

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Title 10: **John the Baptist: Preparing the Way of the Lord**

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:3-5 (NRSV, 1989)

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

New Testament: Luke 3:1-20 (NRSV, 1989)

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." ⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹²Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

General Concept: : Like John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord, the church prepares the world for the coming of the Kingdom.

*Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School***N/K/YE: John the Baptist prepares for the Lord.****ME/OE: John the Baptist prepares the way for the Lord.****Y: John the Baptist calls for repentance in preparation for the coming of the Lord.****A: Like John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord, the church prepares the world for the coming of the Kingdom.***Exegesis of the Biblical References*

This prophetic proclamation is a clear announcement of the coming liberation work of God among the people who were in exile and captives of the imperial rule of Babylon. The intention of the prophetic voice is to announce a radically new act of God that is about to take place in the history of God's people. God has now decided to end their captivity and bring them back to their homeland. But in bringing this about God will now be working through a rather unexpected historical agent to become His instrument to liberate the captives in Babylon.

The Persians, led by king Cyrus is now considered as that historical instrument of God who will prepare the way of the Lord for the restoration of God's people in their homeland. The signs are now clearly manifesting such as the continuing stream of victories that Cyrus has already achieved on the way to becoming the new imperial power. His military achievements are now pointing to the imminent collapse and destruction of the once mighty Babylonian empire (cf. Is. 41:2-4, 25; 45:1-3).

Clearly, this prophetic proclamation is a sign of hope to those who are held captives. It is a clear sign of God's working out the liberation of God's people right through the events of history and using concrete and powerful but unexpected historical agents. This act is very consistent with the nature of their God who is also their liberator in the time of their slavery in Egypt and now in their captivity in Babylon. It also echoes the voice of the prophets that God is with those who are in need of salvation and freedom from whatever captivity they may be suffering from. Luke presents a clear and vivid picture of a prophetic John the Baptist. Being a cousin of Jesus, he is presented with his being part of Israel not just by blood but by the faith tradition that is rooted in the Mosaic laws and interpretation (vv.10-14). John the Baptist serves as the preparation or prelude to the Messiah. John's presence and appearance comes as a clear call for the people to prepare for the Messiah's arrival. This may be parallel to the Isaiah account in using an instrument to prepare the way; in the case of Isaiah, it is the Persians led by Cyrus but in the case of our Lukan text which reveals a context where the Judean community is completely dominated and ruled by the Roman Empire through local puppets such as Herod, it is John the Baptist. The preparation also gives an abstract of what Jesus will do in his public ministry. This becomes a message to the Church to prepare the way of Jesus Christ in the same way that John has reminded his own people what to do. This is exactly what the Church is also being asked to do.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

God called John the Baptist to prepare for Jesus ministry. The message of repentance that John preached was to prepare the people for the imminent coming of the kingdom of God. Following John the Baptists' execution, Jesus came out to the public preaching exactly the same message. But Jesus' message wasn't simply a repeat of John's but only to introduce himself to the public scene. In relation to the message of repentance and the imminent arrival of the kingdom, Jesus life, work and crucifixion embodied God's judgment as well as his offer of salvation.

It can be said that even if the Lord would return today to establish God's kingdom, the people may not want to enter for lack of understanding and appreciation of it. This is illustrated in the experience of the Hebrew people during the Exodus. Fresh out from Egypt, they were worshippers of other gods. When Moses offered to them a new God by the name of Yahweh, at one crucial point in the journey they created a golden calf representing the old religions. It took the whole of forty years to mold a new community of faith to occupy Canaan.

The world needs to be prepared for Christ's return as judge so that everyone would be fit to inherit the kingdom. Otherwise, the world would in turn judge him as a harsh and unforgiving judge instead of a merciful savior. The church does not rejoice when a single soul is lost and thrown to eternal condemnation. Like Jesus, it rejoices when a sinner returns to the Lord to seek his forgiveness. It is the mission of the church to preach the message of repentance in order to prepare the people for the coming of the kingdom. Since no one knows when it will happen, every moment is a time for preparation.

One must also be prepared to believe and follow Jesus. The quick-fix, instant brand of evangelism negates the importance of preparation. During the period of the ancient church, proselytes or candidates for baptism underwent a process of preparation that included instruction in the new faith, a new ethics and responsible membership in the church. Protestant Reformer Martin Luther spoke about the harshness of the law like hammer blows to break a heart hardened by sin before grace may work out its benefits. A form of evangelism that uses gimmickry and psychological manipulation in fact does violence to the gospel. Let the gospel find in a person a ready and compliant heart.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session and with the consistent example shown by parents and other significant adults, the children will be able to:

1. identify who John the Baptist is;
2. describe the work of John as the one who prepares for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ; and
3. choose people at home who talk about the Lord.

II. Concept: John the Baptist prepares for the Lord.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), song chart, four-panel storybook about the life of John the Baptist, crayons, scissors

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the children and have them greet each other.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for another Sunday. Help us to welcome each other as we learn and work together. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
3. Opening songs:
 - "Kumusta Ka"
 - Kumusta ka halina't magsaya pumalakpak, pumalakpak ituro ang paa
Padyak sa kanan, padyak sa kaliwa, umikot ka 2X humanap ng iba
 - "We will Walk"
 - We will walk to the left, we walk to right, we will walk,
We will walk and we'll walk alright,
With a heel and a toe and a half way around
With a heel and a toe and a new friend found
We are travelling in this world, we are on our way to heaven
And together we'll be there so let us praise the Lord.
Right hand, left hand, right foot, left foot, turn around, sit down.

B. Getting Ready

1. Sharing: Have the learners share the names of their parents. Have them say how old their parents are.

C. Learning Time

1. Direct learners to the story: Say that in the Bible story for the day, they will find out about a character who was born to parents who were as old as their grandparents.
2. Tell the following story. (Refer to the activity sheets. Convert the pages into a four-panel story book.)

Meet John, the Baptist

The Angel Gabriel visits Zechariah. The angel tells him that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son. They are to name him John. Zechariah and Elizabeth are already old. But they know that only God could make that happen.

John grows and stays up in the desert of Judea. He eats locusts and honey. He wears clothes made of animal skins. He wears a leather belt.

John is a good man. He loves and obeys God. His job is to make people ready for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

John goes down to the Jordan River and preaches by the water. Crowds of people love to listen to his message. He tells them to repent. He wants them to be sorry for the wrong things they have done and not to do these again. "That way," he says, "people are prepared to listen to and obey Jesus.

Then, John baptizes people who repent from their sins.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Artwork: For the **N/K** group, tell the children to color the picture of John the Baptist. For the **YE** group, ask them to paste indigenous materials on the clothes of John and color the food he eats.
2. Talk about the story. Using the colored picture of John the Baptist, have the pupils share about the following:
3. If possible, have the class watch the Story: John the Baptist on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3D_OO84K9RuF0 3 Oct 2013
4. Ask these questions.
 - a. Who are the parents of John? (Zechariah and Elizabeth)
 - b. What did John the Baptist do? (John preached the coming of the Messiah.)
 - c. What should the people do before the coming of the Messiah? (People must repent or to stop doing bad and start doing good)
 - d. What did John the Baptist do to a the people who repented from their sins? (He baptized them with water)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: *How can we prepare the way of the Lord like what John the Baptist did?*

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Show a heart-shaped soft object and let the learners touch it. Ask them to describe it. Say: "Our hearts are soft when we let Jesus come into our lives and we follow Him." Let the class share what things do they do to show they follow what Jesus wants. Ask the class the family members who can help them do good things.
2. Show a heart-shaped hard object. Have the learners touch and describe it. Say: "Our hearts become hard when we do bad things." Ask the class what bad things do they usually do? Let them share how these bad things can be changed to good things. Ask the class the family members who can help them change their bad ways to good things.
3. *Class Theater: Act and Repent!*: Divide the class into two teams. One team can act out a bad behavior such as throwing toys, grabbing one's things, hurting a playmate like kicking or punching or calling names. Then, the teacher says, "Repent!" The other team acts out the behavior after repentance.
4. Switch off teams. After the activity, have the class realize that a soft repentant heart is ready to follow Jesus.

G. Closing Worship

1. Memory Verse: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Luke 3:4b)
2. Offering
3. Closing song: "John the Baptist Preached"
4. Closing prayer: "Father in heaven, teach us to be like John the Baptist who prepared the way for the Lord. Help us to do good always and change our bad ways, In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. recall the family relationship of John to Jesus;
2. explain how John prepares the way of the Lord; and
3. describe the people at home, in school, and in the church who prepare the way of the Lord.

II. Concept: John the Baptist prepares the way for the Lord.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), activity sheets, song chart, crayons, pencils

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Smile and greet the children as they come. Have them greet each other. Check the attendance.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear Lord, thank you for another Sunday. Help us to welcome each other as we learn and work together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!"
3. Opening song: "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)

B. Getting Ready

1. Tell the children to do the free guided play "Straight Line". Give the following instructions:
 - a. Divide the class into three groups.
 - b. In one minute time, tell the class to remove all the things in their body and arrange them in a straight line.
 - c. The winners will be the team or teams that can arrange their things in a straight line.
2. Ask: How did you feel when your things are in a straight line? Ask the teams (those that failed to do the activity) why they failed to arrange their thing in a straight line.

C. Learning Time

1. Ask the group to read the story found in Luke 3:1-20.
2. Use the same three groups formed earlier. Then assign a group to each of the three parts of the story (found in the activity sheets).

Meet John, the Baptist

Part 1

Long time ago, an old man named Zechariah saw the Angel Gabriel. The angel declared that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son whom they were to name John. Zechariah and Elizabeth knew that John would be special. His birth was a miracle because his parents were very old when he was born - way too old to have a baby. Only God could make that happen.

John grew up in the desert of Judea. He had to learn to eat all kinds of unusual things because there was not much to eat there. He ate bugs called locusts and dipped them in honey. He wore unusual clothes, too! He wore animal skins instead of regular clothing. He was a good man. He obeyed God and always tried to do the right thing. God gave him a special job. John's job was to make people ready for Jesus to start preaching.

Part 2

To prepare for Jesus' coming, John wanted the people to have good hearts. So, John taught them how to soften their hearts. If they have a "soft heart" they will let God change their heart into the kind of heart that He wants. John knew that the people needed to have soft hearts so they would be ready to hear Jesus preach. If people had a "hard heart," they would never listen to Jesus and change their bad ways.

John went down to the Jordan River and preached by the water. Crowds of people loved to listen to his message. He talked about soft hearts and used the word "repent" a lot. To repent means one is sorry for doing the wrong thing and then he or she stops doing it. It also means to start doing what is right instead of the wrong thing. John said that the people must repent and to stop being selfish.

Part 3

The people ask him, "What are we to do, then?"

John answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none and whoever has food must share it."

The tax collector asks him, "Teacher what are we to do?" "Don't collect what is more than legal and be fair like God," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us?" "What we are to do?" He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely; be content with your pay."

Then, John told everyone that they needed to be baptized in the Jordan River. The baptism would mean that they repented or stopped their wicked ways and started doing what is right. It would show that their hearts were soft and good. People listened to John and repented of their sins. Lots of people were baptized in the Jordan River.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Talk about the story.
 - a. Who was the main character of the story? (John the Baptist)
 - b. Who was his father? (Zechariah)
 - c. What was the work of John the Baptist? (He preached the coming of the Messiah.)
 - d. What was his message? (Do good. Prepare the way of the Lord. Change your bad ways into good ways.)
2. Use the three groups you have formed earlier and tell each group to dramatize any of the three parts of the story.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "Do you agree with what John the Baptist preached—repent and be baptized? How can you prepare the way of the Lord?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11)
2. Do you agree that we are the John the Baptist nowadays? Why or why not?

3. Relate the game "Straight line" with what John meant when he said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."
4. Write the following words in bold letters. Paste them on the board. Provide sheets of paper and pens or crayons. Tell the class to write an activity that will help prepare the way of the Lord. Have them paste these sheets under the correct heading.

HOME

SCHOOL

CHURCH

5. **For ME:**
 - a. *Show and Tell.* Ask the class to show by way of acting out the following sentences:
 - 1) John the Baptist preached about Jesus.
 - 2) John the Baptist baptized the people who repented from their sins.
 - 3) Our parents can teach us to share our gifts to others.
 - 4) The pastor in the church preaches about the Good News.
 - b. Tell the class to read the set of letters in the activity sheet and encircle all the words related to the story of John the Baptist. Answers: ANGEL, BAPTISM, ELIZABETH, HEROD, JESUS, JOHN, JORDAN, LOCUST, SOLDIERS, ZECHARIAH
6. **For OE:**
 - a. *Making Praying Hands.* Let the children trace either their right or left hands. Distribute crayons so that they will color their fingers brightly. Tell them to write on each finger ways by which they can help prepare the way of the Lord. Examples: "I will not bully my classmates anymore. I will share food with the needy. I will pray for the sick people." Then let them set their praying hands aside and use it during the closing worship.
 - b. Ask the class to read the story of John the Baptist again. Then let the children to unscramble the given words in the activity sheet and use them in sentences. Answers: 1. relative, 2. Jesus, 3. belt, 4. Elizabeth, 5. Messiah, 6. Zechariah, 7. crying, 8. wilderness, 9. ancestor, 10. mission, 11. John, King Herod

G. *Closing Worship*

1. Memory verse
2. Offering:
 - a. Let the class (ME) act out one way of doing good.
 - b. Let the class (OE) read one of the ways that they have written in their praying hands. Ask them to offer them in the altar.
3. Closing song: "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)
4. Closing prayer: *God of salvation, thank you for giving us love and wisdom to spread Your Word to our friends and neighbors that we care about. In your mighty Son's name, we pray. Amen.*

Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. define the meaning of repentance;
2. list some of the things advised by John in order to prepare the way of the Lord; and
3. express ways that the advice of John can be used in contemporary times.

II. Concept: John the Baptist calls for repentance in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, crayons, pencils

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer:
3. Opening song: first stanza of "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)

B. Getting Ready

1. Form three groups. Assign the term **baptism** to the first group, the term **preparation** to the second group, and the term **repentance** to the third group. Give each group a concept map. Allow each group 5 minutes to discuss among themselves on ideas that they think are related to the main concept/word given. Tell the students to refer to the activity sheet.
2. After the discussion, have the students share to the big group their concept web.

C. Learning Time

Let the students read the two biblical references. After reading, discuss the highlights and draw from the class the following insights:

1. *Isaiah 40:3-5*. Say: "The book of Isaiah was written by a great prophet who lived in Jerusalem in the latter half of eighth century B.C. Isaiah saw that the real threat of their nation, Judah, was their own sin and disobedience toward God and their lack of trust in him. It was going to be their doom and destruction if they would not listen to God. Our text summed up the mission of John the Baptist."
2. *Luke 3:1-20*. Say: "Luke gives us the fullest life-story of Jesus in the Bible. His Gospel shows Jesus as the savior of all men; his coming, a world event. He lets us see Jesus as man. And his selection of stories reflects his own warm interest in people, especially the sick and helpless, the poor, the women, the children and the social outcast. Our text connects with the Isaiah text; John is preaching of the coming of the Messiah. Genuine repentance shows itself in daily life—in kindness, generosity, and honesty."

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Talk about John the Baptist's story. Ask these questions.

1. Who is the main character of the story? (John the Baptist)
2. Who is his father? (Zechariah)
3. What was the work of John the Baptist? (He preached the coming of the Messiah)
4. What message did he preach? (Do good, make the way of the Lord straightforward.)
5. If you were present during John the Baptist's time, what would you feel listening to his preaching?

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "What could be the reasons that John preached the message of repentance? What could we do in order to prepare the way of the Lord?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verses:
 - a. "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11b)
 - b. "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." (Luke 3:13b)
 - c. "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." (Luke 3:14b)
2. *Graphics organizer.* Present the concept webs for baptism, repentance, and preparation in the activity sheets. Form three groups and assign each group to complete any one of the given concept webs. Expect the following thoughts and insights from the class.
 - a. Repentance means to return or go back to the right path with sorrow after doing wrong/sinning. It also means to change one's mind, heart, and behavior about something. This process must be done in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. We need to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus.
 - b. John the Baptist includes the kingdom-values namely, generosity (v.11), kindness (v. 14) and honesty (v. 13).
 - c. John the Baptist's 3 advices for preparing the way of the Lord—generosity, kindness, and honesty.
 - d. Preparing the way of the Lord include three simple steps—(1) identify one teaching they can apply, (2) name the person they will talk to, and (3) prepare the message/words they will share.
Example: "I used to think that my food was only for myself; I am sharing some food with you because God helped me realize I can be a blessing in my own little way."
3. After finishing the group work, have the students share to the big group their concept web.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)
3. Closing prayer: "Father, we pray that you will find us your instruments of preparing your way through our engagements this coming week. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

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

1. define the meaning of repentance;
2. point to the lines in the biblical references that can make people repent of their sins;
3. explain how John presented himself in relation to Jesus; and
4. make a choice of how one gets involved in preparing the way of the Lord.

II. Concept: Like John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord, the church prepares the world for the coming of the Kingdom.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: *Gracious God, give us the strength to do your will as we study your Word. You have given the task to proclaim Your Gospel. Help us to do it with diligent hearts and minds. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*
3. Opening song: "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)

B. Getting Ready

Ask the class about their thoughts about baptism, preparation, and repentance.

C. Learning Time

Let the students read the two biblical references and tell them to take down notes. In reading, ask themselves the question: "What does this text mean to me?"

1. *Isaiah 40:3-5*. These verses foretell the messenger whose ministry is to call Israel to repent from their sin of disobedience to and mistrust in God. In doing so, they will prepare the glorious coming of the Messiah. Isaiah predicts the mission of John the Baptist.
2. *Luke 3:1-20*. These verses fulfill the prediction of Isaiah of the mission of John the Baptist.
 - a. When John preached
 - b. To whom is John's preaching
 - c. What John preached (Genuine repentance manifested in kindness, generosity, and honesty.
 - d. Situations where repentance is shown
 - e. The confusion of the hearers and the clarification made by John about Himself and his relation to the Messiah
 - f. What John did to the hearers who believed in the Messiah

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson and ask these questions.

1. How did John explain the meaning of repentance? How can we obey the repentance model proposed by John in our daily life?

2. When John baptized the believers, what was he actually doing in relation with Christ?
3. What verses tell about the relation of John to the Messiah?
4. Paraphrase this: "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16b)
5. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

The church does not rejoice when a single soul is lost and thrown to eternal condemnation. Like Jesus, it rejoices when a sinner returns to the Lord to seek his forgiveness. It is the mission of the church to preach the message of repentance in order to prepare the people for the coming of the kingdom. Since no one knows when it will happen, every moment is a time for preparation.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "Do you agree that like John the Baptist, who prepared the way of the Lord, the church can also prepare the world for the coming of the Kingdom? Why or why not?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Let the students make a reflective action showing their participation in preparing the way of the Messiah. After finishing the exercise, have them share their thoughts with their seatmates. Tell them to use this format.

Place	Detailed Action
1. Home	
2. Church	
3. Community	

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Living for Jesus" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 289)
3. Closing prayer: "God of mercy, thank you for giving us the ability to change our ways and be of service to others especially to the weak and helpless. Lead us to become like John the Baptist who prepare your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."