

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Adults

WE BELIEVE

In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday after Pentecost

May 27, 2018

LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD: CREATOR, REDEEMER AND SUSTAINER

General Concept: We believe in one God who is the source of all life, always hears and responds to cries for redemption, and is always with us; we respond by giving of our whole self to our One God.

Biblical References: Isaiah 6:1-8; Exodus 3: 1-14; John 3:1-17

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Age-Level Concepts

- We believe in one God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
- God is the source of all life, hears and responds to cries for redemption, and is always with us.
- We respond by giving of our whole self to our One God.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session the learners are expected to:

- Analyze how God responds to the people's cry for redemption from domination and slavery
- Express their perception of our One God as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
- Make a commitment to respond and actively participate in the ministries God calls us to be part of

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Two or three participants may share one thing that they thank God for.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 24)

Opening Prayer (To be led by one of the participants; also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, grant us Your grace to understand You and enjoy Your guiding presence as we study Your Word and as we commune with one another. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:
“We believe in one God...”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts.

The facilitator/Sunday School teacher will give a brief background of the texts.

Discussion on the text using the following guide questions:

- What challenges and tribulations were the Israelites experiencing?
 - The facilitator may divide the space in the blackboard into two.
 - Answers of the participants will be written on the first half of the blackboard.
- How did God respond to their situation/condition?
- In responding to Israel’s circumstance, what nature or characteristic of God was made evident?
 - The sovereignty of God
 - The holiness of God
 - The benevolence of God
- Encourage the participants to share their insights regarding the different characteristics of God vis-à-vis our concept of our One God.
- Allow them to express their perception of our One God in Three Persons: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Elucidate that God is the Source of all life. God’s life and work manifests in different ways: as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, in order to reveal and fulfill God’s divine purpose and will for all of creation.

Lessons Learned

- Allow the participants to reflect for a moment on what was written on the board.
- Guide questions for reflection:
 - What challenges and tribulations currently confront us?
 - What parallels/similarities can be noted between our circumstance and that of the Israelites?
- How does God respond to our condition? In what way can we say that the characteristic of God as revealed to Israel remains constant until now?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- When Isaiah experienced God’s sovereignty and holiness he realized his frailty as a human being. Allow the participants to share one way by which they can overcome their frailties.



- After having been cleansed and forgiven by God, Isaiah said, “Here I am, Lord. Send me.” If we are to do just one thing for God to show our commitment what would that be?

Closing Worship

The group will form a circle and hold each other’s hands.

Offertory and Closing Hymn “Lord, I Offer My Life to You”

Closing Prayer

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 3, 2018

LESSON 2: GOD OUR CREATOR

General Concept: God created the whole universe and instituted systems to benefit human beings and the rest of creation.

Biblical References: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 139:1-10

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

Age-Level Concepts

- God created the whole universe and it was good.
- God instituted laws to benefit human beings and the rest of creation.

Learning Objectives

- Indicate how they think God’s creation is good
- Express their reflection on the importance of God’s instituted laws in bringing about order in the whole of God’s creation
- List down ways of declaring to others the goodness of God’s creation and the necessity of upholding the goodness and integrity of God’s creation

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, two sheets of manila paper, markers

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn “Search Me, O God” (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 216)

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe in one God: Creator....”



Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Motivate the participants.
 - Have them reflect on God's creation and how they think it is good.
 - Ask what laws were instituted by God and where these can be found in the Bible.
 - Ask them to recite the 10 commandments.
- Read the texts and discuss.
 - Why is there a need for God to institute laws? (Deuteronomy 5:32)
 - Why did Moses narrate again the 10 commandments? The Decalogue is first stated in Exodus 20.
 - How does obeying the law help achieve the fulfillment of being an image of God?
 - Describe how the Psalmist underscored God's control of all things and God's presence in all things and in all conditions.

Lessons Learned

- How does obedience to God's laws influence the kind of life we live as individuals and as community?
- Activity:
 - Put two sheets of manila paper side by side on the board. On one manila paper, the participants will write descriptions of communities/societies where the laws of God are not obeyed.
 - On the other manila paper, they will write descriptions of communities/societies where people are faithful to God.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Have each participant put an arrow between her/his two descriptions of communities/societies, with the arrow pointing towards their desired community/society.
- The arrow will represent the journey towards the participants' desired community/society.
 - What ministries of the church help proclaim the necessity of upholding the integrity and goodness of God's creation?
 - As an individual member of the community of faith, what are the ways by which you could contribute and share with others?
 - What will you do to ensure the you can faithfully obey the laws God has instituted?

Closing Worship

Everyone will gather around their group work as they sing the closing hymn.

Offertory and Closing Hymn "With a Perfect Heart"

Perfect is my heart before Thee, perfect walk I in Thy ways;
Perfect love even now restores me, perfect is my song of praise.



Refrain:

I will walk with a perfect heart, love has cast out fear;
I will walk with a perfect heart, joy has dried each tear.

Perfect freedom! I declare it! For the truth has made me free.
Perfect peace! Yea, naught shall merit, for my mind is stayed on Thee.
(Refrain)

Closing Prayer

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 10, 2018

LESSON 3: GOD OUR REDEEMER

General Concept: God redeems and saves; we are called to participate in God's work of redemption and salvation.

Biblical References: Psalm 138; Luke 1:68

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 130; Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15); Genesis 3:8-15; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Age-Level Concepts

- God is our constant companion.
- God redeems and saves.
- God wants us to participate in God's work of redemption and salvation.

Learning Objectives

- Ruminant/reflect on why God makes God's presence felt in all of life's situations
- Recognize ways by which God strengthens persons especially in times of despair and degradation
- Unite in the biblical understanding of redemption
- Profess approaches by which every person can be a part of God's redemptive act

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens, box or jar

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn "Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our Blessed Redeemer"

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Sing, ye saints! His wonderful love, proclaim!

Hail Him! Hail Him! mightiest angels in glory;

Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will feed His people,
In His arms He carries them all day long;



O ye saints that live in the light of His presence,
Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer,
For our sins He suffered and bled and died;
He, our Rock, our Hope of eternal salvation,
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the Crucified.

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer,
Heavenly portals, loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth for ever and ever;
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet and Priest and King!

Death is vanquished! Tell it with joy, ye faithful,
Where is now thy victory, boasting grave?
Jesus lives! No longer thy portals are cheerless;
Jesus lives, the mighty and strong to save.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer....”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Have the participants read the text.
- Create “buzz groups” composed of two to three participants. Have them reflect briefly on the following questions (15 minutes):
 - Why and what made the psalmist in particular and Israel in general call out to God?
 - How did God respond to the psalmist’s supplications and call for help and deliverance?
 - What is the scope and depth of God’s deliverance based on Zechariah’s affirmation in Luke 1:68?
- Sharing in plenary (10 minutes)
- The facilitator/Sunday School teacher will synthesize the sharing

Lessons Learned

- Have the participants reflect silently on their own experience. Play soft meditative music if possible. Suggest the following guide questions: (5 minutes)
 - What particular instance in your life did God demonstrate that God cares for you and the people (family, relatives, community) around you?
 - Think of the times you called or prayed to God. What were the things you prayed for and how did God respond to you? How did you take God’s response?
 - Give one clear reason that made you say that God redeems God’s people.
- Sharing (10 minutes)



- The facilitator will synthesize the sharing. The following points may be highlighted:
 - God cares for God's people constantly.
 - God saves and God's love is eternal.
 - God listens to the prayers of God's people.
 - God's people should always express their gratitude to God.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Have the participants write on a piece of paper activities that would provide venue for strengthening relationship with God and with others that could be done at different levels (individual, family, church and community organizations).
- Put all these in a box or a jar.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills on order stood or earth received its frame,
From every lasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Closing Prayer

(The list of activities placed in the box/jar will be brought by one of the participants to the altar during the singing of the doxology in the regular worship. Before the closing prayer and benediction, it must be turned over to the chairperson so that it will serve as an input for further planning of activities of the church.)

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 17, 2018

LESSON 4: GOD OUR SUSTAINER

General Concept: God alone gives and sustains life; we are called to be instruments of God's sustaining grace so that all may experience abundant life.

Biblical References: Psalm 92: 12-15; Ezekiel 17:22-24

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13; Psalm 20; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

Age-Level Concepts

- God intends abundant life for all.
- We are called to be instruments of God's sustaining grace.



Learning Objectives

- Discuss the Biblical principle of abundant life as intended by God
- Figure out how abundant life could be achieved amid scarcity or deprivation
- Register their unwavering commitment to be agents of God's sustaining grace

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens, seedling of a fruit-bearing tree, a shovel and a watering can with enough water (to be used in the tree planting)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn "All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord" (As the hymn is sung, a seedling of a fruit-bearing tree will be placed at the center)

All praise to our redeeming Lord, who joins us by His grace;
And bids us, each to each restored, together seek His face.

He bids us build each other up; and, gathered into one,
To our high calling's glorious hope, we hand in hand go on.

The gift which He on one bestows, we all delight to prove;
The grace through every vessel flows, in purest streams of love.

E'en now we think and speak the same, and cordially agree;
Concentered all, through Jesus' name, in perfect harmony.

We all partake the joy of one; the common peace we feel;
A peace to sensual minds unknown, a joy unspeakable.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer...."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read the text.
- Make the participants think of words or situations associated with the word EXILE
- The facilitator will give a synthesis of their ideas as well as give a brief background on the Babylonian exile and on the text itself. It should be noted that the text is poetic and uses symbolic languages/images.
- Have the participants point out the symbolic languages or images and reflect on what they represent.



- Example:
 - The cedar tree
 - High and lofty mountain
 - The Lord bringing the low tree high
 - The Lord making the green tree dry
 - The Lord making the dry tree flourish
- Have the participants point out in the texts the images that paint the concept of *abundant life*.
- Discuss the Biblical principle of abundant life as intended by God.
- The facilitator will synthesize the points shared.

Lessons Learned

- Silent Reflection (5 minutes)
 - Instruct the participants to think of something in their lives and in the community that may be compared to Israel's exile in Babylon.
 - How does God work and sustain them in the midst of this reality?
 - Were/Are there people used by God to give them hope amidst their difficult situation?
 - How does the concept of abundant life figure in these situations?
- Sharing of reflections

Applying the Biblical Truth

- Make the participants focus on the seedling of the fruit tree. Each one will share one important thing they could do to contribute to the growth of the tree.
- Once everyone has shared, the facilitator will remind them that the tree is just a symbol. The tree may be our families and communities which need God's presence and help to achieve its full potential.

Closing Worship

Do this outside so the tree seedling could be planted in a place where it could flourish. Prepare the place to plant the seedling ahead of time by digging a hole big enough for the seedling's base. After the seedling is placed in the hole, have each participant put a handful of dirt in the hole while saying how they can show their commitment to be agents of God's sustaining grace. After each one has expressed their commitment, complete the planting by watering the plant. The class must ensure the growth of the tree for the rest of the ecclesial year.

Offertory and Closing Hymn

Prayer



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 24, 2018

LESSON 5: GOD PROVIDES ORDER TO ALL CREATION

General Concept: God has ordered creation so that each created entity is set in its place and obeys God: the stars in the heavens, the seas within its bounds, the clouds in the sky, human beings living in unity.

Biblical References: Psalm 133; Mark 4:35-41

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Age-Level Concepts

- God is a God of order
- Each created entity is set in its place and obeys God.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the root causes of disorderliness in the world
- Elucidate some of the ways by which God brings orderliness in situations of chaos
- Enumerate approaches of safeguarding the order of God's creation

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens, pictures/images that depict problems in the family and community

Suggested Lesson Outline

Preparation

- Arrange with the caretaker of the church to scatter some dry garbage like paper and plastic in the area where the Adult Sunday School is held and if possible disarrange the chairs.
- The facilitator should ensure that she/he arrives first. Observe the participants reaction upon seeing the unclean Sunday School venue.
- Proceed with the opening hymn and prayer.

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed; without our aid God did us make;
We are God's flock, God doth us feed, And for God's sheep God doth us take.

O enter then God's gates with praise; Approach with joy God's courts unto;
Praise laud and bless God's Name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good, God's mercy is forever sure;
God's truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure.



Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order....”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Reflection
 - What did they notice when they arrived? Did they do something about it?
 - What would God do if God sees that creation is in shambles?
- Read the texts and discuss the texts.
 - What is God’s intent for the whole creation?
 - How does God react to forces that cause chaos, turmoil and degradation?
 - How do you explain righteous wrath and judgment?

Lessons Learned

- Picture Analysis
 - Show pictures/images that depict problems in the family and community.
 - Analyze the root cause of such problems.
 - Describe how you responded to these existing social evils and realities.
 - Based on the texts discussed, what do you believe would be God’s judgment?
 - How do you think God would judge you in relation to your responses and participation?
 - What now will be the approaches that you will take given the different problems we have in our world?

Applying the Biblical Truth

- Write a brief letter to oneself as a reminder that we are God’s instruments in putting order to a chaotic world.
- Remind the participants to put this letter of reminder in a particular spot in their homes where they could see it the moment they wake up in the morning.

Closing Worship

Visit the tree the class planted last Sunday and make sure it is doing well. Give it the care it needs.

Offertory and Closing Hymn “Lord, Speak to Me”

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou has sought, so let me seek Thine erring children lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet;
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hungering ones with manna sweet.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in Thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.



O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O give Thine own sweet rest to me, that I may speak with soothing power
A word in season, as from Thee, to weary ones in needful hour.

O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart overflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as Thou wilt, and when, and where,
Until Thy blessed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

Closing Prayer

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 1, 2018

LESSON 6: GOD PROVIDES PURPOSE FOR ALL CREATION

General Concept: Responsible stewardship and equitable distribution of the world's resources is God's purpose for creation.

Biblical Reference: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Age-Level Concepts

- God wants us to be responsible stewards of God's creation.
- Equitable distribution is sharing according to each one's needs.
- God intends for the world's resources to be distributed equitably.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the existing circumstances of God's creation and state the factors affecting these
- Affirm that God intends for the world's resources to be distributed equitably
- Determine basic and vital programs or ministries of the church and community that support the crusade towards equitable distribution of the world's resources

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens, a picture/image that depict poverty and suffering

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Visit the tree the class planted last Sunday and make sure it is doing well. Give it the care it needs.

Opening Hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 233)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.



Refrain:

God of all to You we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light. (Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. (Refrain)

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order,
purpose....”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read the text in silence.
- Discuss the text:
 - Why does Paul encourage the Christians in Corinth to share their resources with the Christians in Jerusalem?
 - What is the connection between faith and generosity as emphasized by Paul? (8:8)
 - According to Paul how should the Christians in Corinth manage their God-given resources? (8:13-15)

Lessons Learned

- Discuss the significance of the text in our present context.
 - In our context, who could be compared to the Christians in Jerusalem and what forms of suffering and persecution are they experiencing?
 - What do you think are the factors that cause suffering and persecution in our present day?
 - Do you think the world's resources are distributed equitably? Why or why not? Have the participants present facts that show her/his point.
 - If you were placed in the situation of the Christians in Corinth, how would you react to Paul's challenge to be generous as an expression of your sincere faith in God?
 - How could you be generous when you also have your own share of needs?

Applying the Biblical Truth

- Show an image or picture depict poverty and suffering.
- Have the participants reflect on the picture.
- Let them share about what they can and what they are willing to commit to ensure that the world's God-given resources are distributed equitably.



- Determine what basic and vital programs or ministries the church and community have that support the crusade towards equitable distribution of the world's resources.
- Discuss how the local church can significantly increase their contribution to the Wider Mission Support (WMS) to support programs and ministries of the Church in the Conference and National levels.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn "Be Now My Vision" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 275)

Be now my vision, O God of my heart, nothing surpasses the love you impart;

You my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Closing Prayer

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 8, 2018

LESSON 7: GOD GIVES MEANING TO ALL CREATION

General Concept: Each created being has integrity and worth; our role is to do good and to uphold the worth and integrity of creation.

Biblical References: Ezekiel 2:1-5

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Psalm 123; Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Age-Level Concepts

- Each created being has integrity and worth.
- All created beings are interconnected and interrelated.
- Our role is to do good.
- We uphold the worth and integrity of creation.

Learning Objectives

- Identify and assert the role of persons in upholding the integrity of God's creation
- Affirm the necessity of celebrating each person's uniqueness and potential for a more harmonious relationship and journey towards a transformed community
- Declare commitment to take part in church and community ministries in upholding the worth and integrity of God's creation

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens, line-drawing of a person on Manila paper

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn "We Are God's People"

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,



Born of God's Spirit, established by God's Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family, Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire:
Yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order,
purpose, meaning..."

Learning Time

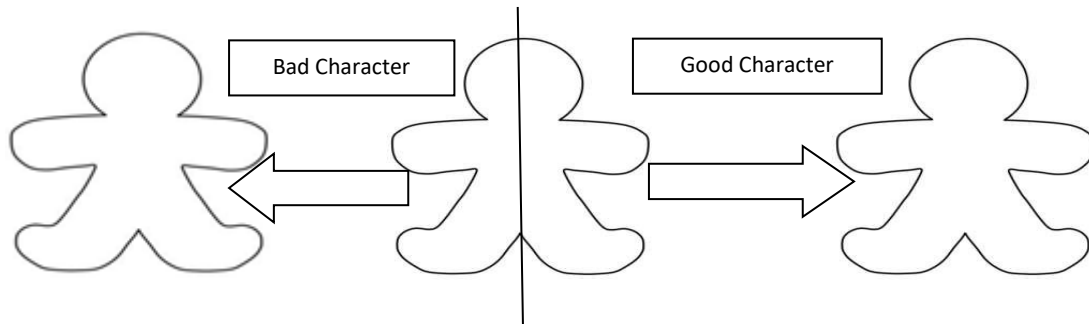
Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read the text and reflect on it.
- Discuss the text.
 - List down all the words in the text that describe Israel. Reflect on how these words show Israel's relationship with God and how Israel responded to God's call and goodness.
 - How does a bad characteristic or attitude affect others? Note that there were those who have remained faithful to God yet the exile devastated the whole nation.

Lessons Learned

- Put a large line-drawing of a person on the blackboard/Manila paper.
- Put a line in the middle of the drawing.
- On the one half, have the participants write their reflection on their similarity with the Israelites.
- On the other half have the participants write their reflection on things they do that manifest faithfulness to God.
- Draw two other images of persons and have the participants write their reflection on how their actions affect others.





Applying the Biblical Truth

- God referred to Ezekiel as “son of man” which is a way of reminding him that he is mortal and is prone to frailty and iniquity. Yet amidst his frailty and weaknesses, God called him to prophecy and proclaim a message of hope to the people of Israel.
- Have the participants reflect on how they can overcome their frailties and be bearers of hope to others.
 - Allow them to reflect on the image drawn at the middle. Let them think of ways to overcome their weakness while at the same time reaching out to others.
- Let the participants share how they should celebrate each person’s uniqueness and potential for a more harmonious relationship and journey towards a transformed community.
- Discuss how each one can take part in church and community ministries that uphold the worth and integrity of God’s creation.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn “Take My Life, God, Let It Be” (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 279)

Closing Prayer (Each one will share one attitude or character they wish to change.)

Visit the tree the class planted last Sunday and make sure it is doing well. Give it the care it needs.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 15, 2018

LESSON 8: GOD GIVES FULFILLMENT TO ALL CREATION

General Concept: In God, all creation finds fulfillment, abundance and grace.

Biblical References: Psalm 24:1-6

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24:1-6; Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Age-Level Concepts

- God wants for all creation to experience life in all its fullness.
- Fullness of life means everyone’s basic needs are met.



Learning Objectives

- Identify manifestations in the Biblical text of God’s desire for the whole creation to experience life in all fullness
- State that God intends for each person to experience the fullness of life
- List down concrete ways they can do to help others meet their basic needs

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper, pens

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

Opening Hymn “All Creatures of Our God, Rejoice!”

All creatures of our God, rejoice! Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam!

Refrain:

O praise God! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav’n along,
O praise God! Alleluia!

Thou rising moon, in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear,
O praise God! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light.

And all ye people, tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise God! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on God cast your care!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness,
O praise God! Alleluia!

Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer (Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe in one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.”



Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Identify the different affirmations made by the Psalmist:
 - The earth and all its fullness belong to the Lord
 - Those who have clean hands and pure hearts will be blest
- How are these affirmations linked with God's promise of blessings and grace?
- In what way did God's people manifest the cleanness of their hands and pureness of hearts?

Lessons Learned

- Instruct the participants to look at their hands. Remind them that we use our hands to give and receive, to comfort and to bless and to reach out to others in need. These same hands may also be used to hurt and push others away, to destroy the thing around us and to grab the things we want even when it is not ours for the taking. What the hands are doing reflect what is in the heart of every person.
 - Would God deem their hands clean and their hearts pure? Why?
 - What blessings have their hands received from God?
 - How did these hands manage the blessings received?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Have the participants close their eyes and stretch their hands wide. Do this for three minutes
 - Think of people whom they would want to extend their helping hands to.
 - How could they possibly help, comfort or alleviate these people's life situation?
- Let them list down concrete ways they can do to help others meet their basic needs.
- Sharing

Closing Worship

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

WE BELIEVE

In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning and fulfillment to all creation.

Offertory and Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer

