

Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide/Communion Sunday/Church Workers/Theological Education

Sunday Pastoral Formation: Its Role in Kingdom Building

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3:1-19 (NRSV)

Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!*' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,* and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.'

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' ¹⁷Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.' ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

New Testament: 2 Timothy 1:11-14 (NRSV)

¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

General Concept: The church is served by a ministry that grows with the congregation under the guidance of ecclesiastical leaders.

N/K/YE: The church is served by church workers.

ME/OE: The church is served by church workers.

Y: The church does the ministerial tasks through teaching, healing, and preaching under the guidance of the pastors.

A: The church is served by a ministry that grows with the congregation under the guidance of the ecclesiastical leaders.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

1 Samuel 3:1-19 narrates the calling of the young boy Samuel who was then under the supervision of Eli, at that time, the priest in charge of the sanctuary in Shiloh. The monarchy was yet to be set up under Saul, c. 1020-925 B.C. At this time Eli was already not physically well, because of his old age, his vision was already getting dim but still he continues to perform his duties as a priest and judge, and the little boy Samuel was serving as his assistant. Samuel was called by God, through a call—a vision many times that evening, a voice was calling out his name but he could not grasp what it meant. This is why every time he hears the voice calling his name, he would run to Eli asking if he had called him. However, Eli the priest eventually discerned that Samuel was being called by God. Samuel had to accept the call and obey the voice no matter how difficult was the task given to him, to be the one to replace his ageing and weak teacher Eli. He had to be stronger as a leader than Eli in spirit and in his faith in leading his people Israel for the rest of his life.

Christians, too, are recipients of a calling from God which we have to take seriously and obey with all our hearts. We need to heed and follow the voice of God according to His purpose and plan, and whatever gifts of the Spirit we do have, we should use it to serve and glorify God. Then, we too, can become stronger and effective in our ministry just like Samuel who walked and obeyed the will of God for his life even if he had to be involved in a radical replacement of leadership in his own community.

2 Timothy 1:11-14 is a letter of Paul to Timothy which emphasizes the need for the disciple to remain faithful in holding on the "standard of sound teaching," guarding well the "good treasure" entrusted to him and to others who will follow Timothy for the proper nurturing, equipping and empowering of the people of God, enabling them to respond in faith and obedience and in a way that is fit to the needs and demands of their context, encouraging them always to remain faithful to their calling. It is a reminder to pastors, lay workers, lay leaders and members of the church who are all called to remain faithful as a household of God. Considering that we are called by God and not men, we ought to follow the standard ordinances and statutes of God as proclaimed and taught in His church. It is required for those in the household of God even if they believe they are already doing the will of God, we always need to be faithful to Him even in the little things that are entrusted to us in doing the ministry, work, and mission of the church.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and other End-users

The Spirit pours out spiritual gifts, charismata, to the church to be apportioned to the members for building up the body of Christ. Among the various gifts is that of leadership which is exercised by members who are set-apart for that special ministry. There are distinctions in roles and functions within this special ministry (refer to the UCCP Manual for Church Workers).

The clergy constitutes the leading aspect of the special ministry. Members of the clergy provide leadership to individual congregations in all aspects of their life and work. The clergy is set apart so that they may be able to devote their mind, time, and energy in the service of the congregation. On the other hand, the members have the duty to provide for their material security so that their pastors may not be distracted to the material cares of the world. Both sides must aim for a full extent of this reciprocal relationship. Furthermore, the relationship between pastor and congregation yields mutual benefits at another plane: the pastors grow in faith and in their capacity to serve as they lead and care for them. The older members have a vast reservoir of experience for the pastors to learn from. The members' generous willingness to bare their hearts to the pastor opens up windows to the soul that reveal the mysteries of life, thereby enhancing their pastoral capabilities.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. tell that church workers are called by God to serve;
2. identify the church workers in their local church;
3. tell how these workers serve the members of the church; and
4. express one's appreciation to the church workers through creative ways.

II. Concept: The church is served by church workers.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), offering plate, outline of the left ear and right ear, headband, materials for the greeting card, pictures of activities in the local church

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Lead the prayer and tell your learners to follow after you: "Dear God, we give you praise for this wonderful Sunday. Today, we thank you for the lives of our church workers who teach us and lead us into your path. Be in our place and in our heart as we study your word. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening songs: Are You Sleeping? (Revised Words by Iris Tibus)
Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping? Samuel! Samuel!
God is calling to you (2x). Wake up now, Samuel, Samuel.
Here I am Lord, Here I am Lord, I heard you, I heard you.
Speak to me, my Lord now (2x). I will do, I will do.

B. Getting Ready

1. Divide the class into two groups. Tell each group to form a circle and sit down. Whisper to one child, "God called Samuel." Let this child whisper it to the next child until all the children in the group have heard the whispered message. The last child will whisper back to the teacher the message.
2. Do the same procedure with the other group. This time whisper to one child, "Samuel said, "Here I am." Congratulate each group when they have delivered the correct message. Then let the first group say the message aloud followed by the second group. ("God called Samuel." "Samuel said, "Here I am.")
3. Process the activity and elicit from the class what makes it easy or difficult to transfer a message. Draw from the class the importance of listening well.

C. Learning Time

1. Say: In our lesson today, we'll find out how listening well helped Samuel.
2. Read the story.

The Lord Calls Samuel

(Based on 1 Samuel 3: 1-19)

Once a mother named Hannah prayed to God to have a child. God heard Hannah and God gifted Hannah and her husband Elkanah a son named Samuel. When Samuel was young, his parents brought him to the priest Eli to grow and serve in the Temple.

One evening, when Eli and Samuel were sleeping, the Lord called, "Samuel, Samuel."

Samuel heard a voice calling him. He thought it was Eli, So ran to Eli and said: "Here I am. You called me."

Eli said: "I did not call you. Go back to bed and sleep."

Samuel went back to his bed and slept. Again, the Lord called Samuel. Samuel woke up again and ran to Eli and said: "Here I am. You called me."

Eli said: "I did not call you. Lie then again."

For the third time, the Lord called Samuel. Samuel went again to Eli and Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel.

Eli said, "If you hear your name being called, you answer and say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel went back to sleep.

The Lord came and called him again, "Samuel! Samuel!"

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel responded.

And the Lord said to Samuel about the things that Samuel will do for Israel. Then, the Lord was with Samuel as he grew up. Samuel obeyed God's word.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Discuss the story.
 - a. How many times did God call Samuel? (Four times)
 - b. Who did Samuel think was calling him? (The Priest Eli)
 - c. What did Samuel tell Eli? ("Here I am. You called me.")
 - d. Who realized that God was the one calling Samuel? (The Priest Eli)
 - e. What did the Priest Eli teach Samuel to say to God? ("Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.")
 - f. Why was God calling Samuel? (God wanted to tell Samuel the things Samuel will do for Israel.)
 - g. How will you answer God when God calls you? Let them recall their first activity. Let a member of the first group to stand away from the group. Ask the other members to call out the name of the child twice. Instruct the child to say, "Here I am Lord. I'm listening." Do this with the second group.
2. Show pictures of different workers or prepare some children who can role play what each worker does (teacher, doctor, street sweeper, traffic officer). the work. Ask the children to say something about each worker. Let them follow the action of each worker using body language.
3. Present last the picture of a pastor (preferably the picture of the pastor in the local church). You may include other church workers in the local church. Say: "A pastor is a spiritual person called by God and set apart to spread God's word."

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Who is the spiritual person called by God to serve the church? How can we show our respect to the pastor or other church workers?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. **For N/K:** Provide each child an outline of a left ear and a right ear and a headband. Tell the class to cut the ears and attach them to the headband. On the headband write "I will listen to the Lord!"
2. **For YE:** Tell the class to complete the sentence below each picture to show respect to the church workers for their work in spreading God's word and one's willingness to help these church workers.

Note: Choose pictures of activities done by children in the local church and post them to elicit the responses in the sentences below each box.

(Greeting the pastor on his or her birthday)

I show respect to my pastor by
C _ R _ ING. (CARING)

(Listening carefully to the pastor while he or she is telling a story)

I show respect to my pastor by
L _ S T _ NING. (LISTENING)

(Praying with eyes closed with clasped hands)

I show respect to my pastor by
PR _ Y _ NG. (PRAYING)

(Participating in preparing gifts for the needy children)

I show respect to my pastor by
H _ L P _ NG. (HELPING)

3. **For both groups:** Provide each child the materials for making a greeting card. Tell them to decorate the card and write a thank you note to the pastor. For the N/K, tell them to copy the greetings. Ask the other group to write their own thoughts. Remind them to say a particular experience with the pastor. After the class has finished doing the activity, accompany the children when they give their cards to the pastor.

G. Closing Worship

1. Teach the memory verse and ask the class to recite it: "The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up." (Samuel 3:19a)
2. Offering:
3. Closing song: "Building up the Church"
(Tune: Building up the Temple, Words by Iris Tibus)
Building up the church (2x)
Building up the church of the Lord
The Lord is calling workers, the Lord is calling workers
To guide God's people in the church.
Building up the church (2x)
Building up the church of the Lord
Members care for pastors, Members help the pastor
We are one body of the Lord.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we thank you for calling workers to serve, guide, and lead your people in the church. Bless our pastor and guide them as they serve your church with love and care. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

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

1. tell that church workers are called by God similar to how God called Samuel;
2. name the church workers in their local church;
3. identify how church workers prepare themselves to serve the church;
4. express one's appreciation to the church workers through creative ways.

II. Concept: The church is served by church workers.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets, materials needed in the activities

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Lead the prayer and tell your learners to follow after you: "Dear God, thank you for bringing us into this place of worship. Today, we celebrate Church Worker's Sunday. We pray to bless your word as we listen and learn from it together with our teacher. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "I Will Make You Fishers of Men"
I will make you fishers of men. Fishers of men, fishers of men.
I will make you fishers of men if you follow me.
If you follow me, if you follow me
I will make you fishers of men if you follow me.

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the "Mirror" game. Let the class form dyads.
2. Tell the pairs that one will play mirror and the other one will do what the mirror exactly does. If the second one makes a mistake in doing the same thing as the mirror, their turn is over. Instruct each pair to stand face-to-face about 4 feet apart.
3. After all the dyads had a chance to play the game, process the activity. Ask the class which role is easy to do, being a mirror, or imitating the mirror. Let the children share their experiences.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class how God played mirror and how the main character played his part.
2. Ask the class to open their Bibles and read 1 Samuel 3:1-19 silently. Assign children who will play narrator, Samuel, Eli, and God.

God Calls Samuel

(Based on 1 Samuel 3: 1-19)

Narrator: Long time ago, in a town of Ramah, a couple named Elkanah and Hannah had been longing for a child. Hannah kept on praying to God. God heard the prayer of Hannah and God gifted Hannah and her husband a handsome boy named Samuel. Samuel's parents were so thankful to God that they offered Samuel to grow in the temple and serve God. Samuel was given to the priest Eli to be taught by the priest.

One evening, when Eli and Samuel were sleeping in a separate place, God called Samuel:

God: (soft voice) Samuel! Samuel!

Narrator: Samuel heard the voice calling him and so he ran to priest Eli.

Samuel: Here I am. You called me.

Priest Eli: I did not call you. Go back to your bed and sleep.

Narrator: Samuel went back to his bed and slept. Again, God called Samuel.

God: Samuel! Samuel!

Narrator: Samuel woke up again and ran to priest Eli.

Samuel: Here I am. You called me.

Priest Eli: I did not call you. Go back to bed and sleep again.

Narrator: Samuel went back to his bed. At that time, he did not know yet about the Lord. For the third time God called Samuel and he went to Eli:

Samuel: Here I am. You called me.

Narrator: Eli understood that it was the Lord, who was calling Samuel.

Priest Eli: If God calls you again, say this: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Now lie down and sleep again.

Narrator: God came and called Samuel again.

God: (soft voice) Samuel! Samuel!

Samuel: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

God: I am about to do something for the people of Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

Narrator: Then, God was with Samuel as he grew up, Samuel obeyed God's word.

3. Tell the class to read in unison 2 Timothy 1:11-14. Emphasize that Paul is leaving a legacy to Timothy to strengthen his faith and consider sound teaching as his source in continuing his ministry especially to the Gentile world. Timothy is urged to take care of what he learned and consider it as his good treasure in proclaiming the truth of God's plan for God's people.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

1. Discuss the lesson.
 - a. How did God show the plan for Samuel? (Samuel was a gift to Hannah and Elkanah upon the incessant prayer to God by Hannah. Samuel was reared and prepared by Eli in the Temple to serve God. God called Samuel to do great things for Israel.)
 - b. How did Samuel react to God's call? (Samuel listened to God. Samuel expressed his willingness to serve God. Samuel obeyed God.)
2. Tell the class to play a guessing game. Identify some church workers or leaders in the church. Write each name into a paper strip. Divide the class into two groups. Ask a representative from each group to act out the person shown to them in the paper strip. The group will guess the person. The group who can guess first gets the score.
3. After the game, ask the children if they found the game easy or difficult. Let them share their opinions. (Expect the children to say that the persons written on the paper strips are familiar to them so it was easy to imitate what they were doing.)
4. Relate the story about Samuel when he was called by God to the characters they portrayed in the activity. Tell them that these church workers were also called by God for the unique task of serving the church. Ask: How can you compare Samuel's

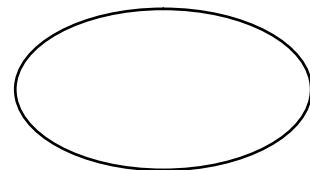
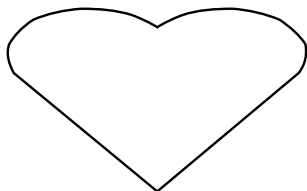
calling to a pastor's calling? [Samuel was called by God to do great things for God's people in Israel. Samuel was trained by Eli in the temple. God calls pastors and other church workers to set apart their lives to proclaim God's word in building God's Kingdom. These church workers need to study God's word (sound teaching) and keep this teaching (good treasure) to heart.]

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How do our pastors serve the church?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us." (2 Timothy 1:13-14)
2. Say: Our pastors are called by God to serve the church, to lead and guide God's people to worship and live in accordance to God's will. Let the class share ways by which they can express appreciation and demonstrate respect and love for them.
3. **For both groups:** *Cookies of Appreciation*. Distribute 5 pieces of cookies and plastic cellophane to each child. Tell them to put the cookies inside the plastic and tie it with ribbon. Give them sheets of paper where they can write five things that they want to thank their pastors. Tell them to give these cookies to their pastors.
4. **For OE:** Tell the class to show appreciation for church workers. Display some figures. Let the children choose one and write a sentence inside the figure addressed to a pastor or any of the church workers in their local church expressing their commitment to participate in the church ministry. Instruct them to decorate the figure and color the figure using this legend.
 Something pink to participate in worship ministries
 Something blue to participate in thanksgiving activities for blessings received
 Something green to participate in outreach programs
 Something red to participate in teaching ministries



G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering as you sing together: "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus."
3. Closing song: "The More We Work Together" (Tune: The More We Get Together, Words: Iris H. Tibus)
 The more we work together, together, together
 The more we work together, God's kingdom is built.
 Church workers and members are working together
 When we do our part together, God's glory is served.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we thank you for sending your church workers to serve your church. Bless them with wisdom. Clothe them with humility that you may find them faithful in guiding God's people. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. retell how Samuel was called by God;
2. relate the calling of Samuel with the calling of the church workers;
3. identify the church workers in their local church and describe how church workers prepare themselves in relation to Paul's instruction to Timothy as they play their role in the lifeworks of the church; and
4. Demonstrate one's appreciation to the church workers through creative ways.

II. Concept: The church does the ministerial tasks through teaching, healing, and preaching under the guidance of the pastors.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets, piece of paper, pen, pencil

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, thank you for bringing us into this place of worship. Today, we celebrate Church Worker's Sunday. We pray to bless your word as we listen and learn from it together with our teacher. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Here I Am, Lord"
I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
Chorus: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples' pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?
Repeat chorus.

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the "Mirror" game. Let the class form dyads.
2. Tell the pairs that one will play mirror and the other one will do what the mirror exactly does. If the second one makes a mistake in doing the same thing as the mirror, their turn is over. Instruct each pair to stand face-to-face about 4 feet apart.
3. After all the dyads had a chance to play the game, process the activity. Ask the class which role is easy to do, being a mirror, or imitating the mirror. Let the children share their experiences.
4. Elicit from the class the difficulty of being someone that they are not. Have them recognize that God made us different for a purpose in our lives. Encourage them to discern their life purpose by studying and meditating on God's word and living it out in accordance to God's will.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read the biblical references silently. Divide the class into two groups and assign the first group to discuss I Samuel 3: 1-19 and the second group 2 Timothy 1:11-14. Tell each group to use the following outline when discussing the biblical references.
2. *1 Samuel 3: 1-19. The Calling of Samuel*
 - a. Verses 1-3. Samuel works in the Temple.
 - b. Verses 4-10 God calls Samuel four times. In the Biblical times, God calls people to serve in God's temple.
 - c. Verses 11-19. God instructs Samuel on what to do.
3. *2 Timothy 1:11-14. Paul's Christian Legacy to Timothy*
 - a. Verses 11-12. Paul talks about his attitude towards the Gospel.
 - b. Verse 13. Paul emphasizes the importance of sound teaching in the faith that is in Christ Jesus that Timothy heard from Paul.
 - c. Verse 14. Paul instructs Timothy to guard the good treasure of the Gospel through the intervention of the Holy Spirit.
3. Ask each group to share to the big group what they have discussed.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. God called Samuel. How did Samuel respond to God's calling? (Samuel listened. He was willing to obey God. He obeyed God.)
2. God still calls us today. What are ways to hear God's call? (Reading the Scriptures, listening to Bible stories, talking to parents or teachers about God, listening to Christian music, praying, meditating)
3. Through Paul and Timothy's family, Timothy learned about God. What were the specific instructions of Paul to Timothy? (Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14.) Emphasize the phrases **sound teaching in the faith and love of Jesus Christ** and **good treasure with the help of the Holy Spirit**.
4. Pastors and other church workers are called by God and set apart to serve God and to be faithful to this calling. How can these church workers make use of the sound teaching and good treasure as a **Christian legacy** instructed to Timothy by Paul in the lifeworks of the church? (Sound teaching should come from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is learned and studied continuously. It is done by listening to advice and instruction. Good treasure represents the wisdom and strength from God, enabled by the Holy Spirit and applied by the church workers in building the Kingdom.)
5. As a young person, is it wise to invest in the learning of our rich Christian heritage as we live out our daily lives? Why or why not? (Answers may vary.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How do pastors perform their ministerial tasks to serve the church? (Through teaching, healing, and preaching)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us." (2 Timothy 1:13-14)

2. Divide the class into four groups. Tell them to make an acronym of the word pastor using words that describe the work of their pastors in their local church (in the areas of teaching, healing and preaching).
P -
A -
S -
T -
O -
R -
3. Call each group to present their work. Discuss the acronyms made by each group.
4. Encourage the class to music rap or write poems about their expression of respect, love, and appreciation to the church workers who are set apart to serve God. Let them share it to the class.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Here I Am, Lord"
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?
Chorus: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.
3. Closing prayer: "Dear God, who called your people to work with you, we thank you. Thank you for sending your workers to be the messenger of your word. Empower, our pastors, lay preachers, curriculum writers, evangelists, Sunday school teachers, deaconesses and other church workers whom you have called to guide and lead God's people in the church. Help us also, as members of your vineyard, to care, love, and assist the church workers as we help build God's Kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

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

1. retell how Samuel was called by God and how Paul left the Christian legacy to Timothy;
2. relate the calling of Samuel and Timothy with the calling of the church workers;
3. identify the church workers in their local church and discuss how church workers prepare themselves in relation to Paul's instruction to Timothy as they play their role in Kingdom building;
4. analyze the big responsibility of the church workers in the teaching and preaching the hope of God's salvation to the church members through faith; and
5. demonstrate one's appreciation to the church workers through creative ways.

- II. **Concept:** The church is served by a ministry that grows with the congregation under the guidance of the ecclesiastical leaders.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. *Opening Worship*

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, thank you for bringing us into this place of worship. Today, we celebrate Church Worker's Sunday. We pray to bless your word as we listen and learn from it together with our teacher. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Here I Am, Lord"
 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
 All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?
 Chorus: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
 I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.
 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples' pain.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone. Give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?
 Repeat chorus.

B. *Getting Ready*

Present the classification of church workers (ecclesiastical leaders) in the UCCP Magna Carta for Church Workers.

1. *Ordained Ministers* are those who have been called and set apart for the ministry of the Word, Sacraments, Liturgy and Pastoral Care and Leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ.
2. *Consecrated Workers* include diaconal ministers and licentiates.
 - a. Diaconal Ministers are those who are called and consecrated to serve in specific lines of ministry such as Christian Education, Church Music, Counseling, Chaplaincy, Early Childhood Education, Youth and Campus Ministry.

- b. Licentiates are those who are called and licensed to serve in the pastoral ministry but who still lack the full qualifications for the ordained ministry.
3. *Ministerial Students* are those who are undergoing formation and training for the ministry of the church.

C. Learning Time

1. Tell the class to read the biblical references silently. Divide the class into two groups and assign the first group to discuss I Samuel 3: 1-19 and the second group 2 Timothy 1:11-14. Tell each group to use the following outline when discussing the biblical references.
2. *1 Samuel 3: 1-19. The Calling of Samuel*
 - a. Verses 1-3. Samuel works in the Temple.
 - b. Verses 4-10 God calls Samuel four times. In the Biblical times, God calls people to serve in God's temple.
 - c. Verses 11-19. God instructs Samuel on what to do.
3. *2 Timothy 1:11-14. Paul's Christian Legacy to Timothy*
 - a. Verses 11-12. Paul talks about his attitude towards the Gospel.
 - b. Verse 13. Paul emphasizes the importance of sound teaching in the faith that is in Christ Jesus that Timothy heard from Paul.
 - c. Verse 14. Paul instructs Timothy to guard the good treasure of the Gospel through the intervention of the Holy Spirit.
3. Ask each group to share to the big group what they have discussed.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. God called Samuel. How did Samuel respond to God's calling? (Samuel listened. He was willing to obey God. He obeyed God.)
2. God still calls us today. What are ways to hear God's call? (Reading the Scriptures, listening to Bible stories, talking to parents or teachers about God, listening to Christian music, praying, meditating)
3. Through Paul and Timothy's family, Timothy learned about God. What were the specific instructions of Paul to Timothy? (Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14.) Emphasize the phrases **sound teaching in the faith and love of Jesus Christ** and **good treasure with the help of the Holy Spirit**.
4. Pastors and other church workers are called by God and set apart to serve God and to be faithful to this calling. How can these church workers make use of the sound teaching and good treasure as a **Christian legacy** instructed to Timothy by Paul in the lifeworks of the church? (Sound teaching should come from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is learned and studied continuously. It is done by listening to advice and instruction. Good treasure represents the wisdom and strength from God, enabled by the Holy Spirit and applied by the church workers in building the Kingdom.)
5. How do parents and other significant adults welcome the possibility of our children to grow up to be the preachers and teachers of tomorrow? Would the passing on of our **rich Christian heritage** be a good investment in guiding the children and youth in their daily lives at home, in the church, and in the community in order for them to pursue their life purpose God has for each of them? (Answers may vary.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How do the pastor and other ecclesiastical leaders of church serve the church? (Under the guidance of the pastor and other ecclesiastical leaders, the members are served by a ministry that grows with the congregation.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us." (2 Timothy 1:13-14)
2. Say: Church workers are called by God. They are entrusted to lead and to guide the congregation in serving the ministry of Jesus Christ. In particular, clergy is set apart to devote their time, mind and energy in the service of the congregation by teaching, healing, and preaching. Thus, church workers need to be respected, to be cared for, and to be supported by the members. Allow the class to share their thoughts on this matter.
3. Tell the class to make their own plan of action in passing on the rich Christian heritage to their family, relatives, and friends. Let them end this plan with a prayer in mind that they will be empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit in proclaiming God's Kingdom to encourage their loved ones to live out their lives in accordance to the truth of the Gospel.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Here I Am, Lord"
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?
Chorus: Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.
3. Closing prayer: Ask volunteers to offer a one-sentence prayer for the following:
 - a. The pastors and bishops
 - b. The church leaders and officers
 - c. The support of church staff and musicians
 - d. The curriculum writers, Christian educators, lay preachers and deaconesses
 - e. All the members of the church