

LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

A Sunday School Guide for Adults

That being entrusted with God's creation, they are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

Twelfth Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 11, 2018

LESSON 25: WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH GOD'S CREATION

General Concept: We are created to be faithful and responsible stewards of God's creation, enabling us to respect and preserve its integrity.

Biblical References: Genesis 1:28-30; Isaiah 65:17-25; Mark 12:41-44; Revelation 11:18
List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Age-Level Concepts

- The earth is our only home.
- Persons are created to be faithful and responsible stewards of God's creation.
- Creation's integrity ought to be respected and preserved.

Learning Objectives

- Determine necessary approaches that could be used in the work of reconciliation and restoration of God's creation
- Plan how to exercise responsibility as stewards of God's creation
- Make a unified stand to promote the integrity of God's creation

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

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 "Great is Your Faithfulness" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 49)

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness, forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

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 being entrusted with God’s creation....”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Object Lesson
 - Put a seedling in front.
 - Instruct them to imagine what the seedling will look like in 5 to ten years.
 - What will they do to ensure that the seedling will reach its full potential?
- Read and discuss the biblical texts.
 - What is the first responsibility given by God to human beings?
 - What promise of blessing is given to humanity if they take care of God’s creation?
 - What judgment will be rendered by God if people fail in being faithful stewards of God’s Creation?

Lessons Learned

- Song Analysis: “Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran”
Wala ka bang napapansin sa iyong mga kapaligiran?
Kay dumi na ng hangin, pati na ang mga ilog natin

Refrain 1:

Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad at malayu-layo na rin ang ating narating
Ngunit masdan mo ang tubig sa dagat dati’y kulay asul ngayo’y naging itim
Ang mga duming ating ikinalat sa hangin sa langit huwag na nating paabutin
Upang kung tayo’y pumanaw man, sariwang hangin sa langit natin matitikman

Refrain 2:

Meron lang akong hinihiling sa aking pagpanaw sana ay tag-ulan
Gitara ko ay aking dadalhin upang sa ulap na lang tayo magkantahan



Refrain 3:

Ang mga batang ngayon lang isinilang may hangin pa kayang matitikman?
May mga puno pa kaya silang aakyat may mga ilog pa kayang lalangyan?

Refrain 4:

Bakit di natin pag-isipan ang nangyayari sa ating kapaligiran
Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad kung hindi nakakasira ng kalikasan
Darating ang panahong mga ibong gala ay wala nang madadapuan
Masdan mo ang mga punong dati ay kay tatag
Ngayo'y namamatay dahil sa 'ting kalokohan

Refrain 5:

Lahat ng bagay na narito sa lupa biyayang galing sa Dios kahit nong ika'y wala pa
Ingatan natin at 'wag nang sirain pa
'Pagkat pag kanyang binawi, tayo'y mawawala na
(Repeat refrain 2)

- What does this song say about the current state of God's creation?
- How faithful are we in heeding God's command to be stewards of all creation?
- What should be our stand on practices and policies that do not respect the integrity of God's creation?
- Revelation 11:18 says that those who destroy the earth will be destroyed. Will God bless us?

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Choose a specific environmental issue or concern. Make a stand on it.
- Request one or two participants to write the stand of the group and have it read during worship. If there is not enough time to write, the reading can be done the following Sunday or in any occasion in the church.
- Copies may be given to the participants later to serve as a reminder of our responsibility to care of God's creation.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Song "Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran"

Closing Prayer

Thirteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide
November 18, 2018

**LESSON 26: WE ARE CALLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND
COMPASSIONATE SOCIAL ORDER**

General Concept: We are called to actively participate in establishing a just and compassionate social order, where the needs of everyone, especially the least of the least, are met.

Biblical Reference: Isaiah 58: 6-9; Psalm 132:13-18; Hebrews 10:24



List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Psalm 16; Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Age-Level Concepts

- Persons must enthusiastically participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.
- No person will be in want when generosity and compassion is unswervingly observed by all.

Learning Objectives

- Assert that a just and compassionate social order is where the needs of everyone, especially the least of the least, are met
- Advocate actions and undertakings that the church needs to fulfill so as to build a just and compassionate social order, like education and mobilization
- Rally the people of God to be in solidarity with the least of the least in ensuring that basic needs are met

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, journal, pens, play money (see *Discovering the Biblical Truth*)

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 “The World Could Be So Peaceful and So Lovely” (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 230)

The world could be so peaceful and so lovely
When helping is the task of each of us
And caring for one another, sharing what we have,
Spreading love around; sadness will be gone and joy abound!

Daw unsa katahum sa kalibutan nga ato karong ginapuyan
Kon lamang ang tagsa-tagsa magtinabingay, maghigugmaay
Wa nay kasuboon, kon di kalipay.

When can we ever learn to love each other?
For years we have been hating and killing.
How foolish we humans can be!
We’re the only ones suffering for our deeds.
Why can’t we reform, is what we should say.

Si Bathala sa tanan ang nagahatag sa panalangin igo sa tanan,
Kon lamang ang tagsa-tagsa, magbinatiay, maghinatagay,
Ang tanan gayud daw maharuha.

Let peace be thus our aim, together as we live, forget our hating;
Let us be loving, like One who came to earth and showed us
All the way: the great example, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Ngano ug ngano man nga dili ang tanan, magaambahan,
Magaambahan, sa paghiusa ug pagbuhat daghang butang
Nga kalipayan alang sa tanan.

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 being entrusted with God’s creation, they are called to participate
in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.”

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

- Object Lesson: Trip to Heaven
 - Give the participants play money. Distribute the money unequally.
 - Bring them outside the room. Instruct them that the room symbolizes heaven or the eternal reign of God.
 - They can only enter heaven if they have the following amount:
 - 2 twenty-peso bills
 - 1 fifty-peso bill
 - 3 one hundred-peso bills
 - They cannot enter heaven if:
 - They do not have the exact amount; it has to be exact no more no less
 - Other participants do not have the same amount
 - Reflect:
 - Was anyone able to enter heaven?
 - What did they do with their resources?
 - Did those who have more than enough share what they have?
- Read and discuss the texts:
 - Guide questions for discussion:
 - What does *fast* mean in the Isaiah text?
 - How are we supposed to “fast”? (verses 6-7, 9b)
 - What happens when we fast this way? (8-9a)
 - How does the Psalmist describe God’s final and eternal reign?
 - In relation to the faithful
 - In relation to those who oppose God’s reign

Lessons Learned

- Go back to the Object Lesson:
 - Were there some participants who were like the believers written about in Hebrews?
 - Provoking one another to love and do good deeds
 - Encouraging one another
- What concrete ways of “provoking one another to love and do good deeds” have you done already? What more need to be done?



- A compassionate and just social order cannot be achieved if we do not encourage and provoke each other to do acts of love and goodness.

Applying the Lessons Learned

- Urge the church to provide means by which the younger generation are exposed to realities in the community.
- Suggest to the church a monthly forum on issues affecting the people. This may also be done in partnership with other churches and organizations. Hopefully the forum would lead to more concrete actions that would lead to the establishment of a just and compassionate social order.

Closing Worship

Offertory and Closing Song "Hagit sa Ebanghelyo" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 364)

Ang hagit sa ebanghelyo alang kanato
Higugma-on taang atong isigkatawo
Apan kon tinuod ta ang pagserbisyo
Mosubay tag Kalbaryo sama sa atong Ginoo.

Refrain:

Dili sayon ang pagsunod kang Cristo
Daghang tunok ang dalan nga agian ta
Bug-at ang krus nga pagapasanon ta
Ug kamatayon na ang gahulat kanato.

Si Cristo mismo nag ingon sa mga tinun-an
Pagbantay kay panakpon kamo'g biay-biayon
Prisohon kamo ug ilhong tampalasan
Ug ang naa sa gahom hukman kamo'g silutan.

Refrain:

To follow Christ is not an easy choice
The thorns are many in the pathways of struggle
Heavy the cross on our shoulders we must hoist
And agonizing death ever waits to get us.

The challenge of Jesus' gospel to us in this time
Is to offer our love to each and every person
For if we truly serve our Lord Christ Jesus,
We'll take the pain of the cross wherever we will go.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself of these has spoken
Be on guard for you'll be arrested and thrown in prison
You'll be forsaken charged with false accusation
And those in power will judge and smite you with their might.

Closing Prayer

