

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Youth

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: Job 38:1-7, 34-41; 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

Specific Concepts

- Disobeying God means following our selfish will.
- Pursuing our selfish will destroys relationship with God, with other persons and with the whole of creation.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain that disobeying God means following our own selfish will
- Point out and discuss how relationships are destroyed when one pursues selfish desires
- Express commitment to always follow the will of God and not our own selfish desires

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Song "Pananagutan" (*Children Praise God*, p. 60)
Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang,
Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang.
Tayong lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa't-isa,
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Dios na kapiling Nya.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Creative God, we are gladly gathered here to study and learn Your Word. Help us change our ways through the help of your Holy Spirit. Help us listen and heed Your will for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe that by disobedience, they have become sinful....”

Getting Ready

- Present the following questions. Allow students to interact about the topic. The teacher may write the word “sin” on the board.
 - What is sin? (Sin is disobedience to God. More forcefully, it is a rebellion against God.)
 - What makes a person sinful? (Persons become sinful by disobeying God and rebelling against God's will for humanity and following one's own selfish will.)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Have the class read Job 38:1-7 and 34-41 responsively.
- Have the young women read the first five verses of Hebrews 5:1-10 and the young men the last five verses.
- Ask the learners their understanding of the texts. Give them time to share. The class may also read the verses prior to the assigned texts.
- Explain the text by sharing with the learners the Brief Biblical Background for each of the texts for the Youth.
- Discuss the lesson. Ask these questions.
 - What do you think are the questions raised by Job?
 - What are the answers given by God?
 - What are the characteristics of God as manifested in these texts?
 - What is a high priest?
 - Who was Aaron?
 - Who is the high priest written about in this text?
 - How is he different from the other high priests?

Lessons Learned

- Ask:
 - What are examples of following our own selfish wills?
 - How are relationships broken when we do this?
 - How would you describe a life full of obedience to God's will?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Tell the class to make a resolution stating their desire to follow God's will. Remind them to write seriously from their heart. They may offer these resolutions during the closing song as a symbol of their commitment. Example:





Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Hebrews 5:8, "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered...."

Offering

Closing Song "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.

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.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for teaching us to obey your will. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

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: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Ephesians 2:8-10

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

Specific Concepts

- Grace is God's gift to us.



- 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 redeeming persons through Jesus Christ.
- We respond through offering our lives to God in gratefulness.

Learning Objectives

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

- Give their own definition of "grace"
- Point out the importance of confession of sins
- Narrate one's faith journey as a recipient of God's grace
- Offer their lives to the service of God as the appropriate response to God's grace

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Powerful God, may we be responsible for our thoughts and deeds. Be with us as we study and hear your message for us today. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who is with us every day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

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

Getting Ready

- Teach the following song and let the learners meditate on it.
"Wonderful Grace of Jesus" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 212)

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin.
How shall my tongue describe it? Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain:

Wonderful the matchless grace, the matchless grace of Jesus;
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea, the rolling sea.
Wonderful grace, all sufficient for me, for even me.
Broader than the scope of my transgressions;
Greater far than all my sin and shame.
O magnify the precious name of Jesus; praise his name!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled.



By its transforming power, making one God's dear child.
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity;
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. (Refrain)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Tell the class to read Jeremiah 31:7-9 in unison. Let them take notes on the message that they get from the text.
- Ask the students to read aloud Ephesians 2:8-10 and draw from the text their thoughts on the purpose of God's grace.
- Explain the text by sharing with the learners the Brief Biblical Background for each of the texts for the Youth.
- Discuss the texts further by asking the following questions.
 - How is God's grace and greatness manifested in the text from Jeremiah?
 - What is your own definition of God's grace?
 - What are the differences between grace and works?

Lessons Learned

- Ask:
 - How do you understand the concept of "grace"?
 - How do we respond to God's grace?
 - How must we live our lives to show our gratitude to God?
- Have the students share their thoughts.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Let the members of the class give her/his own testimony/journey of faith which can be about any of the following situations listed below. Ask them that as a recipient of God's grace, how would they respond in these situations:
 - Disasters
 - Irresponsible mining
 - Climate change
 - Armed conflict
 - Displacement of communities
 - Poor health services
 - Poverty

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2: 8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

Offering

Closing Song "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.



Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of grace you've given us. Here I am, send me. I will offer my life in gratitude to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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; Hebrews 9:11-14

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

Specific Concepts

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

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe how persons are vulnerable to sin
- Explain how the redemptive power of God is manifested in Jesus Christ
- Express gratitude and thanks to God for Jesus Christ who redeemed us

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

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Merciful God, we express our gratitude for giving us another chance to learn and meditate on your Word. May your Holy Spirit be with us now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Song "The Hands of God" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 295)

The hands of God that make the whole creation new,
That guides us through the path that we must tread,
They lifted up the lowly and the poor,
Hands that brought down the mighty from their throne.



Refrain:

The hands of God that guide us through the years,
From doubts and fears those hands have led us through,
They call for faith and hope and love to reign in us,
The hands of God that work through you and me.

The hands of God that make the lame to walk and blind to see,
The hands that work to set our people free,
The hands that touch the sinner and the lonely,
Are hands of God that work through you and me. (Refrain)

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.”

Getting Ready

- Form two groups. Assign the term ‘vulnerable to sin’ to the first group, and the term ‘redemption’ to the second group. Allow each group 5 minutes to discuss among themselves ideas and concepts which they think are related to the main concept assigned to their group. Have them document their discussion.
- After the discussion, ask the students to share to the big group their concept web.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Assign a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 146.
- Ask the learners to read silently Hebrews 9:11-14.
- Have them write down on their journals/notebooks their notes on the texts.
- Discuss the text by sharing with the learners the Brief Biblical Background for each of the texts for the Youth.
- Have the class regroup into two. In 15 minutes or less, challenge the learners to prepare a creative presentation depicting the vulnerability of individuals to sin and the redemptive act of Jesus Christ. Presentation may be in the form of skit, song, news and other methods. Appreciate the learners after the presentations.
- Process the activity by discussing the following:
 - In what ways can we see the vulnerability of individuals to sin?
 - How does God manifest God’s redemptive power?
 - What are the ways by which we can respond to the redemptive acts of God?

Lessons Learned

- Ask: Have you experienced redemptive acts of God in your life? How?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Ask the learners to share any experiences of abandonment, sickness or crisis. Allow them to share how they were able to cope in these situations or how they were able to help out others who were in similar situations.



- Ask: “How can we show the redemptive acts of God with others?”
- Have them to share their resolutions to the class.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:12, “He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves, but entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood having obtained eternal redemption.”

Offering

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.

Closing Song “Thank You, Lord”

Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul.

Thank You, Lord, for making me whole.

Thank You, Lord, for giving to me

Your great salvation so rich and free!

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for your redemptive action through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are so blessed by Your love. Guide us, O Lord, as we continue to spread the good news of your redemption. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

