

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Adults

That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

Mission Sunday

First Sunday in Kingdomtide

August 26, 2018

LESSON 14: THE HOLY SPIRIT

General Concept: The Holy Spirit is the moving and empowering presence of God.

Biblical References: John 6:62-63; Ephesians 6:10-20

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:62-63, 68-69

Age-Level Concepts

- The Holy Spirit is the presence of God.
- The Holy Spirit moves and empowers God's people to do God's mission.

Learning Objectives

- Describe situations that indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit in individuals, churches and communities
- Pinpoint Christian characteristics that demonstrate empowerment to realize God's mission
- Articulate commitment to participate in the task of declaring God's comforting and empowering spirit to all and in all situations

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

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

Opening Hymn "Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 181)

Spirit of God, descend up on my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.

Have you not bid us love you every way?

All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind:
I see your cross there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

Opening Prayer with Movements (Ask the learners to form a circle.)

Thank you, God, (clasp hands then extend upwards)
for bringing us here (everybody hold hands)
to sing and move, (move forward and then backwards)
to pray and act. (clasp hands and then do a jumping jack)
Amen. (raise both hands)
(Also pray for the birthday celebrant[s], if there are any.)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:
“We believe that in the Holy Spirit...”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read John 6:62-63 and discuss it.
 - What gives life to the people? (verse 63a)
 - How did Jesus define the Spirit of God? (verse 63b)
 - “the words that I have spoken to you”
- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and discuss.
 - What is the Holy Spirit’s role in the people’s movement against evil?
 - What evil day (verse 13) is Paul referring to?
 - What constitutes preparedness in facing such kind of day?
 - Why is the word of God considered by Paul as the sword of the Spirit?
 - Take note that all the soldiers’ paraphernalia except for the sword is mainly for protection.
 - The sword which may be used for protection is really for fighting and defeating the enemy.

Lessons Learned

- What are the different indicators of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- How important is our knowledge of the word of God as believers, which according to Jesus is the spirit and the life?



- What other characteristics must Christians have that are helpful as they do God's mission?
- In our present times, what would be considered as "evil days" and how would the word of God be likened to the sword of the Spirit?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Have each participant mention how they can participate in the mission of God.

Sing the song "When the Spirit of the Lord" (*Children Praise God*, p. 203)

When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts, we can sing like Mary sang.

When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts, we can sing like Mary sang.

We can sing, oh Lord, we can sing, oh Lord, we can sing like Mary sang.

We can sing, oh Lord, we can sing, oh Lord, we can sing like Mary sang.

(Repeat the song several times, changing the underlined phrases with the following:

We can praise like David praised

We can pray like Daniel prayed

We can dance like Miriam danced

We can shout like Deb'rah shouted

We can lead like Moses led

We can laugh like Sarah laughed

We can pray like Hannah prayed

We can cry like Jeremiah cried

We can serve like Martha served

We can preach like Peter preached

We can witness like Stephen did

We can help like Dorcas helped

We can love like Jesus loved

[Add more phrases if you wish]

Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Prayer

Christian Education

Sunday

Second Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 2, 2018

LESSON 15: THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD IS PRESENT IN THE WORLD

General Concept: The Holy Spirit is manifested through God's teachings, and through the Advocate, the spirit of truth.

Biblical References: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Galatians 5:22-23

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Age-Level Concept

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to manifest love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control in our daily lives.

Learning Objectives

- Bring to the foreground the significance of the various fruits of the Spirit in the task of fulfilling the mission entrusted by God to God's people
- Discover and acknowledge whatever fruit of the Spirit each person has
- Convey their commitment to hone and share their spiritual gifts towards the realization of a society where the reign of God marked by love, justice and peace is evident

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

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

Opening Hymn

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 that in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world...”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Read Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, Galatians 5:22-23, James 1:22-27
- Discuss the biblical texts.
- Guide questions for discussion:
 - What work of the Spirit can be seen in Deuteronomy and James?
 - The Spirit illuminates and provides the gift of understanding in studying the word of God.
 - Why did Moses emphasize right understanding of the law and faithfulness to it?
 - In what way can the Spirit of God help in realizing a right understanding of the word of God?
 - According to Paul, what character should every believer possess to show that the Spirit of God is in him/her?

Lessons Learned

- Divide the participants into two groups.
- One group will describe the current state of the community they live in.
- The other group will picture out a community where the Holy Spirit is present.
- Sharing
 - Are there notable similarities and differences? How?



- What should we do in order to attain this ideal community?
- What are the spiritual gifts that each of us have that we can hone and share in our mission to usher in God's reign of love, justice and peace?

Applying the Lesson Learned

- Identify and briefly evaluate which among the ongoing and planned activities of the church serve as vessels in making known the presence of the spirit of God.
- What still needs to be done so that the presence of the Holy Spirit will be felt by all?

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn "O Spirit of the Living God"

O Spirit of the living God, Thou light and fire divine,
Descend upon Thy church once more and make it truly Thine.
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace;
Till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free
From mists of errors, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to Thee.
Burn, wingèd fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal,
To preach to all Thy great good news, God's glorious common weal.

Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear,
The language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear;
Till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one,
And earth shall form one family by whom Thy will is done.

So shall we know the power of Christ Who came this world to save;
So shall we rise with Him to life which soars beyond the grave;
And earth shall win true holiness, which makes Thy children whole;
Still, perfected by Thee, we reach Creation's glorious goal!

Closing Prayer

Children's Sunday

Third Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 9, 2018

LESSON 16: THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS AND GUIDES BELIEVERS

General Concept: The Holy Spirit guides, empowers and enables believers to testify to the truth and to do what is good and upright.

Biblical References: Proverbs 22:1-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:4; James 2:1-10; (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Age-Level Concept

- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live out their faith.



Learning Objectives

- Discuss ways of how we may maximize the fruits of the spirit in the daily living out of our faith
- Determine potential challenges in the current times that may hamper the living out of our faith and in testifying to the truth
- Detail different approaches in surmounting the challenges and impediments encountered in the living out of one's faith

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

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

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

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleans me from every sin and set me free.

I praise you Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill your word and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire, where once I burned in shame;
Grant my desire to magnify your name.

Lord, take my life, and make it wholly yours;
Fill my poor heart with your great love so pure.
Take all my will, my passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord in me abide.

O Holy Ghost, revival comes from you;
Send a revival, will me to renew,
Your Word declares you will supply our need;
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.

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 that in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers...."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Activity: Building a Good Name



- Using the first letters of their first name and family name, have the participants think of words which begin with the same letters that will help ensure having a good name.
- The facilitator will briefly synthesize their sharing and may emphasize the following
 - In the Filipino culture, having a good and respected name is very important.
 - There are parents who are dismayed when their children commit something for fear of tarnishing or damaging the “name.”
- Read the Biblical texts.
- Discuss the texts.
 - What makes a name good? (Proverbs 22:3-16)
 - In the face of all adversity, how can one maintain and protect a good name? (Psalm 125)
 - How does trying to have “good name” affect the church and the relationship of every member of the Church? (James 2:1-10)
 - How does the Holy Spirit help believers in ensuring that they build a name with integrity?
 - How do we maximize the fruits of the spirit in the daily living out of our faith?

Lessons Learned

- Have the participants evaluate the goodness of their names as followers of Christ.
 - Use Proverbs 22 as basis for evaluating the goodness of their names.
 - What could possibly hinder each person from realizing a good name in the eyes of God?
- Do the members of the church and community reflect the kind of characteristics required to have a good name?
- How can the Holy Spirit help in the journey of each person towards achieving a better if not the best version of himself/herself, making the church a community of persons living out their faith?
- Discuss and determine potential challenges in the current times that may hamper the living out of our faith and in testifying to the truth.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Plan out a retreat activity where each will have more time for self-discovery.
- Express ways where they can help others especially their children become better persons.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn “Here I Am, Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart.



I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

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 are satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

Closing Prayer

Youth Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 16, 2018

LESSON 17: UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

General Concept: Believers must keep the Word of God by understanding and living out their faith in Jesus Christ, through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical References: Psalm 19:7-14, Mark 8:27-38

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 19; Proverbs 1:20-33; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3: 1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Age-Level Concept

- The Holy Spirit inspires believers to obey God and understand and live out their faith.

Learning Objectives

- Discuss how living out our faith in Jesus is akin to keeping the Word of God
- Exemplify the means by which the Holy Spirit enthuses us to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ
- Express determination to be faithful to the will of God through active involvement in the work of proclaiming God's Kin-dom

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Expressing Praise and Thanks to God

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

Opening Hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

Jesus, the very thought of Thee, with sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see, and in Thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the mem'ry find
A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, o Savior of humankind!



O hope of every contrite heart, o joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!

All those who find Thee find a bliss, nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is, none but His loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be Thou, as Thou our prize will be;
Jesus, be Thou our glory now, and through eternity.

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 that in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Hymn Study
 - What does the hymn say about Jesus?
 - Point out the various characteristics/nature of Jesus that are emphasized in the song.
- Read Psalm 19:7-14.
 - What words do you find in the text that are synonymous to the concept the “Word of God”? (law, decree, precepts, commandment, ordinances)
 - What does the text say about the Word of God?
 - It is perfect. It revives the soul.
 - It is sure. It makes the simple wise.
 - It is clear. It enlightens.
 - It is true and righteous.
 - It is to be desired more than gold and is sweeter than honey.
 - What should we do with the Word of God?
 - We should keep and obey it.
- Read Mark 8:27-38.
 - What are the two questions raised by Jesus?
 - Are the characteristics of Jesus written about in the hymn manifested in the answers given by the disciples to the questions raised by Jesus?
 - What make these questions significant especially to the disciples of Jesus?
 - What is the connection between Peter’s declaration of Jesus as the Christ and Jesus’ foretelling of his suffering and the call for the disciples to take up the cross?
 - Why is Jesus harsh with Peter, even calling him Satan?
 - What does it mean to deny oneself and carry the cross?

Lessons Learned

- Request one of the participants to stand in front.



- Ask the other participants to put different things on the one standing in front.
 - Example: book on the head, handkerchief on the shoulder, slipper in between the knees, a coin on the forehead, etc.
- Put a coin on the floor at least 2 meters away from the person with various things on her/his body. Ask her/him to go to where the coin is and to pick it up but she/he has to ensure that none of the stuff on her/his body will fall.
- If there is enough time and there are at least twenty participants the group may be divided into two. It becomes a contest between the two groups to see who is the first to pick the coin up.
- Reflection and Sharing:
 - Was it easy or was it difficult to pick up the coin? Why?
 - What did this exercise teach you?
 - Possible reflection point: We fill our lives with so much stuff that sometimes it becomes a hindrance to picking up the cross and following Christ.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Put a small cross in front or in the center and request each participant to look at the cross while reflecting in silence on how they can remove the burdens and hindrances that prevent them from following Jesus as well as envision things they could do for God's glory.
- Give each participant enough time to express determination to be faithful to the will of God through faithful involvement in the work of proclaiming God's Kin-dom.

Closing Worship

Offertory Hymn "Atong Nasud Nagkinahanglan" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 377)

Atong nasod nagkinaganglan sa katawhan nga moalagad,
Magatugyan sa kinabuhi, alang sa kalipay sa uban.
Atong buligan ang pagkab-ot sa gitinguha sa katilingban
Kay kabubut-on sa Dios Kauban

Ang pangandoy sa katilingban, ang kalinaw ug ang kahusay
Ang katul-id sa kinabuhi, ug pagkamatarong pagpuyo.
Atong buligan ang pagkab-ot sa gitinguha Sa katilingban
Kay kabubuton sa Dios Kauban

What our nations needs are people who have the commitment for service,
Who with willing hearts gladly offer their own lives for others' happiness.
Let's band together to attain our community goals,
This is the will of our loving and compassionate God.

A community's aspiration is for lives of peace and order
And the beauty of relating with each other in full harmony.
Let's band together to attain our community's goals,
This is the will of our loving and compassionate God.

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.

That in Jesus Christ, who has born of Mary, God become human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history.

That in the Holy Spirit, God is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ.

Closing Song "Why We are UCCP" (*Children Praise God*, p. 1, first stanza only)

We believe in one God, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer of everyone's life
In Jesus Christ, God became human and rules as Lord of lords.
In Spirit, God guides us all along.

Refrain:

That's why we are UCCP, for we are taught what the Lord has said
To live a life in community with God and all
Assured of life even after death, no more sorrow and no more defeat
There's only love, justice and peace, all creation new.

Closing Prayer

