

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Youth

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: Exodus 3:7; Isaiah 6:1-8; 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

Specific Concepts

- We believe in one God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.
- God is the source of all life, hears and responds when we cry for help, and is always with us.
- We give our life to our One God.

Learning Objectives

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

- State that there is one God—the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
- Declare that our God hears and responds to cries for redemption and is always with us
- Express ways by which one gives of oneself to God

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Hymn “Hymn of our Faith Journey” (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 1)

The Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer is the great triune God of our lives.

All creation finds purpose and meaning

And fulfillment in God’s wondrous plan.

In Christ God became flesh to dwell among us,

Through the spirit we’re guided along,

God empowers us all to live out our faith

To the glory of the triune God.

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...”

Getting Ready

Puzzle: Creative Motivator. Introduce the lesson through this activity.

Make the puzzle pieces. Here's how:

1. Get different colors of poster board.
2. Write one word on each using all the space. Use the word GOD, CREATOR, REDEEMER, SUSTAINER.
3. Cut up each word into puzzle pieces, using not less than 6 pieces per word. Put the pieces of each word into a separate envelope. Now you are ready for the exercise.

Exercise:

1. Form the learners into groups of 4. You can do this a number of different ways. The facilitator may have them count off to make the groups random. Have them get in their groups.
2. Hand out the puzzle pieces. Tell them they have a puzzle to put together. Tell the learners that they are to have fun doing it. Now go to it. No more instructions.
3. The facilitator may give a time frame for the completion of each puzzle or may vary the technique by exchanging 1 puzzle to the other envelope. Instruct the learners to see to it that every word puzzle is solved.
4. Be ready to coach any group that has a hard time getting it done. Walk around in the groups.
5. After the group completes the word assigned, have them hang it on the wall. Use them as your visual aid.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and John 3:1-17 in unison.

Have the class discuss about the coconut fruit and/or egg to illustrate the concept of God in three persons.

Let the class comment on these statements:

- God, the Creator is the source of all life and the author of redemption;
- God, the Redeemer is the companion of those who struggle for redemption;
- God, the Sustainer enlightens us to respond by giving of ourselves and inspires us to work together for redemption and liberation.



Allow them to use the assembled words of the puzzle for sharing and discussion.

Lesson Learned

Ask: What are the three important concepts we must remember about our one God?
(Source of all life, always hears and responds to cries for redemption, and always with us)

Applying the Lesson Learned

Tell the class to apply the following as a symbol of giving of oneself to God.

1. *God, the Creator.* As young people, we must show our love to our family and elders- father, mother, siblings, and teachers. We love, care, and protect our family and others.
2. *God, the Redeemer.* Inspired by God's Son who came to save us from our sin, we young people can do things that will help the people who cry for redemption by joining their campaign and advocacies (land reform, increased wages, anti-mining irresponsible mining, etc.)
3. *God, the Sustainer.* God is always with us; God loves us. Whatever we do, let us always offer ourselves to God. Let us always be nice to one another.
4. Make a commitment letter offering their lives to God.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: "I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors and I know about their sufferings." (Exodus 3:7)

Offering

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.

Closing Prayer: "The Lord's Prayer"

Our Parent-God, who is everywhere
Holy be your name.
May your new age come,
May your will be done
In this and in every time and place.
Meet our needs each day, and
Forgive our failure to love
As we forgive the same failure from others
Purify us in hard times, and



Lead us into the ways of love.
For yours is the wholeness,
Righteousness and the everlasting kin-dom. Amen.

[This gender-inclusive version is derived from the Gender Studies conducted by UEM.]

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: [Genesis 1:1-27](#); 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

Specific Concepts:

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

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe God as our Creator.
- Elaborate the details of how God created the universe as narrated in the text.
- Explain the benefits of God's laws to human beings and the rest of creation.
- Demonstrate ways of protecting God's creation.
- Resolve to be involved in environmental advocacies promoting the welfare and protection of all God's creation.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, three sheets of illustration board, glue

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "Creator God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 19)

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Creator God, we humbly pray that by Your grace and presence you grant us wisdom to understand and grow in your Word. Help us live a life that is according to your will. In sharing your love to the whole of creation, may we experience life in abundance. Amen.



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

Getting Ready

Let's Recycle!

Group the class into 3. Let them decide who the leader will be in their group. Allow the learners to go outside the church. Tell them to pick trash like bottles, leaves, plastic, weeds and others. Tell them to make a montage and recreate the scenarios of creation (from day 1 to day 7 as demonstrated in [Genesis 1:1-27](#)) by using the things they've collected outside the church. Let them cut or make these out from the recycled things and paste it on an illustration board. Let them do it creatively.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Tell the class to read the biblical references.

Deuteronomy 5:12-15. The Ten Commandments and the law-giving at Sinai.

Psalms 139: 1-10. God's complete knowledge and care.

Using the montage in the earlier activity, tell each group to present to the class what they had made. “In the beginning God created the universe...”

- “Let there be light and light appeared”
- “Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it on two separate places. God named the dome with sky.”
- “Let the water below the sky come together in one place so that the land will appear. Let earth produce all kinds of plants those that bear grain and bear fruits.”
- “Let lights appear in the sky to separate day and night, they will shine in the sky to shine the earth. So God made two larger lights, the sun will rule over the day and moon rule over the nights.”
- “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings and the air be filled with birds. So God created the sea monster, all creatures the lived in the water and all kinds of birds.
- “And now we will make human beings, they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all the animals, domestic and wild, large and small.”

Present the following pictures to figure out what's happening to our environment today-domestic and worldwide. Let them say something about it.



Lesson Learned



Ask: Who created us and instituted the laws for us? What is the significance of the laws given to us by God?

Applying the Lesson Learned

Present the following story and let the class react.

“A Story of Vision: The World as God Created It to Be”

(NCCP Resources for Worship)

God created the world as a masterpiece of love. All living things were created to partake of the bounties of the earth. And humankind—created in the image of God—was born to be stewards of all the earth, and partners in continuing the never-ending process of creation and of giving birth to life.

For six days, God labored, and then was satisfied: all the basic necessities for the life of all creation was completed. The seventh day God set aside as time for rest. Humankind was commanded to do the same: to labor for six days, and on the seventh day, to rest and remember the Great Creator.

Our obedience to God the Creator, means to obey this commandment and reaffirm the life that is meant to be for the world. To participate in the seemingly never-ending process of restoring creation to order, and of building the new out of the old—such is our obedience as stewards of the earth. To reclaim the power of humankind to labor and harvest enough for life’s sustenance such that there can be a time for Sabbath. To set creation free from the yoke of oppression is to be God’s partners in the continuing act of redemption and creation.

Our vision is to see the world as it is meant to be, a world free from hunger and deprivation, from inequality and injustice, an earth that is rightfully enjoyed in all its magnificence and abundance by all God’s children—men and women and children alike. Our faith in the Great Creator gives us the conviction that such a world is to be and such a world can be.

Tell the class to write a statement regarding environmental protection.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: “Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond my understanding.” (Psalm 139:6)

Offering

Closing Song “Called as Partners in Christ Service”

Closing Prayer: “The Lord’s 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

Specific Concepts:

- God is our companion.
- God redeems and saves.
- God wants us to help those who are in need.

Learning Objectives

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

- Know and understand why God redeems and saves us
- Become aware that God is our companion in saving the needy
- Make resolutions on how to help those who are in need

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

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

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Our Creator God who created all things with colors and shapes, we thank you for loving us all. Thank you for this beautiful day and for the loving fellowship with one another. Lord, teach us how to help each other. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

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

Getting Ready

Tell the class to look for verses that tell about Jesus as the Redeemer. Then let them state these verses in their own words.



- Psalm 49:15
- Job 19: 25-27
- Psalm 103:4
- Colossians 1:13-14
- Luke 21:28
- Romans 3:23-24
- 1 Corinthians 1:30
- Galatians 3:13-14
- Galatians 4:4-5
- Ephesians 1:7
- 1 Peter 1:18-21

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth


Tell the class to read the biblical references in unison.

Psalm 138

Luke 1:68

Let the class read the words of St. Teresa of Avila and have them share their thoughts about it.

*"Christ has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the
compassion of Christ
looks out upon the world,
ours are the feet with which he
goes about doing good,
ours are the hands with which he
blesses his people."*



—St. Teresa of Avila

Tell the class to say whether they agree or disagree with the following and have them explain briefly their answers.

- God answers prayers. God loves us and is faithful love. The psalmist has a continuing story to tell of God's protective care for individuals. God redeems us and saves us unconditionally. God's grace embraces all God's people.
- God heard peoples' cry of despair and rescues them. God even promises blessings and continuing presence.
- As God's beloved Son, Jesus loves all kinds of people. He welcomes and helps those who need his help especially those people who are considered as the least, the lost and the last of our community.



- The gospel according to Luke presents Jesus as both the promised Savior of Israel and the Savior of all people. Luke records that Jesus was called by the Spirit of the Lord to “bring good news to the poor.” And this Gospel is filled with a concern for people with all kinds of need. He lets us see Jesus, the man. And his selection of stories reflects his own warm interest in people, especially the sick and helpless, the poor, the women, children and the social outcast. That’s why the essence of Jesus was born to save and redeem us. Jesus realized that his mission was for all the people of God whether Jews or Gentiles—all are recipients of God’s gift of salvation.

Lesson Learned

Ask: How did Jesus manifests his presence and being the Messiah for all people? Why do you think God uses people to help those in need?

Applying the Lesson Learned

Tell the class to choose any of the following situations and make some life applications that show their unconditional love for the needy, lost, least, outcasts of society. (You may add situations based on your community context.)

- Meeting a friend who is a victim of rape
- Visiting single parents or children of migrant workers
- Involving in the church’s outreach ministry by accommodating displaced tribes or victims of natural or human-made calamities in your community and in distributing food, clothes and other relief items
- Starting a food and relief bank in your church
- Conducting Disaster Management and First Aid Seminars

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your strong hand you save me.” (Psalm 138: 7)

Offering

Closing Song “Called as Partners in Christ Service

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the life of Jesus the Christ, thank you for Your saving acts. Thank you for the opportunity to help the needy. This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.



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: 1-4; 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

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

Specific Concepts

- God sustains life.
- God wants us to be responsible in our life.

Objectives

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

- Affirm that God is our Sustainer
- Discuss how God sustains life
- Explain why God calls us to be channels of God's sustaining grace
- State how God wants us to be responsible in our lives

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 "We Praise You, O God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 33)

We praise You O God our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your Holy Name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, O God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been;
When perils o'ertake us, you never will forsake us;
And with Your help O God, in life's struggles we win.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Dear God, may we be empowered as we study your Word. May your empowering mercy be upon our teachers and all of us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

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



Getting Ready

Ask this question. Expect varied answers.

- What do we mean by "God is the Sustainer"?
 - It means that God alone is the One who sustains life. We are called to be instruments of God's sustaining grace so that all may experience abundant life. But ultimately it is only God who sustains life.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Let the class read the biblical references.
 - Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15. A joyous thanksgiving in music for all that God has done, expressing God's goodness to individuals and people
 - 2 Corinthians 5:6-10. Being "at home with the Lord" means being guided by the reality that God is always with us whatever the circumstance
- Let the class understand the concept that God sustains life whatever situation we find ourselves in.
- Discuss further the texts by asking these questions
 - In your own words, what is the message of Psalms 92?
 - In your own words, what is the message of Paul to the church in Corinth?
 - Does the message of the two biblical references reflect the great sustaining power of God?
 - Why do we need the sustaining grace of God?
 - How can we help sustain life as God intended it to be?

Lesson Learned

Ask: As members of the church, how do we sustain life? What must be done in order to experience abundant life for all?

Applying the Lesson Learned

Group the class and let each group discuss the following:

- We are called to sustain life. Discuss what your Church does in this regard.
- God as the Sustainer provides a variety of talents and gifts to each individual member. Does our church make a profile of its members according to their gifts and in this connection, make an attempt to enable these members to sustain the life of the church and the wider judicatories?

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: "They will bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green." (Psalm 92:14)

Offering

Closing Song "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 183)

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew;
That I may love what you do love and do what you would do.



Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure.
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Closing 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

Specific Concepts

- God created the heavens and the earth.
- God places everything in perfect order.

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe how God created the world
- Affirm that God places everything in perfect order
- Express one's role in preserving the unity of all 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

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 229)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small;
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all;

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.

[Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by;



The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.
[Refrain]

The cold wind in the rain time, the pleasant summer sun;
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.
[Refrain]

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Our God who created all things, we thank you for the gift of Creation. Thank you for the marvelous and wonderful works of your hands. You placed all things in its proper place and order. Help us to continue to preserve the integrity of your creation. This we ask in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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

Tell the class to read the biblical references. Assign all boys to read the Old Testament text and all the girls the New Testament text.

Discuss the texts by responding to the questions below.

- What did the Psalmist say about God's people living together in harmony? (It was good/wonderful and pleasant)
- With what did the Psalmist compare this situation? (like a precious anointing oil and like a dew on Mount Hermon)
- Is this situation an example of things being in perfect order?
- In the New Testament reference, what would be a good example of things being in perfect order? (Jesus calming the storm)
- What was the situation like before Jesus calmed the storm? (There was a strong wind and the waves began to spill over the boat; a storm was raging)
- What did the disciples do and what did they say? (The disciples woke Jesus and said, “Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?”)
- What was the response of Jesus? (Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves: “Peace! Be Still!”)

Discuss how God placed everything in proper and perfect order just as the Psalmist affirms and the story of Jesus calming the storm tells us.

Lesson Learned

Ask: How did God place creation in its perfect order? What is our responsibility to preserve the integrity of creation?



Applying the Lesson Learned

- Teach the memory verse from Psalm 133:1, “How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God’s people to live together in harmony.”
- Prepare an action plan of integrating programs run by your local church and/or local government. Example:

Programs	Date
Waste Segregation	
Tree Planting	
Fora on Environment	

Closing Worship

Memory Verse

Offering

Closing Song “Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran” by Asin

Wala ka bang napapansin sa iyong mga kapaligiran?
 Kay dumi na ng hangin, pati na ang mga ilog natin

Refrain 1:

Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad at malayu-layo na rin ang ating narating
 Ngunit masdan mo ang tubig sa dagat dati'y kulay asul ngayo'y naging itim
 Ang mga duming ating ikinalat sa hangin sa langit huwag na nating paabutin
 Upang kung tayo'y pumanaw man, sariwang hangin sa langit natin matitikman

Refrain 2:

Meron lang akong hinihiling sa aking pagpanaw sana ay tag-ulan
 Gitara ko ay aking dadalhin upang sa ulap na lang tayo magkantahan

Refrain 3:

Ang mga batang ngayon lang isinilang may hangin pa kayang matitikman?
 May mga puno pa kaya silang aakyat may mga ilog pa kayang lalangyan?

Refrain 4:

Bakit di natin pag-isipan ang nangyayari sa ating kapaligiran
 Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad kung hindi nakakasira ng kalikasan
 Darating ang panahong mga ibong gala ay wala nang madadapuan
 Masdan mo ang mga punong dati ay kay tatag
 Ngayo'y namamatay dahil sa 'ting kalokohan

Refrain 5:

Lahat ng bagay na narito sa lupa biyayang galing sa Dios kahit nong ika'y wala pa
 Ingatan natin at 'wag nang sirain pa



'Pagkat pag kanyang binawi, tayo'y mawawala na
(Repeat refrain 2)

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: Exodus 16:1-21; 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

Specific 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:

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

- Explain the meaning of responsible stewardship and equitable sharing
- List down ways of how to be responsible steward of God's creation
- Share ways of how to respond to the needs of other people

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

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.)

Our most powerful God who created all things, help us to know your word and help us to proclaim it. May we find meaning with and among all your creation. This we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

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

Getting Ready

Flower Presentation.

- Distribute coupon bond and pentel pens to the learners. Let them draw big flowers with 5 petals and a big stem. In each petal, let the learners write down what they their purpose is as human beings here on earth. On the stem, let them write down how to fulfill the said purpose.
- This should remind them that God, symbolized by the stem (who teaches and guides them fulfill their purpose) holds them (petals) and keeps them beautiful and healthy at the same time.
- Let them share their drawing to the class.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read Exodus 16:1-21.
- Have the whole class role-play this text, each one volunteering a part: Israelites, Moses, Aaron, the Lord, maybe even quails and manna. Encourage the class to be creative.
- Some notes on the text:
 - Quails are birds easy to catch for food. Twice a year the common quails' migration route takes across the region where the Israelites were at this time.
 - Manna was Israel's staple food for 40 years, ceasing abruptly when they entered Canaan.
 - The whole Israelite community were complaining to Moses about their need for meat and other food to eat.
 - God gave them manna and quails to eat, but the instruction was to take only what each one needed.
 - The Israelites did this, some gathering more, other less, gathering just what they needed. But there were those who did not listen.
- Read 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- 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)



- Discuss the concept of responsible stewardship and equitable sharing of God's blessings.

Lesson Learned

- Discuss the significance of the two texts in our present context.
 - In our context today, who could be compared to those did not listen to what the Lord said through Moses?
 - 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.

Applying the Lesson Learned

- Have the learners internalize the memory verse from Exodus 16:16a, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs.'"
- Have the learners list down ways of how they can, as members of the Christian Youth Fellowship, become responsible stewards of God's creation. (Learners may offer their statements to the altar during the closing worship.)

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn "Dakilang Maylikha" (by Gary Granada)

Dakilang Maylikha sa kalinga't pang-unawa
Mangyari ang Iyong diwa sa langit at sa lupa

Bigyan mo ng sapat ang lahat sa araw-araw
Turuang magparaya gaya ng iyong gawa.

Iadya Niyo kami sa pagmamataas
Upang maiwaksi ang lupit at dahas

At samahang lumikha ng pamayanang payapa
Sa kalikasan, kabuhayan, kakanyaha't paniniwala.
Siya nawa. Siya nawa. Siya nawa. Siya nawa.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the lesson we have learned this day. May your Holy Spirit continually lead and direct us to become responsible stewards. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



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; Ephesians 2:10

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

Specific 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:

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

- Affirm the greatness of God as manifested in creation
- Discuss that all created beings are interconnected and interrelated
- Demonstrate actions that show caring for all creation
- Make a commitment towards upholding the worth and integrity of creation

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 229)

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small;
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all;

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors and made their tiny wings.

[Refrain]

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by;
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.

[Refrain]

The cold wind in the rain time, the pleasant summer sun;
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

[Refrain]



God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How mighty is the Lord our God who does all things well.
[Refrain]

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

O God who created all things, we come to you with praises and thanksgiving! We thank you for creating everything in its perfect place and with a specific purpose. Help us to discern your purpose for us. May your Holy Spirit guide us this day as we study your purpose for us and your creation. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

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

Getting Ready

Web of Life. Make a presentation on the ecosystem. Discuss how we are all related to each other. Present the natural activity and cycle of life emphasizing the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of each created being. (Prepare visual aid or video.)

Together, sing “Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran” by Asin or play it. Let the students meditate on the message of the song.

“Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran”

Wala ka bang napapansin sa iyong mga kapaligiran?
Kay dumi na ng hangin, pati na ang mga ilog natin

Refrain 1:

Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad at malayu-layo na rin ang ating narating
Ngunit masdan mo ang tubig sa dagat dati'y kulay asul ngayo'y naging itim
Ang mga duming ating ikinalat sa hangin sa langit huwag na nating paabutin
Upang kung tayo'y pumanaw man, sariwang hangin sa langit natin matitikman

Refrain 2:

Meron lang akong hinihiling sa aking pagpanaw sana ay tag-ulan
Gitara ko ay aking dadalhin upang sa ulap na lang tayo magkantahan

Refrain 3:

Ang mga batang ngayon lang isinilang may hangin pa kayang matitikman?
May mga puno pa kaya silang aakyat may mga ilog pa kayang lalanguyan?

Refrain 4:

Bakit di natin pag-isipan ang nangyayari sa ating kapaligiran
Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad kung hindi nakakasira ng kalikasan
Darating ang panahong mga ibong gala ay wala nang madadapuan
Masdan mo ang mga punong dati ay kay tatag



Ngayo'y namamatay dahil sa 'ting kalokohan

Refrain 5:

Lahat ng bagay na narito sa lupa biyayang galing sa Dios kahit nong ika'y wala pa
Ingatan natin at 'wag nang sirain pa
'Pagkat pag kanyang binawi, tayo'y mawawala na
(Repeat refrain 2)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Divide the class into dyads and ask each dyad to read the biblical references and discuss each reference. Remind the dyads to talk about the importance or significance of God’s creation to us humans and vice versa. Ask them to share their insights to the whole class.
- Guide questions:
 - What do the texts say about the integrity and worth of human beings?
 - What do the texts say about what we should do?
 - As stewards of God’s creation, what are the responsibilities of human beings toward the environment?

Lesson Learned

- As a class, analyze the ill- effects of the abuse of humans towards creation.
- Ask: What shall we do now to uphold the worth and integrity of creation? Explain.

Applying the Lesson Learned

- Have each member of the class answer this checklist.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Always</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Never</i>
I respect the worth and integrity of creation.			
I segregate my household wastes.			
I use insecticides in controlling cockroaches.			
We use a basket instead of plastic bags when marketing.			
I help in tree planting activities.			
I don't buy any bottled soft drinks.			

- Ask which of the above practices could contribute to the preservation and in upholding the integrity of God’s creation.
- Have the learners internalize the memory verse from Ephesians 2:10, “For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing 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)

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the lessons we have learned this day. May your Holy Spirit continually lead and direct us to become responsible stewards. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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; Ephesians 1:3-14

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

Specific 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:

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

- Affirm God's intention for creation to have fulfillment, abundance and grace
- Define the meaning of fulfillment, abundance and grace
- Analyze whether the world's present situation manifests fulfillment, abundance and grace
- Enumerate practices that can contribute to creation's having fulfillment, abundance and grace

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "Still, I Search for My God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 22)

Still, I search for my God in silence, I must marvel at the universe,

The world it contains, its beauty, its harmony!



Creator of countless wonders who else could it be?

Come, listen to the trees, the green fields, the rivers and the morning breeze,
The birds of the air all singing their Maker's praise
Creator of countless wonders who else could it be?

Yes I am filled with joy and breathe in the presence of my Lord, my God,
Your praise I will sing, your power declare in chant,
And when I am moved to worship, peace reigns in my heart.

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.”

Getting Ready

Unlock the meaning of the following words:

<i>Words</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
Fulfillment	Contentment, serenity, joy, success, satisfaction, self-actualization
Abundance	Plenty, wealth, richness
Grace	Refinement, beauty, blessing

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Have the class read the scriptural references.
- Ask these questions:
 - What do you think does the text in Psalm say about finding fulfillment, abundance and grace?
 - How can you use the blessings in Christ talked about in Ephesians in attaining fulfillment, abundance and grace?
 - Do you find fulfillment, abundance and grace in our present situation? Let the learners explain their answers by giving concrete examples.

Lesson 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

Tell the class to mention experiences and concrete situations wherein fulfillment, abundance and grace are being experienced right.

Prayer Writing. Have the learners write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's goodness and noble intentions. Have them include in their prayers God's guidance for them to become channels of God's blessings to others.

Have the learners internalize the memory verse from Ephesians 1: 3b (Good News), "For in our union with Christ, He has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world."

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 "Sing Praise to God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 372)

Sing praise to God; sing praise to God for life, for beauty, hope and love,
For tenderness and grace. Sing praise to God, sing praise to God for life
With all of earth sing the praise of God's life.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the lessons we have learned this day. May your Holy Spirit continually lead and direct us to become responsible stewards. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

