

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Comforting and Sustaining Presence of the Holy Spirit

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-2

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

New Testament: Matthew 5:4, 11:28-30

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

²⁸'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

General Concept: The Holy Spirit enables the church to bring comfort to the distressed and hurting and to sustain those who suffer in order for them to live in hope.

N/K/YE: The Holy Spirit gives us comfort when we are sad.

ME/OE: The Holy Spirit gives comfort to those who are sad and are in pain.

Y: The Holy Spirit works through the church and other people to uplift the conditions of the distressed, the grieving and oppressed.

A: The Holy Spirit enables the church to bring comfort to the distressed, hurting and the grieving to sustain those who suffer in order for them to live in hope.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

Isaiah was an Israelite prophet who lived under the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He personally knew the major political leaders of Jerusalem, and guided them through the serious social, political, and military challenges they faced. While he himself was a member of the elite, he was a vocal spokesman on behalf of the common people. He railed against corruption within the leadership, demanding that they begin to dispense justice and protection to the weaker members of Israelite society, such as the poor, orphans, and widows.

Starting from chapter 40 however, the events described concern the destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian Exile, which occurred more than a century after Isaiah lived. Thus the passage in Isaiah 40 was written by an unknown prophet in the name of Isaiah. It was an attempt to continue the powerful legacy of the original Isaiah.

Entering into greater detail, the first verse demonstrates the deity of Yahweh as a bringer of comfort whom the prophet announces is Israel's incomparable God. In the midst of the misery of the exile, the prophet exhorts the people not to suppose that Yahweh is ignorant of, or indifferent to Israel's misery. Israel must wait for salvation which is coming very soon though they are clamoring for deliverance prematurely. The passage simply proclaims one main and central message of this prophet writing in the name of Isaiah, that their God Yahweh will soon act and make God's presence known as a real, comforting, liberating presence. For them who had been waiting for so long and isolated in a foreign land, unable to fully practice the worship of their God without their beloved temple, they should never lose hope for they will soon receive and experience the joy of real deliverance

and homecoming as their God comes to lead the exiled people back to Jerusalem and Judah and enable them to rebuild their lives and even rebuild their temple. They will once again become a community of God's people worshipping Yahweh and living right in their homeland. This is because they have already been pardoned of all their sin and iniquity. Their rebellious ways before for which they have been punished through the exile is now forgiven and they are now restored as God's people. They can once again start anew as a covenant people. All these will happen all because of God's unmerited grace was extended to them in a time of their despair, grief and alienation.

The account of Matthew is an expansion of the kerygma concerning the blessings that can be received through Jesus. This is fundamentally the good news concerning the saving activity of God. This good news is primarily addressed to those who had been suffering the tragic and oppressive burdens of life. They are those who mourn because of the terrible losses in life they have been experiencing as a result of very cruel and unjust policies of those who rule and control their lives. They are those who mourn the loss of their crops due to a terrible calamity like a prolonged drought or famine which is very common in the land. They are also those who mourn because of the loss of precious property due to foreclosures on account of unpayable debts with unregulated interest imposed on them or because of state confiscation because of failure to pay very high taxes. They are also those who mourn the loss of loved ones who had been unjustly prosecuted, imprisoned or executed for simply raising their voices against such oppressive policies or those who had actually lost their loved ones who were forcibly drafted into the Roman army.

In Matthew 5:4, those who thus mourn are promised comfort. These are the victims of those who have power in the land and use them to abuse and exploit the weak.

The traditional view that Matthew wrote primarily to prove that in Jesus of Nazareth is to be found the fulfilment and realization of the Messianic predictions of the OT prophets and seers is beyond doubt correct. Jesus comes to the victims of the oppressors of his time as the messiah they have long been waiting for, their savior and bringer of comfort to all of them who mourn.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

The Spirit is the Comforter that the risen Jesus sent to dwell among the disciples as he ascended to the Father. The Spirit alone is able to fathom the depths of suffering even more than the sufferers themselves. Subsequently, the church is empowered by the Spirit to bring comfort to those who are distressed and hurting that they may find hope even as they are loaded with burdens in their life journey.

Like Jesus, the church leans towards the suffering ones. This attitude has drawn comments that religion is for the weak or those who fail to keep in step with the others. At the onset of modern times, secular intellectuals regard religion as an illusion and an opiate. The Christian faith, they argue, serves this social function but it will fade away at humankind's coming of age.

But for as long as there are people who are burdened and broken under the weight of life's cares, the church will be there to give them succor and comfort. The Spirit leads the church to where people suffer from poverty, neglect, abuse, and injustice. Giving with generosity is among the gifts that the church has received from the Spirit. This is done out of compassion that they may be saved from despair and from giving up on God.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. conclude that the Holy Spirit helps us to comfort those who are sad;
2. observe some persons who are sad and name some activities that give comfort to them;
and
3. express one's appreciation to the persons who comfort those who are sad.

II. **Concept:** The Holy Spirit gives us comfort when we are sad.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart, band aids, pictures showing comfort plastic gloves, markers

III. Learning Experiences

A. *Opening Worship*

1. Welcome time: Greet the children joyfully.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the past days in our lives. Thank you for our family and friends. Continue to bless us as we study the comforting and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds, O Lord, as we listen to our teacher and learn from each other. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen!"
3. Opening song: "Si Jesus ang Sandigan "
Si Jesus ang Sandigan di magigiba (2x)!
Kasingtatag ng kabundukan di magigiba. (*[Replace Si Jesus with: Ako, Ikaw, Tayo]*)

B. *Getting Ready*

1. Ask the children about their friends who are hurt while playing. Let them share what they did to help them. Collect all their answers and use these answers when you process the activity.
2. Prepare the children for the game "Band Aid Relay". Tell the children that one of the things that can be used to comfort a hurting friend is the band aid to make him or her feel better.
3. Divide the class into two teams. Tell each team to line themselves up by height where the tallest is the first. In the middle of the two teams, place some band aids on a table. Instruct the teams that the objective of the game is to put band aids on all the back part of their hands. Starting with the tallest child, let him or her get a band aid and put it on the back of the hand of the child next to him or her. Let them do it and expect the last child in the line to put a band aid on the first player. The team who successfully puts the band aids on their hands wins.
4. Tell the children that they did a great job in providing comfort to each member of the team. Go back to their previous answers and ask them if the friends who are hurting can be comforted with their suggested answers.

C. *Learning Time*

1. Teach the song "Jesus Loves Me" (HFJ # 249).
"Jesus Loves Me"
Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me! (thrice) The Bible tells me so.
Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me on my way.

He's prepared a home for me, and someday his face I'll see.

2. Show pictures of people who are lonely and sad (children who have no food to eat, sick children, children carrying heavy load, children who are lost, children who have no parents, etc.) Remind the children of the love of Jesus and what Jesus would do with these children. Ask them what they can do as children to help these children.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Discuss the song using this outline.
 - a. Jesus loves all the people especially the children like them. Let the children sing: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
 - b. There is truth to the love of Jesus because the Bible tells us so. Tell the children to sing: Yes, Jesus loves me! (thrice) The Bible tells me so.
 - c. Jesus loves children and he wants children to come to him. Let the class sing: Jesus loves me! This I know, As he loved so long ago, Taking children on his knee, Saying, "Let them come to me."
 - d. Jesus loves everyone so much that he wants all of us to live a good life now here on this earth, and to do good to each other, because we must see Jesus in each other. Ask the class to sing: Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me on my way. He's prepared a home for me, and someday his face I'll see.
2. Read aloud Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Draw from the children that God's presence (Holy Spirit) can bring us comfort when we mourn.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit gives us comfort when we are sad? (The Holy Spirit makes us happy. The Holy Spirit helps us understand why we cry or why we are sad. The Holy Spirit helps us feel what the Bible says about the love of God for all of us.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)
2. *Creative activity.* Tell the class to make finger puppets. Provide each child a plastic glove. Inform the children that the five parts of the glove will represent a sad person whom they would like to help.

For N/K: Let the children write the names of the sad persons they have in mind on the glove using a marker and have them draw a face. Ask the children to wear their gloves. Call on the children to say why they chose that person and what they can do for him or her.

For YE: Let the children to do what the N/K children did. This time, let them form dyads and make conversations using the puppets. Remind them that helping a sad person is a way of caring for and comforting others.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: Let the children extend a hand to the child next to them and say, "I promise to comfort others."
3. Closing songs: "Jesus Loves Me" and some good-bye songs
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit who comforts us when we are sad. Use each one of us to comfort others. 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. conclude that the Holy Spirit helps us to comfort those who are sad and in pain;
2. observe some persons who are sad and in pain and name some activities that give comfort to them; and
3. express one's appreciation to the persons who comfort those that are sad and in pain.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit gives comfort to those who are sad and are in pain.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), two backpacks, different items that can be placed inside the backpack, materials for the game

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the children joyfully.
2. Opening prayer: Dear God, thank you for the past days in our lives. Thank you for our family and friends. Continue to bless us as we study the comforting and sustaining presence of the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts and minds, O Lord, as we listen to our teacher. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen!
3. Opening song: "Si Jesus ang Sandigan "
Si Jesus ang Sandigan di magigiba (2x)!
Kasingtatag ng kabundukan di magigiba. (*[Replace Si Jesus with: Ako, Ikaw, Tayo]*)

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the game "Heavy Relay". Divide the class into two groups and have each group form a line form according to height. Prepare the materials: two identical backpacks and different things that can be put inside the backpack. Give each group the needed materials. Set the starting and turning points for each group.
2. Let the first player put two items in the bag, wear the bag over her/his shoulders, walk fast to the turning point and come back to the starting point. The player then removes the backpack and gives it to the next player. This time, the next player adds another item inside the bag,,wears the bag, walks fast to the turning point and returns to the starting point. Let the children continue doing this until the last player puts the rest of the items inside the backpack and finishes the relay. Record the time each group finishes the relay. The group that finishes the relay with a faster time wins. The winner thanks and congratulates each member of the losing team.
3. Process the activity and ask these questions.
 - a. How did you feel when you carried the weight? How did you feel when additional items were placed in the bag?
 - b. Would carrying less weight bring comfort to you? Why or why not?

C. Learning Time

1. Prepare two sets of paper in which incomplete phrases from Matthew 5:4 and Matthew 11:28-30 are written in blue and red. Make 5 phrases for each verse. Put these two sets in the different parts of the room.
2. Use the same grouping in the first activity. Call the first group the Blue Group and the second, the Red Group. Tell each group to get these scrambled parts of the text and let the learners unscramble the phrases to complete the whole text. Allow them to refer to the Bible to get the correct sequence. Remind them to use only their color so as not to mix colors.
3. Let each group read the texts in unison.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Print the two texts on the board this way. If possible, ask the class to paraphrase them. Then let them answer the questions that follow.
 - a. "Blessed are those who mourn..." Who are the people that mourn (cry, lonely, sad)? What does Jesus say about them? (They are blessed. They are loved by God.) Why do you think they are mourning? (Maybe they are hungry. Maybe something happened to them at home. Maybe they are sorry for their mistakes.)
 - b. "...for they will be comforted." If Jesus finds these people who mourn, what does Jesus promise to do? (Jesus will comfort them.) How do you think Jesus will comfort the sad and lonely? (Jesus, through the Holy spirit will make others share their food and other things, take them to the park, take them home with them to make them happy.) How do you think Jesus will comfort those who are sorry for their mistakes? (Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, will forgive them.)
 - c. What is the cure for mourning? (Comfort) In the midst of our sorrow, do you believe God is good and ready to comfort us?
 - d. Tell the learners that there is an invitation to those who mourn and suffer. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burden, and I will give you rest." Who does Jesus invite? (Those that are weary (tired) and are carrying heavy burdens (suffering people whose life's problems are difficult to carry). What does Jesus promise to give to these people? (Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, promises to give them rest (a break for their sufferings). Relate this item with the heavy relay that the learners did at the beginning of the lesson.
 - e. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Say: The word yoke means a heavy load. Jesus offers an easy and light load, something that we can carry easily and happily. Jesus asks us to continue to do our work but this work should not be burdensome to us. What words describe the yoke offered by Jesus? (Learn from his gentle and humble heart to find rest for our souls.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit give comfort to those who are sad and are in pain?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to share life experiences related to the following situations:

1. A relative of your friend dies. (Sympathize with your friend and offer something that will help him or her bear the situation)
2. A parent of your friend goes abroad to work. (Be a friend in deed.)
3. Your best friend confessed that he is gay or she is lesbian and his family does not approve of it. (Learn to accept him or her and show this in deed so that others may do the same.)
4. A natural calamity happened. (Be a comforting person. Give/share what you have. Be of help to others in finding resources to help them.)

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: Let the children extend a hand to the child next to them and say, "I promise to comfort others."
3. Closing songs: "Jesus Loves Me" and some good-bye songs
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit who comforts us when we are sad. Use each one of us to comfort others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. describe persons who are distressed, aggrieved, and oppressed;
2. explain the significance of comforting these persons;
3. discuss the role of the Holy spirit in comforting those people who need comfort; and
4. make a commitment to help in the ministries that provide comfort to those who need it.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit works through the church and other people to uplift the conditions of the distressed, the grieving and oppressed.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Our heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us the church where we can serve you, learn from you and enjoy your steadfast love to us. We thank you for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In your Son's precious name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to do a word jumble. Make triads and give each group a set of scrambled words. After unscrambling the words, tell each group to submit their work and let the leader of each group read their answers.

OSNOCGNIL	(CONSOLING)	EEHCINGR	(CHEERING)
TRAEHEGNIN	(HEARTENING)	PPUSORGNTI	(SUPPORTING)
SLOBETGNIR	(BOLSTERING)	SITASFGINY	(SATISFYING)
SSUAERIRGN	(REASSURING)	SIRUONINHG	(NOURISHING)
OONGITHS	(SOOTHING)	FTLIPUGIN	(UPLIFTING)
MALCNGI	(CALMING)		

2. After the activity, ask the class what word is common to the above words (comforting).

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read the texts in unison. Discuss the texts using these key sentences.
2. Isaiah 40:1-2. The verses show how God redeems God's people by forgiving them from their sins after they repent from their sins. Thereby God provides them with comfort.
3. Matthew 5:4, 11:26-28. These verses show how God invites God's people through Jesus to come to God to find comfort.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson by asking these questions.

1. Say: God provides for true comfort. Isaiah reminds God's people with God's covenant with them and of God's everlasting love.
Answer: What does true comfort mean? (True comfort happens God makes God's presence known as a real, comforting, liberating presence: the sad are made happy, the lonely finds friends, the hurting are eased of their pain, the hungry are fed. We then become reconciled with God. This is our faith in God manifested in action towards our neighbor.)

2. Say: Mourning is a word that means grieving for the dead. But mourning can also mean sadness or grief that makes one feel hurt in the heart and stomach. Answer: Who among the following people are mourning? Explain your choice.
 - a. Those that are hungry
 - b. Those that are homeless
 - c. Those that are sick
 - d. Those that are unjustly treated and cannot protect themselves
 - e. Those that have committed mistakes and are not ready to repent
 - f. Those that have committed mistakes and are ready to repent
3. Why does God comfort those who mourn? (When we mourn and turn to God, God will comfort us. Then we will feel better and we are ready to comfort others who are mourning.)
4. Why do you think Jesus invites us to come to him when we are “weary and heavy laden”? (Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus offers us to learn from his gentle and humble heart (be his disciple) and to accept his yoke that is easy and light. Jesus wants his people to submit to God who will help them carry the heavy load and for them to find rest in God.)
5. Say: When we sin, we may be physically alive but spiritually dead. We are then separated from God. God gives us life, and we remain alive as long as we follow God. Answer: How can we be spiritually alive? (To submit ourselves to God and do according to God’s will; to abide by God’s commands, to do what is right)
6. Comment on the following:
 - a. Paul says, “When we are really, truly, deeply, painfully sorry for our sins, it will lead to repentance. Mourning over our sins will make us turn away from them and instead turn to God. When we repent and turn away from our sins and toward God, he saves us! God forgives us of all our sins and makes us right with him.” (<http://ministry-to-children.com/beatitudes-lesson-three>)
 - b. John writes, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)
 - c. “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.” (Ephesians 2:1)

E. *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit work through the church and other people to uplift the conditions of the distressed, the grieving, and the oppressed? (The church leans towards people who are mourning, suffering, and distressed especially those that are weak and cannot protect themselves and those who repent from their sins. The church provides comfort to those burdened by life’s cares.)

F. *Applying the Biblical Truth*

Tell the class to think of ways by which they can help the church in comforting others after being comforted. Instruct them to present their answers creatively.

G. *Closing Worship*

1. Offering
2. Closing song
3. Reflective action: Let the children extend a hand to the child next to them and say, “I promise to comfort others.”
4. Closing prayer: “Dear heavenly Father, we come to you in thanksgiving for declaring us righteous as Christ died for us. We also thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit in comforting us during the difficult times of our lives. Help us to repent from our sins and forgive us to be able to abide in you. Bless us as we are comforted and use as to comfort others. Cleanse us and teach us your ways. In your precious Son’s name, we pray. Amen.”

Adult Level

I. Objectives

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

1. analyze hope from the point of view of those who are hurt, depressed, grieving, and oppressed;
2. discuss how the Holy Spirit works to bring comfort in contemporary times using the reference of the exiled Israelites in Babylon; and
3. list some activities that can be done in the church to address the faithful in their respective locality.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit enables the church to bring comfort to the distressed, hurting and the grieving to sustain those who suffer in order for them to live in hope.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Our heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us the church where we can serve you, learn from you and enjoy your steadfast love to us. We thank you for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In your Son's precious name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song

B. Getting Ready

Tell the class to do a breathing exercise. After the exercise, ask the students to share how they felt during the activity and what thoughts came to mind. Encourage them to share their insights before the class.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read the texts in unison. Discuss the texts using these key sentences.
2. Isaiah 40:1-2. The verses show how God redeems God's people by forgiving them from their sins after they repent from their sins. Thereby God provides them with comfort.
3. Matthew 5:4, 11:26-28. These verses show how God invites God's people through Jesus to come to God to find rest.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson by asking these questions.

1. Say: God provides for true comfort. Isaiah reminds God's people with God's covenant with them and God's everlasting love.
Answer: What does true comfort mean? (True comfort happens when God makes God's presence known as a real, comforting, liberating presence: the sad are made happy, the lonely finds friends, the hurting are eased of their pain, the hungry are fed, the oppressed are freed from the bondage of oppression, landless farmers will have land to till to produce food for everyone, the persecuted are justified, and the Good News of God's Shalom is proclaimed to the least of the least. True comfort happens when God forgives people from their sins after they repent. We then become reconciled with God. This is our faith in God manifested in action towards our neighbor.)
2. Say: Mourning is a word that means grieving for the dead. But mourning can also mean sadness or grief that makes one feel hurt in the heart and stomach (those

who are hungry, homeless, sick, unjustly treated and cannot protect themselves, committed mistakes and are not ready or ready to repent). When we recognize our poverty in spirit and we respond with sorrow, we acknowledge the evil in our lives. We mourn our evil words and deeds at home or in the work place. Then that saddens us. . (Have the class share any experience of meeting sorrowful people and tell how they helped in comforting them.

3. Say: God sees our sorrow and comforts us with the knowledge that it will not always be this way. Answer: What is God's promise to us when we mourn? (God's promise is to bring comfort to us, through the Holy Spirit.)
4. Why do you think Jesus invites us to come to him when we are "weary and heavy laden"? (Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus offers us to learn from his gentle and humble heart (be his disciple) and to accept his yoke that is easy and light. Jesus wants his people to submit to God who will help them carry the heavy load and for them to find rest in God.)
5. Say: When we sin, we may be physically alive but spiritually dead. We are then separated from God. God gives us life, and we remain alive as long as we follow God. Answer: How can we be spiritually alive? (To submit ourselves to God and do according to God's will; to abide by God's commands, to do what is right) What does God require of us? (When we mourn and turn to God, God will comfort us. Then we will feel better and we are ready to comfort others who are mourning.)
6. Comment on the following:
 - a. John writes, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
 - b. "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins." (Ephesians 2:1)
 - c. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NKJV)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit enable the church to bring comfort to the distressed, hurting and the grieving to sustain those who suffer in order for them to live in hope? (The church creates programs that will bring comfort to people who are mourning, suffering, and who are distressed and burdened by life's cares. God comforts us through the scriptures. Through the Holy Spirit, He sends people who can comfort us.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to choose any one of the following and participate in making a Christian action plan.

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Disaster Risk Reduction Management | 3. LGBT concerns |
| 2. Families of migrant workers | 4. Devotional sessions |

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song
3. Closing prayer: : "Dear heavenly Father, we come to you in thanksgiving for declaring us righteous as Christ died for us. We also thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit in comforting us during the difficult times of our lives. Help us to repent from our sins and forgive us to be able to abide in you. Bless us as we are comforted and use us to comfort others, especially the least of the least of our sisters and brothers. Cleanse us and teach us your ways. In your precious Son's name, we pray. Amen."