

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Adults

That by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

Ninth Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 21, 2018

LESSON 22: SINFULNESS IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD

General Concept: Disobeying God means following our own selfish will: refusing to live in community with God, with other persons and with all creation. It means playing like God, making ourselves the center of everything, lording it over other people and the rest of God's creation.

Biblical References: Amos 5:11-15; Hebrews 5:1-10

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Psalm 91:9-16; Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 33-35; Isaiah 53:4-12; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Age-Level Concepts

- Disobeying God means following our selfish will
- Human beings are free to fulfill the image of God in themselves but this same freedom can also be used to oppose the will of God for themselves, for others and the whole of creation.
- This abuse of freedom is playing like God.

Learning Objectives

- Point out ways by which human beings fail to follow God's plan and will for the whole creation
- Reflect on how sinfulness of people affects the whole creation of God
- Enumerate significant things they could do to remain obedient, faithful and loyal to God

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, journal, pens, a collage or a picture of God's creation

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.

Put a collage or a picture of God's creation in front or in the middle of the class on the floor.

Opening Hymn "Amazing Grace" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 208)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose Word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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 by disobedience, they have become sinful....”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Pass the collage or the picture around in silence and instruct the participants to reflect on the beauty of God's creation.
- After the collage or picture has been passed around, the Sunday school teacher will tear it into pieces.
- Reflection
 - What did the participants feel when the collage/picture was torn into pieces?
 - This is what is happening around us.
 - God's creation is groaning because of humanity's sinfulness.
 - Relationships between and among people have ceased to be harmonious.
 - The whole creation is groaning because of humanity's failure to heed God's command to be stewards of God's creation.
 - Reading of the text
 - Discussion of the text
 - What words can we associate with sin?
 - Transgression, disobedience, debts, wickedness, unbelieving heart, missing the mark, etc.
 - What are the manifestations of disobedience to God in Amos?
 - Trampling on the poor (verse 11)
 - Afflicting the righteous, taking a bribe, pushing aside the needy (verse 12)
 - Silence in the face of injustice (verse 13)
 - Point out other sins committed by God's people in the Bible.
 - Examples:
 - ✓ Genesis 3
 - ✓ Genesis 6:5-6
 - ✓ Worship of Idols
 - ✓ Not keeping the laws of God (Amos 2:4-5)



- Point out that these are the ways by which human beings become disobedient to God.
- What was the appeal of Amos to the people of Israel? (verses 14-15)
- How is God's mercy manifested even in the life of the errant people of God?
 - God will take pity on the remnants of Joseph.
 - Jesus gave his life as perfect sacrifice for the erring children of God.

Lessons Learned

- Compare the Biblical times and the present time in relation to the sins committed by the people.
- How does the sinfulness of people affect the whole creation of God?
- How do we value Christ's sacrifice in the presence of the reality of sin?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Let each one share what simple yet significant things they could do to remain obedient, faithful and loyal to God.

Examples:

- Fill our minds with God's Word so that we will know what to obey and how to obey.
- Avoid temptation as Amos said: "Love what is good and hate what is evil" (5:15a).
- Humbly ask for guidance and forgiveness.
- Listen to advice and even criticism to become better persons.
- Treat people around us with fairness.

Closing Worship

Put the torn collage/picture in the middle. Ask the participants to put it back together.

Notice that the picture is not the same as before. On our own, we are hopeless, but with the spirit of God working, everything could be made possible.

Offertory and Closing Hymn "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide,
What can avail to wash it away!
Look! there is flowing a crimson tide;
Whiter than snow you may be today. [Refrain]



Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe;
You that are longing to see God's face,
Will you this moment God's grace receive? [Refrain]

Closing Prayer

Tenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 28, 2018

LESSON 23: GRACE THROUGH FAITH

General Concept: Grace is a gift that we receive through faith; we respond with a life of thanksgiving.

Biblical References: Mark 10:46-52; Ephesians 2:8-9

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22); Psalm 126; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Age-Level Concepts

- Grace is an unmerited gift we receive through faith.
- Confession of sins is an act of restoration of right relationships with God and others.
- God's grace is shown in God's initiative of saving persons through Jesus Christ.
- Gratefulness to God is manifested through concretely participating in God's act of reconciling the whole creation.

Learning Objectives

- Examine biblical stories of how God bestows grace to errant but repentant persons
- Explain that God's abiding grace is for all people of faith and is available at all times
- Respond to God's grace by conveying gratitude through actual involvement in the works of reconciling the whole creation

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 "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, God of our mothers and fathers;
Through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us,



and with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessings;
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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 by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith...."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Object Lesson on *Grace*
 - Divide the group into two.
 - Instruct them to list down hymns that they know that has the word "grace".
 - Let the group take turns in singing the stanza that has the word "grace".
 - Once the song has been sung it cannot be repeated.
 - The game ends when the groups run out of hymns to sing or when 10 minutes is up.
- Reflect
 - What do the hymns they have chosen say about the grace of God?
- Read the texts.
- Discuss the texts.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - How are people saved from sin?
 - God's abundance of grace is always there.
 - Faith is what convinces us to receive God's grace.
 - Salvation is the result of God's grace and a believer's faith.
 - What should be the result of God's gift of salvation?
 - Mark 10:46-52
 - What was the affliction of Bartimaeus and how did it affect his life?
 - How was he treated by the people around him?
 - What did he want? Describe Bartimaeus' attitude toward getting what he desired most.
 - How did Jesus deal with Bartimaeus's affliction?
 - What healed Bartimaeus?
 - What was his immediate reaction when he was healed?
 - Compare briefly Bartimaeus's story with the healing of another blind man in Mark 8:22-26.
 - How did God's grace work in Bartimaeus's life?
 - How did his persistent faith lead to his healing?



- What was his response to Jesus' gift of healing?

Lessons Learned

- Let the participants share what they appreciated about Bartimaeus and how they can apply this trait in their own lives.
- The facilitator may use the following points to sum up the sharing.
 - Divest pride (verse 47)
 - Disregard the opponent (verse 48)
 - Detach yourself from your old identity (verse 50)
 - Deepen your faith (verse 51)
 - Do Christ's bidding (verse 52)

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Start each day by affirming that we are not just recipients of God's grace; we are also channels of God's grace.
- Spend time to pray for the healing of other people. You may also visit them.
- Manifest gratefulness to God by your readiness to help others.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Hymn "Day by Day"

Day by day, O dear Lord, three things I pray.
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day, day by day....
(Repeat song three times)
Day by day by day by day!

Closing Prayer

Eleventh Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 4, 2018

LESSON 24: WE ARE REDEEMED IN JESUS CHRIST

General Concept: God's redemption from everything sinful is experienced through Jesus Christ by grace through faith.

Biblical Reference: Psalm 146; Romans 3:24

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 119:1-8; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

Age-Level Concepts

- Persons are vulnerable to sin on their own and therefore require God's redemptive act through Jesus Christ.

Learning Objectives

- Determine what societal conditions cause persons to plummet into sin
- Discuss the different ways God's redemption is experienced through Jesus Christ



- Practice being channels of God's redeeming love wherever they are

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, journal, pens, a globe or world map, very small Post-it or stick-it notes or small pieces of paper and masking tape

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 "Love Lifted Me"

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Refrain:

Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me! Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,
In his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing.
Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful loving service, too, to Him belongs. [Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love out of the angry waves;
He's the master of the sea, billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be, be saved today. [Refrain]

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Put a globe in front or in the middle of the class.
- Instruct the participants to write one sinful act in small pieces of paper or Post-it notes, after which they will paste it on/attach it to the globe. Have them write as many sinful acts as they can in as many pieces of paper.
- Reflect:
 - Is this the kind of world God had in mind?



- Is this the kind of world they want?
- Is it possible to set the world free from this sinful state?
- Read and discuss the text.
 - What causes humanity to fall into sin?
 - How can humanity be set free from the bondage of sin?
 - What is the Psalmist's advice to the believers in the midst of sin and decay?

Lessons Learned

- God is a God who redeems.
 - How is this affirmation revealed in a world full of suffering?
 - What are the different ways God's redemption is experienced through Jesus Christ?
- Faith in Jesus Christ is important.
 - What must be done to have faith and to deepen faith in Jesus Christ?
 - In what way should faith in Christ be professed?
- What characteristics in our lives show or indicate that we are a new being in Christ?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Be a witnessing Christian. Proclaim God's redeeming love whether at home, in the workplace, in the church or in the wider community.

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.

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.

That by disobedience, they have become sinful, but, by grace through faith, they are redeemed in Jesus Christ.

Offertory and Closing Hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 111; as the hymn is sung, the participants will remove what was pasted on the globe symbolic of their commitment to always live as a redeemed person should)

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing, the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS ON
THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

Adults

Jesus, the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
Is music to the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

Closing Prayer

