

Lesson 41. Why do we remit our “wider mission support”?

UCM Biggest Coin Fellowship

Sunday Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

General Concept: *The Wider Mission Support sustains the mission work of the church and is our manifestation of being an integral part of the whole church.*

Biblical References: Luke 8:1-3; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5;

Age Level Concepts

- Our church gives WMS to support the mission work of the whole or entire church- the UCCP
- The WMS comes from the 22% of the local church giving/offerings
- We give our offering to support the mission work of the church

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the reason why the local church has to give its Wider Mission Support
- Compute how much is 22% or 25% from the total income of the church.
- Affirm that the Church needs the ‘Wider Mission Support’ (WMS) from the local churches to sustain the life and work of the Church.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, Manila paper, meta cards (colored), marker pens

Biblical Background

Luke 8: 1-3

Traveling and visiting places was not an easy task for Jesus and his disciples. Often, they were disrupted because of the huge crowd following them. It was not even clear if the crowd was truly interested in hearing the gospel or was there out of curiosity. However, Jesus and his disciples were supplied of their daily needs whenever they went through the support and provision of women who went with them to look after them.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Paul, writing from Macedonia, hoped that news of the generosity of these churches would encourage the Corinthian believers and motivate them to solve their problems and unite in fellowship.

During his third missionary journey, Paul had collected money for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia – Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea – had given money even though they were poor, and they had given more than Paul expected. This was sacrificial giving – they were poor themselves, but they wanted to help. The point of giving is not so much

the amount we give, but why and how we give. God does not want gifts given grudgingly. Instead, God wants us to give as these churches did – out of dedication to Christ, love for fellow believers, the joy of helping those in need, as well as the fact that it was simply the good and right thing to do. (Zondervan Life Application Study Bible, p. 2108)

Wider Mission Support (22% Assessment)

The 22% Wider Mission Support is a basic mission support of UCCP. It comes from the 22% of local church giving (Tithes, pledges, loose offerings and thanksgiving offerings). The 22% Wider Mission Support sustains the operation of the Conference and the General assembly.

The Local Church shall set aside 22% (some conference practice 25% or more) of its actual gross collections every month for Wider Church Mission Support.

Sources: 22% actual gross collection shall mean collections from Tithes, Pledges, Loose Offering and thanksgiving Offering received by the Local Church every month. Some Conferences that practice more than the minimum of 22% Wider Mission Support.

Remittance: The 22% shall be remitted to the Conference immediately on the first week of the month.

Allocation: The 22% is allocated in the following manner:

- 3% or 13.7% of 22% goes to the National Office for General Assembly operations
- 2% or 9.1% of 22% goes to the National Office for the Church's programs
- 2% or 9.1% of 22% goes to the National Office for Church Workers Benefits
- 1% or 4.5% of 22% goes to the National Office for CRI/CRO
- 1% or 4.5% of 22% goes to the National Office for Building Fund
- 13% or 59/1% of 22% goes to the Conference for its operations

For those who practice more than the minimum of 22%, say, 25%, the Conference share becomes 16% or 64% of the 25%.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcement and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s "I will sing the Mercies of the Lord" Children Praisers 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.

“Building Up the Temple”
Building up the temple, building up the temple for the Lord,
Will you help my brother, will you help my sister,
Building up the temple for the Lord.

Opening Prayer

It is indeed a great day today, Lord for we are able to see the beauty of the sky, we feel the heat of the sun and experience love and care from people around us. Most of all, we feel your presence in all that we received and witnessed today. Thank you Lord for being with us now as we continue to study and discern your message. This is our prayer, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Assign learners to read the biblical texts. After reading, ask the following:

- What do the texts try to tell us about?
- How did Jesus and his disciples; Paul and the apostles able to continue their work in proclaiming the gospel?
- What kind of support did the believers give for the sake of the ministry and the work of the church?

Lessons Learned

Ask the learners, “What kind of support does our local church show/give to further the work of the church-our UCCP, through the conference and other church bodies?”

Allow learners to enumerate the kind of support they knew the local church is giving to the conference and other church bodies. Then tell them about the 22% giving which is called the Wider Mission Support.

Learn and Compute: the Wider Mission Support (22% or 25%)

The facilitator may write on a Manila paper the allocation of the 22% (or 25%, as in the case of other conferences) and explain it to terms understandable to the learners.

Or, the facilitator may invite the Financial Secretary or the Local Church Treasurer to explain about the Wider Mission Support and the reason why the local church has to remit its share to the Conference. Allow the learners to ask questions.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Post on the board the graph. Distribute meta cards to the learners and encourage them to post what they believe are the advantages and disadvantages of remitting the Wider Mission Support to the higher bodies of the church.

ADVANTAGES OF GIVING THE WMS	DISADVANTAGES OF GIVING THE WMS

The facilitator may summarize the discussion by pointing out the key concepts for today's lesson and end the session encouraging the learners to continue to support the church- our UCCP, in whatever ways we can.

Closing Worship

Offering

Memory Verse “..many provided for them out of their resources” Luke 8:3b

Closing Song “Building Up Christ’s Body”
(Tune: Building up the Temple)

Building up Christ’s body, building up Christ’s body,
Building up Christ’s body, our dear church.
Will you help dear brothers, will you help dear sisters
Let’s build up Christ’s body, our dear church.

Closing Prayer

We now understand that in order for the church to continue doing Your work, all parts of Christ’s body must help out and extend its support. May in our own and small ways be able to help out. May our offerings be of great use for the building up of your body, Lord. Teach us always to be considerate, caring and sensitive to the needs of others. In Your name, we pray. Amen

Lesson 42. What do we mean by responsible Christian stewardship?

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021

General Concept: *Responsible Christian stewardship means utilizing and developing the properties and other resources under the care of the church towards self-reliance and support to its various ministries.*

Biblical References: Haggai 1:1-15; Matthew 25:14-30

Age Level Concepts

- The church takes care of our properties
- We use and improve the properties of our church
- We improve our properties to support the life and work of the church

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain in their own words the implication of using and taking care of church properties given their context as young people
- Enumerate properties of the church that need to be used and taken care of to help support its life and work
- Suggest ways to improve properties of the church for its use

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, Manila paper, meta cards (colored), marker pens

Biblical Background

Haggai 1:1-15

The Jews who had returned from Babylon in 538 B.C. to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem were not able to finish their work because they were hindered by their enemies. After opposition put a halt to progress, no further work had been done on the temple for over 10 years.

God asked his people how they could live in luxury when his house was lying in ruins. The temple was the focal point of Judah's relationship with God, but it was still demolished. Instead of rebuilding the temple, the people put their energies into beautifying their own homes.

In 520 B.C., Haggai delivered a message to encourage the people to rebuild the temple. Haggai encouraged the people to finish rebuilding the temple. Opposition from hostile neighbors had caused them to feel discouraged and to neglect the temple, and thus neglect God. But Haggai's message turned them around and motivated them to pick up their tools and continue the work they had begun. (Zondervan Life Application Study Bible, p. 1604)

Matthew 25:14-30

This chapter tells of different stories being told by Jesus. All of these stories were related to his inevitable departure from the world and his coming again. The second story tells of a businessman who went away and left his business in the hands of his trusted employees or servants. He gave them money which vary based on their business abilities. Two of those employees invested their money or find ways to make profit out of their money. While the last one, fearing the money might get lost, hid it and just waited for the return of the master.

When the master returned, he was pleased with the performance of the two employees especially upon knowing that they had worked well to gain profits from the money entrusted them. he then rewarded them with added responsibilities. The last employee tried to make excuses for his laziness. The master was not pleased and even suggested to the employee that he could have just placed the money in the bank if he so thought that the master was only interested in the profits.

The meaning of the story is that God gives people different capacities and abilities/skills. These gifts (capacities, abilities, skills, talents, resources) are to be used for the business of expanding the kingdom of God. According to Donald Fleming of Bridgeway Bible Commentary, “Those who used their gifts will be rewarded with increased capacity and ability while those who neglect their gifts will become useless.”

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s

“Jesus Is a Wonderful Name”

Jesus is a wonderful name,

Jesus is always the same

Jesus is a wonderful name,

We got a smile when we talk about Jesus.

(Change the name Jesus with the names of learners)

“This Little Light of Mine”

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

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

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

Everyday, everyday, everyday, in every way

Am gonna let it shine.

-Jesus is the light, Am gonna let him shine,

(This Little Light of Mine @youtube)

Opening Prayer

You loved us Lord everyday in every way. That is why we come to thank You and praise You for everything we receive and have used. May we truly know and understand You through our study today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Assign learners to read the biblical texts for today’s lesson. After reading, post the following questions on the board. Instruct the learners to pick one question for them to answer:

What did the master do before he went to a journey?

What was the master’s purpose of entrusting the employees?

What was the greatest mistake of the employee?

What was the challenge the prophet gave to the people of Israel?

What does it mean to build the temple again?

What would happen if the people refuse to build the temple again?

How would you react to what the master did- giving rewards to the 2 employees while getting angry at the other one?

How would you characterize the people of Israel who were busy building their homes and forgot about the temple?

Lessons Learned

Encourage the learners to enumerate the properties or the things that are owned by the church or which are entrusted to the local church. They may make a list on their seats.

Tell the learners the following:

- The local church has properties like land and buildings. These properties belong to the whole church- the UCCP. The local church may use these properties for improvement of its life and work.
- The church is given capacity and ability to improve its life and continue its work by using the resources it has (material and human capacities)
- As Christian stewards (or trustees), the church must use its resources (material and human) for the purpose of expanding the work for the kingdom of God.
- We do not only use our resources for the church's life and work but also improve and develop it for the same purpose.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Distribute to the learners meta cards. Instruct the learners to write on their meta cards their simple suggestions on how to take care of the different resources (not only the things owned by the church but also the talents and skills of the people), how to improve and develop it.

Let them post their suggestions on a Manila paper with the question, "How should the church take care of its gifts entrusted by God?"

Closing Worship

Offering

Memory Verse "You have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things..." Matthew 25:21b

Closing Song "This Little Light of Mine"

This little of light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Everyday, everyday, everyday, in every way

Am gonna let it shine.

This little gift of mine, Am gonna use it right
This little gift of mine, am gonna use it right
This little gift of mine, am gonna use it right
Everyday, everyday, everyday, in every way
Am gonna use it right.

Closing Prayer

Thank you Lord for the things and different gifts you entrusted to us, the church for our use to make our life easier and better. Teach us always to use it to please you and not for our selfish plans. May you continue to bless our church so we can become effective instruments to build your kingdom. Amen

Lesson 43. Why do we encourage and provide means for amicable settlement of conflicts and disputes?

Palm Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Lent

March 28, 2021

General Concept: *The Church encourages and provides means for amicable settlement of conflicts and disputes as manifestation of our Christian discipleship and witness to the world.*

Biblical References: *Matthew 5:23-24; Colossians 3:13*

Age Level Concepts

- Our church teaches us how to settle misunderstandings
- We respect and submit to the correct way of settling misunderstandings.
- We humbly accept our mistakes and willing to reconcile

Learning Objectives

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

- Share experiences of having a quarrel with friends and reconciled
- Mention ways how quarrels and misunderstandings are settled
- Ask God for forgiveness for hurting others.

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

Biblical Background

Matthew 5:23-24

The passage was part of Jesus' discussion about the right and wrong attitudes towards the law. Jesus gave several examples to explain his point. He was not trying to discredit the Law when he said, "You have heard that it was said in the past," but it was intended to question the interpretation of the law that was taught by the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus was not trying to contradict the Law or write a new law but to show people the right attitude.

Jesus used the example of killing someone. To refrain from killing someone is not enough. For Jesus, the right attitude is to take away anger and revenge that leads a person to kill someone. Aside from controlling anger, one must also try to make peace with those who are angry with them. In other words, even in our daily worldly affairs, an offender would be wise enough to reach an agreement or settlement with the one whom he offended to, immediately. Otherwise, things might get worse and find himself defending himself before a court.

Colossians 3:13

Believers are reminded to put off old habits just as they put away dirty clothes. Instead, they are reminded to put on their new self in Christ just as they put on new clothes. They are to live a new life, new attitude - that which thinks of others before thinking of self. It is a life that is bound by the "newness" in Christ - a life of love, peace, unity, forgiveness, compassion. Putting on these "new clothes", believers will exude an appearance of genuine beauty and completeness.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning

Keep me burning till the break of day.

Refrain: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna

Sing hosanna to the King of kings!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna

Sing hosanna to the kings.

-Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising

-Give me love in my heart, keep me serving

- Give me peace in my heart, keep forgiving

"Love, Love, Love, Love"

(a round song)
Love, love, love, love,
The gospel in one word is LOVE
Love your neighbor as your kindred
Love, love, love.

Opening Prayer

We keep thanking you Lord, for the rest of our lives. For you are forever loving and caring, forever seeking us and forgiving. May we understand the values of the kingdom taught to us by Jesus as we learn and study through our Sunday School today. Amen

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

READ AND SHOW. Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group a biblical text. Instruct the groups to read the biblical text assigned to them and then, act out the story.

After the showcase, ask the following:

- What did the presentations want to tell us?
- Why should people in conflict or with misunderstanding reconcile?
- What does it try to show when people with quarrel and misunderstanding forgive and reconcile?

Lessons Learned

WHO AMONG YOU? This activity is intended to encourage learners to share their experiences of saying sorry, forgiving those whom they have conflict with and being reconciled. As the facilitator ask the question, the one who raises his or her hand will be given time to share. Encourage everyone to listen carefully.

Who among you:

- Got angry and had quarrel with his/her brother/sister over household chores?
- Had a misunderstanding with his/her siblings because of their allowances?
- Had a quarrel with friends who she thought talked behind her back?
- Had a misunderstanding with friends because they teased you about your body?
- Had a quarrel with parents because they won't let you go out with your "barkada"?

After all the sharing, ask the learners, "How does it feel when conflicts, quarrels or misunderstandings are settled and conflicting parties are reconciled?"

Applying the Lessons Learned

WHAT CAN WE DO? This activity is intended to solicit from the learners ways to settle conflicts, differences and misunderstandings among themselves, between their peers or siblings and parents. The same situations may be given or the facilitator may add more situations to which learners can relate.

What should we do?

- Got angry and had quarrel with his/her brother/sister over household chores?
- Had a misunderstanding with his/her siblings because of their allowances?
- Had a quarrel with friends who she thought talked behind her back?
- Had a misunderstanding with friends because they teased you about your body?
- Had a quarrel with parents because they won't let you go out with your "barkada"?

Closing Worship

Offering

Memory Verse “..if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you..” Colossians 3:13

Closing Song “If I Have Wounded Any Soul” Children Praise God, 104

If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive.

If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If i have turned aside from want or pain,
If I have offended others through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive.

Closing Prayer

Forgive us Lord for the many mistakes we have done against our parents, siblings and friends. Teach us to forgive those who have wronged us and have caused us hurt and pain. Calm our spirits from anger, revenge and intentions of retaliation. Help us to be reconciled with those whom we have wronged or who have wronged us. In the name of our compassionate Lord, Amen.

Lesson 44. What are the means of settling conflicts and disputes in our church?

Communion Sunday

Easter Sunday/ Resurrection of the Lord

April 04, 2021

General Concept: *The church provides means of settling conflicts and disputes through good offices, mediation, conciliation and arbitration.*

Biblical References: Genesis 33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Age Level Concepts

- Our church provides means in settling conflicts and disputes
- We settle conflicts and disputes with the help of our Pastor, Elders, and respected members

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify who helps in settling conflicts and quarrels inside the church
- Locate the guidelines set by the church to help people in the church settle quarrels
- Affirm the ways of settling conflicts as provided in the UCCP Constitution and By-Laws

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]) song chart, offering plate or basket, Manila paper, meta cards (colored), marker pens

Biblical Background

Genesis 33

It is refreshing to see Esau's change of heart when the two brothers meet again. The bitterness over losing his birthright and blessing (Genesis 25:29-34) seems gone. Instead, Esau was content with what he had. Jacob even exclaimed how great it was to see his brother obviously pleased with him.

v. 33 – Bowing to the ground seven times was the sign of respect given to a king. Jacob was taking every precaution as he met Esau, hoping to dispel any thoughts of revenge.

Why did Jacob send gifts ahead for Esau? In Bible times, gifts were given for several reasons. (1) This may have been a bribe. Gifts are still given to win someone over or buy his or her support. Esau may first have refused Jacob's gifts because he didn't want or need a bribe. He had already forgiven Jacob, and he had ample wealth of his own. (2) This may have been an expression of affection. (3) It may have been the customary way of greeting someone before an important meeting. Such gifts were often related to a person's occupation. This explains why Jacob sent Esau – who was a herdsman – sheep, goats, and cattle. (Zondervan Life Application Study Bible, p. 70)

1 Corinthians 6:1-7

If a dispute arises between believers, it should be settled within the church, not in a public court of law (6:1). If Christians are to share in the future judgment of the world, surely they can judge everyday affairs of the present life (2-3). The Corinthians boast of their wisdom, yet no one

among them is wise enough to decide the matter. Instead they shame themselves by taking Christian problems to non-Christian people for a decision (4-6)

Christians should not have lawsuits at all. But Corinthian Christians attack and cheat each other (7-8). They behave like the sorts of people they were before they became Christians. God has declared them righteous and holy through Jesus Christ, and therefore they should be righteous and holy in their conduct (9-11).

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s “Masayang Magkakasama” Children Praise God, 58
(Tune: The More We Get Together)

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

“Let Us Sing Together” Children Praise God, 59
(Round Song)

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

Opening Prayer

We gladly sing our thanks and praises to you, O Lord for we still find joy and gladness despite the continuing threat of the pandemic. Thank you that despite want and poverty, we are still surrounded with people who care for us. Thank you for people in the church and community who find ways to help those in need especially during this time. Bless our study today Lord. Be with us. Amen

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

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

- What happened to the people or characters in the story/text?

- Who were involved in the conflict and in the process of settling the conflict?
- What steps were taken by the characters to get reconciliation or settlement of conflicts?
- What were the contributing factors that help achieve reconciliation?

Lessons Learned

CASE STUDY. The activity is intended to solicit ideas from the learners as to how conflicts should be settled within the church.

Case:

A member stopped going to church for a month. The Pastor got worried because this member happens to be the Treasurer of the church. Her presence is highly needed because the local church is undergoing construction. The Pastor learned from other members of the church that the Treasurer got into argument with the Financial Secretary over some issues that involve money.

What should be done to settle the problem?

After taking the suggestions from the learners, the facilitator may tell the learners the following provisions taken from the UCCP By-Laws

- **Good offices.** The pastor, or an Elder, or a respected member of the Church, shall bring the parties together or provide the occasion for negotiations to take place between them so they can work out a settlement between themselves. For example, the Pastor (or Elder or a respected member of the Church) may invite the parties to the controversy to his office or residence for the said purpose. At the Conference level and that of the General Assembly, the tender of good offices may be initiated or done by the Conference Minister, the Officers of the Conference, the General Secretary, and other officers of the General Assembly, or by any respected lay leader of the Church.
- **Mediation.** Where the one tendering his/her good office actively participates by proposing a solution and offering his/her advise to the parties to the controversy, he/she plays the role of a mediator. Good offices and mediation may take place on the same occasion. The mediator does not concern himself/herself with the merits of a dispute: his/her task is to encourage compromise rather than advise adherence to legal technicalities.
- **Conciliation.** This is the process of settling a controversy about disputed facts by referring the same to a person or persons, designated by agreement of the parties to the conflict of dispute, for the purpose of clarifying and elucidating the facts in issue between the parties in the hope of bringing them to a compromise settlement.

- **Arbitration.** This is a quasi-judicial, informal procedure for the settlement of a controversy between the parties by referring the conflict or dispute to one or more impartial persons for final and binding determination. The arbitrator or board of arbitrators, not more than three (3) in number, shall be freely chosen by the parties themselves from a pool of Church arbitrators. In arbitration there is a legal obligation on the part of the parties to the controversy to comply with the award or decision.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Sentence of Affirmation. Instruct the learners to complete the sentence expressing affirmation and respect to the guidelines of the church in settling conflicts.

“ I thank God for learning that _____ ”.

Closing Worship

Offering

Memory Verse “When any of you has a grievance against another, do you dare to take it court before the unrighteousness, instead of taking it to the saints?” 1 Corinthians 6:1

Closing Song “Tell Me Whose Side” Children Praise God,87

Tell me, whose side I’m sitting on,
I’m sitting on the Lord’s side. (2x)
 I sit, I sit, I sit, I sit,
 I’m sitting on the Lord’s side.

Tell me whose side are you leaning on
I’m leaning on the Lord’s side. (2x)
 I lean, I lean, I lean, I lean,
 I’m leaning on the Lord’s side.

Closing Prayer

Make us mindful O Lord of your teachings about forgiveness and loving others especially those who greatly need it. Make us also mindful of the different ways we can make peace with people whom we have wronged or have wronged us. Make us mindful to respect the ways of the church to achieve reconciliation and forgiveness. Forgive us for our shortcomings and weaknesses. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lesson 45. Why does our church affirm and uphold the inviolability of the rights of persons?

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11,2021

General Concept: *Our church affirms and upholds the inviolability of the rights of persons because we believe that persons are created in the image of God; that human rights are gifts from God and God's will is for us to enjoy the fullness of our humanity.*

Biblical References: *Genesis 1:26-27; Psalms 8:4-9*

Age Level Concepts

- Our church affirms the rights of all human beings
- God gave us rights that ought to be respected
- We assert our rights and respect others' rights

Learning Objectives

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

- Tell why we respect the basic human rights of a person
- Mention their basic human rights
- Suggest ways to show respect of other people's rights.

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

Biblical Background

Genesis 1:26-27

Why does God use the plural form, "Let us make man in our image"? One view says this is a reference to the Trinity – God the Father, Jesus Christ his Son, and the Holy Spirit – all of whom are God. Another view is that the plural wording is used to denote majesty. Kings traditionally use the plural form in speaking of themselves.

In what ways are we made in God's image? God obviously did not create us exactly how God looks like because God has no physical body. Instead, we are reflections of God's glory. Some feel that our reason, creativity, speech, or self-determination is the image of God. More likely, it is our entire self that reflects the image of God. Knowing that we are made in God's image and thus share many of God's characteristics provides a solid basis for self-worth. (Zondervan Life Application Study Bible, p. 6)

Psalms 8:4-9

This psalm mentions the majestic power of God manifested in the creation of the vast universe. Great is God's power that gives to "feeble insignificant human beings a position of dignity that makes them unique among all created things, for they alone are created in the image of God". (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

God gave human beings the authority to use and manage the physical world in which they live. But this doesn't mean that human beings become God. Being made in God's image, human beings are to become representatives of the Creator. Their dignity and worth reflects the glory and power of the One who created them. Their duty is to pay homage, worship, praise and glory to God whom they serve.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Song/s "Batang Katulad Ko" Children Praise God,66

Ang Dios ay lumikha ng batang tulad ko
May angking talking, nagsasabi ng totoo,
Ako'y nagmamahal at minamahal nya,
Kaya kaming dalawa ay laging masaya.

"Sino Ako?" Children Praise God,64

Sino ba ang tao? Sino ba ako?
Sino nga ba tayo? Bakit tayo naririto?
Saan ba ako nanggaling, ang alam ko ay tanging ito,
Ako'y nilalang mo, larawan mo,
Panginoong Dios ko.

Sino ba ang tao? Sino ba ako?
Sino nga ba tayo? Bakit tayo naririto?
Ano ang dapat kong gawin?
Kung buhay ko ay mula sa Iyo.
Sa 'Yo lamang sumamba at sa 'ting
Kapwa tayo ay maglingkod.

"Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes" Children Praise God,84

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see
For the Lord up above is looking down in love
So, be careful little eyes what you see.

-O be careful little ears what you hear
-O be careful little hands what you do
-O be careful little feet where you go

"God Made Me"

God made me, God made me

In my bible book I read that God made me.

God loves me, God loves me

In my Bible book I read that God loves me.

Opening Prayer

We are created in Your image, Lord. And for that, we are most thankful. You made us unique over other created things and commanded us to take charge of your created world. For that, we gather to glorify and praise You. May your creative presence be with us today. Amen.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Assign learners to read the biblical texts. Let the learners pick one affirmation and then ask them to explain as they understand it.

- What faith affirmations can we draw out from the biblical texts?

We are created in God's image.

We are given the task to take care of the created world.

Human dignity is a gift from God.

Respect for human rights is upholding human dignity.

Our respect for the rights of people shows our respect to the Creator.

Human life is valuable because it comes from God.

Lessons Learned

Song Writing. Divide the class into two or three groups. Instruct the learners to compose a song (they may use a familiar tune) based on what they understand from the affirmations including their knowledge and understanding of the basic rights of children.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Song Learning. Tell each group to teach their composition to the whole class. Let the learners sing it repeatedly to familiarize the songs.

Closing Worship

Offering

Memory Verse. "What are human beings that you are mindful of them?" Psalms 8:4

Closing Song "Sino Ako?" Children Praise God,64

Sino ba ang tao? Sino ba ako?
Sino nga ba tayo? Bakit tayo naririto?
Saan ba ako nanggaling, ang alam ko ay tanging ito,
Ako'y nilalang mo, larawan mo,
Panginoong Dios ko.

Sino ba ang tao? Sino ba ako?
Sino nga ba tayo? Bakit tayo naririto?
Ano ang dapat kong gawin?
Kung buhay ko ay mula sa Iyo.
Sa 'Yo lamang sumamba at sa 'ting
Kapwa tayo ay maglingkod.

Or the class may sing again the songs composed by the groups

Closing Prayer

We thank you Lord for making us your representatives to the world. May we truly reflect your goodness and love to the world as we are created to image You. Teach us always to respect the dignity of persons by upholding their God-given rights. Bless our lives and make it useful for the building of the Kingdom. Amen