

# LESSONS ON THE UCCP STATEMENT OF FAITH

## A Sunday School Guide for Youth

### WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

First Sunday after  
Christmas Day  
December 30, 2018

### LESSON 32: THE HOLY BIBLE AND GOD'S SELF-REVELATION IN JESUS CHRIST

**General Concept:** The Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ.

**Biblical References:** Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

*List of Lectionary Readings for the Week:* 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

### Age-Level Concepts

- The Bible is an important book written by people inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible, though written by people with limitations, tells us of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ.
- The Bible affirms God's active participation in the life of the people.

### Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the significance of the Bible as a reliable record of the life and ministry of Jesus
- Discuss how the Bible narrates God's active participation in the life of the people
- Make a commitment to regularly read the Bible, strive to understand God's Word and apply it in their daily life

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, journal, pens, KWL Chart (see the Getting Ready activity), list of biblical references for the Sunday School lessons for Youth

### Suggested Lesson Outline

#### **Greeting Time**

Opening Hymn "God, We Praise You for this Lord's Day" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 5)  
God, we praise you for this Lord's day, praise your goodness now and always.  
By your grace we all do live; in your mercy, you forgive.

After toiling through the long week, now we come to hear your voice speak.  
In your house may all be blessed; here may all find strength and rest.

Sometimes we bear pain and sorrow, sometimes darkness hides the morrow,

Loving Lord God, leave us not, when sore trouble is our lot.

Sometimes we find peace and gladness, calm and hope in joy or sadness,  
 On our way you shed your light, love us ever, day and night.

Here we come, our lives to offer, hearts and minds we humbly proffer;  
 Dear Lord, hear us while we pray, and receive us now for aye.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of your Word. May your Spirit be with us as we study about how God is revealed in Jesus and about how the Bible teaches us of how God acts in the lives of the people. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ...."

**Getting Ready**

- Introduce the KWL (Know, Want, Learn) Chart. This activity will connect the students' prior knowledge of a particular subject matter to what they are presently learning about it.
  - Have the learners draw a table on their journals with three columns and two rows: one row for the headings and one larger in which to write. Label the first column with a "K" for What I Know, the second with "W" for "What I Want to Know", and the third with an "L" for What I Learned. If possible, make the table ahead of time and make copies for distribution to the learners.

<b>K</b> (What I Know)	<b>W</b> (What I Want to Know)	<b>L</b> (What I Learned)

- Present the Bible as the subject matter.
- Brainstorm about what they KNOW about the Bible, (let them write on the first column). Next would be brainstorming about what they WANT to know about the Bible. The third column will be reserved for realization or reflection later.



### ***Learning Time***

#### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

- Have the students read the Biblical references in unison.
- Encourage the participants to write on their journals or notebooks words or concepts from the texts that are important to them.
- Have the learners discuss the biblical texts in small groups of three.
- Guide questions for discussion:
  - In your own words, retell how the story in Luke 2 tells us about the life of Jesus as revelatory of God.
  - How does Jesus' life reveal God?
  - How is the Bible important to us as Christ's followers?
  - What does the text in Colossians say about being God's chosen ones?
- Share with the learners the Biblical Background for today's texts.

#### *Lessons Learned*

- Have the class come together after 10 minutes of small group discussion.
- Discuss as a big group:
  - How important is the Bible a source of information on the life and ministry of Jesus?
  - How does the Bible teach us about God's active participation in the life of humanity?
  - How is the Bible a faithful witness of the revelation of God in Christ?
- Have each learner fill-up the third column of the KWL Chart.

#### *Applying the Lessons Learned*

- What lifestyle or schedule adjustments must you make in order that you may read the Bible regularly?
- Give to the class the biblical references for each Sunday School lesson so that they can read these ahead of time. Encourage the students to read the Bible every day so that they will grow in wisdom and knowledge about God. Later in the year, ask them to share their testimony of reading the Bible regularly and its impact on their growth in the faith.

### ***Closing Worship***

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Offering

Closing Song "Wonderful Words of Life" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 358)

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.



Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, wake to the loving call, wonderful words of life;  
All so freely given, our sure hope of heaven.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

#### Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the Holy Bible. It has always been a faithful and inspired witness of your glory. In Jesus' name who You revealed to us through the Bible. Amen.

### Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2019

#### LESSON 33: THE HOLY BIBLE AND GOD'S SELF-REVELATION IN HISTORY

**General Concept:** The Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in history.

**Biblical References:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

*List of Lectionary Readings for the Week:* Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

#### Age-Level Concepts

- The Bible records the stories of God's people with whom God made a relationship.
- The Bible teaches us of God's ways and commands, and the people's response to God's love and faithfulness.
- The Bible continues to challenge us to reflect on God's work and ways in the lives of the people in our times.

#### Learning Objectives

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

- Declare that the Bible records the stories of God's people with whom God made a relationship
- Explain that the Bible teaches us of God's ways and commandments, and the people's response to God
- Express through creative work the various ways by which we can respond in our time



**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, journal, pens, a regular-sized shoe box and materials to decorate it like recycled wrapping paper, sequins, old buttons and/or other craft materials

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### ***Greeting Time***

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’ertake us, you never will forsake us,  
And with your help, O God, in life’s struggles we win.

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Dear God, may we be empowered as we study your Word. Guide us as we read the Bible every day so that it teaches us about You and how we can be Your people. May your empowering mercy be upon our teachers and to all of us. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

“We believe that the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness of God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history....”

#### ***Getting Ready***

- Have volunteers read aloud one at a time the following texts that declare God’s covenant to Bible characters. Let the learners read and internalize who the Bible characters are and their respective responses to God.
  - Genesis 6:18, 22, God’s covenant with Noah. (Noah obeyed.)
  - Exodus 19:5-8, God’s covenant with the Israelites. (The Israelites obeyed.)
  - 2 Samuel 23:3-5, God’s word with David. (David obeyed.)

#### ***Learning Time***

##### *Discovering the Biblical Truth*

- Have the students read the Biblical references.
- Encourage the participants to write on their journals or notebooks words or concepts from the Old Testament text that are important to them.
- Have them complete the two-column table below on the New Testament text by writing down the details on the right column about the main idea found in the left column.



<i>Main Ideas</i>	<i>Details</i>
The appearance of the star rising on the East	
The search for the newborn king	
The gifts of the wise men	
The departure of the wise men	

- Discuss the biblical texts. Ask these questions.
  - From the Isaiah text, what can you glean about God’s relationship with the people of that time?
  - What do you think the word “light” connotes in this text?
  - As you read these verses in Isaiah, what feelings do they conjure in you? What do you suppose was the intent of the writer of these passages for the people of that time?
  - Who are the characters of the story in Matthew? (Men from the East, King Herod, Jesus, Mary)
  - What did the magi from the East see? (The star of Jesus)
  - Why did the wise men follow the star? (To worship the promised king)
  - What was the reaction of King Herod upon hearing from the wise men? (He became upset and afraid.)
  - What gifts did the wise men bring? (Gold, frankincense and myrrh)
  - How did they return to their country and why? (By another road since God warned them through a dream)
  - Did the wise men follow their covenant with God?

*Lessons Learned*

- What are your thoughts on these Bible records of God’s covenant with the people and how they obeyed?
- Share with the learners the Biblical Background for today’s texts.

*Applying the Lessons Learned*

- Provide a regular-sized shoe box and have some volunteers decorate it. The class may call it the Commitment Box. Encourage the class to write in their journals what they think are the works and ways of God in our present life situation and ask them to write down in pieces of paper how they can respond to God’s manifestations and initiatives, which they can put in the Commitment Box.

**Closing Worship**

Memory Verse: Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

Offering



Closing Song "Break Now the Bread of Life" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 356)

Break now the bread of life, Savior to me,  
As you once broke the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page, I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.

Closing Prayer to be led by a student

### Baptism of the Lord

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*

January 13, 2019

## LESSON 34: THE HOLY BIBLE AND OUR FAITH AND WITNESS

**General Concept:** The Holy Bible illumines, guides, corrects and edifies believers in their faith and witness.

**Biblical References:** Luke 3:22; 2 Timothy 3:16

*List of Lectionary Readings for the Week:* Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### Age-Level Concepts

- The Bible gives light when we have questions about God and God's ways; guides us in our path towards a meaningful life; corrects us when we make mistakes and strengthens us in our faith and task of witnessing to others about God.
- We need to seriously read and study the Bible and be renewed in our life and commitment to serve God and people.

### Learning Objectives

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

- Describe how the Bible illumines us about God and God's ways
- Explain how the Bible guides us towards meaningful life
- Demonstrate practices showing seriousness in reading the Bible
- Express one's appreciation of the role of the Bible in our lives as we commit ourselves to serve God and people

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

### Suggested Lesson Outline

#### *Greeting Time*

Opening Hymn "From the Bible We Learn God's Will" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 355)

Refrain: From the Bible we learn God's will.

Give each other love, give each other love, give each other love. (Refrain)



Share the gifts of God, share the gifts of God, share the gifts of God. (Refrain)

Offer help to all, offer help to all, offer help to all. (Refrain)

Day by day forgive, day by day forgive, day by day forgive. (Refrain)

Come to God who waits, come to God who waits, come to God who waits. (Refrain)

Announcements and/or Birthday Greetings

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

Nurturing God, we lift our hearts to you as we acknowledge Your Presence with us today. Teach us the wisdom of Your Word that we may walk humbly with your people. This is our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Recite a portion of the UCCP Statement of Faith:

"We believe that the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness."

**Getting Ready**

- Have the class read, meditate and share their insights on the following passages:
  - *What do we mean by "faithful witness"?* It means that in spite of the fact that the Bible has been subjected to human frailties, it does not depart from the truth of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history.
  - *What do we mean by "inspired witness"?* It means that God's Spirit has worked in and through the whole process in the formation of the Bible. The storytellers, writers, compilers, editors, those who canonized, translators, and even interpreters of the Bible are all instruments of the Divine Spirit in making the truth of God's self-revelation alive then and now. And, we who seriously study the Bible should also be inspired by God's Spirit in order to understand and live out the Biblical message in our daily lives.

**Learning Time**

*Discovering the Biblical Truth*

- Have the class read the biblical references. Let the students paraphrase each verse the way they understand it.
  - Luke 3:22, *NRSV*. And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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- 2 Timothy 3:16, *NRSV*. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness....

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- Share with the learners the Biblical Background for today’s texts.

*Lessons Learned*

- Discuss the lesson by asking the following questions.
  - What is the significance of the story of Jesus’ baptism in the role of the Bible as light and guide towards a meaningful life?
  - What does Jesus’ baptism tell us about God?
  - How do you read the Bible? Share.
  - What do we mean by reading the Bible seriously? How can we do it?
  - Why is it important to study the Bible as we commit to serve God and people?

*Applying the Lessons Learned*

- Have the learners memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
- Have them complete the table below. As young people, how does the bible help you out in your daily lives?

<i>Bible Concern</i>	<i>Your Experience</i>
Teaching the truth	
Reproof, constructive criticism	
Correcting faults	
Giving instruction for right living	



***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.

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

WE BELIEVE

That the Church is the one Body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

WE BELIEVE

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness of God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...."

Offering

Closing Song "Wonderful Words of Life" (*Hymnal of a Faith Journey*, p. 358)

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the Bible. Thank you for your ever-present love and guidance as we strive to live lives of service to You and Your people. In Jesus' name, God Incarnate, we pray. Amen.

