

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Youth

WE BELIEVE

Persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

Fellowship of the Coins

Fifth Sunday in Kingdomtide

September 23, 2018

LESSON 18: PERSONS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

General Concept: God created persons in God's image, with dignity and worth, with God's spirit dwelling in all of us.

Biblical Reference: Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 1; Proverbs 31:10-31; James 4:5-8a; Mark 9:37

Specific Concepts

- God created persons in God's image.
- God created persons with inherent rights to ensure that each person's dignity and worth is upheld.

Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss their understanding of the concept that persons are created in God's image
- Enumerate or mention the inherent human rights of each person
- List down ways on how we can uphold the rights, dignity and worth of people

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 Song "Your Creation" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 231)

How wonderful to see all Your creation, God,
The mountain's grandeur, the plains so wide and green.
How great you are, Creator God.

You have created us as part of your great plan,
And so, we praise you and offer gratitude.
You are the author of our lives.

You have provided us with all our daily needs,
All living creatures for food and sustenance.
All these you made for us, O God.

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 morning for we can come and learn with fun and gain experiences. May Your guiding presence be with us. May we continually grow in Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe persons are created in the image of God....”

Getting Ready

Role Play. Divide the class into three groups. Have each group prepare a short presentation on different situations in our society today like the war on drugs, extra-judicial killings, demolition of urban poor communities, and human trafficking. Give them enough time to prepare, after which each group will present to the class.

After all the groups have presented, ask: “Can we say that human rights and the dignity and worth of persons are upheld in our present reality today?”

Encourage the learners to participate in a lively discussion.

Emphasize that God created the universe, the world and everything in it, including human beings with inherent dignity, worth and rights.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the class to read Genesis 1:27 and discuss it using the following guide questions:
 - What does it mean to be created in the image of God?
 - Why do you think it is emphasized that God created both male and female?
 - What must we do as beings created in God’s image?
- Tell the class to read Psalm 8. Discuss.
 - How do we understand this text vis-à-vis today’s lesson?
 - How does God give importance to human beings?
 - How does God show care to human beings?

Lessons Learned

- Brainstorm as a class and make a list of our God-given human rights.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Ask:
 - How can the church and the people in the community uphold the dignity, worth and rights of each person?
 - What programs and ministries of our local church are we doing in order to uphold the rights, dignity and worth of persons?
 - Among these programs of the church, which one(s) are you involved in? Why did you make that choice?



Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27, "So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God they were created; male and female they were created."

Offering

Closing Song "Persons are Gifts" (*Children Praise God*, p. 65)

Persons are gifts of God to me that come all wrapped so differently.
Some so loosely, others so tightly; but wrappings are not the gifts.

I am a gift from God to me. Do I accept the gift I see?
I am a person, and for this reason, a wonderful gift of love.

Am I a gift to others too, willingly given for you and you?
We are all persons, we are all gifts; so let's make a grand exchange of gifts.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, may your Holy Spirit continue to guide us in doing our tasks. May your light shine upon us as we uphold human rights, and the dignity and worth of persons. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sixth Sunday in Kingdomtide
September 30, 2018

LESSON 19: PERSONS ARE DESTINED TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY WITH GOD

General Concept: Persons are destined to live in community with God, co-creators with God in building a just, peaceful and compassionate world, reflecting God's light.

Biblical References: Micah 6:8; James 5: 13-20

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Specific Concepts

- We have a relationship with God, manifested in right relationships within the family and the church.
- We are partners with God in the work for a just, peaceful and compassionate world.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the concept of living in community with God
- Enumerate church and family activities that manifest right relationships with others
- Affirm that we are partners with God in the work for a just, peaceful and compassionate world



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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Song "I Am the Light of the World"

Chorus:

I am the Light of the world, you people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery of what you can do and you can be.

To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,

To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,

To feel the earth below the sky above!

(Chorus)

To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful agree,

To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,

To see God's children everywhere.

(Chorus)

To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a new baby's birth,

To make music in an old person's heart,

And sing to the colors of the earth!

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Nurturing God, we lift our hearts as we acknowledge Your presence today. Give us Your wisdom as we study your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God..."

Getting Ready

Start the class by playing "Say Something Kind to Someone Today". Allow them to choose with whom they would like to say their compliments.

After the greetings, let the youth share their feelings about what have been said.

Say: "We are destined to live in community with God. Is kindness a manifestation of right relationships with God and others?"

Let them share their thoughts.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the class to read the biblical references responsively.



- Discuss each passage using the following outline:
 - Micah 6:8: What does God require of us?
 - To do justice (do what is right)
 - To love kindness (Be merciful and compassionate to others)
 - To walk humbly with God (Do everything according to the will of God)
 - James 5:13-20: Patience, Faith and Prayer
 - What does the text tell us about persons destined to live in community with God?

Lessons Learned

- Ask:
 - As members of the church, we are called to have a right relationship with God through having a right relationship with other people. How can you live out right relationships with your family and your neighbors?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Hand at Work! Have the learners trace their hands on paper. Using the following questions below, let them share their life-journey that can be used as inspiration for other people.
 - Thumb: How is your relationship with your friends? How do you treat your friends?
 - Pointer Finger: How is your relationship with your parents? How do you treat your parents?
 - Middle Finger: How is your relationship with your classmates? How do you treat your classmates?
 - Ring Finger: How is your relationship with your neighbor? How do you treat your neighbor?
 - Pinky: How is your relationship with your teachers/pastors? How do you treat your teachers/pastors?
 - Palm: Are you willing to be a partner of God in building a just, peaceful and compassionate community and world? How?

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Micah 6:8, "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Offering

Closing Song "A Common Love"

Chorus:

A common love for each other, a common gift to the Savior,
A common bond holding us to the Lord,
A common strength when we're weary, a common hope for tomorrow,
A common joy in the truth of God's Word.



In God's family we can meet each one's needs, we can light each one's path,
We can bear each one's grief. As God's children, we can comfort each care
We can build each one's faith, we can work, we can share.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, may your Holy Spirit continue to guide us in doing our tasks. May your guiding hand be with us as we live a life in accordance to your will. May your Spirit help us be willing to become partners of God in attaining a world that is just and peaceful. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Seventh Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 7, 2018

LESSON 20: PERSONS ARE DESTINED TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS

General Concept: Human beings are not meant to live alone; they are meant to live in partnership with other human beings, mutually supporting and helping each other, bringing each other into the fold of God's Kin-dom.

Biblical Reference: Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Genesis 2:18-24; Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 8; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10: 2-16

Specific Concepts

- Human beings are meant to live in partnership with other human beings.
- We support and help each other in community.
- We help each other experience God's Kin-dom.

Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss why human beings are meant to live in partnership with other human beings
- Explain how we can support and help each other in community
- List down ways of how human beings can live together in partnership
- Express their commitment to help each other experience God's Kin-dom

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Song "A Common Love"

Chorus:

A common love for each other, a common gift to the Savior,

A common bond holding us to the Lord,

A common strength when we're weary, a common hope for tomorrow,



A common joy in the truth of God's Word.

In God's family we can meet each one's need, we can light each one's path,
We can bear each one's grief. As God's children, we can comfort each care
We can build each one's faith, we can work, we can share. (Chorus)

In God's family, all the love that we show, all the help that we give
All the life we bestow as God's children, they're an offering we make,
Not expecting return, just a gift for God's sake. (Chorus)

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Eternal God, we lift up our hearts, minds, souls and lives as we study again your wonderful Word. May your wisdom be with us. May you bless each and everyone in this class. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons..."

Getting Ready

Sing "No One is an Island". Let them share their opinion regarding the song after singing.

"No One is an Island"

Chorus:

No one is an island, no one stands alone;
Each one's joy is joy to me, each one's grief is my own.
We need one another, so I will defend
Each one as my kindred, each one as my friend.

I see the people gather, I hear the music start,
The song that they are singing is ringing in my heart. (Chorus)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Group the class into two. Assign Genesis to group 1. Instruct them to role play the scenario in the text. Assign group 2 the text from the Psalms. Instruct them to read it aloud.
- Read as a class the Biblical Background for Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8.
- Discuss by answering the following questions:
 - What does the Hebrew word *adam* mean?
 - What does the word symbolize or represent?
 - What is the Hebrew word for "helper"?



- How is the Hebrew concept for “helper” different from our common understanding of it? Which is the better concept? Remember that in the Bible, God is also described as a helper.
- Why do human beings have an important place in the created order? What is their role?

Lessons Learned

- Discuss:
 - God destined human beings to live in partnership with each other. We are meant to support and help each other. We are destined to help build the Kingdom of God here on earth. What are the different ways by which we can do this?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Have the learners draw the different ways on how they can help and support their friends, churchmates, teachers, parents, neighbors, pastor, friends and other people that come their way.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Psalm 8:4, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?”

Offering

Closing Song “We Want to Learn to Live in Love” (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 188)
We want to learn to live in love, to follow what is good and true;
Through friends in church, at home, in school, we find what God would have us do.

When we are sad or feeling mean and fail to love or to be fair,
Our friends in church, at home, in school, can help us know that God does care.

When others are unkind to us and make us want to cry or fight,
We can reach out to be good friends and help them know that love is right.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, help us be a true friend, partner and helper to each other, just as You are to us. May we be active instruments in helping others experience Your Kin-dom here on earth. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 14, 2018

LESSON 21: PERSONS ARE DESTINED TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY WITH ALL CREATION

General Concept: Human beings must live in community and harmony with all creation, working for and proclaiming the good news of redemption to the whole of creation.



Biblical References: Romans 8:19-23; Mark 16:15

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Specific Concepts

- Human beings must live in community with all creation.
- We have a responsibility to participate in the work of redeeming God's creation.
- We teach others that they have a responsibility to take care of God's creation.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain why it is important that human beings live in community with creation
- Point out and discuss that we have the responsibility and work of redeeming God's creation
- Express commitment to teach other to work and proclaim the good news of redemption of all of creation

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, notebook/journal, pens, old newspaper, pictures or short video on environmental destruction and equipment like a laptop and a projector (if available)

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Song "The Rape of the Land"

God gave to us, to have and to hold, creation and wealth untold;
But we have with uncaring hand, destroyed its green and raped the land.

We strip the trees and leave them bare, pollute the streams, the soil, the air,
And we have never truly faced, the outcome of our ways of waste.

But now, with millions underfed and poison in our daily bread
We view creation with alarm; can we, together, stop the harm?

Let's help God purge the curse of greed, alert our mind to human need,
That we again may purify, the life on earth and sea and sky.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Eternal God, fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may understand your message and will for us and the rest of creation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.”

Getting Ready

- Divide the class into two. Provide an old newspaper or magazine to one group. Provide nothing to the other group. Instruct the participants to make something beautiful in two minutes. Process each group’s experiences.
- Reflection
 - Only God can make something out of nothing. Human beings cannot.
 - Human beings can only make something beautiful because there are useable materials around.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Group the class into two. Assign a text to each group. Have them read the texts silently.
- Instruct each group to summarize in their own words the highlights of their texts.
- Read and discuss the Biblical Background.

Lessons Learned

- Video Showing. If you have the necessary equipment, have the class view a short video on the effects of environmental destruction like the one found on this website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tPI-jjLHCc>. Otherwise, do a picture display.
- Discuss:
 - How would you participate in the work for the redemption of creation?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Going back to their groups, have the learners fill out the table below and present their work to the class:

“Ways on How to Proclaim the Redemption of Creation”

Strategy	Expected Output	Date/Venue	Responsible Persons

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Romans 8:21, “...that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of 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.

WE BELIEVE

Persons are created in the image of God and destined to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation.

Offering

Closing Song "We've Story to Tell to the Nations" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 310)

We've a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.

Chorus:

For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright,
And Christ's great Kingdom shall come to earth, the Kingdom of love and light.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for giving us the opportunity to listen to your message. Equip and empower us so that we may commit ourselves to the work of restoring the integrity of Your creation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

