

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Youth

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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 22, 2018

LESSON 9: JESUS CHRIST

General Concept: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, obedient and faithful in doing God's ministries of feeding, teaching, healing and preaching.

Biblical References: Psalm 23; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56; 8: 27-30

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 23; Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Specific Concepts

- Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
- Jesus is obedient and faithful to the will of God.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- Describe Jesus' obedience and faithfulness to the will of God
- Recognize the manifestation of Jesus' obedience to God by doing the ministries of feeding, healing, preaching and teaching
- Choose to offer time, talents and work in promoting the different ministries of the church

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 "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;
Cleanse 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 with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify Your name.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Our Most Gracious Living God, we thank you for helping us to remember the obedience of Jesus to do Your ministries of feeding, teaching, healing and preaching. Encourage and inspire us to be obedient to your Will and to be able to withstand the challenges of the ministry just as Jesus did. May your Holy Spirit guide, help and lead us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that in Jesus Christ..."

Getting Ready

Present this inspiring poem. You may paraphrase this. Allow the youth to share their thoughts on this poem.



Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was a man who travelled through the land
A carpenter true and brave, He said,
"I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly,"
He said to the rich, "Give your money to the poor."
So they laid Jesus Christ in his grave.
He said "I come not to bring you peace but a sword."
So they killed Jesus Christ on the sly.

He said, "Whatever you do to the least of your sisters and brothers, you do it to me."
He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul,
And Love your neighbor as you love yourself...."
These principles are still vibrant and alive,
That everyone must comprehend, practice and strive.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the students to read the biblical references in unison.
- Let them take down notes on the highlights of the text.
- Discuss the text using the questions below.
 - What is the Psalm's message?
 - What did Jesus do with the 5000 people?
 - How did Jesus heal the sick in Gennesaret?
 - How did Peter describe Jesus?



Lessons Learned

- Discuss the lesson using the questions below.
 - Is Jesus the Son of the Living God? Why and how?
 - Is Jesus loyal to God? Why and how?
 - What were the concrete examples of Jesus’ obedience? (by doing the preaching, teaching, healing and feeding ministries)
 - Jesus preached vibrant lessons of life such as values and virtues to ponder on. Do you and our church do the same?
 - Jesus taught principles of life. Do you and our church do the same?
 - Jesus fed the five thousand people through the miracle of giving and sharing. Do you and our church do the same?
 - Jesus healed the sick with love and mercy. Do you and our church do the same?

Applying the Lesson Learned

List down the different ministries of the church and let them declare their commitment to participate in it.

Ministries	Church Ministries	Declaration of Commitment
Preaching		
Teaching		
Healing		
Feeding		

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Mark 8:29b, “You are the Messiah!”

Offering

Reflective Commitment: “I remember Jesus’ obedience to God; I promise to do the same by....”

Closing Song: “Search Me, O God”



Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, may we always know and see you in our participation in the life and ministry of the Body of Christ, wherein You are the head and we are the members. Help us to see the life of obedience in You. This we pray in Your name. Amen.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 29, 2018

LESSON 10: MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

General Concept: Mary accepted the great honor to be the mother of the Son of God, despite her self-perception of being of lowly estate, proclaiming that indeed God is a God who lifts up the lowly and brings down the powerful, modelling what it means to be a faithful disciple.

Biblical References: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26-56

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 11:1-15; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 14; Psalm 145:10-18; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

Specific Concepts

- Mary was honored to be the mother of the Son of God.
- Mary was an active participant in bringing about the will of God.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain how Mary accepted her call to be the mother of Jesus
- Discuss the significance of Mary's acceptance of her call as an active participant in bringing about God's will
- Express how one may accept God's call to serve

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "My Soul Magnifies the Lord" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 116)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and in God my heart exults:

Salidum salidummay, insinalidummiway.

Ay ay Salidummay.

Favored look God casts on me, shadowed me so tenderly;

Generations then will see deep things God works silently.

Ay ay Salidummay.

To God-fearing souls God goes, on them mercy God bestows;



With the strength of God's strong arm, scatters all the proud who swarm.
Ay ay Salidummay.

Those enthroned God will bring down, and the lowly God will crown;
Hungry ones God fills with cheer, but the rich God's Day will fear.
Ay ay salidummay.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Powerful God, as we hear your Word, may we be responsible for our thoughts and actions. Teach us to follow Your will for us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary...."

Getting Ready

Name that Person Game. Read the following to the class. Allow them to name the person referred to:

- God called him to build an ark. (Noah)
- Though she was old, God used her to bear a child to fulfill God's promise to Abraham to be the father of many nations. (Sarah)
- God called her to protect the Baby Moses and lead in Israel's victory celebration over Pharaoh's chariots. (Miriam)
- God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt. (Moses)
- God called him to lead Israel to the Promised Land. (Joshua)
- She helped hide the Israelite spies from the king's guards. (Rahab)
- God called her to be a prophetess and judge over Israel. She was also a valiant warrior and led the Israelites to war. (Deborah)
- God called her to save Israel from the enemy. She killed the enemy's commander, Sisera. (Jael)
- He asked God for a sign to prove God had chosen him to be the leader of the Israelite army. (Gideon)
- She followed God by living with her mother-in-law and became a great grandmother to Jesus. (Ruth)
- God called to him four times when he was ministering as a young boy in God's temple to bring news to Prophet Eli. (Samuel)
- God called him to rule God's people. He killed a giant. (David)
- An angel cleansed his lips using the live coal from the altar to become God's prophet. (Isaiah)
- God called him, even though he is young, and touched his lips to be God's messenger. (Jeremiah)
- After he stayed in the big fish's belly, God called him to go Nineveh to warn the people of God's judgment on their wickedness. (Jonah)



- He lost his vision and was asked by God to preach the gospel to kings, Jews and Gentiles. (Paul)
- She was a deacon or minister of the church and sponsored Paul in the ministry. (Phoebe)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the class to read the scriptural texts.
- Discuss the texts using the questions below.
 - What is the context of Isaiah 7:14? (See the Biblical Background)
 - What was Angel Gabriel's good news to Mary?
 - Why was Mary perplexed/troubled upon hearing Gabriel's news?
 - What was Mary's response to God's call?

Lessons Learned

- Discuss:
 - What is the significance of Mary's acceptance of her call?
 - What do you like about Mary's character and the way she accepted God's call?
 - Why do you think it is important that Mary accepted God's call to be the mother of the Son of God?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- What does this lesson tell you about the way you may answer God's call?
- Write on your notebook or journal how you may respond to a call from God. Include in the write-up a story about an experience when you felt God was calling you to do something difficult but you obeyed nevertheless. Share what difficulties you have encountered and what or who helped you obey God's call. Finish your note by writing a short prayer of thanksgiving for God's enablement to heed God's call.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

Offering

Closing Song: "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

Blessed Mary, all saints say, your consent has paved the way,
Our salvation now is won by the coming of God's Son.
Ay ay Salidummay, Salidummay, Salidummay.

Closing Prayer

Our God, we praise you for letting us know Mary, the mother of Jesus who submitted herself to Your Will. May we be like her in responding to Your call of service using the gifts we receive from You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 5, 2018

LESSON 11: IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD BECAME HUMAN

General Concept: God, in Jesus Christ, came to earth and lived among us to bring fullness of life for all.

Biblical Reference: John 6:24-35; 10:10-11

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:9-10; John 6:24-35

Specific Concepts

- God, in Jesus Christ, came to earth and lived among us.
- The name Jesus means “God redeems” and is a symbol of the fulfillment of God’s promise.

Learning Objectives

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

- Affirm that God in Jesus Christ came to earth and lived among us
- Relate the name “Jesus” (which means “God redeems”) to the nature and purpose of Jesus’ life on earth
- Realize that Jesus became human as the fulfillment of God’s promise
- Choose to experience fullness of life through Jesus Christ

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn “New Life in Christ”

New life in Christ abundant and free
What glory shines, what joys are mine
What wondrous blessings I see
My life with its sin, a searching and strife,
Forever gone, there’s a bright new dawn
For in Christ I have found new life.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Most loving God, we thank you for giving Your Son to live with us and for giving us the promise of fullness of life. May we continually claim fullness of life in you. This we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe that in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human....”



Getting Ready

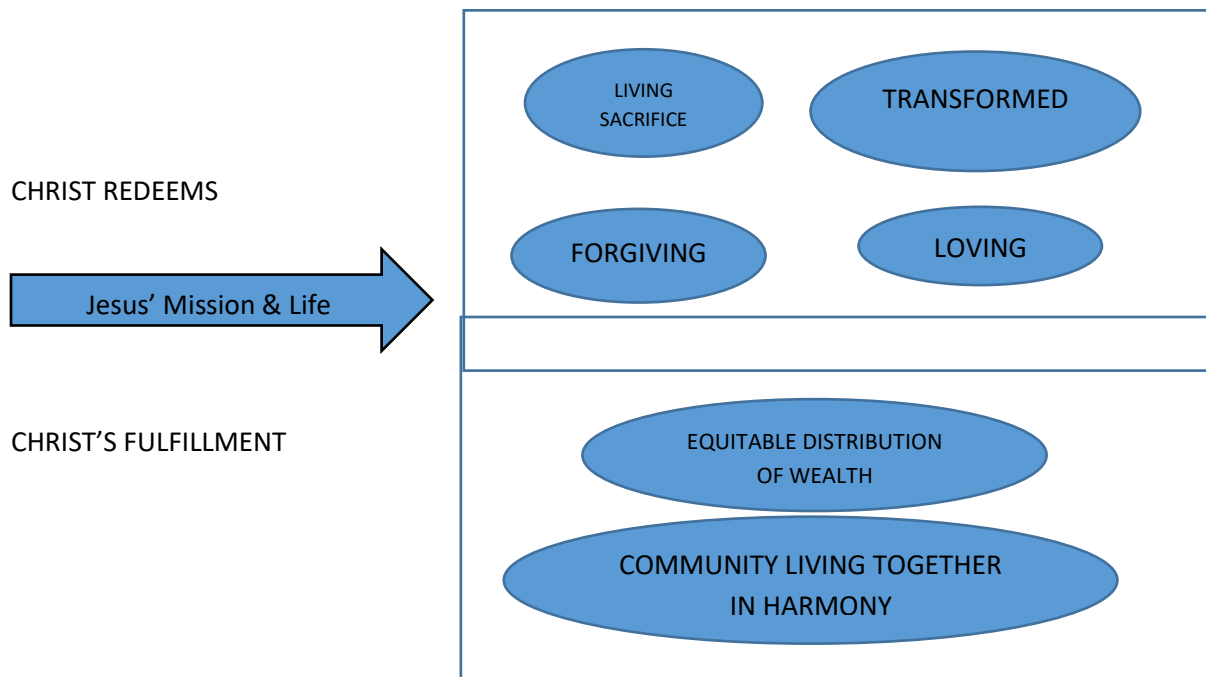
Present the following phrase and let the class share and brainstorm their reflections on it:

“We believe in God in Jesus Christ who worked for change and fullness of life and died for it.”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the class to read the Biblical references.
- Have the learners individually take down notes of what they think are significant concepts in the texts.
- Have the class analyze the following graphic organizer.



- Discuss the affirmation, “God, in Jesus Christ came and lived on earth to bring fullness of life.”
 - How will you characterize fullness of life as exemplified in Jesus’ life and ministry?
 - What are other characteristics of fullness of life that you see are necessary in our present time and context?

Lessons Learned

- Based on the Biblical text, how can God’s people achieve fullness of life?
- How can we live out fullness of life through Jesus?



Applying the Lessons Learned

- Say: God becoming human means that God identifies with humanity. God sees the suffering of people and suffers with them; God hears their cries and cries with them. God feels the peoples' pain and struggles and hopes with them for a new humanity, for a new way of life, for a "new heaven and a new earth".
- Writing in their journals, have the learners paraphrase the above statement in their own words.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: John 6:33, "For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Offering

Closing Song: "Ginawaak Manema" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 42)

Ginawaak Manema, ines inged, ines inged.
Ginawaak Manema, ines inged, ines inged.
Tinged kini igbagayden andas anak den,
Kended en pamentuan sa kanden,
Dirig, dirig, dirig kataren,
Taman sa taman, taman sa taman
Taman sa taman, taman sa taman.

Closing Prayer

Our God, we praise you for letting us know you came and lived among us through Jesus Christ to bring fullness of life. Guide us as we commit ourselves to become instruments of bringing fullness of life to humankind. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 12, 2018

LESSON 12: GOD, IN JESUS CHRIST, IS SOVEREIGN LORD OF LIFE

General Concept: In Jesus, God made manifest God's saving acts and offers eternal life. We therefore must believe and follow Christ and be bearers of fullness of life for others.

Biblical References: Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 5:2

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 34:1-8; Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35,38-40, 47-51

Specific Concepts

- Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of God's sovereignty.
- Jesus is the sovereign Lord of Life.



Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss that in Jesus, God made manifest God's saving acts and offers eternal life
- Realize that Jesus is the sovereign Lord of life
- Express creatively their belief and obedience to Jesus as the ultimate manifestation of God's sovereignty

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 156)

On a hill faraway stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross and exchange it someday for a crown.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Our loving and gracious God, we thank you for the love you show us each day through Jesus Christ and through all those you have brought into our lives. Continue to inspire and direct us with this love as we mature in our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life..."

Getting Ready

Present the following statement which is part of a commentary on our Statement of Faith and let the learners share their insights. You may write this on the board:

"'God, in Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Lord of life.' This means that Jesus Christ has conquered life by putting meaning to life. The meaning of life is to share it, especially to those who have less in life."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Have the class read the Biblical references responsively.
- Writing in their journals, have them paraphrase the texts in their own words



- Psalm 34:1-8, the helpless call on God and God answers; God saves them from all their troubles.
- Ephesians 5:2, our lives must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet-smelling offering that pleases God.
- Discuss the biblical references. Ask these questions:
 - What is your understanding about the saving grace of God through Jesus?
 - In the text read, do you see the Lordship of Jesus?
 - Do you believe God, In Jesus Christ is the sovereign Lord of life? Explain.

Lessons Learned

- Present the following statement from the book *Unless a Seed Falls and Dies*. Discuss the statement:

“For Jesus, the purpose of life is not to live for ourselves, but to live for others. All the great men and women in history are considered great not because they live their lives selfishly for their own selves, but because they give up their lives in the service of other people; they spend their lives not for their own salvation, but for the salvation of other people. This is what Jesus would like to teach to the people of his day through his life and ministry.”

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Ask:
 - Do we see an active and dynamic God in our lives today?
 - How does God through Jesus Christ manifest God’s saving acts and sovereign Lordship?
 - What can we offer in response to God’s greatness?
- Teach the hymn “Help Us to Accept Each Other as Christ Accepted Us”

Help us to accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace,
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe,
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons as in our daily life,
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, and not just for some,
To love them as we find them or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved,
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart,
The table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.

Lord, for today’s encounters, with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us make us one!



- Let them offer their commitment to follow Jesus Christ and become instruments in bringing fullness of life for others as an offering to God, the Sovereign Lord of life.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:2, "...and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Offering

Closing Song: "Take My Life, God, Let It Be" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 279)

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully,
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love,
Take my intellect and use all its power as you choose.

Take my will, Your will be done! Make Your will and mine be one,
Take my heart and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Closing Prayer

We give praise to you, O God, for showing us Jesus as the Sovereign Lord of life.
Guide us, help us and lead us to do the task in bringing fullness of life to others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost
August 19, 2018

LESSON 13: GOD, IN JESUS CHRIST, IS SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY

General Concept: God has always been with God's people throughout history. We must be wise and discerning, always doing the will of God, imbibing the life Jesus lived.

Biblical References: Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-17; John 6:57-58

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-17; John 6:57-58

Specific Concepts

- Jesus is our companion and guide in all of our life.
- We must be wise and discerning of God's will.

Learning Objectives

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

- Affirm that God in Jesus Christ is the sovereign Lord of history



- Share their experience of God in Jesus being their companion and guide
- Identify concrete examples of God's work in their lives

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 223)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Dear Lord, we thank you for this new day of exploring, learning and listening to your wonderful word. Bless us so that we may be able to grasp your message for us today. Open our eyes, ears and hearts, O Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history."

Getting Ready

Present the following statement which is part of a commentary on our Statement of Faith and let the learners share their insights. You may write this on the board.

"Jesus Christ also has conquered history by putting meaning to it. He has made, shaped, molded, and has given direction to history by the life he has lived. It is in Jesus Christ, therefore, that we find meaning and fulfillment of life and history."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Instruct the students to read the references in unison, then let them summarize the texts in their own words, writing in their journals.
- Discuss the biblical references by pointing out the highlights of the text.
- You may also present the Biblical Background and discuss it.
- Present the following statements and let them share their insights.
 - God, in Jesus Christ as the Sovereign Lord of history means that God's sovereignty is revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, showing grace and love for everyone.
 - God, in Jesus Christ as the Sovereign Lord of history affirms that God is involved in all of creation. God's grace and love is demonstrated through Jesus Christ



who lived among the poor and the helpless and at the same time challenging the rich and the comfortable.

- God, in Jesus Christ, as the Sovereign Lord of history affirms that God is indeed involved in the past, the present and the future; that God persistently calls all persons to follow what Jesus Christ has done, and assures them of God's empowerment.

Lesson Learned

- Discuss: We have been witnesses of God's work in history. What can we do to discern God's will for us?

Applying the Lesson Learned

- Tell the students to write in their journal their insights about God in Jesus Christ, as the Sovereign Lord of history. Let them write concrete examples of how God as sovereign Lord works in their lives.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Psalm 111:4, "God has caused God's wonderful works to be remembered. The Lord is gracious and compassionate."

Offering

Closing Song: "Lead Me, Lord"

Lead me, Lord, lead me by Your hand
And help me face the rising sun,
Comfort me through all the pain that life may bring
There's no other hope that I can lean upon

Lead me, Lord, lead me all my life
Walk by me, walk by me across
The lonely road that I may face
Take my arms and let your hand
Show me the way, show the way to live inside your heart
All my days, all my life.

Refrain:

You are my light; You're the lamp upon my feet
All the time, my Lord, I need You there
You are my life; I cannot live alone
Let me stay by Your guiding love
All through my life, lead me, Lord.

Closing Prayer

We bring back honor and glory to you, dear God, for the lessons we've learned today. May our souls and minds be blessed always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

