

Human Degradation and Spirituality for a New Humanity

Calendar of Lessons

For Liturgical Year 2016-2017, the lessons are subdivided into these four scopes and strands:

- **Scope 1: Rootedness**
Strand 1: ***Jesus' Encounters with Human Degradation and its Transformations***
 - Advent and Christmastide (27 November 2016 – 1 January 2017)
 - Epiphany (8 January – 26 February 2017)
- **Scope 2: Identity: On Being and Becoming**
Strand 2: ***Jesus' Choice of the Kind of Messiah***
 - Lent (5 March – 9 April 2017)
 - Eastertide (16 April – 28 May 2017)
- **Scope 3: Unity and Solidarity**
Strand 3: ***The Church United to Respond to Human Degradation***
 - ***Pentecost (4 June – 20 August 2017)***
- **Scope 4: Fruitful Lifeworks**
Strand 4: ***The Church Manifesting the Marks of a Christ-like Life***
 - Kingdomtide (27 August – 26 November 2017)



Quadrennial Theme: Spirituality for These Critical TimesYear 3 Theme: **Human Degradation and Spirituality for a New Humanity 2016-2017**Scope 1: **Rootedness**Strand 1: ***Jesus' Encounters with Human Degradation and its Transformations***

Included Sundays for Advent and Christmastide Season (6 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(1) November 27, 2016	First Sunday of Advent	Liberating Cultural Breakthroughs	1 Samuel 25:13-34 Matthew 1:18-24	There are cultural practices and beliefs that cause human suffering and degradation, thus, the church should make a cultural breakthrough in the transformation towards a new humanity.
(2) December 4, 2016	Second Sunday of Advent/Family Sunday	Seeds of New Humanity	Isaiah. 7:14 Luke 1:26-35	Like the enslaved people in Egypt, the new humanity emerges from among the victims who long for freedom and wholeness.
(3) December 11, 2016	Third Sunday of Advent/Human Rights Sunday	Challenging Oppressive State Powers	1 Kings 12:1-16 Luke 2:1-6	The church has the duty to expose and challenge state policies that violate human rights.
(4) December 18, 2016	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Jesus as God's Love Incarnate	Isaiah 49:1-3 John 3:11-17	In the midst of a broken humanity, God came in Jesus

				to mend it and make it whole.
(5) December 25, 2016	First Sunday after Christmas	The Birth of Jesus	Psalms 91:11 Luke 2:7-18 John 1:14	We joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus in a world that longs for fullness.
(6) January 1, 2017	First Sunday after Christmas	Defending Children, Symbols of a New Beginning	Isaiah 43:18-19 Matthew 2:1-16	Upholding the rights and welfare of children makes a just and compassionate society now and in the future.
Included Sundays for Epiphany Season (8 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(7) January 8, 2017	Epiphany Sunday	Channels of God's Healing	2 Kings 7:1-16 John 9:1-41	We are all healers to one another.
(8) January 15, 2017	First Sunday after Epiphany/Christian Unity	The Inclusive Healing Ministry of the Church	2 Kings 5:1-19 Mark 1:29-31	"The kingdom of God is present...where healing is given to the sick." (UCCP Statement of Faith)
(9) January 22, 2017	Second Sunday after Epiphany/National Bible Sunday	Healing of Animosities	Isaiah 11:1-9 Galatians 3:28	Respecting and appreciating differences is a condition for creative unity and harmony.
(10) January 29, 2017	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Healing as a Message of Salvation	2 Kings 4:8-37 Luke 8:41-56	Salvation comes whenever healing happens.
(11) February 5, 2017	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Healing of Social Divides	Ruth 1:1-21 Luke 13:10-17	Social division is eradicated when human fellowship, care, respect,

				and dignity are restored.
(12) February 12, 2017	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Healing of Broken Relationships	Genesis 32:1-32, 33:1-4 Matthew 5:24	Where there are broken relationships, it is the duty of the church to bring about reconciliation through forgiveness and repentance.
(13) February 19, 2017	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Healing from Demon Possession	1 Samuel 16:14-23 Mark 5:1-20	The Spirit of God drives away the demons of envy, fear, and greed for the Spirit to dwell in.
(14) February 26, 2017	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday	Healing towards Transformation	Exodus 34:29-35 Mark 9:2-8	The transfiguration of Jesus is a preview of his resurrection which is our hope and destiny.

Scope 2: **Identity: On Being and Becoming**
 Strand 2: ***Jesus' Choice of the Kind of Messiah***

Included Sundays for Lent (6 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(15) March 5, 2017	First Sunday in Lent	Choosing our Destiny	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Matthew 16:21-23	Jesus chose to obey God's will and it became his destiny. When we make a choice to follow Jesus, it becomes our destiny.

(16) March 12, 2017	Second Sunday in Lent	Servant Messiah	Isaiah 53:4-6 Mark 10:42-45	As a servant messiah, Jesus served the suffering ones. As a result, he suffered with them. When we serve the suffering ones, we also suffer with them.
(17) March 19, 2017	Third Sunday in Lent	Loyalty to God	Ruth 1:16-17 Luke 7:1-10	The love for God is the basis of our unwavering loyalty to God.
(18) March 26, 2017	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Peace-building	Jeremiah 1:9-10 Matthew 10:34	Building peace, as a messianic mission, requires forcible removal of obstacles to peace—inequitable distribution of resources, abusive relationships, and injustice.
(19) April 2, 2017	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Marks of the True Messiah	Isaiah 42:1-7 Matthew 11:2-6	The true messiah is known through his healing, liberating, and restoring deeds.
(20) April 9, 2017	Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday	Jesus Encountering the Powers	Zechariah 9:9-10 John 12:12-19	Jesus enters Jerusalem to challenge the powers-that-be that cause human misery.

Included Sundays for Eastertide (7 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(21) April 16, 2017	Resurrection Sunday	Resurrection of the Righteous	Daniel 12:1-3 John 11:25-27 Romans 6:5	Those who remain faithful to the end will not perish but have eternal life.
(22) April 23, 2017	First Sunday after Resurrection	Suppressing the Truth of the Resurrection	Jeremiah 28:15-17 Matthew 28:11-15	The response of the powers-that-be to the resurrection was to cover up the truth with a lie and criminalize those who believe.
(23) April 30, 2017	Second Sunday after Resurrection	Moment of Human Frailties	2 Samuel 21:10 Mark 16:1-8	After Jesus died, the disciples experienced a lacuna moment of mourning, confusion, fear, depression, and disbelief. This experience is not sin but needs to be accepted and brought to the Lord.
(24) May 7, 2017	Third Sunday after Resurrection	Appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene	2 Kings 7:7-20 Mark 16:9-11	The testimony of those who speak the truth are often discredited on account of their status in society.
(25) May 14, 2017	Fourth Sunday after Resurrection	Failure to Recognize the Appearance of Jesus	Genesis 18:1-15 Mark 16:12-13	Due to their extreme grief, the disciples were not able

				to apprehend the risen Lord. But Jesus overcomes our failure to discern and communes with us.
(26) May 21, 2017	Fifth Sunday after Resurrection/UC CP Sunday	Celebrating the Resurrection	Exodus 16:1-26 Luke 24:36-46	Jesus comes to commune with us in ordinary, basic, and common activities and struggles.
(27) May 28, 2017	Sixth Sunday after Resurrection/Ascension Sunday	Anticipating the Fullness of God's Reign on Earth	Daniel 12:13 Mark 16:15-20	Jesus ascends to heaven to receive God's authority to realize God's reign in its fullness.

Scope 3: **Unity and Solidarity**Strand 3: ***The Church United to Respond to Human Degradation***

Included Sundays for Pentecost Season (12 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(28) June 4, 2017	Pentecost Sunday	The Spirit Breaking through Cultural Captivity	Joel 2:28-29 Acts 2:1-12	The Spirit enables the Gospel to be communicated in the languages and cultures of the people.
(29) June 11, 2017	First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday	The Holy Trinity in the Faith of the Church	Genesis 1:26-27 Jude vv. 19:21	God is a community of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the source and basis of the

				church as community.
(30) June 18, 2017	Second Sunday after Pentecost	The Holy Spirit Sustaining the Church	Jeremiah 7:1-11 Matthew 23:13-28	The Holy Spirit bids the church to unite with the people to confront the oppressive powers.
(31) June 25, 2017	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Defending the Powerless	Psalms 82:3-4; 146:5-9 Proverbs 31:8-9 James 1:27	The Holy Spirit sustains the church in its ministry of protecting the oppressed and the helpless and upholding their rights.
(32) July 2, 2017	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Breaking Down Walls that Divide	Isaiah 56:3-8 Amos 9:7 Luke 14:12-14	The church, by nature, is inclusive. It embraces differences and does not harbor animosities.
(33) July 9, 2017	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Confronting Human Greed	Deuteronomy 5:21 Acts 2:44-47; 4:33-35	The church confronts the issue of human greed which is the root of many evils and broken relationships.
(34) July 16, 2017	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Casting Out Demonic Powers	Psalms 103:2-5 Mark 1:23-27; 7:24-30	The church's ministry of healing requires the driving out of demonic powers that hold people in their sway.
(35) July 23, 2017	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Being Present	Deuteronomy 31:8 Psalm 40:1-3 Revelation 21:3-4	The church embraces the ministry of presence to embody God who is Immanuel.

(36) July 30, 2017	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Nurturing Hope	Job 5:15-16 Psalm 34:17-20 Matthew 11:28-30	The church journeys with people in the darkness of despair, reviving the hope and keeping it alive.
(37) August 6, 2017	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Reaching Out to Victims of Abuse and Social Evils	Isaiah 25:4 Matthew 18:21-35	The church is a community that provides comfort, assistance, shelter, and intervention to victims in their needs.
(38) August 13, 2017	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Pursuing and Building Peace	Psalm 34:11-14 1Peter 3:8-12	The church plants peace in a world rocked by conflict, violence, and wars.
(39) August 20, 2017	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	The Church Awakened to Do Mission	Isaiah 59:17 Ephesians 6:14	An awakened church girds up and equips itself for mission.

Scope 4: **Fruitful Lifeworks**Strand 4: ***The Church Manifesting the Marks of a Christ-like Life***

Included Sundays for Kingdomtide Season (14 lessons)	Celebration	Lectionary Title	Scriptural References	General Concept
(40) August 27, 2017	First Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Mission Sunday	Leaving Everything to Follow Christ	Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5:1-11	Obedience to Jesus means letting go of those cares that keep us from following him.
(41) September 3, 2017	Second Sunday in Kingdomtide/ CEN Sunday	Mission to the Periphery	1 Samuel 18:1-5 Philippians 2:5-8 2 Corinthians 8:9	Removing our self from the center of our life so that we can put others in its place.
(42) September 10, 2017	Third Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Children' Sunday	Humility-Powered Mission	Proverbs 15:33, 11:2 Luke 18:9-14	Behind genuine mission is a humble heart that seeks the well-being of others.
(43) September 17, 2017	Fourth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Youth Sunday	Accountability in the Kingdom	2 Samuel 12:1-13 Luke 15:11-24	Being created in the image of God, we are responsible and accountable to each other.
(44) September 24, 2017	Fifth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Fellowship of the Least Coin Sunday	The Kingdom as a Forgiving Community	Genesis 45:1-5 Acts 7:59-60	Being forgiving is a quality of those who belong to the Kingdom of God.
(45) October 1, 2017	Sixth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Worldwide Communion Sunday/CYAP Sunday	Towards a Reconciled Community	Genesis 45:9-15 Philemon 1:10-20	True reconciliation moves relationships to a higher plane.
(46) October 8, 2017	Seventh Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Peace Sunday	Living the Faith	Esther 4:13-16 James 1:27	Forgiven and reconciled, we

				are freed to do good.
(47) October 15, 2017	Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ UCM Sunday	Being Accepted in the Kingdom of God	Hosea 1: 1-3, 3:1 John 4:7-15	The Christian community is accepting of others unmindful of any advantage.
(48) October 22, 2017	Ninth Sunday in Kingdomtide/Solidarity with Indigenous People Sunday	Reverence for Life	Exodus 2:1-10 Luke 7:1-10	Life is respected beyond social class, ethnicity, and religion.
(49) October 29, 2017	Tenth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Reformation Sunday	Discerning God's Ways through Jesus	Job 42:1-6 John 14:5-11	To know Jesus is to know God. The gospel makes faith simple to everyone.
November 5, 2017 (50)	Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Church Workers Sunday	Prayerful Life	Daniel 6:6-23 Mark 14:32-38	Communing with God through prayers encompasses all of life.
(51) November 12, 2017	Twelfth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Theological Education Sunday	Audacious Compassion	1 Kings 17:8-16 Luke 10:25-37	Those who have less in life or regarded low are the most compassionate.
(52) November 19, 2017	Thirteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Migrant Workers Sunday	Learning from the Faith and Witness of Migrants	Psalms 137:1-6 1 Peter 1:1 James 1:1-4	Being steadfast in the faith makes us complete and whole.
(53) November 26, 2017	Fourteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide/ Stewardship Sunday	Service Motivated by Love	Judges 5:6-13 Mark 2:1-12	Stewardship is manifested through the collective response of the faith community.

First Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday

The Holy Trinity in the Faith of the Church

Old Testament: Genesis 1:26-27 (NRSV)

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

New Testament: Jude vv. 19-21 (NRSV)

¹⁹It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. ²⁰But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

General Concept: God is a community of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the source and basis of the church as community.

Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School

N/K/YE: The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.

ME/OE: The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.

Y: God is a community of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community.

A: God is a community of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

"Let us make" (Hebrew: noshe) - transliteration "we shall make"

"likeness" (Hebrew: k-dmuth-nu) - transliteration "as likeness of us"

"dominion" (Hebrew: u-irdu) - transliteration "and they shall sway"

"created" (Hebrew: bara) - to shape, fashion (always with God as subject)

In this text, God is depicted in the plural form "we". Despite the plurality of "we", we see the united action of God in creating humans in their likeness. Likeness does mean a "copy" or having similar characteristics although never exactly the same as the original. Likeness may refer to the ability God gave to humans to have "dominion". But it is very interesting to note that the Hebrew transliteration for this word is "and they shall sway" or influence, persuade, motivate. It is a much gentler way than having "dominion" which has negative connotations and may even refer to violence. It could also mean a coaxing effort of subduing the earth instead of having absolute control and domination that the word "dominion" represents. "Bara", the Hebrew word for create, is always associated with God's creative act. The text shows that humans were created in a united effort by God and in their likeness given responsibilities to care for the rest of creation.

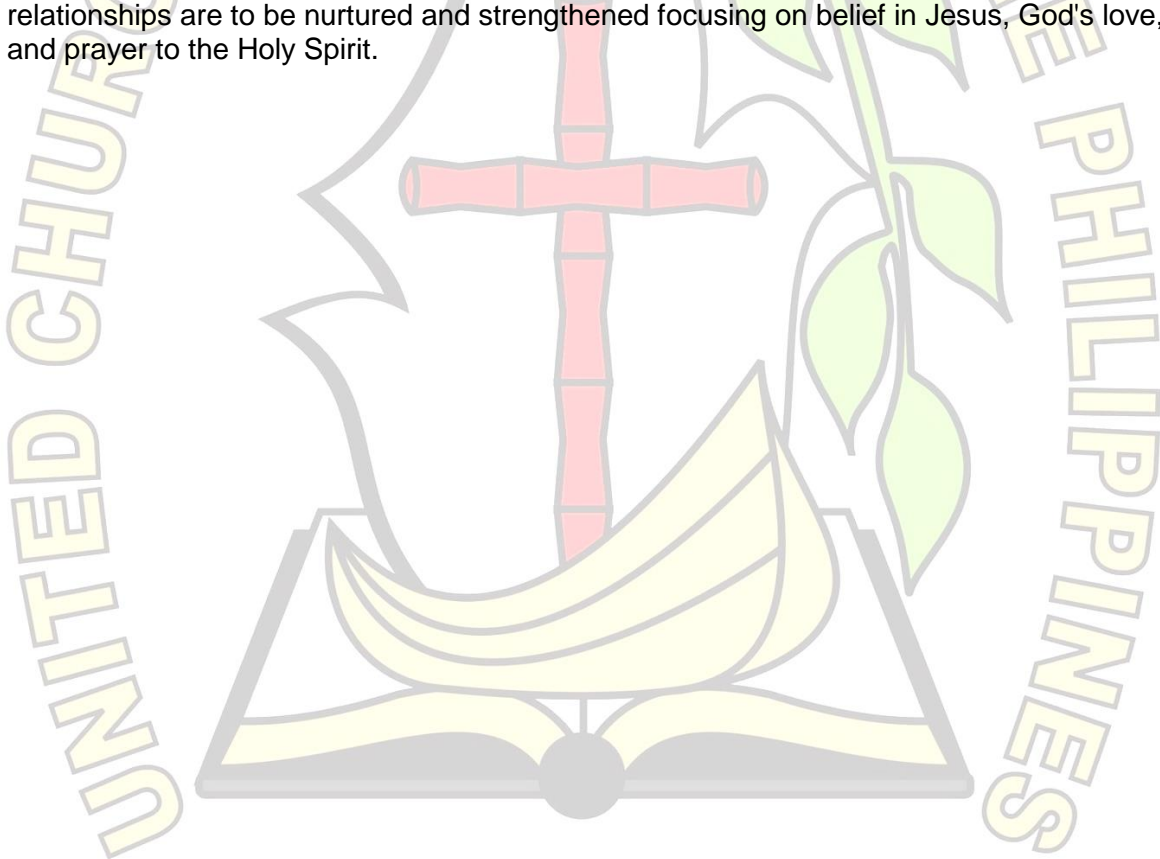
Jude verse 19: "It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions" is transliterated as "these are the ones—isolating themselves soulless spirit having no"; verse 20: "But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit" transliterated as "you yet beloved to the holiest of you belief on home building selves in spirit holy praying"; verse 21: "keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life" transliterated as "selves in love of God keep

toward receiving the mercy of the master of us Jesus anointed into life without beginning and end."

Looking at the transliterated verses, it is interesting to see that those who are causing divisions is described as "ones—isolating themselves" (*apodiorizontesheautous*) and having no Spirit. Also, the phrase of "build yourselves up" (*epoikodomountes*), its transliteration is "on home building" where it refers to the building up of the community of believers or church. This reveals that building up the church is associated with strengthening relationships like in a home or family. The church's natural setting is that of a family instead of an organization. This relationship is then centered on faith in Jesus Christ, God's love and in praying to the Holy Spirit.

This goes to show that people with no Spirit and are responsible for isolating people from the community of faith are the source of division in the church. Faith that is not centered on Jesus Christ, motivation that is not coming from God's love, and not communing with the Holy Spirit does not build up the community of faith.

God is a divine being in community. Being in community is essential in understanding God and to continue in fellowship with the divine. The Trinity is an attempt to describe the wonderful relationship found in God. As reflected in the verse in Genesis, we were created in God's image and although not the same as the original, we too have the same characteristic of community. As reflected in Jude, for the church to become strong, relationships are to be nurtured and strengthened focusing on belief in Jesus, God's love, and prayer to the Holy Spirit.



Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels**I. Objectives**

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

1. Describe that God created us all in God's image;
2. Explain that being created in God's image shows God's love for us;
3. Realize that the Triune God created us; and
4. Respond to God's care and value for us in showing care and value to others as part of God's community, the church.

II. Concept: The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), offering plate, mirrors, emoticons

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, help us in our lesson today so that we will understand that life is sacred because it was You who created us. We thank you for loving and caring for each of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" (HFJ # 94)
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore.*

B. Getting Ready

Provide each child a mirror. Tell them to look at themselves. Encourage them to describe themselves and express how they feel about themselves.

C. Learning Time

Prepare the children to listen to the story.

Made in God's Likeness
(Based on Genesis 1:26-27)

God prepared the earth before God made human beings. God made the plants to grow. God made the animals.

The Triune God worked together to create human beings.

God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." God created male and female.

God made humans unique and wonderful to display God's power and glory. Today, the people of the Triune God forms a community, called the church.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss how the children felt as they listened to the story. Have them use their emoticons.

1. How do you feel knowing God made each of us unique and wonderful? Show how you feel using your emoticons.

2. Why did God make us in God's likeness? (God loves and values life. God took care of us even when we were in our mother's womb. When we were born, God continued to love and care for us.)
3. Do all people look alike? Why or why not? (Each person has unique physical characteristics. But all people share God's image.)
4. Read this verse again: "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness..." Does the word "let" tell about a person or more than one person? Who do you think are these persons? (Introduce the Triune God, God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.)
5. Remind the class that the believers of Christ form a community. This community is called the Church.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "What does the church compose of? (The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)
2. Ask the children to what church they belong. Present pictures of the members doing things for the other members and people in the community. Let them say: As a believer of Christ and with the help of the Spirit of God, I want to do this: (state what you want to do) for my church.
3. **N/K:** Prepare a worksheet and distribute it to each child. Tell each pupil to draw himself or herself. Below the drawing, write this: God created me because I am loved. Draw a silhouette of plants and animals and ask the children to color them.
4. **YE:** Prepare a worksheet and distribute it to each child. Draw a circle in the middle and let each child draw himself or herself inside the circle. On top of the circles, write this: God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer created me. Below the circle, write: God created me in God's image. I am special. I am a member of God's church. On the other parts of the paper, have the children draw plants and animals that God created. Tell the class to decorate their worksheet.

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering
3. Closing songs: "Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow" (HFJ # 94) and "In my Life Lord, Be Glorified"
In my life (*home, school, or church*), Lord, be glorified (twice).
In my life (*home, school, or church*), Lord, be glorified today.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making us special by loving and caring for us. Help us to love and care for others, too. 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. Describe that the Triune God created us all in God's image;
2. Explain that being created in God's image shows God's love for us;
3. Illustrate the abilities given to human beings that set them apart from the other units of creation; and
4. Respond to God's love for giving us the foundation of God's word and to use this to help in the edification of others.

II. Concept: The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), offering plate, song chart, verse chart, mirrors

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, help us in our lesson today so that we will understand that life is sacred because it was You who created us. We thank you for loving and caring for each of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow" (HFJ # 94)
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore.*

B. Getting Ready

1. Write the word "sacred" on the board and ask the students what comes to mind when they see this word. Accept responses of the students and share this information: Sacred is often used to describe dedicated or consecrated places, objects or relationships. The word, holy, on the other hand, is used to describe persons or relationships that are set apart for religious reasons. When God created human life, God considered this sacred because this life is revered and associated with divinity. When God-image is breathed into humans, this life is definitely sacred that needs to be protected and valued as the most valuable creation.
2. Tell the pupils to list things that are holy: (the name of God, the Bible, holidays that are meant and set apart for worship); and sacred things: time for worship, prayer, communion with God, candles, sticks, holy water, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, shrines, people consecrated to serve the community like: priests, pastors, rabbis, imams, monks, nuns, and others.

C. Learning Time

1. Assist the class to recall that human beings were created by God and breathed into them the image of God. Tell them to read responsively Genesis 1:26-27.
2. Tell the class to read the following passages:
 - a. The true God is three distinct individuals, but all united perfectly in will, character, authority over created things. One united God, yet three Beings. God is properly spoken of in the singular form, He may also be spoken of in the plural. This verse refers to God as ELOHIM (Hebrew), which is plural. So, God is both singular and plural at the same time. We learn that we worship one Godhead consisting of three separate and distinct individuals, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.
 - b. Unlike animals, human beings are endowed with the following gifts: rational intelligence, the ability to reason and communicate; free will and the power to choose between alternatives; emotions that will make him or her experience joy, love, anger, hatred, sorrow, and many other feelings; conscience, to be able to

discern right from wrong; and Spirit nature in order for humans to be with God in eternity.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Discuss the following highlights of the biblical references:
 - a. When God gave God's image to humans, what does this symbolize? (God loves us, gave us unique abilities, and saved us from our sins through Jesus Christ.)
 - b. When God created human beings, God used the word "let". What do you think this means? (It signifies that God did not act alone but created humans through the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.)
 - c. How is rational intelligence related to being with God? (The ability to express oneself makes it possible for human beings to communicate with God and understand God's will for each of us.)
 - d. How is free will related to the relationship between God and human beings? (God did not plan humans to become robots. Humans can make choices but with responsibility to account themselves before God.)
 - e. How do emotions set us apart from animals? (These feelings of humans are always attributed to God first, to his or her fellow human beings, second and to the other units of creation.)
 - f. Why is conscience called "the tiny small voice"? (God gave humans an inherent sense of approval when doing what is right and a sense of guilt when committing a mistake and this conscience is heard from the heart.)
2. Encourage the class to see that the community of faith in the church is governed by the Triune God.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: What is the church composed of? (The church is a community of the people of the Triune God.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Talk about the memory verse: "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)
2. **ME:** Ask: "What does it really mean to be made in God's image?" Say: "We have learned that we have been created in God's image. Look at yourselves in the mirror and list two things that you like about yourself and two things you dislike about yourself." Call on the children and listen to what they have to say about themselves. Help them to realize that God cares for each of them and they need to work on their negative qualities. Refer to Jude's strategies.
3. **OE:** List several qualities of God (self-giving, humble, generous, forgiving, kind, reconciling, friendly, compassionate, inclusive) on the board. Ask the class which of these qualities they share with God. Listen to what each child has to say and then ask: "If we are created in God's image, why did God gift us with unique abilities? Expect the response to be: To fulfill God's plan and purpose for each of us for God's glory and honor. Refer to Jude's strategies.
4. Lead the class to realize that as a member of the church's community of faith, each can contribute to the edification of other members.

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering
3. Closing songs: "Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow" (HFJ # 94) and "In my Life Lord, Be Glorified"
 In my life (*home, school, or church*), Lord, be glorified (twice).
 In my life (*home, school, or church*), Lord, be glorified today.

4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, thank you for making us special by loving and caring for us. Help us to love and care for others, too. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."



Youth Level

I. Objectives

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

1. Describe that when the Triune God created us all in God's image, God showed God's love for all of us;
2. Explain the gifts endowed on humans that make them different from all creation;
3. Illustrate how Jude proposed to combat the doings of false teachers that keep us, humans, away from the true God; and
4. Respond to God's love for giving us the foundation of God's word and to use this to help in the edification of others.

II. Concept: God is a community of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences

A. *Opening Worship*

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer: Loving God, we thank you for your unconditional love for us. Help us always to be grateful in appreciating each one's presence as sisters and brothers united in your love. This is our prayer in your Son's name. Amen.
3. Opening song: "Hymn of our Faith Journey (The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer)" (HFJ # 1) stanzas 1 and 2

B. *Getting Ready*

1. Write the word "sacred" on the board and ask the students what comes to mind when they see this word. Accept responses of the students and share this information: Sacred is often used to describe dedicated or consecrated places, objects or relationships. The word, holy, on the other hand, is used to describe persons or relationships that are set apart for religious reasons. When God created human life, God considered this sacred because this life is revered and associated with divinity. When God-image is breathed into humans, this life is definitely sacred that needs to be protected and valued as the most valuable creation.
2. Tell the students to list things that are holy: (the name of God, the Bible, holidays that are meant and set apart for worship); and sacred things: time for worship, prayer, communion with God, candles, sticks, holy water, churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, shrines, people consecrated to serve the community like: priests, pastors, rabbis, imams, monks, nuns, and others.

C. *Learning Time*

1. Tell the class to read responsively Genesis 1: 27-28. Say: When God created human beings in God's own image: it was not a physical likeness; it was a mental likeness; it was a moral likeness; and it was a social likeness.
2. Ask the class to read in unison verses 19-21 in the book of Jude.
 - a. The false teachers who spread false ideas about the Gospel are governed by their own wisdom and have no connection to genuine spirituality, and do not have the Spirit of God
 - b. The solution expounded by Jude to protect ourselves: To build up oneself in the faith; to keep oneself in the love of God and pray in the Holy Spirit, and to look for the Lord Jesus Christ's mercy that lead to eternal life.

D. *Deepening Activity/Sharing Time*

1. Discuss the following highlights of the biblical references:

- a. What is the role of the Triune God in the creation of human beings? (God did not act alone but created humans through the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.)
 - b. How did God show God's love during the creation of human beings? When God gave God's image to humans, what does this symbolize? (When God created us, God gave God's likeness in the form of gifts to humans.)
 - c. What do you think physical likeness mean? (Humans do not look like God but God gave them human attributes like: a unique body design different from animals, a brain that has a superior capacity more than any other creation, and feelings that can lead to an intimate relationship with God. Furthermore, when Jesus came to earth to save humans from their sins, Jesus came in the form of a human being.)
 - d. What do you think mental likeness means? (God endowed human beings with intellect that allowed him or her to manage the other units of creation; to create works of art; to reason; and to make wise decisions)
 - e. What do you think moral likeness means? (Humans were gifted with God's spirit of consciousness to discern right from wrong. When God said that what God did with humans is very good, God made a morally perfect human.)
 - f. What do you think social likeness means? (God made humans to be socially conscious persons. Humans are equipped with the fulfillment of fellowship with God, with other human beings, and with the other units of creation.)
 - g. What is the first strategy given by Jude to protect ourselves from the false teachers? (Edification means that we need to strengthen our faith by knowing the foundation of our faith which is the word of God. Edification is not automatic once we believe in Christ. We need to work on our spiritual development.)
 - h. What is the second means of protection? (Love and prayer is the second strategy. We keep ourselves in God's love and we pray by the power of the Holy Spirit because it is the Spirit of God that intercedes for us and guides us how and what to pray for.)
 - i. What is the third means of protection? (Trust and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. We eagerly wait for His Second Coming to fulfill his promise of eternal life. It is only in God's mercy that we can enjoy the abundant life at the end of age.)
 - j. Do you notice the Triune God in Jude's letter? How? (The three Persons of the Trinity show that God the Parent sanctifies, the Son preserves, and the Spirit calls.)
2. Encourage the class to see that the community of faith that is the church is governed by the Triune God.
- E. *Discovering the Biblical Truth*
- Ask: How can you describe the Triune God? (God is a community of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community.)
- F. *Applying the Biblical Truth*
1. Say: "Jude proposed three strategies to protect the community of faith from the teachings of the false teachers."
 2. Divide the class into three groups and let each group brainstorm on possible ways to implement the three strategies of Jude. Give time to each group to talk among themselves about their assigned topic.
 - a. Group 1: The Edification Group
 - b. Group 2: The Love and Prayer Group
 - c. Group 3: The Trust and Hope Group
 3. Tell each group to present their work creatively.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Hymn of our Faith Journey (The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer)" (HFJ # 1) stanzas 3 and 4
3. Closing prayer: "Compassionate God, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to be our guide and to sustain us to a life that is pleasing to you. May the Holy Spirit continually be with us in the use of the spiritual gifts to serve others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."



Adult Level**I. Objectives**

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

1. Describe the cooperative work of the Triune God when human beings were created;
2. Explain the love of God for humans as God gave them unique gifts and dominion in managing the whole of creation;
3. Illustrate how Jude analyzed the bad impact on the faith of the believers made by the false teachers and his proposed strategies to remedy this situation; and
4. Respond to God's love for giving us the foundation of God's word and to use this to help in the edification of others.

II. Concept: God is a community of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community.

Materials: The Holy Bible (NRSV), worksheets

III. Learning Experiences**A. Opening Worship**

1. Welcome Time
2. Opening Prayer (Assigned Leader)
3. Opening Hymn "Hymn of our Faith Journey (The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer)" (HFJ # 1) stanzas 1 and 2

B. Getting Ready

Ask the class about the meaning of the sanctity of life. Relate their insights with the sacredness of life of human beings when they were created by God.

C. Learning Time

Tell the class to read in unison Genesis 1: 27-28 and Jude vv. 19-21.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Discuss the following highlights of the biblical references:
 - a. What is the role of the Triune God in the creation of human beings? (God did not act alone but created humans through the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.)
 - b. How did God show God's love during the creation of human beings? when gave God's image to humans, what does this symbolize? (When God created us, God gave God's likeness in the form of gifts to humans.)
 - c. What do you think physical likeness mean? (Humans do not look like God but God gave them human attributes like: a unique body design different from animals, a brain that has a superior capacity more than any other creation, and feelings that can lead to an intimate relationship with God. Furthermore, when Jesus came to earth to save humans from their sins, Jesus came in the form of a human being.)
 - d. What do you think mental likeness mean? (God endowed human beings with intellect that allowed him or her to manage the other units of creation; to create works of art; to reason; and to make wise decisions)
 - e. What do you think moral likeness mean? (Humans were gifted with God's spirit of consciousness to discern right from wrong. When God said that what God did with humans is very good, God made a morally perfect human.)
 - f. What do you think social likeness mean? (God made humans to be socially conscious persons. Humans are equipped with the fulfillment of fellowship with God, with other human beings, and with the other units of creation.)

- g. What is the first strategy given by Jude to protect ourselves from the false teachers? (Edification means that we need to strengthen our faith by knowing the foundation of our faith which is the word of God. Edification is not automatic once we believe in Christ. We need to work on our spiritual development.)
 - h. What is the second means of protection? (Love and prayer is the second strategy. We keep ourselves in God's love and we pray by the power of the Holy Spirit because it is the Spirit of God that intercedes for us and guides us how and what to pray for.)
 - i. What is the third means of protection? (Trust and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. We eagerly wait for His Second Coming to fulfill his promise of eternal life. It is only in God's mercy that we can enjoy the abundant life at the end of age.)
 - j. Do you notice the Triune God in Jude's letter? How? (The three Persons of the Trinity show that the God the Parent sanctifies, the Son preserves, and the Spirit calls.)
2. Encourage the class to see that the community of faith in the church is governed by the Triune God.
- E. *Discovering the Biblical Truth*
Say: "God is a community of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. This is the source and basis of the church as community."
- F. *Applying the Biblical Truth*
Tell the class to choose the ministry of the church that will build up the faith community.
- G. *Closing Worship*
1. Offering
 2. Closing song: "Hymn of our Faith Journey (The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer)" (HFJ # 1) stanzas 3 and 4
 3. Closing prayer: "Compassionate God, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to be our guide and to sustain us to a life that is pleasing to you. May the Holy Spirit continually be with us in the use of the spiritual gifts to serve others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

