical References: Matthew 22: 34-40; John 21:15-17; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Key Verse: Matthew 22: 37-39

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Age Level Concepts

- We love because God first loved us.
- Our church loves by showing greater concern for all.
- We show our love when we participate in witnessing and service to the world and the Church.

Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss the essentials of love in the teaching and ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Discover the various meanings/views of love according to the Biblical passages.
- Make use of their body parts to demonstrate good actions or concerns for all.

Materials: Bible, song chart, memory verse chart, offering plate, large poster paper, pens, a large picture of the body parts.

Biblical Background

Matthew 22: 34-40

This passage is about Jesus’ encounter with a lawyer. The lawyer, in the midst of the group of Sadducees, asked Jesus; “*Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the law?*”. Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*”

The question, “What is the greatest commandment in the law?” suggests that there are various laws that the Jews need to follow to obtain salvation and enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

Jesus wanted to point out that among the various laws that the Jews were obeying, these two are the greatest and primarily followed. This word from Jesus reminds people to prioritize these two greatest commandments for this is what the Lord requires. These two are the primary commandments that the Lord requires of his followers, for these laws summarize all the existing laws that the church and the people of God should observe.

In verse 40 it states, “*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets*”. It clearly states that other laws, created by any nation, the only foundation are these two laws that always point to our relationship to God and to our neighbor. Meaning, all laws that people follow should manifest the love of God and love for our neighbor. This is how God’s Kingdom gives high regard and significance to love. This should be the rule that the church and believers follow in all its endeavors and mission work.

John 21:15-17

The conversation between Jesus and Peter happened at the Sea of Galilee after Jesus has risen from the dead. After Peter and other disciples dined in with Jesus for breakfast, Jesus talked to Simon Peter and asked him three times, “Do you love me?” Why did Jesus repeatedly ask Peter with the same question? Did Jesus have doubt on Peter’s love and loyalty? Remember, a few days before Jesus’ death, while Jesus was being questioned before the Sanhedrin, Peter denied Jesus three times, when people identified him as one of Jesus’ disciples. After three denials, Peter heard the cock crow and he remembered Jesus’ words, “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

Given this experience, Jesus has to ask Peter, again and again for Peter to regain Jesus’ confidence in his love and loyalty. Jesus was able to affirm Peter’s love after the successive questioning. Although Peter was hurt on the repeated questions that Jesus posted after his responses, Peter was able to regain and restore himself to Jesus’ purpose and ministry. After Peter’s response, Jesus was confident to give him responsibility towards his sheep and lamb: “Feed my lambs, take care of my sheep...” The love of Jesus enabled Peter to be restored into the group of disciples and Peter’s love regained Jesus’ trust and had given him the task of feeding and taking care of his sheep and lambs.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7

This chapter in the Book of Corinthians was known as the Love Chapter. The basic teachings and views about love are presented here. In chapter 12, Paul discusses the “spiritual gifts” and how this giftedness ought to manifest in the body of Christ to foster the unity in the body of Christ. In this chapter (chapter 13), spiritual gifts were not viewed and used properly, thus, the misconception about spiritual gifts caused disunity and trouble inside the church and among believers. To address the problem, Paul reminded the Corinthian believers, in chapter 13, about the usage of “spiritual gifts” out of love of God and service to the church and not for personal gain for them to boast.

The word love, in this passage, means “agape”; the unconditional love of God to the people. In this kind of love goes the will to use whatever gifts we possess for the building up of the church as Christ’s Body. With this kind of love from God, each believer would commit to love and treat each other with concern, care, thoughtfulness, and offer each life to work for the best and for the common good of everyone.

The passage describes and defines love so perfectly and ideally, that believers should embody as evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Greet the learners as they arrive. Get ready with the materials for the activities.

Singing

“We Want to Learn to Live in Love”

We want to learn to live in love to follow what is good and true

Through friends at church, at home, at play, we find what God would have us do.

When we are sad or feeling mean and fail to love or to be fair

Our friends at church, at home, at play can help us know that God does care.

When others are unkind to us and make us want to cry or fight

We can reach out to be good friends and help them know that love is right.

Opening Prayer – (ask a volunteer or assign somebody)

Getting Ready

Introduction to the Lesson *Game: “Message Relay”*

Group the learners into two (depends on the number of the learners) Let the learners line up in a single line formation. Ask the players at the last line to come over and give the word/message they have to pass on. Instruct the players to pass on the message by writing the word on the back of the player in front of them using their fingers. The players will pass on the message up to the last person in the line and go in front to relay the correct message. The group with the most correct answer will receive recognition.

Use the following words as the message:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Love | 6. Hugs |
| 2. Heart | 7. Church |
| 3. Spirit | 8. Lamb |
| 4. Serve | 9. Kind |
| 5. Help | 10. Patient |

The objective of the game is to get use to the words related to or associated with love. It is important to learn other terms that correspond to the word love that they may practice those actions in their everyday lives.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

To give the learners knowledge about the importance of the word “love”, let them explore and study the passages above. Use the biblical background to know more about the texts.

Again, group the learners into three and assign each a passage. Ask them to read the passage and take note of important words/ideas related to the word “love”.

Let them be guided by the following questions:

1. What does the passage all about?
2. What does the passage say about love?
3. List down words or ideas that talk about love, in the passage.
4. What does love mean, according to the texts?

Lessons Learned

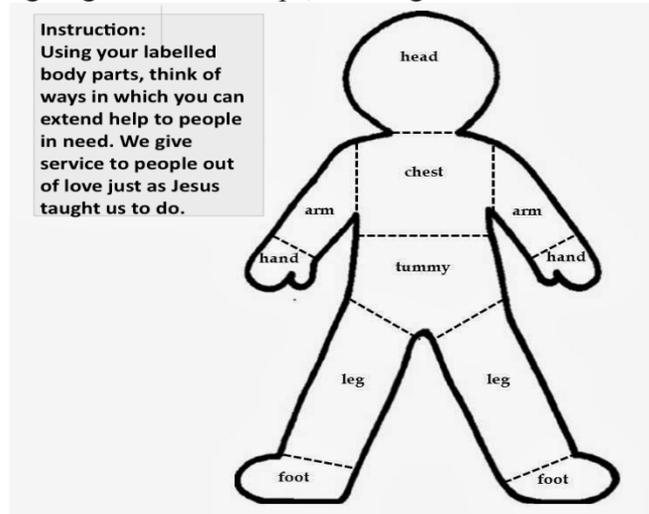
Discuss the message/ideas or thoughts the learners listed down about the passage. The teacher-facilitator will take note of the significant words/ideas the learners shared about love.

Make a summary/synthesis of the messages the learners listed down. Focus on the word “love” and relate the meaning of love to the fundamental values of UCCP, being love as one of those values.

Applying the Lessons Learned **“Making Use of my Body Parts”**

- Ears (example: listening when others are talking, listening in church)
- Eyes (example: paying attention to other’s needs, reading the Bible)
- Nose & Mouth (example: singing hymns and praise music, speaking kind words)
- Mind (example: learning about Jesus, thinking of new ways to help)

- Heart (example: praying to God, telling your parents you love them)
- Hands (example: holding the door, cleaning up the sanctuary)
- Feet (example: going on mission trips, walking with someone to their car)



<https://ministry-to-children.com/all-about-love-lectionary-lesson-from-matthew-2234-46/>

Closing Worship

Song	“We Want to Learn to Live in Love”
Key Verse	Matthew 22: 37-39
Closing Prayer	(Teacher-Facilitator)

Lesson 22: What do we mean by “justice” in relation to our witness to the world and service to the Church?

Church Workers Sunday/ All Saints Day

Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 01, 2020

General Concept: Justice means rendering to everyone what is due and what is right according to the righteousness of God.

Biblical References: Deuteronomy 24: 14-15; Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 20: 1-16; James 5:1-6

Key Verse: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5: 24

Age Level Concepts

- Our church upholds justice by rendering what is due and what is right for all.
- We participate in the work for justice by treating others fairly and by taking the side of the poor and needy.

Learning Objectives

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

- Analyze some bible passages that talk about justice and fairness.
- Perceive how did Jesus teach his followers to practice justice and fairness.
- Propose ways on how the learners could treat people fairly and justly.

Materials: Bible, Song chart, Manila/Kraft Paper, papers (whole and strips), pens, pentel pen, offering plate, candies, different situations written in strips of paper.

Biblical Background

Deuteronomy 24: 14-15

These verses are part of God's command to the people of God to work for the protection and well-being of the disadvantaged. These commands were particularly given to the masters as to how they should give high regard to their poor servants. Verses 14 and 15 remind the masters, deliberately, not to oppress their servants by giving them heavy workloads; by giving them undue respect and by not giving what is rightful and just in terms of wages and salaries. God urged the masters to be considerate to their employees and never withhold their wages and pay them on time each day, before sunset, for they need it for their family's daily existence. The text clearly states that whenever they cry to the Lord because of injustices, God would make us accountable and guilty for their miserable situation. This is a well-defined command by God to a nation who fears and gives high respect to One and Holy Creator.

Amos 5:21-24

This chapter is Amos' lamentation over Israel for their approaching destruction. Amos summons them to seek the Lord, to do good, to abandon their gods and repent from their sins to regain God's mercy and forgiveness. Otherwise, they must anticipate God's wrath for their wickedness especially their oppression and exploitation of the poor and needy. As long as they continue to commit sin against God and people, all their offerings, sacrifices, and ceremonial worship would be nothing and worthless before God. The God of Justice will not accept all their worship ceremonies and offerings for what God demands and expect from them is to observe justice in all aspects of their lives, as people of God. There is only one thing that God requires; *"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"* This is the kind of offering God requires to the people - to stop injustices, oppression, and exploitation for this is against God's purpose for the whole of creation.

Matthew 20: 1-16

This text was preceded by Jesus's words in chapter 19:30; *" But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first"*. Our text is about the parable of the workers in the vineyard. As we all know, parables discuss the values and principles of the Kingdom of God. God's kingdom conveys a reverse condition and system from that of the world. Chapter 20 gives light to what Jesus said in chapter 19:30. Indirectly, Jesus addresses a concern or issue regarding the Jews and the Gentiles, whether the Gentiles will become fellow-heirs of God's kingdom, just like the Jews. The Bible clearly describes how the Jews treated the Gentiles because of their culture and background and yet Jesus welcomed and extended to them the grace of salvation.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard serves as an example of how God treats and gives importance to everyone who would like to come and work for and with him. More importantly, the parable intends to remind us of his love, grace, and generosity not because of but despite of. In God's Kingdom, God is willing to accept people despite race, gender, and status in life, as long as they express willingness to work and serve God. God is not indebted to those who came earlier, for they were compensated accordingly. God is so merciful and generous since God knew each one's need and necessity. God treats all people equally, with no partiality, as long as they recognize God in their lives. The passage asserted God's nature as a just and kind master, who does not permit reasons for jealousy above the practice of justice and fairness.

James 5:1-6

The passage discusses the anticipation of judgment on the greedy landowners. They make the lives of the farmers miserable by not paying back their services despite their affluence in life. They hoard wealth and goods

that only perish, rotten and eaten by moths and yet show no mercy in helping the poor and needy. They live in wealth, comfort, self-indulgence, and fattened themselves. They condemned and murdered the innocent who was not opposing them. Their cries have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty and justice is about to be served and doom is to be expected to those who despise God's command. All their wealth and power will not save them on the day of judgment.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival/ Greetings/Welcoming

Opening Song "Step,Step" Children Praise God, 174

Step, step, step, step, we're going to our church,
Step, step, step, step, we're going to our church.
We're going there to work and play,
we're going there to sing and pray.
Step, step, step, step, we're going to our church.

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

Lord, I want to treat others fair, everyday, everyday
Lord, I want to treat others fair, everyday.
Everyday, everyday,
Lord, I want to treat others fair, everyday.

Opening Prayer - by a learner/volunteer

Getting Ready

Introduction to the Lesson. "Fair and Just Sharing"

As a way of introduction, the teacher-facilitator will put a handful of candies at the table. Instruct the children to get candies from the table. Observe what happens on the process and lead a discussion afterward.

During the discussion, ask the learners:

1. Did everybody get their share?
2. Ask everyone, those who have/have not, how they feel about getting/not getting any?
3. Do they think what happened was fair enough?
4. What has been done to ensure that everybody has a fair share?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

The teacher-facilitator will lead the Bible study using the 4 biblical references. To be guided, please refer to the biblical background.

Firstly, ask the students to read the texts, one at a time.

The teacher-facilitator should help the learners understand the content and message of each passage, emphasizing the lesson about justice.

Encourage the students to take note on the following:

1. Who were the people mentioned in the passage?
2. What were their situations?
3. How does each passage describe and define justice and fairness.
4. What are the suggested ways to show justice and fairness as mentioned in the passage/s?
5. Let the learners share their views about doing justice and fairness.

To end the bible study, let the learners express their views about justice and fairness, according to what they have learned from the passages.

In a large piece of paper (Manila/Kraft Paper), write at the upper center portion the word “Justice is...” Give the learners markers/pentel pen and let them write their views about justice according to what they have learned from the texts and Jesus’s teachings.

Lessons Learned “ **Be the Judge**”

The teacher-facilitator will prepare ahead, strips of paper. On the paper, write different situations that the whole class would study and judge accordingly. One of the learners will pick out a strip, read aloud the situation and let the jury (the whole class) make their judgment and punishment. After giving the decision, discuss with them whether their decision was right, just, and fair. This will help the learners practice fairness and justice as they analyze everyday life situations.

Example:

Case in Point	Reason
1. Rosa cheated during the examination.	Unable to review because she attended to her mother in the hospital.
2. Mario bullied his schoolmate.	To have revenge for his brother who was bullied, as well.
3. Claro bit one of his classmates while they were playing basketball.	Claro was upset when one of his opponents elbowed him at his stomach.

The teacher-facilitator can add more situations written in the strips of paper. The objective of the game is to determine whether the learners’ decisions are just and fair despite the reasons mentioned above.

- Where did the “jury” base their decisions from on the cases presented to them?
- Was the jury just and fair in their decisions?

Closing Worship

Song

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” Children Praise God, 137

Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart, in my heart
 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
 In my heart, in my heart,
 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Key Verse
Closing Prayer (by the teacher-facilitator)

Lesson 23: What do we mean by “truth” in relation to our witness to the world and service to the Church?

Theological Education Sunday
Twelfth Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 08, 2020

General Concept: Truth is the revealed will of God through Jesus Christ

Biblical References: John 14:6; Acts 5: 1-11; Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 12: 22; Zechariah 8:16 Psalms 25: 4-5

Key Verse: Exodus 20:16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Age Level Concepts

- Our church teaches us to stand for the truth
- We stand for the truth just as Jesus did

Learning Objectives

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

- Define the word truth according to the teachings of the bible.
- Associate truth with other values, traits, and words that children should observe in this critical time.
- Demonstrate, through creative art, the importance of telling the truth to the learners in their everyday lives.

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Construction Paper, Bond Paper, Markers, Pentel Pen, Crayons, Manila/Kraft Paper, copy of the Puzzle and situations written in strips of paper

Biblical Background:

John 14:6

In this passage, Jesus’ character was portrayed as the “truth”. It was the very word of Jesus, as a way of introducing himself. Jesus was, is, and will be the truth. This is his eternal character and it will never be changed, for this is the very nature of God. Since Jesus is God who became human, therefore, Jesus is truth. In Jesus, truth is perfectly expressed and fulfilled. The truth about the very nature of God was revealed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. If God, in Jesus Christ, truth is revealed, expressed, and fulfilled, it follows that those who believe in him and who come to know him come to know the truth.

The life and ministry of Jesus were all directed towards the revelation of the true God and towards the fulfillment of God’s purpose for the whole of creation. If we believe that Jesus is the truth, our ways, thoughts, and values would also manifest the truth about Jesus. We have to emulate the character of Jesus as the only and eternal truth. Our life should live out the truth revealed and fulfilled through and in Jesus Christ. The truth shall set us free.

Acts 5: 1-11

The passage is about the story of a couple named Ananias and Sapphira. Like Barnabas, they also sell their property, as it was the practice of the early church and the money will be distributed to the poor and needy in the community. But unlike Barnabas, who had given all the money to the apostles, Ananias brought just a portion of the money. The problem was not the money, but the couple “kept” back part of the money. The Greek word for “kept” can also mean “stole”. Before they sold the property, the community agreed to give all the money but the couple “kept or stole” part of it. But they have not only stolen the money, but they had also lied. Although it is their option to sell their property and nobody forced them to sell it, they need not lie. According to the passage

Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some money you received for the land?... You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” And when Ananias heard this, he fell and died. The people were terrified about what happened. After three hours, when his wife Sapphira came without the knowledge of what was happening, she was asked by Peter about the money they got from the land, and she also lied. Sapphira conspired and lied against the Holy Spirit and at that very moment, she fell and died. Great fear filled the whole church and those who heard about the story. The lesson in the story is clear: Lying is against the Holy Spirit/God that gains fearful outcome. Lying is not just against human beings but God.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival

Singing: Fellowship Songs **“Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life”
(His Banner Over Me)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8e8LJq9Nemo&pp=QAA%3D>
 Jesus is the Way, The Truth and the Life His banner over me is Love
 Jesus is the Shepherd and we are the Sheep His banner over me is Love
 Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches His banner over me is Love
 Jesus is the Way, The Truth and the Life His Banner Over Me is Love
 Jesus is the Shepherd and we are the Sheep His Banner Over Me is Love
 Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches His Banner Over Me is Love
 His banner over me is Love

Opening Prayer (learner)

Getting Ready

Introduction to the Lesson *“Crossword Puzzle”*

Instruction: From the letters in the puzzle, circle the words that correspond to the givens below. The words are arranged either Backward, Forward, Up, and Down.

"Nothing But the Truth"

U V T O A Y K R S B Y R E I I
 O F J Y V F G A E S I S U P N
 Q P X W E R W L T A P R R R U
 U Z I E F K I E F C R O T I K
 Y T I R G E T N I Y A N Q G S
 M T R J V S N X B L I X X H I
 B F L A H O N E S T S Y E T B
 D E B E L T X L G I E L K O M
 J L T O F K A E O R W D H X N
 E D D T D T S W N D O N Y F D
 G O O D E I R T M N R E V N P
 M H L I M R R A C H T I Y N O
 A V Z O H U O D E L H R Z P G
 X J R G S E L U R H Y F X G S
 N P P T A D M G N L F C E G P

BELIEVABLE
BETTER
EXACT
FAIR
TRUE

GOOD
HEARTFELT
HONEST
INTEGRITY
TRUST

PRAISEWORTHY
PROMISE
RIGHT
RULES

After completing the puzzle, ask the learners what they notice from the given words in the puzzle? Do the words have something in common? What do the words represent or point out?

The words given in the puzzle are all related to the word truth, the lesson for the day. Truth is an important value for Christians to observe and for the church to teach. This is one of the fundamental values that our church upholds.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Allow the learners to read and study the following passages. Instruct them to understand the message of each passage and ask them to make their definition of truth according to the passages.

Example: Truth = do not create false accusations against other people.
= do not bear false witness

Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 12: 22; Zechariah 8:16 Psalms 25: 4-5

Let the learners understand the meaning and implications of the word truth in their everyday lives. Let them know that telling the truth is an expression of our respect and high regard to God, who taught us to live in the guidance of truth as the Bible had taught us.

Lessons Learned

“Pictionary”

This game will further the learner’s judgment about the truth. The objective of the game is to help the learners decide whether to tell the truth or to lie. Group the class into 2. One team is the drawing team and the other is the guessing team. Each team will be given 30 seconds to guess the right answer. The other group will have the chance to steal whenever the other group fails to guess. But there is a twist in the game. Every group will be able to guess the picture, the whole group will have a discussion about the situation, whether to tell the truth or to lie. They will also discuss the consequences of doing both and give their reasons. Ask them the consequences of telling the truth and lying. The teacher-facilitator will guide the learners and reinforce that there will be more severe consequences if they are not honest and do not tell the truth.

Given Instances:

Report Card with Low Grades

Empty Cans of Soft drinks under the Bed

Broken Plates at the Trash Bin

Crack on the Glass table

The teacher-facilitator may add or change the sample incidents to more familiar situations.

Applying the Lessons Learned

“Art Expression”

Motivate the learners to express their feelings, through art, what they would feel when someone is honest, and tell them the truth. Likewise, let them draw another picture of how they would feel if the person had not been honest and tell a lie. They can add verses from the Bible to re-enforce their expressions. In this way, the learners will learn empathy and recognize the consequences of telling the truth and lies to the people around them.

Closing Worship

Closing Song “Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life” (His Banner Over Me)
Key Verse
Offering
Closing Prayer (teacher-facilitator)

Lesson 24: What do we mean by “compassion” in relation to our witness to the world and service to the Church?

Ecumenical Witness Sunday

Thirteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide

November 15, 2020

General Concept: *Compassion means a deep sense of empathy and commitment to eradicate the causes of suffering to experience the fullness of life in Christ.*

Biblical References: Jonah 3: 1-10; 4: 1-10; Matthew 9:36, 1 Peter 3:8; Psalm 86: 15-17

Key Verse: Matthew 9:36

“When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Age Level Concepts

- Our church is compassionate to those who suffer
- We empathize with the suffering people
- We work to help eliminate the suffering of people

Learning Objectives

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

- Tell why the church has to show compassion to the suffering people in the community.
- Find out for the reasons why do people suffer in their lives.
- Recommend ways on how the church can help eliminate the suffering of the people, based on the biblical teachings.

Materials: Bible, song chart and video, Manila paper/Cartolina or Kraft paper, pentel pen, color pen, scissors, glue, color paper or construction paper, offering plate, and visual aids for the story.

Biblical Background:

Jonah 3: 1-10; 4: 1-10

Chapter 3, in the book of Jonah, is a second-time command by God to Jonah to go and preach in Nineveh. At this time, Jonah was reconciled to God after his attempt to stow away from and disobey God. God's message to the people of Nineveh was that within forty days they would be destroyed and overthrown because of wickedness.

The king issued a decree commanding the whole nation for moral reformation as a response to God's proclamation of repentance and forgiveness. When the Ninevites, leaders, common people, and animals alike, followed the warning and returned to repentance to God, the compassionate God had a change of mind and withdrew the impending destruction. The whole nation experienced the grace of the Compassionate God and was redeemed in their relationship.

Chapter 4, contains the very nature of Jonah, in contrast with the Compassionate God. Jonah's refusal to preach to Nineveh goes with his desire for the whole nation to be destroyed, not spared but to be punished and not forgiven. He absolutely knew that God is merciful and compassionate to repentant sinners. What Jonah wanted is for God to reserve the divine blessing solely for the people of Israel. He would rather die than see Gentiles have forgiven the same as Israelites (4: 1-3) On the other hand, God wanted to make Jonah see that he had no right to be angry and should never question God's compassion to all people and nation that would turn away from wickedness, but Jonah refused to listen. Using the object lesson of a plant to demonstrate sympathy and correlation, God enabled to show Jonah how much God would feel sorry for the nation of Nineveh whom he had made and who, in their ignorance, had faced total destruction (9-11). (*Bridgeway Bible Commentary*)

Matthew 9:36

This verse is part of the concluding verses of Christ's preaching and healing ministry in different places and all kinds of people. Jesus visited not only prominent and wealthy cities but the poor and confused people. Aside from the cities and other places, Jesus also taught in synagogues. He attended assemblies of people and bear testimony even to people who do not accept him. These visits are Jesus opportune time to bear witness and to preach and teach the values of the Kingdom of God. Together with the apostles, Jesus went about to preach the Good news to poor people, to give liberty to those who experienced oppression and exploitation and to heal people from all kinds of diseases including the pronouncement of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Particularly in verse 36, Jesus took notice of the multitude, not only of the people who followed him but of the great number of people who needed Christ's help for food, healing, and forgiveness.

When Jesus saw the situation of the multitude, he was moved with compassion and pitied them, for they were people that were scattered and driven out without care and attention, who were burdened with the rites of religion and doctrines of the Pharisees; neglected by the leaders and authorities of the church - the shepherd who should be responsible for the welfare of the sheep.

In the previous passages in the chapter, Jesus was portrayed as one who heals, who forgives, who raises the dead, dines with the sinners, and calls people for service. Jesus was full of passion and compassion that seeing the multitude, left confused and unattended, moved him to an intense feeling of dismay and pity.

(*Barnes Commentary*)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival

Fellowship Songs

“Tell Me Whose Side?” Children Praise God, 87

Tell me whose side are you leaning on?

I'm leaning on the Lord's side.
Tell me whose side are you leaning on?
I'm leaning on the Lord's side.
I lean, I lean, I lean, I lean,
I'm leaning on the Lord's side.

- Tell me whose side are you sitting on?

“I Will Sing the Mercies of the Lord” Children Praise God, 76
I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known,
Thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness
With my mouth will I make known,
Thy faithfulness to all generations.

Opening Prayer (the facilitator may ask from among the learners to lead the prayer)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Jonah 3: 1-10; 4: 1-10; Matthew 9:36

The teacher-facilitator have to tell the story about Jonah: how did God show compassion to the whole community in Nineveh, contrary to Jonah's desire for destruction because of their sinfulness. It was because of God's compassion that the whole of Nineveh turn away from their sins, ask forgiveness, and promise to follow and hear God's command. God was so compassionate and kind to the community of Nineveh and was able to forgive the whole nation. God accepted them and gave them a chance to live faithfully and obediently.

However, Matthew 9:36 talks about Jesus's compassion to the people as he saw them scattered around the city, uncared and helpless, like the sheep without a shepherd. The real situation of the crowd was revealed in the previous verses. (refer to the Biblical Background for details)

Encourage the children to ask questions and let them express their thoughts and feelings about the situation.

Ask them the following questions:

1. How would they feel if they were with God and Jesus who saw the people's real situation?
2. If they were God and Jesus, what will they do about the situation of the people?
3. Let them complete the sentence: God is compassionate because.....

In a large piece of paper/Cartolina/Kraft Paper, write a big heading GOD IS COMPASSIONATE BECAUSE.... Let each learner write their answers below the heading. They will describe God as a compassionate God according to the biblical passages they have read and studied.

Lessons Learned

Learning and Song Analysis: “Misyon” by Gary Granada

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-fyjTbeb1s>

Hangga't may isang nagugutom, hangga't may isang nauuhaw
 Hangga't mayroong mga pusong nagdurusa't namamanglaw
 Hangga't mayroong naalipin sa layaw ay nalululong,
 Tayo ay mayroong gawain, tayo ay mayroong misyon

 Hangga't may isang naulila hangga't may isang nakapiit,
 May kapansana't napisala naging balo't nagkasakit
 Hangga't may isip at damdaming naghahagilap ng tugon
 tayo ay mayroong gawain tayo ay mayroong misyon

 Hangga't ang kayang Katarungan Pagpapala at pagmamahal
 Mangyari sa sandaigdigan at pangalan nya'y itanghal
 Hangga't may luhan papahirin, Hangga't may pagkakataon
 Tayo ay may gawain, Tayo ay mayroong misyon.

Based on the lyrics of the song, identify the conditions of the people where our mission work is needed? What are the causes of their suffering? Why do we have to help them? Why are these people the subject of our mission? What do you feel about them?

Give the learners time to discuss and ask questions regarding the lyrics of the song and the video they have watched. Know their thoughts and feelings about the conditions of the people and how they understand the reasons for their suffering.

Applying the Lessons Learned

“Extend a Helping Hand”

Ask the learners to make streamers or posters where they can write their recommendations for the church to consider in extending their help to the suffering and needy people in the community. Let this become their project as children in the church to show compassion to the people in the community. They could make it a year-long project with monthly focus or emphasis on the kind of help they would like to extend. They can also ask other organizations such as the women, men, youth, and seniors to collaborate for a stronger and sustaining project.

Closing Worship

Closing Song: “Misyon”

Key Verse:

Offering

Closing Prayer (teacher) Include in the prayer the project, “Extend a Helping Hand”

Lesson 25: Why is there a need for equitable representation in the life and governance of the church?

Migrant Workers’

Sunday

Fourteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide

November 22, 2020

General Concept: *We need to have an equitable representation of the life and governance of the church to ensure everyone’s involvement in the process of decision-making and the implementation of programs and ministries.*

Biblical References: Exodus 18:17-23; Colossians 3:11

Key Verse: Colossians 3: 11

“Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all.”

Age Level Concepts

- Our church recognizes all members as part of the life and work of the church
- We are happy to be part of the life and work of the church
- We take part in the life and work of the church

Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss the importance of recognizing all members as part of the life and work of the church.
- Identify the different talents/gifts of the church members that need to be recognized.
- Propose how the children, in the church, could actively participate in the life and work of the church.

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Copy of “Whom to Include”, music player for the game, bond paper, pens or pencil pen, and offering plate

Biblical Background

Exodus 18:17-23

As the Israelites approached Sinai, Moses’ wife, children, and his father-in-law, Jethro, were with him. Moses has a great responsibility in leading the people and dealing with their problems. Jethro saw that it was tiresome and tedious for Moses to take on. People brought to Moses all the disputes and they accepted his decisions as to the laws of God. So, Jethro has to convince Moses to create and organize a system of administration, so that he will be unburdened from other responsibilities. Jethro suggested for Moses to appoint responsible men whom he trusts to assist him in everyday cases brought to him by the people. Moreover, this system will relieve Moses from too much pressure and at the same time benefit the people for they were all burned out for the long delays in waiting for their cases to be heard. Moses saw the wisdom and advantage of Jethro’s suggestion and they appointed assistants to help out Moses.

This system of administration paves the way for others to participate in the process of decision- making and at the same, it became beneficial to the people for fast and smooth flow of handling the cases. This system affirms the saying that goes, “Two heads are better than one”. (*Bridgeway Commentary*)

Colossians 3:11

This passage gives us enlightenment on how to treat people accordingly. It conveys the idea that there is now no difference arising from different countries, cultures, conditions and circumstances in life. It is a reminder to every one of the standards that Jesus Christ lived out. He came to lessen, if not to eliminate, the gap between the rich and poor people. Jesus breaks down the wall that serves as a partition-wall among people, that all may learn to reach out and learn to stand on the same level before God. This is evident in Jesus’ way of treating people; men women and children, to enjoy the privilege of being part of the household of God and enjoy the hope and happiness that the Savior has prepared for all.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Arrival/Greetings and Welcoming

Song: "We Are All God's Children"

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/jamierivera/weareallgodschildren.html>

Do you see these children on the streets? Have you walked the pavements where they sleep?

Do you feel their hands when you give them alms? Did you ever give them bread to eat?

Have you seen their homes washed by the floods? While a mother tightly holds her child

Do you hear the wind of the raging storm? Can you tell them where it's coming from?

Let us show our love and mercy With true kindness and humility

For God loves the weak and the needy, Just like you and me.

We are all God's children We are all the same

He is calling us by name to help the poor and lame

And learn what life is really for It's to know and love and serve the Lord.

Stand together and let's do our part Hear their voices mend their broken hearts

Choose to be brave, fight for their rights Give them back their honor and their pride

Please do not be blind and just leave them behind

To struggle in darkness or give them empty promises.

We are all God's children We are all the same

He is calling us by name to help the poor and lame

And learn what life is really for

It's to know and love and serve the Lord

It's to know and love and serve the Lord

It's to know and love and serve the Lord.

Opening Prayer (The facilitator may ask someone from among the learners to lead in prayer)

Getting Ready

Introduction of the Lesson "Whom to Include"

Divide the learners into smaller groups (depends upon the size) for this activity. Present to the whole group the situation and discuss what they should do to solve the given situation.

The Situation: They are traveling by boat to attend a company meeting. Along the way, they encountered bad weather that will force them to decide whom to include and exclude. They have to unload some of their stuff and some passengers should leave the boat, otherwise, the boat will sink and cannot reach their final destination. They only have to choose 6 out of 10 passengers to be able to survive.

The Task: Choose from the following characters whom they want to include and whom to exclude.

1. A professor from the university
2. A pregnant woman.
3. A 10-year-old boy with his toy.
4. Scientist
5. An old man suffering from Dementia.
6. A man who is a drug addict
7. A teenager who owns a computer
8. An Office Secretary
9. A Banker
10. A boatman

Have a sharing on the outcome of the group discussion. Take note of the reasons or justifications that each group has to present. Are their answers rightful and just to everybody in the boat?

The teacher-facilitator should emphasize the right of each person to be included, to be respected, to be recognized, and to be heard despite their weaknesses and limitations.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Assign to the learners (depends on the size of the class) the following texts. Let them read and study the text. Ask them to take note on the following:

1. What is the text all about? What is the theme/content?
2. Who are the characters mentioned and what are their roles or task?
3. Why are they mentioned and why is that important?

Fill in the table below for the answer and points for discussion.

Text	Theme/Content	Characters/Roles/Tasks	Importance
Matthew 19:14			
Luke 8: 1-3			
Acts 6: 1-7			
Philemon 1: 15-16			

Lessons Learned

Debate - “Equitable Representation: Necessary or Not”

Invite the learners to involve in a debate to discuss important points in today’s lesson and to hear from them opinions about the topic at hand. The topic is “Equitable Representation: Necessary or Not”.

Divide the number of learners equally and properly. Assign who belongs to the affirmative and negative. Give them enough time (maximum of 10 mins.) to prepare and discuss amongst them possible points to consider in the debate. Orient them with the rulings:

1. The speaker will be given 3 minutes to give the important points.
2. They will speak alternately.
3. They have to respect and listen to the recognized speaker.
4. They will be given three (3) rounds to give their opinion. The last round will be the concluding words for each group.
5. The last to speak will be the teacher-facilitator to give his/her final words as to the group who has given clear and substantial points in the debate.
6. Congratulate all the learners for their participation and for the opinion and brilliance they manifest.

Focus: Equitable representation is an important aspect of giving everyone a chance to participate in all activities and programs that the church may conduct. This kind of representation is an expression of respect and recognition that everyone has a role and participation despite differences and limitations. The equitable representation will serve as a way towards empowerment, upliftment, and exertion of the right to be heard and right of expression.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Game: “Gifts/Talents for the Lord”

Gather the learners around for the game. The objective of the game is to discover different and similar talents among learners. Let them list down the gifts/talents that are about to discover as they go around. Play some music as the learners dance around. As the music stops, let them find and partner and ask their partner what gifts or talents they have that they could contribute to the ministry of the church.

Repeat the mechanics for several times until all have gathered information.

After the game, ask them to list down, as well, the talents they observe from other members of the church; from adults, youth, and young adults.

Gather all that they have written and had a summary of all the gifts and talents. From the talents and gifts they have listed, propose some activities/plans where their talents/gifts could be actively used together with those of other members, for the mission work of the church.

Closing Worship

Closing Song “We Are All God’s Children”

Key Verse

Offering

Closing Prayer. (By the facilitator)