

# LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

## A Sunday School Guide for Youth

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

*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.
- The fruits of the land sustain us and give us life.
- God mandates people to take care of creation and uphold its integrity.

#### Learning Objectives

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

- Explain that the earth is our only home and the fruits of the land sustain us and give us life
- Give reasons why God mandates us to take care of creation and uphold its integrity
- Resolve to participate in caring for the environment

**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.)

Our God in heaven and on earth, today we pray for your presence to be with us as we study about our only home, the world you created. Open our eyes and ears so that your message may be implanted in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Song "For the Beauty of the Earth" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 233)

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light, (Refrain)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, (Refrain)

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:  
"We believe that being entrusted with God's creation...."

### **Getting Ready**

- Brainstorm with the learners the concept of "being entrusted with God's creation".
- Let them freely share their thoughts.

### **Learning Time**

#### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

- Have the class read Genesis 1:28-30, the boys reading the first verse, the girls reading the second verse, and everyone reading the last verse.
- Let the class silently read Isaiah 65:17-25.
- Give them a few minutes to write down on their journals/notebooks their personal reflections on the texts using the following as guide:
  - Describe the world God made.
  - What was the main responsibility of human beings given by God based on Genesis 1:28-30?
  - How do you react whenever you read, hear or watch news about the abuse of Mother Earth, like irresponsible mining, corporate logging, destructive fishing, etc.?
  - What are the people's efforts and actions that you know of and have participated in to uphold the integrity of creation?
  - Will you be willing to get involved in the ministry of the Church that takes care of God's creation? Why or why not?
- Have volunteers share their reflections to the class.
- Further discuss the passages using the Biblical Background for these texts as guide.

#### *Lessons Learned*

- Ask: What can we do to become faithful and responsible stewards of God's creation?

#### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

- Let them enumerate the ways by which they can become responsible, faithful, and respectful stewards, upholding the dignity of creation. Have them list these ways down in a table checklist. Example:



<b>My own efforts as a responsible steward of creation</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
I will use water properly.		
I will conserve electricity.		
I will use paper wisely.		
I will walk or bike to nearby places.		
I will segregate my garbage properly.		
I will join the campaign to Scrap the Mining Act of 1995.		
I will campaign against corporate logging.		

**Closing Worship**

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:28, “God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

Offering

Closing Song (can also be read as poem) “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 all of us undo the harm?

May God forgive the curse of greed, alert our mind to human need;  
That we again may purify, the life on earth and sea and sky.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, dear Lord, for reminding us that we are entrusted with your creation.  
Empower us to become responsible, faithful and respectful of Your creation. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**Reign of Christ**

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

- God's creation is intended to provide abundant life for all.
- God's creation will benefit all humanity when generosity and compassion is 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 need to do 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

#### *Greeting Time*

Opening Song "It Could Be a Wonderful World" (*Children Praise God*, p. 187)

If each little child could have fresh milk each day  
If each worker just had enough time to play  
If each homeless person had some place to stay  
It could be a wonderful world.

If there were no poor and the rich were content  
If strangers were welcome wherever they went  
If everyone knew what community meant  
It could be a wonderful world.

If we could consider each other, a neighbor, friend, sister or brother  
It could be a wonderful, wonderful world, it could be a wonderful world.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Gracious God, open our minds and hearts as we come to study and learn. May Your message for us today touch and move us to respond to your challenge. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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."



**Getting Ready**

- Brainstorm with the learners the concept of “a just and compassionate social order”.

**Learning Time**

*Discovering the Biblical Truth*

- Game: 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 Trip to Heaven game:
  - 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*

- List down ministries of the church that help establish a just and compassionate social order. Have each one name at least one church ministry and share their level of participation in this ministry. Example:



- Feeding program
- Information dissemination campaigns
- Educational awareness
- Direct community integration
- Organic farming
- Capability-building trainings
- Medical missions
- Relief missions

***Closing Worship***

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:24, “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds....”

Offering

Closing Song “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.



Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to serve the lost and the least of our sisters and brothers. May your Holy Spirit move us to participate in the establishment of a just social order. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

