

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Convicting Power of the Holy Spirit

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 12:1-10 (NRSV)

¹and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, 'There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.' ⁵Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, 'As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.'

⁷Nathan said to David, 'You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

New Testament: Luke 19:1-10 (NRSV)

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' ⁹Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

General Concept: The Holy Spirit convicts the church of her complacency, false righteousness, timidity, and inaction.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

K/YE: The Holy Spirit makes us sorry for the wrongs that we do.

ME/OE: The Holy Spirit makes us sorry for the mistakes and the wrongs that we do to each other.

Y: The Holy Spirit convicts us to repent of our sins and to work for righteousness and justice in both the church and society.

A: The Holy Spirit convicts the church of her complacency, false righteousness, timidity, inaction and calls on her to act towards justice, peace and reconciliation in both church and society.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

2 Samuel 12:1-10 narrates the event when the prophet Nathan denounces and condemns David for his sin of adultery and murder. David abused his power as king and

committed adultery with the wife of his loyal army officer Uriah. In order that his sin will remain hidden he arranged for the murder of Uriah in the battlefield (2 Sam. 11). This gave him the reason to fully take Bathsheba as his own wife even as the woman was still mourning the sudden death of her own husband. David abused his power entrusted to him by God. The prophet Nathan then promptly confronted him with the convicting judgment of the Lord for his very serious double transgression which he even tried to hide and cover up using his own position as king. It was a serious violation of the solemn covenant between Yahweh and king (2 Sam. 7). David stands convicted before the prophet and before his God. He has to bear with the consequences of what he has done as pronounced by the prophet.

Luke 19:1-10 relates the story of Jesus' encounter with the tax collector Zaccheus who enriched himself through corrupt ways in collecting taxes from the people. His encounter with Jesus proved to be a decisive and life changing experience which truly strips him of any pretenses and false righteousness. This encounter with Jesus led him to a radical turnabout in his life and decided to give up much of what he has immorally acquired as an expression of true repentance. A real encounter with God through the Holy Spirit leads to a genuine and sweeping change in one's life as a manifestation of sincere repentance and authentic transformation of one's life values, perspectives, goals and vision in life. From being so concerned about acquiring more possessions and positions in this life, one becomes more concerned now in giving up whatever is necessary to become a true follower, witness and disciple of Jesus. This is how God in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit can truly act towards the real transformation of the life of every human being who remains truly open and sensitive to the divine initiatives at work in this world.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users

The Spirit never leaves the church unprotected from sliding back to waywardness. At one end, the Spirit inspires; on the other, the Spirit convicts. At some points, the convicting power of the Spirit is needed even more to save the church from losing its way. There are certain pitfalls that the Devil has prepared especially for the church. The sense of being right can turn into self-righteousness. Knowing that the Spirit is leading it can lead to complacency. And the fear of offending the Spirit can make the church timid and inert. The church may be able to put up a front to show faithfulness to the Lord but the Spirit is never deceived. The Spirit will tear away all pretenses to expose the church's weaknesses and its drift towards the path of sin. The sin of self-righteousness is most difficult to detect. It's what Jesus has described as the Pharisaic delight in removing a speck on another's eye not minding the log in his own eye (Matt. 7:4). There is a more sinister side to self-righteousness: the tendency to project one's own wrongdoings or dark motives onto another. Self-righteous people are known for being morally arrogant, judgmental, unforgiving and sorely lacking in charity. The church is timid when it fails to correct what is palpably wrong and to stand up for what is right, thinking that its words would fall on deaf ears anyway or for fear of being attacked in return. A complacent church sits on its accomplishments with self-satisfaction, laying back on its tasks despite a real urgency. The Spirit drives away fear and timidity and convicts the church when it slides into complacency and self-righteousness. Peter was overcome with fear when he denied Jesus but at the Pentecost he spoke boldly to proclaim the crucified Jesus as God's messiah. The disciples slept complacently in Gethsemane despite the danger that awaited Jesus. But following the descent of the Spirit the apostles went about establishing congregations throughout the Empire. The self-righteous Pharisees were targets of Jesus' denunciation, but it was a Pharisee who gave Jesus his tomb and another Pharisee that became the greatest missionary of the gospel, Saul of Tarsus. The Spirit convicts then converts.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. tell the story of Zaccheus;
2. describe how the Holy Spirit enabled Zaccheus to ask for forgiveness for what he has done to others; and
3. resolve to truly say sorry to others that we have hurt.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit makes us sorry for the wrongs that we do.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart, materials needed in the game, pictures of the story

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the children as they arrive. Let the children listen to lively music.
2. Opening prayer: "Loving God, guide us again in today's lesson as we continually study your words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening songs: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and a welcome song

B. Getting Ready

For N/K:

1. Have the class play the game "I See From up Here". Prepare a riser like small table or chair on which a pupil can stand and several colorful things placed at the far end of the classroom. Tell the pupils that they will play a guessing game. Ask for a volunteer to be the first 'it'. The 'it' stands on the riser, looks ahead and identifies an object secretly. The 'it' identifies the color of the object by saying, "I see something ahead that is (name the color of the object)."
2. Say, "Now, ask Yes-No questions about the secret object like, "Is it big?" or "Is it made of wood?" Let the pupils ask plenty of questions. Have the 'it' answer each question accordingly. A pupil may guess as soon as he or she knows what the secret object is by asking, "Is it the (name of the secret object)?" The pupil who guesses the secret object gets to be the next 'it'. Continue until four to five pupils have played 'it'.
3. Ask: How much do you see ahead if you stand on this riser? (Many things) How much ahead of you do you see if you were a small person and you could not stand on anything? What would you do?

For YE:

1. Tell the children to form a line according to height. Let the shortest child be the first. Let the class evaluate their height and ask them to identify the tallest and the shortest child.
2. Ask: does your height affect your personality? Will you make friends to children who are shorter than you? Encourage the children to say that they can still be achievers despite their being short. Height should not be used to discriminate others.

For both groups: Say: Find out in our story what one small man did in order for him to see someone ahead of him.

C. Learning Time

1. **For N/K/YE:** Teach the song “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man”. Teach also appropriate moves to make it an action song. For the tune, refer to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkd-QFD7vMA>.

Lines of the Song	Action
Zacchaeus was a wee little man. A wee little man was he.	Crouch down for ‘wee’, pretend to climb up the tree.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree The Savior for to see. And when the Savior passed that way, he looked up in the tree,	Put hands over our eyebrows. Put hands in front of the face like calling out to someone.
And He said, “Zacchaeus, you come down from there; For I’m going to your house today, for I’m going to your house today.”	Nod head, climb down.
And Zacchaeus came down from that tree, and he said, “What a better man I’ll be. I’ll give my money to the poor. What a better man I’ll be. What a better man I’ll be.”	Open bag, give away money.

For YE: Tell the class to sing the second stanza and let them act out the song. “Zacchaeus was a wee little man, but a happy man was he. For he had seen the Lord that day and a happy man was he and a very happy man was he.”

2. **For YE:** (For the Teacher: The story of Zacchaeus is one well-loved and classic Bible story. Zacchaeus may have been a short man, but he was a very important man in his community. Many feared and disliked him because he was a dishonest tax collector. When Jesus chose to spend time with him, some people were outraged. Because Jesus cared for and showed him kindness, Zacchaeus loved Jesus and gave his life to following Him.) Read the story aloud. Then read it again and teach the class to act out the story of Zacchaeus in a Follow-the-Leader style. Try to memorize the lines (or write in cue cards if memorizing is challenge). Then in class, do the motions and have the children follow the teacher in a single-file line.)

Jesus was walking through the town of Jericho. (*Start marching around the room.*) All the people came to see Him. (*Stop and place a hand across your brow as if looking in the distance.*) One man named Zacchaeus was too short to see over all the people. (*Jump up and down as if trying to see over the people.*) The people did not like the Zacchaeus because he had cheated them out of money. (*Cup your hands around your mouth and say, “Boo! Hiss!”*) Since no one would let him see Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed up high in a tree to see Jesus pass by. (*Pretend to climb up a tree.*) As Jesus and Zacchaeus walked to Zacchaeus’ house, the people told Jesus he shouldn’t be with Zacchaeus. (*Wave your hand and say, “Come on down!” Start walking again, shake your finger and say, “Don’t go, don’t go!”*)

At his house, Zacchaeus got to spend a long time getting to know Jesus. Jesus was kind and showed God’s love to him even when everyone else was mean. (*Put your hands around a friend’s shoulder.*) Zacchaeus thanked Jesus for being kind to him and said that he would no longer cheat the people and would give back all the money he had taken. (*Pretend to open a string of a purse and to give friends money.*)

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house!" This means that Jesus came to show God's love to everyone, whether they were nice or mean. Jesus saw that Zacchaeus' heart changed. From then on, Zacchaeus had decided to be nice to people and not to cheat on them with their taxes. (*Hug your neighbor.*)

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson.

1. Who are the characters of the story? (Jesus, Zacchaeus, crowd) Describe each of the characters. (Jesus is passing through Jericho. Zacchaeus is a tax collector. The crowd is excited to see Jesus.) For the **YE**: Tell the class to act out the behavior of the characters.
2. Why do you think Zacchaeus and the crowd are excited to see Jesus? (Maybe they heard many things about Jesus. Maybe they wanted to be healed.)
3. What is the problem of Zacchaeus? (He is short and it is difficult for him to see Jesus.)
4. (For the **YE**) Why do you think the crowd will not allow Zacchaeus to get near Jesus? (Perhaps they don't like him because he collected high taxes from them.)
5. What did Zacchaeus do in order to see Jesus? (Zacchaeus climbed up a sycamore tree.) Ask the class to mimic climbing up the tree as they sing the first stanza of the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man".
6. Upon seeing Zacchaeus up in the tree, what did Jesus do? Tell the class (**YE**) to read in unison: "Zacchaeus, you come down, For I'm going to your house today! For I'm going to your house today!" Let the children (**N/K**) show the action while the teachers reads the lines.
7. What happened to Zacchaeus when Jesus visited his house? (Zacchaeus became a changed man.) Who do you think helped Zacchaeus realize the mistakes he did? (The Holy Spirit) What was the promise of Zacchaeus as a changed person? (He will return the money he cheated from others four times as much.) What happened to Zacchaeus and his household? (Zacchaeus and his family are saved.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit help us when we did wrong things to others? (The Holy Spirit convicts us so that we can say sorry for the wrongs that we do.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Today, salvation has come to this house..." (Luke 19:9a)
2. Encourage the children to realize the visit of Jesus to Zacchaeus is a good way of showing us that Jesus invites us to his table of forgiveness and renewal. Like Zacchaeus, we are sinners. But we can turn to Jesus and ask for forgiveness.
3. **N/K**: Provide each child a card that they can decorate. Assist them to write: I am sorry, _____ for not obeying you.
YE: Tell the class to write a sorry note to someone they hurt and ask for an apology and a promise not to do it again.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: "I will be humble and say sorry to those I have hurt."
3. Closing song: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. May that power be with us so that we may continually inspires 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. describe the characters in the story and how they portrayed their different roles;
2. describe the role of the Holy Spirit in convicting the faithful of their wrongdoings
3. resolve to truly say sorry to others that we have hurt

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit makes us sorry for the mistakes and the wrongs that we do to each other.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart. pictures of the story

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Greet the children as they arrive. Have a little conversation about the things they did as soon as they woke up this morning.
2. Opening prayer: "Loving God, guide us again in today's lesson as we continually study your words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

B. Getting Ready

1. Have the class recall any instances that they find difficulty is doing their work because they are short. (Getting stuff from a tall shelf, or seeing people in a parade when they are at the back and many tall people are in front)
2. Ask the class why the height of a person should not be used to discriminate others. Discuss the values of acceptance, tolerance, welcoming, and being inclusive.
3. As an enrichment work for the **OE** class, let the research on people (artists, scientists, athletes, teachers, singers, church workers) who were achievers despite their being short in height.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to recall the song "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" and sing it as an action song.
2. Say: In the story that we are about to read, you will encounter a man who lived his life according to human standards. Find out how this man has changed upon the visit of Jesus to his household. Let the class read from their Bibles the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. After the first reading in unison, divide the class into three groups to act as narrator, Jesus, and Zacchaeus.
3. Ask the class to read the roles with feelings.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Say: The name Zacchaeus means the righteous one. Ask: In Luke 19:2, do you think Zacchaeus was living up to his name? Why or why not? (Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector. Maybe he collects tax more than what he is required.) What do you think the people feel about Zaccheus? (Maybe the people hated him or were angry at him because heavy taxes make them suffer.) What is the lifestyle of people who become rich because of abusive practices? Is doing the right thing the best option to take? Do you live up to your name as a Christian? (Answers may differ.)
2. Say: When Zacchaeus heard about Jesus passing through Jericho, he became curious. Ask: Why do you think Zacchaeus become curious about the event? Was Zaccheus acting like a curious child? (Perhaps Zaccheus heard about Jesus changing lives by healing. Maybe Zacchaeus wanted to be a better person because he feels the hatred of the Jews towards him. Maybe Jesus is a popular figure.)

As a child, what makes you curious? How do you show your curiosity? Have you ever been curious upon hearing about Jesus? Would showing Jesus' love in your life make others curious about Jesus? Why or why not? (Answers may vary depending upon their experience.)

3. Say: Zacchaeus finally made a decision to seek Jesus. But he has a problem. He was short and he is sure the people lined up in front will not allow him to stand in front. So he thought of climbing up a sycamore tree to have a full glimpse of Jesus. Ask: Is it possible that Jesus is also seeking for Zacchaeus? Was the action of Jesus towards Zacchaeus changed the latter's life? Why or why not? (Let the class read Luke 19:5.)
4. Say: Zacchaeus' curiosity and willingness helped him in seeking Jesus. And Jesus found him. Ask: When we become curious to know Jesus, would we be willing to seek him? Could we help others become curious and willing to seek Jesus, as well? (Answers may vary. Encourage the class to recall their experience.)
5. Say: Jesus found Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus found Jesus. Jesus even invited himself to dine with Zacchaeus. With the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, Zacchaeus played his repenting role. He accepted the Jesus offer of forgiveness and he and his whole household were saved that day. Ask: As a sign of being a changed person as enabled by the Holy Spirit, what did Zacchaeus promise to do for others? (Let the class read Luke 19:8.)
6. Say: Like Zacchaeus, we are all sinners. But God, through Jesus Christ, promised salvation if we seek God, confess our sins, and ask for forgiveness. Ask: How did Jesus play his forgiving and redeeming role in the life of Zacchaeus and us, God's people? (Let the class read Luke 19:9-10)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit make us sorry for the mistakes and the wrongs that we do to each other?)The Holy Spirit convicts us and helps us to ask for forgiveness from God and to those whom we have wronged.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'" (Luke 19:9-10)
2. Say: The Holy Spirit helps us to determine good works from bad works through the words of God. When we experience this, we are able to get rid of the wrong things that we have done.
3. Divide the class into two groups. Tell each group to list ways of asking for forgiveness to those they have wronged and giving forgiveness to those who seek it. Then let each group present their work creatively (I'm sorry letters or cards, offering gifts of reconciliation, etc.)

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: "I will be humble to say sorry to those I have hurt and to graciously forgive those who have hurt me."
3. Closing songs: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" and "Jesus Loves Me"
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. May that power be with us so that we may continually inspire others! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. analyze and compare the story of David and the prophet Nathan and the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus;
2. conclude that once convicted through the Holy Spirit, believers must repent and do what is right; and
3. make resolution on repentance and doing what is right.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit convicts us to repent of our sins and to work for righteousness and justice in both the church and society.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart, pictures of the story

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for our life. We thank you for giving us this time to know about your Word. We seek your presence. In Jesus' name, this is our prayer. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 183)

B. Getting Ready

1. Start the day by giving the significant meaning of following names:
 - a. David: The name is a Hebrew name that means "beloved". King David was described a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) because King David is described as humble (Psalm 62:9), reverent (Psalm 18:3), respectful (Psalm 31:9), trusting (Psalm 27:1), loving (Psalm 18:1), devoted (Psalm 4:7), recognition (Psalm 9:1), faithful (Psalm 23:6), obedient (Psalm 119:34), and repentant (Psalm 25:11).
 - b. Nathan: He was the one who rebuked David on account of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:1-14).
 - c. Zacchaeus: His name is abbreviation of Zechariah, meaning "the righteous one. He was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way." (Luke 19:2-4)
2. Let the class say if they know the significance of their names. Tell some students to share what they know about their names. Ask the class why it is important to know the significance of their names.

C. Learning Time

Tell the class to read silently the biblical texts and use the About/Point strategy in understanding the texts:

1. Biblical text: 2 Samuel 12:1-10

Author: _____

The text is about _____

The author's POINTS are: _____

2. Biblical text: Luke 19:1-10

Author: _____

The text is about _____

The author's POINTS are: _____

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Say: Nathan used a metaphor of a rich traveller who took the beloved lamb of a poor man to confront King David about his sin related to Uriah and his wife Bathseba. Ask: What was King David's judgment on that traveller? (2 Samuel 12:5-6)
2. Say: Nathan convicted David of his sin by telling him that he was the man he was referring to in his metaphor. Ask: How did David react to Nathan's conviction? (Refer to 2 Samuel 12:13.) What do you think is the role of the Holy Spirit when David acknowledged and confessed his sin and manifested a repenting heart? Did David live up to his name when he sinned against Uriah and Bathseba? Did David live up to his name when he confessed his sin and sought forgiveness from God?
3. Say: Zacchaeus was a hated tax collector by his people. When he heard about the passing of Jesus in their place, he was motivated to see him out of curiosity. Ask: How did God use Zacchaeus' curiosity to realize that Jesus passed by to save a sinner like him? (Jesus invited himself to dine with Zaccheus and his family.) When God finds us guilty, do you think God easily give up on us? Would you call him a God of second chances? Why or why not? (Answers may vary.)
4. Say: Zaccheus became a changed man after Jesus dined with him and his family. Jesus brought salvation to Zacchaeus and his household. Ask: What did Zacchaeus promise Jesus to return? Is it related to David's judgment in 2 Samuel 12:5-6? (Zacchaeus promised to give half of his possession to the poor and any amount Zacchaeus defrauded his clients, he will return fourfold.)
5. What are two similarities of David and Zacchaeus? (They are both convicted by the Holy Spirit. Both of them repented and asked for forgiveness before God.)
6. What lessons on discipleship can we glean from the stories of David and Zaccheus? Tell why you agree with the following statements.
 - a. God is a faithful God. God shows love by allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us of our wrongdoings. When convicted by the Holy Spirit, we manifest a repentant heart and do what is right.
 - b. Every person is subject to temptation. The good news is that God, through the Holy Spirit, helps us to resist temptations. The worst thing that a sinful person can do is to cover up his or her sins. The best option is to acknowledge one's sin, repent and ask for forgiveness. God is a merciful God.
 - c. God forgives us. We should forgive others, too.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit convict us to repent of our sins and to work for righteousness and justice in both the church and society?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to write a resolution on how they can repent from their wrongdoings and seek forgiveness from God. Tell the class to include how they can forgive others who have done them wrong.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: "I will be humble to say sorry to those I have hurt and to graciously forgive those who have hurt me."
3. Closing songs: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" and "Jesus Loves Me"
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. May that power be with us so that we may continually inspires others! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

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

1. use the insights in the two stories to caution the church from her complacency, false righteousness and inaction to fulfil her tasks with the help of the Holy Spirit;
2. make a list of practical activities that will help in promoting justice, peace, and reconciliation among the members of the church; and
3. express one's involvement in the church ministries towards reconciliation.

II. Concept: The Holy Spirit convicts the church of her complacency, false righteousness, timidity, inaction and calls on her to act towards justice, peace and reconciliation in both church and society.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), song chart, pictures of the story

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for our life. We thank you for giving us this time to know about your Word. We seek your presence. In Jesus' name, this is our prayer. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 183)

B. Getting Ready

1. Start the day by giving the significant meaning of following names:
 - a. David: The name is a Hebrew name that means "beloved". King David was described a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22) because King David is described as humble (Psalm 62:9), reverent (Psalm 18:3), respectful (Psalm 31:9), trusting (Psalm 27:1), loving (Psalm 18:1), devoted (Psalm 4:7), recognition (Psalm 9:1), faithful (Psalm 23:6), obedient (Psalm 119:34), and repentant (Psalm 25:11).
 - b. Nathan: He was the one who rebuked David on account of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:1-14).
 - c. Zacchaeus: His name is abbreviation of Zechariah, meaning "the righteous one. He was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way." (Luke 19:2-4)
2. Let the adults say how they named their children. Ask them if they considered the significance of the names of their children.

C. Learning Time

Tell the class to read silently the biblical texts and use the About/Point strategy in understanding the texts:

1. Biblical text: 2 Samuel 12:1-10

Author: _____

The text is about _____

The author's POINTS are: _____

2. Biblical text: Luke 19:1-10

Author: _____

The text is about _____

The author's POINTS are: _____

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. When Nathan confronted King David, what was his judgment on the sinful traveller? (2 Samuel 12:5-6) How does the Holy Spirit confront and convict the church with its complacency and false righteousness?
2. When Nathan convicted King David of his sin, how did David react to Nathan's conviction? (Refer to 2 Samuel 12:13.) What do you think is the role of the Holy Spirit when David acknowledged and confessed his sin and manifested a repenting heart? Did David live up to his name when he sinned against Uriah and Bathseba? Did David live up to his name when he confessed his sin and sought forgiveness from God? How can the church live up to its calling?
3. When Zacchaeus was motivated to see Jesus out of curiosity, how did God use Zacchaeus' curiosity to realize that Jesus passed by to save a sinner like him? (Jesus invited himself to dine with Zacchaeus and his family.) When God finds us guilty, do you think God easily give up on us? Would you call him a God of second chances? Why or why not? (Answers may vary.) How does the church invite itself to fellowship with the outcast and other marginalized people?
4. As a changed person, what did Zacchaeus promise Jesus to return? Is it related to David's judgment in 2 Samuel 12:5-6? (Zacchaeus promised to give half of his possession to the poor and any amount Zacchaeus defrauded his clients, he will return fourfold.) How does the Holy Spirit confront and convict the church with its timidity and inaction that will lead to justice, peace, and reconciliation?
5. What are two similarities of David and Zacchaeus? (They are both convicted by the Holy Spirit. Both of them repented and asked for forgiveness before God.)
6. How can you explain the following?
 - a. God is a faithful God. When convicted by the Holy Spirit, we repent and do what is right.
 - b. Every person gets tempted. God is merciful and allows the Holy Spirit to help us resist temptations. The worst thing that a sinful person can do is to cover up his or her sins. The best option is to acknowledge one's sin, repent and ask for forgiveness. God is a merciful God.
 - c. God forgives us. We should forgive others, too.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How does the Holy Spirit convict the church of her complacency, false righteousness, timidity, inaction and calls on her to act towards justice, peace and reconciliation in both church and society? (The church must intensify its ministries to make its members totally committed, truthful, and bold in proclaiming God's love to the poor, the lost, the weak, and the marginalized.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

Call on adults who will share their testimony on how the Holy Spirit has convicted them of their wrongdoings and how they reacted with these mistakes.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Reflective action: "I will say sorry to those I have hurt and to graciously forgive those who have hurt me."
3. Closing songs: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" and "Jesus Loves Me"
4. Closing prayer: "Loving God, we thank you for the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. May that power be with us so that we may continually inspires others! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."