

The Season of Lent (Crucifixion)

The Lenten Season starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on the eve of Resurrection Sunday. It recapitulates the final days of Jesus on earth. Palm Sunday starts the Passion Week that includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Black Saturday.

Lent is the other great Christian season that marks the culmination of the mission of Jesus. It is observed as a period of preparation for the dramatic climax of the story of salvation – the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Lent is basically about Jesus, less about us. It is a call for solidarity with the passion and suffering of Jesus, the Christ. Here lies the great paradox of the gospel: by the suffering of this man, we who are sick with sin find healing and wholeness and by his death we obtain a new life with God.

At Lent, the faithful contemplates on the suffering of Jesus and there discern God's solidarity with those who suffer in life. And reflecting on their suffering, we find a just and merciful God.

First Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Title 12: **The Emergence of Jesus' Christhood**

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-5 (NRSV, 1989)

The Peaceful Kingdom

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

New Testament: Matthew 16:13-16, 4:1-11 (NRSV, 1989)

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah,² the Son of the living God.'

The Temptation of Jesus

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ⁷ Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹ and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

General Concept: Reflecting on his religious heritage and personal history, Jesus realizes his being Christ and his messianic destiny.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

N/K/YE: **Jesus is the Messiah.**

ME/OE: **Jesus discovers and embraces his being the Messiah.**

Y: **Personal experiences and constant reflections lead Jesus to know his call to be Christ, the Messiah.**

A: **Reflecting on his religious heritage and personal history, Jesus realizes his being Christ and his messianic destiny.**

Exegesis of the Biblical References

The account is a reflection written by the prophet during Israel's (Northern Kingdom) time of exile to Assyria where the prophet witnessed the northerners' hardship, suffering and much agony, with the exiled ruling elite of Samaria longing for their land while hopelessly living in a foreign land. The writer discerns in this tragedy of the Northern Kingdom a divine warning coming also to the people and rulers of the Southern Kingdom in Judah who were living with much air of confidence and sense of assurance regarding their future. The prophet wanted his own people to be more conscious of their covenant responsibility. The only way for the people to remain secure is for them to humbly remember what God has done for them in the past and in the midst of present challenges, to look forward to the savior who will emerge to restore Israel's glory. The writer understands the need for the people to reaffirm the historical roots that trace their lineage to the stump of Jesse the father of David to whom God made a promise that his descendants will rule forever to establish justice and peace all over the land. Holding on with faith and trust in this historic past as the paradigm for what will yet come in the near future is the source of assurance that God will continue to act to save and uphold His people even in the face of the greatest crisis they may be facing both in the present and in the future.

In the Gospel texts, Jesus was asking his disciples "who do you say I am" implies that Jesus has not yet assumed his messianic identity. Jesus wanted to confirm from the persons whom he expected to know him the most who they think he is. The question needed to be raised because his claim as the messiah has always been challenged and tainted with doubts even after the many miracles he displayed because of his personal history. In fact, the book of Matthew started with Jesus' genealogy tracing his roots to the Davidic lineage, precisely, to respond to this kind of doubts and questions being raised about the real identity and roots of Jesus. Thus, the opening text of Matthew aims to present Jesus as the messianic "stump" described in Isaiah 11 who will bring salvation to the people. Peter's confession "You are the Christ" validates his messianic identity, affirming his messianic destiny.

The temptations of Jesus that came after his introduction as the Son of God during his baptism suggest the onset of his messianic journey. Here, the emphasis now shifts from his personal history to his personal destiny as the messiah. Jesus overcoming his temptations show his capability and authority over all kinds of trials and the ordeals that will confront him in his journey toward the fulfillment and realization of his messianic destiny.

Jesus understanding of his messianic identity came from his many encounters with people and from various circumstances he engaged with in different times and places. Though his messianic nature is embedded in his being his realization of the task he needed to undertake slowly unveiled in him as he witnessed different struggles people experienced starting in his own hometown. His personal history and religious heritage helped him see what he needed to do that led to his realization of his messianic destiny allowing him to endure the temptations in the wilderness, to persevere amidst persecutions and to stand firm in his mission as the messiah of God. All this points to him as the awaited savior, the remnant or the stump from the Davidic lineage that will give the people hope and restore the glory of their nation.

Peter's confession "You are the Christ" affirmed his messianic identity. Though Jesus' messiahship did not require any affirmation yet he needed acknowledgment from his circle to complete his identity. After the affirmation of the disciples, they gradually began to understand the purpose and mission of Jesus as they learn and participate in his works and ministries. For this, the disciples later on were able as well to understand their own mission

and realized their own destiny as they obey their master and Lord.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

Jesus' messianic consciousness emerged gradually from experience. This is to say that it wasn't an idea that was implanted in Jesus right at his conception. Neither did Jesus just wake up one morning knowing that he was going to be God's messiah to save the world. Rather, it's likely that he went through a typical childhood in the specific context of his time and place; took his place in society as a worker and family provider; saw what was going on around him; learned the traditions of his faith; heard great tales about contemporary heroic figures and got involved in serious discussions and analysis with others about the situation; and weighed his various options carefully. He brooded over them through many nights and at the end he made up his mind: he was going to leave home to become an itinerant preacher of the kingdom of God as John the Baptist was. He would start in his home town of Nazareth. It was a modest start and may have raised only a few eyebrows. The day that sealed Jesus' destiny passed largely unnoticed even by his own family and town mates.

The temptation in the wilderness may have been his moment of truth. As in Job, Satan acts as the Tempter or Teaser who seeks to win Jesus' loyalty in exchange for the things that every patriotic and devout Jew aspires for – the power to perform miracles, sovereign authority over kingdoms and physical invincibility. With all these, one can truly be Israel's liberator to restore David's kingdom in all its glory. Of course, the Devil cannot be trusted to be true to his promise but many a good man with the noblest desires are willing to parley with the Devil for a higher cause. But Jesus is not merely a good man. He is the messiah whose mission is from God. Discarding the better side of reason, he chooses to be loyal to God – to hell with the Devil!

But it's one thing to think of oneself as messiah; it's another thing to be recognized as such. In order for him to complete his messianic identity he needed to be confirmed by his followers. Jesus started like John the Baptist or the prophet Elijah when he selected and called the disciples. But as they continued to learn from Jesus and participated in his work, a new awareness came upon them. They saw him cut a different figure never revealed to them before. Peter's confession came out from a vague intimation that dawned into a decisive declaration: "You are the Christ!" That may have served as a pact that bound the disciples with Jesus in a great adventure of faith.

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. tell that Jesus is Christ, the Messiah;
2. express one's thanks to Jesus who delivers his people from their sins and sufferings; and
3. participate in performing activities that show gratitude to God.

II. Concept: Jesus is Christ, the Messiah.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), pictures of people in need, crayons, paper with the lettering, "Thank You Jesus for Being Our Messiah.", song chart

To the teacher: Pray, meditate and review your lesson. Make your classroom child friendly, safe, clean, and conducive for learning.

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the learners with your charming smile and your big warm hug.
2. Opening prayer in song: "Thank You, Jesus" by Rev. Goel B. Bagundol (gbb) to the tune of "Where in Thumbkin?"
Thank you, Jesus, Thank you, Jesus for today, for today.
For the gift of friendship (twice), for loving us, for loving us (twice).
3. Singing Time: "Yes, I Want to be Like Jesus" (by gbb with the tune: "If You Are Happy and You Know It")
If you want to be like Jesus, help a friend (twice).
To people who are needy, do reach out and give your help
If you want to be like Jesus, help your friend.
(Replace the word *help* with *hug* or *love*.)

B. Getting Ready

1. Before teaching the song, prepare pictures of what Jesus did (healing the sick, making blind see, giving food to the hungry, blessing children). Tell the class to look at the pictures displayed at the classroom walls. Ask: "What do you see on the wall?" (We see the pictures of Jesus doing many things.)
2. Teach the song "Jesus Went About Doing Good" (by Lois Horton Young, 1954).
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.
He heals the sick and heals the blind
To little children He was kind. He gives some hungry people food
He says, "Be always kind and good."
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class that in this lesson, they will find out what names the people call Jesus. Ask them to listen to the story carefully.
2. Tell the story.
"You Are the Messiah" (Based on Matthew 16:13-16)
Jesus travels with his disciples in doing good for the people.
Jesus asked his friends, "Who do people say that I am?"
"Some say that you are John the Baptist. Others say you are Elijah," they said.

"But who do you say that I am?" asked Jesus.

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus said, "Blessed are you Peter. No man told you that. My Father in Heaven told you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church and Hell will not conquer it."

Then Jesus told his friends not to tell anyone who he was just yet.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Discuss the story. Ask these questions.
 - a. What did Jesus ask his friends? ("Who do people say that I am?")
 - b. What did Jesus ask his disciples? ("But who do people say that I am?")
 - c. What did the other disciples answer? ("Some say that you are John the Baptist. Others say you are Elijah.")
 - d. What did Peter answer? ("You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.")
 - e. How did Peter call Jesus? (Messiah)
2. Tell the class to sing again the song "Jesus Went About Doing Good". Ask the class for the things Jesus did. (Jesus made the blind to see. Jesus welcomed children and blessed them. Jesus gave them food to the hungry. Jesus healed the lame and made them walk.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Say: "After reading our story, we said that Jesus is the Messiah. The word Messiah means Christ." Ask: What is another name for Messiah? Can we say that Jesus is the Christ and he is our Messiah. Why or why not?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)
2. Creative activity **for the N/K: Love Card**. Let the learners color the prepared heart shaped card with the wordings, "Thank You Jesus for Being Our Messiah"
Creative activity **for the YE: Love Card**. Let the learners make their own card that says, "Thank You Jesus for Being Our Messiah."

G. Closing Worship

1. Let the class recite the memory verse.
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering and their "Thank You Jesus Card" as they sing together the following song:
We're Giving Because We Love Jesus"
We're giving, We're giving because we love Jesus.
We're giving, we're giving because we love Him.
3. Closing songs: Request the children to gather around and hold their hands together and sing the songs "Yes! I Want to be Like Jesus" and "Jesus Went About Doing Good"
4. Closing prayer: "Our loving parent God, thank you for giving us your blessings. Let our offerings be of help to those who are in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
5. Goodbye song: "Our Sunday School Is Over" (by gbb)
Our Sunday school is over, it's time to go
May the blessing of our God be with us all.
May we walk together in love and trust
Pleasing God in work, in thought, in everything we do.

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. tell the process by which Jesus discovers his being as our savior;
2. read the lines that support the circumstances surrounding the discovery of Jesus as the savior; and
3. demonstrate appreciation for Jesus as our savior and to involve oneself in his salvation plan for all.

II. Concept: Jesus discovers and embraces his being the Messiah.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), used wrapping paper, paste, and construction paper, pictures of needy people, crayons, pen and paper for "Thank You Jesus" Card, stop watch, pen, paper

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome Time: Greet the learners with your awesome smile and your big warm hug. Choose 2 children per Sunday where you can have a brief chat concerning them.
2. Singing Time (Assign a song leader to lead the class in singing)
 - a. "Tell Me Who Is Your Jesus?"

Tell me who is your Jesus? Allelujah (thrice)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah (by group)
(Individual) My Jesus is my _____ (Redeemer, Savior, Best Friend)
Allelujah (thrice) Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah (twice)
 - b. "Jesus Loves Me" by gbb
Jesus loves me the way I am. I love you the way you are.
Jesus loves us the way we are, Hallelu Hallelujah
Halle hallelujah, halle hallelujah halle hallelujah,
Jesus loves us the way we are.
 - c. "Jesus Went About Doing Good" (by Lois Horton Young, 1954).
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.
He heals the sick and heals the blind
To little children He was kind. He gives some hungry people food
He says, "Be always kind and good."
Jesus went about doing good, the Bible tells me so.
3. Prayer: "We thank you our parent God for gathering us again to learn more about you. May your Spirit be with us and grant us wisdom to understand and apply our lesson for this day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

B. Getting Ready

1. Let the learners play "Charades". Charades is a game of pantomimes where the other participants guess what you are acting out without speaking by giving the correct phrase. You may pre-arrange the acting out of selected pupils.

2. Form two groups preferably of equal size. Divide the slips of paper between the two teams. Select a neutral timekeeper/scorekeeper, or pick members from each team to take turns. Agree on how many rounds to play and the time allotment for answering. Review the gestures and hand signals and invent any others you deem appropriate.
3. Here are some suggested phrases for the charades
 - a. Feeding of the 5000.
 - b. Healing of the 10 lepers
 - c. Healing of the blind man
 - d. Cleaning of the Temple by Jesus
 - e. Jesus walking by the water

C. Learning Time

1. Introduce the word "Messiah" to the class. Present the following descriptions.
 - a. Messiah is the person whom God sent to save people from their sins and troubles.
 - b. Christ is a Greek word for Messiah which leads us to understand that when we say Jesus Christ, it is also means Jesus the Messiah.
 - c. Historically, Messiah is God's anointed one that will deliver and save Israel from foreign domination. He will be their king and will lead the whole nation into prosperity and well-being.
 - d. The Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah when he came. They still await for a Messiah; the one who will come again to rule over God's kingdom forever.
2. Tell the class to read Matthew 16:13-16 in unison using their own Bibles. Then divide the class into four groups (narrator, Jesus, other disciples, and Peter). Then let each group read their parts.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson. Ask these questions. Present the picture on the workbook and fill up the balloons with the answers to the questions.

1. What did Jesus ask his disciples? (Who do you say I am?)
2. Why do you think Jesus asked the question? (To know what others and his disciples think about him)
3. How did the disciples respond? (They just answered what others said about Jesus that he is John the Baptist or Elijah.)
4. What was the answer of Peter to Jesus' question? ("You are the Messiah (Christ), the Son of the Living God.")
5. What makes Peter's answer different from the rest? (He is certain the Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God)
6. What was Jesus' response to Peter's answer? ("Blessed are you Peter. No man told you that. My Father in Heaven told you.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "Do you agree with Peter's answer that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God? Why so? Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah sent to us by God? What can you do to show that you thank God?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" (Matthew 16:16)
2. Prepare a list of biblical passages that the children can choose from. Display the list where the children can have easy access. Let the class look for specific passages in the Bible that show Jesus doing the following:
 - a. Healing to the sick
 - b. Bringing comfort to those who are mourning
 - c. Bringing hope to the hopeless
 - d. Bringing wholeness to those who are broken
3. *Creative work: Random Act of Kindness*
 - a. **For the ME:** Provide pictures of needy persons in the church. Form four groups and distribute the pictures. Tell each group to discuss how they can help these needy persons.
 - b. **For OE:** Form dyads. Tell each group to think of a person in the community that he or she can help during the week. Remind them that when they do these activities, they need adult supervision. Assist them in making plans such as the following:
 - 1) Visiting a family at home and singing them a song
 - 2) Visiting a person in the hospital
 - 3) Calling friends and greeting them
 - 4) Giving a card to a person who needs comfort
 - 5) Others

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Reflective action: Let them gather around in a circle and encourage them to complete the sentence, "I thank you Jesus for being our _____."
3. Offering: Tell the class to sing the song "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus" after the class has finished giving their offering.
4. Closing song: "Jesus Our True Messiah" (by gbb; Round Song)
Reign love, justice and peace, Jesus our true Messiah.
5. Closing prayer: "Our loving parent God, thank you for giving us your blessings. Let our offerings be of help to those who are in need. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."
6. Goodbye song

Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. describe the personal experiences and reflections of Jesus that led to his Messianic call;
2. relate personal experiences and reflections that helped them listen to and understand God's call;
3. express appreciation for knowing the experiences of Jesus as they help us learn how to answer his call.

II. Concept: Personal experiences and constant reflection led Jesus to know his call to be the Messiah.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, pictures of people in need and UCCP's Stand on Issues (Street children begging for food, differently-abled persons, UCCP Stand on LGBT, Stop Extra-judicial Killings and Stop Killing Lumads), pen, paper, song chart

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the learners with your awesome smile. Choose 2 students per Sunday where you can have a brief chat concerning them.
2. Opening prayer: We thank you our Parent God for gathering us again to learn more about you. May your Spirit be with us and grant us wisdom to understand and apply our lesson for this day. In Jesus Name, Amen.
3. Opening song: "In Christ There Is No East or West" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 271)

B. Getting Ready

1. Got Props Game. Group the learners into two teams. Identify 3 learners who will serve as the judges that decide which of the two teams is more creative and funnier than the other. Identify 5 props to be used in the game it could be comb, glass, flower vase etc. Each team has to select a prop and the facilitator will assign a biblical scenario (eg. Feeding the 5,000, Healing the Blind Man, and any biblical scenario the facilitator can think of). In 1 minute, each member of the team will use the single prop to make funny Biblical Scenarios given by the judges and pass it to other team members. The team which has the most judges' likes wins.
2. Who's Who? In a small sheet of paper, let the learners write one sentence or phrase that best describes themselves. Collect the papers and read it aloud. Let the whole class guess who the person being described is. Check the answers of the students and discuss them in the next session.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the male students to read Isaiah 11:1-5 in unison. Ask the group to discuss the prophecy of the peaceful kingdom due to the following:
 - a. Significance of stump of Jesse
 - b. The spirit of the Lord that shall rest from Jesse's stump
 - c. His judgment, righteousness, and faithfulness

2. Have the female students read Matthew 16:13-16. Let a leader of the group explain what the people say about Jesus
 - a. Some say Moses. Some say Elijah.
 - b. Significance of Peter's answer: "Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God."
 - c. Meaning of the word Messiah and its relationship with the word Christ
3. Present the activity sheet and let the class read the temptation of Jesus found in Matthew 4:1-11.
 - a. The fasting of Jesus for 40 days and 40 nights
 - b. The temptation of Jesus by the devil
 - c. The triumph of Jesus over the devil
 - d. The caring of Jesus by the angels
 - e. The beginning of Jesus' ministry as the Christ

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson. Ask the following questions.

1. *On Isaiah 11:1-5.*
 - a. What prophecies in the OT reading were fulfilled by Jesus?
2. *On Matthew 16:13-16.* Tell the class to say the following sentences in their own words to affirm what Peter declared about Jesus, the Messiah.
 - a. Messiah is the person whom God sent to save people from their sins and troubles.
 - b. Christ is a Greek word for Messiah which leads us to understand that when we say Jesus Christ, it also means Jesus the Messiah.
 - c. Historically, Messiah is God's anointed one that will deliver and save Israel from foreign domination. He will be their king and will lead the whole nation into prosperity and well-being.
 - d. The Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah when he came; they are still waiting for a Messiah; the one who will come again to rule over God's kingdom forever.
3. *On Matthew 4:1-11.*
 - a. Who led Jesus to the wilderness? (Spirit) Why? (To be tempted by the devil)
 - b. How did Jesus answer the temptation of the devil for Jesus to change the stones into loaves of bread? ('It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.")
 - c. How did Jesus answer the temptation of the devil for Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the Temple if he really is the Son of God? ("Do not put the Lord your God to the test.")
 - d. How did Jesus answer the temptation of the devil for Jesus to kneel and bow down to the devil in order to have all the glory of the world? ("Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.")
 - e. After Jesus was tempted, who came to care for him? (The angels) What is the significance of this happening to our lives?

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Say: "Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Ask: "How can you live your life as someone who professes that Jesus is your Messiah?"

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Discuss the memory verses:
 - a. "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:3)
 - b. "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." (Matthew 4:7)
 - c. "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." (Matthew 4:10)
2. Present pictures of or share stories about any of the following. Then discuss the question: How can I be God's partner in His plan of salvation? Let the class choose any two and write an action plan on how they can help as believers of Christ.
 - a. A classmate who doesn't have money for the school field trip
 - b. A neighbor who has special needs or has physical disabilities
 - c. A gay classmate or the class nerd
 - d. A friend whose parents have separated
 - e. A cousin who lost his/her scholarship
 - f. An elder in the church who no longer has relatives who can look after him/her
 - g. A newcomer to the church's Bible study group or Sunday school class
 - h. A sick uncle/auntie/teacher/pastor
 - i. An overworked mother or church worker
 - j. A teammate in your sports club who is struggling with learning the new skill the coach taught
 - k. Street children begging
 - l. A gay classmate (Present the UCCP Statement on LGBT)
 - m. Parents fighting
 - n. People who are displaced from their homes (Present the UCCP Statement on Stop Killing Lumads!)

G. Closing Worship

1. Reflective action: Let the class gather around in a circle and read their plan after saying, "I thank you Jesus for being my Messiah."
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the learners to bring their plan of action to be God's partner in His plan of salvation. After the offering, tell the class to sing a song of thanksgiving.
3. Closing song: "In Christ There Is No East or West" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 271)
4. Closing prayer: Loving God, may we always remember your personal experiences that led you to become our Messiah. May we use them as our model in seeking you and in inspire us to serve you as we serve others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Adult Level

I. Objectives

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

1. describe how the religious heritage and personal history of Jesus helped him realize his messianic destiny ;
2. share one's religious reflections that help us become instruments of Christ in his salvation plan for all; and
3. express one's commitment to do one's part in doing things that will help promote Christ's messianic destiny.

II. Concept” Reflecting on his religious heritage and personal history, Jesus realizes his messianic destiny.

Materials: *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, pictures of people in need, UCCP statements such as: UCCP Stands on Issues (Children in Prostitution, Teenage Pregnancy, Abused Migrant Women, LGBT, Stop Extra-judicial Killings and Stop Killing Lumads)

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the learners with your warm smile.
2. Opening prayer: “We thank you our parent God for gathering us again to learn more about you. May your Spirit be with us in understanding and applying our lesson for this day. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
3. Opening song: “In Christ There Is No East or West” (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 271)

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the game “Stay Away, Sin!” Form two groups and make them face each other. Get a ball and paint half of it red and half of it white. Hold the ball so that one side of the class sees the colored part and the other group the other side of the ball. Ask each group what color of the ball d they see. Expect two different answers.
2. Process the activity. Ask these questions.
 - a. Why are there two different answers? (Each group sees a different side of the ball.)
 - b. Can both groups be correct?
 - c. If I show the other side of the ball, would you still have the same answer as before? (No)
 - d. Why are we sometimes tempted to segregate poeple who have different characteristics? Which should we emphasize, commonalities or differences?

C. Learning Time

1. Form three groups. Assign each group with specific biblical passages. Help each group discuss the text. Then let the leader of each group present to the class their report one by one.

Group 1: *Isaiah 11:1-5*. Isaiah warns the people of Israel on their sin of complacency and reminds them of their historical roots as represented by the stump of Jesse. This prophecy is fulfilled with the coming of Jesus whose lineage comes from David whose father was Jesse.

Group 2: *Matthew 16:13-16*.

- a. The word messiah is defined as follows:
 - 1) Messiah is the person whom God sent to save people from their sins and troubles.
 - 2) Christ is a Greek word for Messiah which leads us to understand that when we say Jesus Christ, it also means Jesus the Messiah.
 - 3) Historically, Messiah is God's anointed one that will deliver and save Israel from foreign domination. He will be their king and will lead the whole nation into prosperity and well-being.
 - 4) Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah when he came; Jews are still waiting for a Messiah; the one who will come again to rule over God's kingdom forever.
- b. There is a dissenting perspective in the way Israel sees the Messiah from the real Messiahship of Jesus.

Messiah	Popular Thought	Jesus' Messiahship
Knowing	Jesus knew it from the very start. It is already programmed since birth	Consciousness emerged gradually from his experiences.
Doing	Power to perform political and economic miracles. He has the power to overthrow the Roman Empire and establish a free and prosperous Israel that will rule over nations. He has the power of invincibility to fight against all oppressors.	Son of Man will suffer, rejected and be killed
Being	Reigns in glory and honor	Suffering Servant

Group 3: *Matthew 4:1-11*. This event is seen as the start of Jesus' ministry and his emergence of his Christhood.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

Ask these questions.

1. Why is the stump of Jesse significant?
2. Why is the dwelling of the Spirit in the stump of Jesse significant?
3. How will this stump of Jesse rule among his people?
4. Why is Peter's declaration of Jesus as the Messiah or Christ significant?
5. When Jesus was led by the Spirit to the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, which truth did he mention? Match the insight or insights with Jesus' answers to the three temptations.

complete dependence on God	supremacy of God
providence of God	discerning God's wisdom
obedience and submission to God	

- a. "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- b. "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
- c. "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."

E. *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask: How did Jesus' religious heritage and personal history help him in realizing his messianic destiny? How will the Messiahship of Christ prepare us in doing what is right?

F. *Applying the Biblical Truth*

1. Divide the class into three small groups. Let each group identify a person or a family in their community that they want to help. Allow them to define what help they can extend for that person or the family.
2. Present this format of an action plan.

Action Plan

Life's Mission Title: _____

Recipients: _____

(Sample: Giving Love and Care for Mannix, the community's Taong Grasa)

Goal: _____

Method: _____

Target Place: _____

People Involved: _____

Time Frame: _____

G. *Closing Worship*

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "In Christ There Is No East or West" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 271)
3. Closing prayer: Wonderful God, we thank you for being our Christ, Savior, and Messiah. Help us to remember your supremacy and wisdom so that we will always have complete dependence in you. May we use this remembrance in serving others in accordance to your Will.. In your Son's precious name, we pray. Amen.