

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 31, 2019

LESSON 45: GOD PROVIDES FOR OUR NEEDS AND WE ARE THANKFUL

General Concept: As a compassionate God, God provides for our basic needs, like food, shelter and unconditional love.

Biblical References: Joshua 5:11-12; Luke 15: 11-32

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Age-Level Concepts

- God provides for our needs through our own diligence and that of our elders.
- God's unconditional love is shared through our family, friends and community.
- We share God's blessing with others.
- We are ever grateful to God.

Learning Objectives

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

- Know how God provides for their needs
- Feel God's love through their family, friends and community
- Thank God for His unconditional love

Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, illustration board, scissors

Biblical Background

Joshua 5:11-12

Some 40 long years have passed and not much has changed to the life of the Israelites. The band of slaves who fled from Egypt are still trying to survive along Jordan River. It was most likely that the older Israelites have gone and died off in the desert and the new generation of Israelites were left in the hands of the new and young leaders, Caleb and Joshua. In the time of Joshua, the Israelites were still facing threats from enemies and their long-awaited entry to Canaan has been delayed yet again.

The generation of Israelites led by Joshua were far different from their predecessors. They were more faithful to Him and had decided to trust God, no matter what. Joshua himself declared that he would wholeheartedly serve God and follow God's instructions. This kind of faith was manifested upon their entrance in Jericho. While the residents of Jericho waited for the incoming onslaught from their conquerors, the Israelites, as instructed, held a Passover Feast, performed circumcision rituals, and built a monument to God. It was a demonstration of their gratitude to a God who continuously provided for their needs ever since they fled Egypt and wandered in the wilderness; to a God that would care for them even while they wait for the time where they can eat the produce from the Promised Land.

Our text in Joshua 5: 10-11 is a testament to God's unconditional love and faithfulness. God never stops to provide for the needs of His people. God sustains the people till the end of their journey until they can provide for themselves. But even so, the generation of Joshua acknowledged that even the fruits of their labor in Canaan was a manifestation of God's continuing participation in their lives. The Israelites

led by Joshua could do nothing but show their gratitude, faithfulness and obedience to their steadfast God.

Luke 15: 11-32

The collection of stories found only in the gospel of Luke tries to make us understand the intention and character of Jesus' message. On one hand, Jesus gives a harsh warning against those who think highly of themselves or those who see no need for God and refuse to pay the cost of following him. On the other, these are also stories that serve to showcase a God whose love is limitless, unconditional and willing to forgive those who choose to turn back to God.

The Parable of the Lost Son gives us a vivid picture of the character of God. God's love is not just for the righteous but it is also for the sinners. In fact, God's love always seeks the lost and rejoices when they are found. The writer is telling us that such kind of love is being proclaimed and demonstrated in Jesus. He was the perfect example of how God loves his creations. Jesus' life and ministry was a testimony to God's all-compassing and unconditional love. This is just only goes to show that to a faithful person, the task of spreading His word and love is not difficult to do since it was already done by a man named Jesus. It can happen and begin in our ordinary lives and can be manifested in whatever situations we may find ourselves.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Song "God Will Take Care of You" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 38

Be not dismayed whate'er be tide, God will take care of you,
Beneath God's wings of love abide, God will take care of you.

Refrain: God will take care of you, through every day o'er all the way
God will take care of you, God will take care of you.

All you may need God will provide, God will take care of you,
Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.

Opening Prayer

We hold dear in our hearts Your promise that You will always take care and provide for our needs. So we gather today to show our gratitude for everything You have done for us. May you be pleased with our praise and offerings. Abide in us as we study Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen..

Getting Ready

Give the learners a circle made out of illustration board. Tell the learners to write on the white portion of their circle the word "NEEDS" while, on the black portion, they must write the word "WANTS". This will be used later as the study progresses.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let someone read the biblical text in Joshua 5: 10-11. Ask the following questions for discussion:

1. What were the basic needs of the Israelites that God had provided for them?



2. How did God provide for their needs?
3. What affirmations about God can we draw out from the text?

Let someone read the biblical text in Luke 15: 11-32. Ask the following questions for discussion:

1. How did the situation in the story show the father’s unconditional love?
2. What affirmations about God can we draw out from the story?

Lessons Learned

NEED VS. WANT

The facilitator will mention a word or a phrase and they will ask the learners to distinguish whether it is a need or want. The learners may respond by using the circle given to them. They may show the white part if it is a “NEED” and black if it is a “WANT”. The following may be mentioned:

	NEED	WANT
Vegetables		
Fruits		
Shelter		
Clothes		
Shoes		
Water		
Rice		
Bags		
Cell phones		
Laptop		
Car		
Money		
Meat		
Fish		
Sound system		
Jewelries		
Cosmetics		
Air conditioning system		
Travel/vacation		
Health benefits		
Pension/mortuary benefits		

Based on their answers, let the learners define the word “NEED” and “WANT”.

DISCUSSION. Ask the learners the following:

1. Based on your experiences, what needs has God provided for you?
2. How did God provide for your needs?
3. How can we respond to God’s compassion and unconditional love?

Applying the Lessons Learned



Tell the learners to write on their circle affirmations related to the words “NEED” and “WANT”.

Example: “I thank God for providing for our needs through my family.”
“I will not spend my money on my wants only.”

Closing Activity

Offertory

Closing Song “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Saviour
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassion they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning, new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Closing Prayer

We can only praise and shout out words of gratitude for being faithful to us, O God, our Sustainer and Provider. You truly are a God of compassion and love because we never felt neglected and abandoned. Thank you for our family, for our friends in church, school and community; for surrounding us with people whom we can share our growth in wisdom and faith. Through them, we feel your abiding presence. For all these, we thank You in Jesus’ name, Amen..

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 7, 2019

LESSON 46: GOD DOES GREAT THINGS FOR US AND WE ARE THANKFUL

General Concept: We are thankful for the compassionate deeds God has done for His people.

Biblical References: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Age-Level Concepts

- God does compassionate deeds for His people.
- God forgives us for our sins.
- God saves us.
- We are repentant, thankful and hopeful

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify some of the compassionate deeds that God has done for God’s people
- Repent for their sins
- Express gratitude to God for their salvation and for all the compassionate deeds God has done



Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, paper cut-outs (butterfly), pieces of paper

Biblical Background

Isaiah 43:16-21

For much of Isaiah's life, he had witnessed and experienced Judah in its prime. Those who live in it pride themselves for being a strong and abundant nation. But, it was later prophesied by prophets that Judah would soon experience devastation and captivity in the hands of Babylon. Jerusalem, which was also considered as the center of the people's worship, now lies in ruins as well. The confident nation that Isaiah once knew suffered so much from the brunt of Babylon's might. Questions were raised as to why God allowed these things to happen; "How can God allow the 'throne of David' be trampled upon?" The people once again needed God's help.

Under these circumstances, the prophets during this period began to change the tone of their messages. We can notice that harsh warnings and predictions of judgments are now gone. Instead, messages of hope and comfort reverberate in their prophecies with the intention of bringing joy and comfort in times of suffering. It also tried to reassure and bring back the people's faith in God. Isaiah pointed three great hopes that would come to the life of the people of the captured people of Judah – three things that the people could look forward to. Firstly, the people will be freed from captivity through Cyrus, a ruler from the east, who will rise and set the Jews free to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. Secondly, the figure of a "servant" will come and suffer in order to rescue the whole world. Thirdly, the prophet looked beyond time to foretell of a time when "the Holy One of Israel" will establish a "new heaven and a new earth".

It is within this hopeful note that our biblical text was written, mentioning the great things that God intends to do for His people despite their unfaithfulness. It talks about a point in time where God will continue to participate in the lives of the people by doing great things so that the people may understand that God did not leave them to suffer but intends to bring them to a new life.

Psalm 126

It is believed that while almost half of the psalms are credited to David, many of the poems were written by other contributors, many of whom were anonymous. The psalms may reflect the varied personalities and experiences of the different writer, however, the poems, songs and prayers found in the book carry the same theme. Readers of the book may not notice that one psalm was written centuries older than another. Yet, one can appreciate the consistency of the theme in the whole book which is the never changing reality of a strong, loving and caring God.

Psalm 126 reflects a joyous declaration of grateful praise for the "great things" that God has done for the people. It reflects the experience and struggle of the people who dream of change in their lives. The psalm was written not by a person without faith but by someone whose joy and praises came not from the absence of problems in their lives but from a strong conviction that a great God can overcome them.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Greetings and Announcements



Opening Song “My God Is So Great”
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There’s nothing my God cannot do.
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty
There’s nothing my God cannot do.

Opening Prayer

We give you our praise, O Lord, for giving us this day for worship and study. Thank you for giving us the spirit of willingness to better understand and know You through the scripture and life experiences. Be with us today, we pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Getting Ready

Definition of Words.

Ask the learners to explain the following words in their own words:

- Compassion
- Great deeds
- Repent

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask two learners to read the biblical texts. Let the learners answer the following questions:

1. What were the great things that God intends to do to show His love towards the people as prophesied by Isaiah?
2. What attributes of God does the psalmist tries to affirm?
3. How did the people respond to God’s great deeds?

Lessons Learned

Picture Study. Show pictures to the learners and ask them to explain what they see.

- The Hebrews crossing the Red Sea
- God’s provision of manna and water
- People walking around the walls of Jericho
- People planting and harvesting in Canaan

Ask the following questions:

1. How can we say that God was compassionate towards the people?
2. How will you justify God’s great deeds despite the unfaithfulness and disobedience of His people?
3. What should people do to deserve God’s compassion?
4. How should people show gratitude for God’s great deeds?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Distribute pieces of butterfly cut-outs and paper to all the learners. Tell them to write which of God’s great deeds they are so thankful for on the butterfly. On the other piece of paper, tell them to write the things/ deed that they are repentant of. Instruct them to burn the piece of paper during the closing song while the butterfly cut-out will be posted on the board or on the wall of the study center.



Closing Activity

Offertory

Closing Song "Tribute"

How can I say thanks for the things you have done for us
Things so undeserved, yet You gave to prove Your love for us
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory
For the things God has done
With His blood He has saved us, with His power He has raised us
To God be the glory for the things God has done.

Closing Prayer

Accept our gratitude and praise for the great things You have done for us Lord. We may not deserve it but Your love and compassion towards Your people surpasses all human barriers. Empower us Lord to do great and compassionate deeds to others so that they may also understand and seek You as their God. In Jesus' name, Amen..

Liturgy of the Palms

April 14, 2019

Sixth Sunday in Lent

LESSON 47: GOD SAVES US AND WE ARE THANKFUL

General Concept: God loves us and saves us and we see this in the life of Jesus.

Biblical References: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Age-Level Concepts

- Jesus loves us all
- Jesus is our Savior

Learning Objectives

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

- Affirm that Jesus is their Savior and Companion
- Discuss the world's need for change and salvation
- Commit to being an agent of change

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

Biblical Background

Luke 19:28-40

Everything about Jesus and his ministry seems to come to an end as soon as he enters the city of Jerusalem. His last days offer a key to understanding his character and purpose. The last days of Jesus



include the triumphant scene of his entrance in Jerusalem as a king. People spread their cloaks on the road, praise God in loud voice, and said “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”, “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” The religious leaders like the Pharisees wanted to stop them but Jesus told the Pharisees; “If they keep quite the stones will cry.” The people proclaim who Jesus is. But against the tumultuous background, Jesus silently weeps because he is painfully aware of how hollow these praises are.

Luke records the last days of Jesus on Earth with his disciples and friends. It is full of emotional twists – from the triumph of entering Jerusalem to the painful betrayal of Judas to his capture; from his suffering and death in the hands of his enemies to his coming back to life.

Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem should be understood in the light of God’s bigger salvific design which Jesus had committed himself to fulfill. His manner of entry contradicts all expectations from that of an earthly king and savior just as God’s way of saving the people does not conform to human expectations and plan. As painful as it was, Jesus submitted himself, in faithful obedience, to God’s salvific work and will.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Greetings and Announcements

Opening Song “Ho-Ho-Ho-Hosanna!” (*Children Praise God*, p. 84)

Ho-ho-ho-hosanna, ha-ha-ha-halleluia
He-he-he-he saved me, I have the joy of the Lord.

Or

“Shout to the Lord!”

Opening Prayer

We remember that triumphant day when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. We give our praise to You, O God, for giving us Your Son so that we may have a new life. We celebrate your salvific work today in our lives through Jesus. May Your presence be our guide as we study. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Getting Ready

Tell the learners to find palm leaves, coconut leaves, cloaks, or cloth for today’s lesson.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Role Play. Ask someone to read the story found in Luke 19: 28-40. Assign a learner to act as Jesus, while the rest will play the role of the disciples and the people of Jerusalem. As the story is read, those assigned to different roles will act out the scenes/ events narrated.

Lessons Learned

Discussion. Ask the following questions for discussion:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to enter the city?



2. What were the different expectations that the people had when Jesus entered the city?
3. What is the significance of Jesus' entrance to the city to the salvific work of God?
4. What are the conditions of life that people have that they need to be saved from? Enumerate and explain.
5. What changes occurred in your life after accepting Jesus as Savior?
6. After having been saved and changed by Christ, did it have an impact or effect in the lives of the people around you? If so, what were these effects?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Tell the learners to write a letter of commitment to be an agent of change at home, in school, church, and community addressed to God.

Let the learners read their letter to the class.

Closing Activity

Offertory

Closing Song

“I Offer My Life”

All that I am. All that I have
I lay them down before you O Lord
All my regret, all my acclaim
The joy and the pain, I'm making them yours.

Chorus: Lord, I offer my life to You
Everything I've been through
Use it for your glory
Lord I offer my days to You
Lifting my praise to You
As a pleasing sacrifice
Lord, I offer you my life.

Things in the past, things yet unseen
Wishes and dreams that are yet to come true.
All of my hopes, all of my plans,

My heart and my hands are lifted to You. (Chorus)

Closing Prayer

We already received the most precious gift from You, Lord, through Jesus Christ. We are grateful that through Him, all of your creations are forgiven and brought closer to You. Disturb us when we become complacent, blind, and deaf to everything that is happening around us. May the new life we receive from You move us to seek change in our community and society as well. Use us, Lord, for the work of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.



WE BELIEVE

That the resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death, and continues to give assurance of life after death; we look forward to His coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's Kingdom. Amen.

Resurrection of the Lord

*Easter Day
April 21, 2019*

48. Topic Title: **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

General Concept: The ruling authorities nailed Jesus on the cross, but God raised him from the dead to demonstrate the power of God over the principalities and powers of the world.

Lectionary References: Acts 10:34-43; I Corinthians 15:20-26; John 20:1-18

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corinthians 15:20-26; John 20:1-18

Age-Level Concepts

- The ruling authorities had Jesus crucified.
- Jesus lives again and has overcome the power of death.
- God raised him from the dead to demonstrate the power of God over the principalities and powers of the world.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Explain in their own words their understanding of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Articulate the relevance of the resurrection of Jesus in the lives of believers today.
- Share their ideas of the resurrection to others.

Memory Verse: Acts 10:40 "God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen."

Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, cardboard or construction paper cut out into egg shapes, pen

Biblical Background

Acts 10:34-43

The Book of Acts is considered to be the bridge between the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the letters of Paul). One might ask, "By the way, who is Paul,?" or "How on earth did the story of Jesus reach Rome?" The Book of Acts puts everything into its place. It connects the stories of Jesus' life and works to how Christianity spread to big cities. The book talks about the works of the apostles and also introduces Paul to the scene of the movement. Jesus himself has given the clue as to how and where the good news will be spread by saying, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The Book of Acts followed said outline; the first seven chapters talk about



the churches in Jerusalem; the following five chapters talk about Judea and Samaria, and the rest of the book talks about the churches that were under Roman rule.

The biblical text mentioned a man named Peter. He was a formidable apostle whose ministry was documented in the 9th to 12th chapters. Here in this text, Peter was invited into the house of a Gentile. Peter tried to remind the Gentile that his presence is against the Law –an indication that Peter represents the conservative Jewish block that has turned Christian. But God showed him a vision that hinted that proclamation and witnessing should reach even the homes of the Gentiles, “not to call anything or any man impure.” Peter testified about the life and works of Jesus as well as about his death and resurrection. According to Peter, Jesus was God’s appointed as judge over the living and the dead.(10:42) The biblical account is telling us that raising Jesus from the dead is part of the God's grand plan, as seen by Peter in his vision. By reaching out to the uncircumcised or the Gentiles, it may also be understood that the message of Jesus' resurrection can also be made available to anyone who believes.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthian Christians to address the problems that confront their church. Most of the problems that Paul dealt with concern personal behavior of members in the church, except for one doctrinal concern. This issue raised questions within the church itself, some going as far as to challenge the church's belief on said subject. This controversial issue was Christianity's belief in life after death. According to some people, there is nothing beyond death but the end of life on earth. Paul saw that the issue of the resurrection poses a danger to the church if not addressed immediately, thus prompting him to write his letter.

1 Corinthians 15 is an attempt of the letter sender –Paul- to weave together the belief of Christians about death, resurrection, and life after death. Here, Paul emphasized that if there is no life after earthly death, then the whole crucifixion and resurrection testimonies about Jesus would go to waste; that the effort of the apostles as well as Paul’s ministry are wasted; that everything they preached is a lie. Paul tries to emphasize in his letter that Christ’s death and resurrection has overcome death and conquered the powers and trivialities of this world. Paul also reiterated in v.24 that Christ will first put his enemies under his feet – all dominion, authority and power. This is what the resurrection story is trying to achieve. It tries to tell us that death is not the end but a beginning to a different life with the resurrected Christ. It is in this belief that Christians were challenged by Paul to “stand firm “in their faith.

John 20:1-18

What makes John distinct from other gospel writers is that John is not interested in details and facts but had mostly focused his writing on the meaning of what Jesus had done and said. If we read John, we see a writer who seemed to have plenty of time to reflect upon the tales and stories of his teacher. John’s gospel accounts try to answer the question who Jesus is and what the reason of his existence is. He chose seven miracles in order to point to something or emphasize a message. These miracles are sometimes considered “signs” that point to an important meaning.

Jesus’ resurrection, as evidenced by the empty tomb, brought hope to the disciples including women who were the first to witness and testify to such an extraordinary event. This biblical account successfully explained who Jesus is- that he is the Son of God and that he came to save the world. His resurrection affirms that no earthly power or authority can contain or hold God’s power, even death itself.



In the book "Like A Mustard Seed", Professor Salvador D. Eduarte, a professor of Theology at St. Andrews Theological Seminary expressed in his article that, "a healthy view of death should make us realize that the Christian faith does not, on the one hand, deny the reality of death, but on the other hand, it does not see death as the final word on human existence. While realizing that death is a fact of life, we at the same time see in its harsh reality God's love and Divine Plan for mankind. Our historic Christian faith simply asserts that the resurrection of Jesus Christ has 'overcome the power of death, gives assurance of life after death' thus focusing on the meaning of the resurrection for our life today."

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Greet the learners as they enter the classroom.

Opening Song. "Alive, alive!"

Alive, alive, alive forevermore
My Jesus is alive, alive forevermore
Alive, alive, alive forevermore
My Jesus is alive forevermore
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
My Jesus is alive forevermore
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
My Jesus is alive.

Opening Prayer. Be with us, O' Lord, as you were with Your disciples. Teach us as you've taught your students. Touch us with Your word, just as You've touched many people's lives before. We come inspired by Your Presence and in the assurance that You are alive and always with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Getting Ready

Treasure Hunting. Divide the class into 2 groups. Ask each group to choose a leader. The teacher will then prepare two biblical texts for them to find and complete. Phrases or words will be hidden in each station and the clue as to where the next station is can be found along with it. Once a group finds a word/phrase, they need to form it or complete it to produce one biblical verse. The group who completes their verse first will be given a box with the prize inside it. The teacher should be the only one will give the participants their first word and their first clue.

Note: The teacher may mix up the words so that each group has to finish looking for the other hidden words before completing the verse.

Group 1: Acts 10:40 "God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen."

Group 2: John 20: 13 " ..they have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him"

Learning time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into 3 groups. Each group will be given a biblical text. Ask each group to read the text assigned to them within their group and answer the questions:

Group A: Acts 10:34-43

1. Why is Peter hesitant to go into the house of Cornelius?
2. What was Peter's vision and its meaning?



3. What did Peter share to the whole household of Cornelius?
4. What amazing event happened during Peter's visit to Cornelius?

Group B: I Corinthians 15:20-26

1. Why did Paul talk about the act of resurrection in his letter to the Corinthian Christians?
2. Why is it important to believe that Jesus rose from the dead?
3. According to Paul, what would happen at the end of time?

Group C: John 20:1-18.

1. What happened when Mary visited the tomb of Jesus?
2. How did Jesus appear to Mary?
3. Why do you think Jesus first appeared Mary before the disciples?

Lessons Learned

Ask the learners the questions:

1. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Why?
2. What is your definition of resurrection?
3. Why is it important to believe in the resurrection of Jesus?
4. What would you say to those who do not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead?

Applying the Lessons Learned

EGG-CHANGE. The teacher may prepare beforehand some egg-shaped cut outs. See to it that it is big enough so that learners have the space to write their statements on it. In class, distribute, the egg shaped cut outs and make them complete the sentence on their egg shaped cut outs.

For me, the resurrection of Jesus means _____.

I believe in the resurrection because _____.

After each learner has written down their responses, ask them to pass it to the person on their right and stop until the teacher stopped counting. The teacher may count up to 5 turns. The learners will keep the egg- shaped cut out they will receive.

Closing Activity

Offering

Recite the memory verse: Acts 10:40 "God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen."

Reading of Statement. Ask the learners to read what is written on the egg they received.

Closing Prayer

With Jesus who rose from the dead, we receive the assurance of a life that would be far different from what we are having right now – a life that is with God. We rejoice, O Lord,



in the knowledge that You are alive and you continue to be with us. Thank You God for this hope and assurance. In Jesus' name. Amen

Second Sunday of
Easter
April 28, 2019

49. Topic Title: Jesus Christ's Resurrection Overcomes the Power of Death

General Concept: The resurrection of Jesus has overcome death and gives strength and courage to believers to proclaim the gospel amidst adversities.

Lectionary References: Acts 5:27-42; Revelation 1:4-8

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Acts 5:27-42; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Age-Level Concepts

- Jesus' resurrection has overcome death.
- Our society has so many problems.
- The knowledge of Jesus' resurrection helps us face society's problems.
- Jesus' resurrection gives us strength and courage to help solve society's problems.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Discuss how the resurrection can help believers today.
- Explain what it means when we say "Jesus resurrection has overcome death".
- Express gratitude to God for giving believers strength and courage.

Memory Verse: Acts 5:39 "If it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men, you will only find yourself fighting against God."

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

Biblical Background

Acts 5:27-42

We may wonder how the disciples or apostles during the early church managed to have the courage and energy to make such a great influence. They were just a handful of determined believers whose commitment was beyond reproach. Despite the persecution, the apostles "never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (v.42).

The biblical text in Acts 5:27-42 tells us about the confrontation between the Jewish authorities and the disciples. They (the apostles) were brought to the Sanhedrin for a trial in relation to their continued preaching about the Jesus Christ and Christ's death, implicating the Jewish authorities. The Jewish authorities and even the members of the Sanhedrin wanted them hanged. Still, Peter stood firm in their conviction about Christ and was bold enough to face the consequence. Suddenly, somebody from the Jewish court intervened and argued to let them continue their work because if their task was to mainly fulfill a human agenda, it will surely fail. But if the apostles' work and mandate comes from God, nobody can stop them despite the persecution and threats to their lives. If the court were to execute them, the whole Jewish court will be against God's will and agenda.



At this point of the Church's story, as accounted in Acts, the apostles draw their vigor and steadfastness from the knowledge that Jesus, whom they believed as the Christ, is alive and has ascended to be with the Father. In his stead, the Holy Spirit was sent, as promised, to give them courage and strength to proclaim the good news. "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (v.42). Suffice to say, the very premise for the increase of believers and converts to Christianity is their belief in the resurrection of Christ to which the apostles are witnesses.

Revelation 1:4-8

John, known as the writer of Revelation could have written the book while imprisoned in a special prison in Patmos made by Rome for the enemies of the empire. It is believed that the book was written 60 years after Jesus left the earth. The book of Revelation is as mysterious as it is hard to understand. It is different in style from that of the gospels and letters because the writer uses coded language to protect the writer and the readers themselves from the Roman authorities. It is presumed that even during the writing of the book, persecution still persisted against believers of Christ. When criticizing Rome, the writer uses Babylon instead, should the writings will fall into wrong hands.

We also must appreciate the reason behind the writing of the book. Questions were raised as to when Jesus' return will be, where he went, and what he would do when he comes back. The book tries to address these issues seeing as people are getting anxious about their future.

The book of Revelation presented to the readers a unique picture of who Jesus Christ is as a mighty ruler of the cosmic forces of good, the one who overcomes the power of death. The Gospels described Jesus' life and works from four different perspectives while the letters of Paul explained and tell of the great significance of the resurrected Christ to the life of the church. We cannot say that Revelation provides the exact timetable for future events but it tells of Jesus' triumph not just over the power of death but over all forms of evil and sinfulness in the universe. From this belief, springs the hope needed by the believers.

The biblical text in Revelation 1:4-8 is an affirmation of the significance of Christ in the lives of the believers. The writer seems to assure the readers that the Christ of the apostles is the same as the One who is to come back in the future. The Christ who died and has risen from the dead is the same one who will free them from all evils; the same Christ who overcame the power of death is the same Christ who will defeat the powers of the present and future.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Greet the learners with a warm smile. The teacher may discuss with the students recent sad experiences, disappointments or anxieties.

Opening Song "And I Thank You Lord"
And I thank You Lord for the trials that come my way
In that way I can grow each day as I let You lead
And I thank You Lord, for the patience these trials bring
In the process of growing I can learn to care.

Chorus: But it goes against the way I am
To put my human nature down



And let the Spirit take control of all I do
'cause when those trials come my human nature
Shouts the things to do
And God's soft prompting can be easily ignored.

But I thank You Lord with each trial I feel inside
That You're there to help, lead and guide me away from wrong
'Cause You promised Lord that in every testing
Your way of escaping is easier to bear.

But I thank You Lord for the vic'try that growing brings
In surrender of everything, life is so worthwhile
And I thank You Lord that when everything's put in place
Out in front I can see Your face and it's there You belong,
Thank You Lord.

Opening Prayer: God of our forefathers and ancestors, we are here to share our stories and listen to stories of faith. We pray that we may be inspired by the faithfulness and the vigor of those who have truly witnessed your resurrection. Be with us today as You were with them before. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Getting Ready

"IT SHALL NOT PASS" (Game). Divide the class into 2 groups. One group will play as blockers while the other group will play as the ones to bring something towards the other end. Draw a line as to where that something has to be brought. That "something" could be a raw egg or something that can easily break. The "blockers" will try their hardest to prevent the "something" to reach the line, while the "bringers" will also try their hardest so that the "something" will reach its intended end. If the "something" is broken before it reaches the line, the 'blockers' will change roles and try to be the "bringers".

Process the game by asking:

- How do you feel when you could not let the 'something' pass through the blocks?
- What do you think is needed in order to successfully pass through the blocks?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

CREATIVE READING. Assign learners to the different characters in the biblical text found in Acts 5:27-42. Ask them to read it to the class loudly. After the creative reading, let the learners respond to the following questions:

1. What made the Jewish authorities hate the apostles?
2. What is it about Jesus that triggered the authorities to hunt the believers down?
3. How did the apostles escape the judgment of death from the Sanhedrin?



4. What do you think made the apostles and other believers continue to preach about Christ despite persecution?
5. What message would the resurrection of Jesus bring to the believers?

Lessons Learned

Ask the learners the following:

1. What situations can Christians or as members of UCCP, find themselves in that are similar to that of the early Christian believers?
2. What is the relevance of the resurrection story to the modern world where we are in?
3. What hope can the resurrection of Jesus give to the believers who are facing problems today?

Applying the Lessons Learned

TALK TO SOMEONE. Tell the learners: "As Christians, we believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is our hope as Christians. Think of someone with whom you want to share the message of resurrection with; someone whom you think does not believe that Jesus rose from the dead, and that his revival brings good news to all. How would you tell him or her about the message of the resurrection?"

Let each learner show to the class how and what they're going to say to that 'someone' that they have in mind.

Closing Activity

Offering

Recite the memory verse: *Acts 5:39* "If it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men, you will only find yourself fighting against God."

Closing Prayer

Our Most Powerful God, who raised Jesus from the dead, we express our gratitude for letting us hear the story of your people who, despite the threat of suffering and death, persisted in teaching and preaching the good news about Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the hope that was brought to us by that miraculous event. May you continue to move, inspire, and strengthen us as we continue also to do the tasks that you have prepared for us. In the name of our resurrected Christ, Amen.

Third Sunday of Easter

May 05, 2019

50. *Topic Title: Jesus Christ's Resurrection Gives Assurance of Life After Death*

General Concept: The resurrection of Jesus calls us to trust that God continues to journey with us in life, in death and beyond.

Biblical References: *John 6:41-58; 20:17-23; Matthew 25:31-46*

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19; Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)



Age-Level Concepts

- Jesus' resurrection gives us reason to trust that God will always be with us throughout our life, our death, and our life beyond death.
- Life after death is life with God in its fullness.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Describe what would life be like in that 'life after death'.
- Tell the significance of believing in 'life after death'.
- Express gratitude to God for the assurance of life after death.

Memory Verse: John 6: 40 "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, art materials, glue, cartolina/ manila paper/illustration board, markers

Biblical Background

John 6:41-58; 20:17-23

As we have already learned from the previous lessons, John, as a writer, is distinct from the other Gospel writers because he focuses more on the meaning and implication of events and words rather than the details and facts of the events, which the other gospel writers has successfully documented. We also learned that his choice of miracle stories to include in his gospel is intentional. John was trying to tell us that these miracles and stories are pointing to something – the coming of the Kingdom in and through Jesus Christ.

Our biblical text in John talks about Jesus teaching about the bread that fills the hungry. Jesus saw that the people are more concerned with witnessing acts of miracles but, at the same time, never seem to understand what these acts are trying to tell them. People are more concerned with filling their hungry stomachs rather than working to receive the bread that makes one never go hungry again. People are more awed at the miracles rather than the miracle worker just as we praise the beauty of creation but not the Creator. Thus, Jesus declared himself as the "bread of life" sent from heaven, and those who believe or feed from him will live forever.

Life even after death is a life with God, a life in His Kingdom – "for wherever I am, there you will be also". But this kind of life requires belief in the one "whom...sent the Bread"; he who believes in Him will have everlasting life. The meaning of the resurrection should be understood using the eyes of faith. Life after death is an assurance brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus has already exemplified what it is like living with God even before death. Therefore, the kind of life we wish to experience after death can already be experienced once we have affirmed our belief and faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:31-46

The book of Matthew is considered the book that links the Old Testament to the New Testament. Matthew tries to establish the link of the Messiah that is in the person of Jesus, to the patriarchy of the olden times, especially from the line of the kings. That is why, Matthew started his writings with tracing



the genealogy of Jesus to the family of David. Matthew is trying to establish the roots of Jesus if he is to be declared the Messiah. But later in his writings, Matthew presented Jesus as the Messiah that contrasted the traditional Jewish understanding of a Messiah. In Matthew, Jesus is truly the Messiah they waited for so long, but he has come to establish a different kind of kingdom – a kingdom that is exactly the opposite of how people normally view it. The Messiah that was sent by God is far different from the Messiah that the people expected.

Our biblical text talks about Jesus giving a parable that has something to do with the ‘returning or coming of the Son of Man’. The parable tells of the coming of the Son of Man on the day that judgment will befall all the righteous and the cursed presumed as the evil ones. The basis of the judgment that qualifies them for eternal life is not on what they know but on what they did to the least of their fellow human beings.

As always, the discussion on “life after death” is associated with the discussion of the “coming again of Christ”, “the judgment” and “the end of days”. These are referred to as “eschatological” discussions which are matters that have something to do with the future or end of time. But what happens in our last days or even after earthly death has something to do with what we are doing in our present time. The future is significantly connected with a human being’s present life and works. This means that our actions today has implications and consequences in the future or beyond death. What qualifies us to gain the life with God beyond death is our current actions towards others. This implies that to gain passage into God’s Kingdom or a life lived with God, one does not need to have a life filled with personal merit but a life celebrated with other human beings and the whole of creation.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Welcome all the learners with a warm smile.

Opening Song. “Whatever You Did to the Least of My Kinfolk”
(Tune: Whatever You Did to the Least of My Brethren)

Refrain: Whatever you did to the least of my kinfolk
You did it to the Lord of all lords.

He was standing by the highway, shivering under the rain
Clothes all tattered, teeth all a chatter, and I went away.
And I, what have I done? And I, what have I done? (refrain)

Father, in the cornfield, sweating under the sun
Farmer did the labor, rich man got the favor
And I just sat in my chair.
And I, what have I done? And I, what have I done? (refrain)

A mother in the river, washing Mister Big’s clothes
Hoping for the money for the coming baby
And I lay on my bed.
And I, what have I done? And I, what have I done? (refrain)

Sister in a restaurant, working for less than her worth



All for money, until midnight, and I kept sipping my drink.
And I, what have I done? And I, what have I done? (refrain)

Brother in the jailhouse, waiting for his trial to begin.
Three years in prison without any reason
And I kept reading my book.
And I, what have I done? And I what have I done? (refrain)

“I Am the Resurrection”
I am the resurrection and the life
He who believes in me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
He who believes in me will have a new life.

1. I have come to bring the truth;
I have come to bring you life
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.
2. In my world all people come to know
It is love that makes the spirit grow
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.
3. Keep in mind the things I have said
Remember me in the breaking of the bread
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.

Opening Prayer: We come again in this place, O' Lord, hoping to find You in the lives of our friends, classmates and teacher. You said you will be with us always. So, we thank you for Your Presence in us. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

Getting Ready

ROUND SONG. Let the learners sing the refrain of the song “Whatever You Did to the Least of My Kinfolk” while passing the ball. At the last word or note of the song, the one who holds the ball will complete the sentence, “This week or last week or yesterday, I helped my friend_____.” Then sing again and pass the ball until all students have shared what good deed they have done to others.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask two learners to read the biblical texts. The teacher may read the Background Notes for the Teacher to the class. S/he may summarize the discussion by providing the following highlights:

- Life even after death is a life with God, a life in the Kingdom
- The meaning of the resurrection should be understood in the eyes of faith. Life after death is an assurance brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



- Therefore, the kind of life we wish to experience after death can already be experienced once we have affirmed our belief and faith in Jesus Christ.
- The basis of the judgment that qualifies people to eternal life is not on what they know but on what they did to the least of their fellow human being.
- This means that our actions today have implications and consequences in the future or beyond death. What qualifies us to gain the life with God even beyond death is our current actions towards others.

Lessons Learned

Divide the class into small groups. Ask the groups to fill in the chart provided them. Let them describe what is life like in the “life after death”, vis a vis “life in the Kingdom of God”.

LIFE AFTER DEATH	LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD
Example: 1. No more hunger	Example: 1. No more hunger

Ask the learners:

- What thoughts came to your mind after filling the chart? Share your thoughts to the class.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Poster Making. Tell the learners to mount or draw their understanding of ‘life after death’ and create a poster out of it.

Closing Activity

Offering

Recite the memory verse: John 6: 40 “For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Closing Prayer



We thank you God for the assurance that even beyond death, we will experience a life with You – a life with no fear, no suffering and even death. Thank You for raising Jesus from the dead for it tells us that You intend to be with us in our journey in life, in death and beyond. Always empower us to serve the least among Your people so You may find us worthy of the life prepared for us at your side. In Jesus name, this we believe and pray. Amen.

**Fourth Sunday of
Easter**
May 12, 2019

51. Topic Title: We Look Forward to Jesus Christ's Coming Again

General Concept: We await Jesus Christ's return with anticipation and hope while continuing to serve Christ by serving others: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, visiting the prisoners.

Biblical References: Matthew 24; Revelation 22: 12-14

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30; Revelation 7:9-17

Age- Level Concepts

- Jesus promised that he will come again.
- While waiting for his coming again, we continue to serve him by serving others.
- We will feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoners.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Express their belief on Christ's coming again.
- Propose what to do while waiting for the coming of Christ.

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:34 "Wait for the Lord and keep His way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, bond paper, permanent markers

Biblical Background

Matthew 24

The gospel writer in the book of Matthew tries to establish the identity and credibility of Jesus as Messiah. Matthew traced the lineage of Jesus back to the line of David implying that Jesus, as the Messiah, is God's anointed and chosen one who has come to save the people and the world. But Jesus as the Messiah will clothe himself as a suffering servant who serves the poor, dines with sinners, heals the sick and gives forgiveness to those who are repentant. Jesus as the Messiah exemplified obedience to God all the way from the cross, to his resurrection and to his promise to return for his believers.

Matthew 24 records the longest statement about the coming days. Here in this text, Jesus gave clues as to what will happen to the earth before he comes back – many will claim that there will be rumors of war between nations, famine and earthquakes, and false prophets performing miracles to deceive believers.



Jesus reiterated that these will come to pass and God's word will remain. Yet, Jesus also gives a warning to everyone that nobody can tell the exact time of his coming. Instead, he reminded the people to prepare for the coming end.

Matthew 24 serves as a prologue to the parables told by Jesus that talk about the end of time. While preparing for the coming end of time, believers are reminded to do what is right and pleasing to God which to serve the least of God's people, meaning that one should continue feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and setting the captives free.

Revelation 22: 12-14

These last two chapters of the Revelation contains parallels situations in the Garden of Eden as accounted for in the beginning chapters of Genesis. Revelation 21-22 shows how the Garden will be restored, and how things have spoilt the Garden will vanish.

Our biblical text in chapter 22:12-14 is an affirmation by the writer, presumed as John that Jesus is coming. When Jesus comes again, everyone will be judged according to their deeds. Those who are found righteous will have the privilege to enter the city gates of the New Jerusalem, and the right to the tree of life in the restored Garden of Eden. The words of the writer bear warnings and reminders to believers to always choose a holy and righteous life.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Welcome the learners to the class with a warm smile.

Opening song

"I Am the Resurrection"

I am the resurrection and the life
He who believes in me will never die
I am the resurrection and the life
He who believes in me will have a new life.

4. I have come to bring the truth;
I have come to bring you life
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.
5. In my world all people come to know
It is love that makes the spirit grow
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.
6. Keep in mind the things I have said
Remember me in the breaking of the bread
If you (yes you) believe (I do), then you shall live.

Opening Prayer: Spirit of the Living God, we ask that Your Presence be felt within us and among us as we continue to learn Your ways and Word. Always give us open hearts and minds so that whatever lesson we may learn today will have meaning to our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Getting Ready

MESSAGE RELAY. Divide the class into three groups. Each group must have an equal number of members. Let them line up with their hands stretched in front of



them or placed on the shoulders of the person in front of them. The first person in the line will receive the message first, pass it to the member next in line, until the last person receives the message and will run forward to report it back to the teacher. The first group to get the message correctly scores.

Messages:

1. "Yes, I am coming soon."
2. "I will give everyone according to what he has done."
3. "Wait for the Lord and keep his way..."
4. "My reward is with me."
5. "I am the alpha and the Omega"

Ask the learners: "Whose messages are we relaying?"

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into two groups. Assign to each group a biblical text. Let each group fill the chart provided for them.

What will happen when Jesus comes again? (Matthew 24)	What will happen when Jesus comes again? (Revelation 22)
1. Hear rumors of war	1. No more curse

Lessons Learned

Ask the learners the following questions:

1. What is our biblical texts trying to tell us?
2. What are the warnings and reminders that all believers should take heed of?
3. What should believers do before Jesus comes back?
4. Do you believe that Jesus is coming back?

Applying the Lessons Learned

On a meta card or piece of paper cut lengthwise, ask the learners to write down their response to the question: "What are we going to do while waiting for the coming of Jesus?"

Ex:

Help those in need

Visit the sick



Closing Activity

Offering. Tell the learners to bring their offerings to the offering plate placed at the center of the room.

Recite the memory verse: Psalm 37:34 “Wait for the Lord and keep His way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Closing Prayer

Accept our offerings, O' God. With gratitude we bring this symbol of thanksgiving for the promise that You are coming again. While waiting for that time, teach us of Your ways and Word so that we may not be deceived or lost. Empower us with Your Living Spirit so that we may continue to do what is right and holy before you come back. Teach us to wait. In Jesus name, Amen.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 19, 2019

52. Topic Title: Jesus Christ Will Come Again in All Fullness

General Concept: All creation awaits the return of Jesus Christ in all fullness, the Alpha and the Omega, who will come to make everything new for all God's children who have love for one another.

Lectionary References: Revelation 21:5-7; John 14:23-29

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:5-7; John 13:31-35

Age- Level Concepts

- Jesus Christ will come again, and we wait with hope.
- Jesus is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega.
- When Jesus Christ comes, he will dwell with us, who are God's children.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Explain the virtue of waiting based on their experiences.
- Express their expectations of Jesus Christ's return.
- Thank God for the coming of Jesus and that there is hope in waiting.

Memory Verse: Revelations 21: 6 “He said to me, “It is done. I am the alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty, I will give to drink water without cost from the spring of water of life. (NIV)

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

Biblical Background

Revelation 21:5-7



The book of Revelation is said to have been written by a writer who is imprisoned. He is believed to have written the book of Revelation 60 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. More so, it is also believed that persecution against Christians is still widespread during the time the book in which the book is written. Therefore, to prevent further suffering from the hands of the Roman authorities, the writings of this book are full of symbolism and codes. The writings may reflect the on-going movement to suppress the Christian movement or they tell of events that that are to come, to which the writer refers to as signs of the coming of Jesus or the coming of the end of days. The writings are supposed to give hope to Christians who are afraid and are hiding for their lives, and yet, continue to proclaim Jesus as the Christ.

The biblical text in Revelation 21 is an affirmation of who God is for Jesus Christ. The God who created the heavens and the earth will be the same God who will restore creation to its full glory. The God that was acknowledged in the beginning will be the same God who will be recognized and glorified in the end. This means that no matter what happens after creation of and before the end of the world, God was, is and will be there. Our hope lies in the promise that God will be there in the end, and that we are to live a life with God – God in us and with us.

John 14:23-29

We already learned from the previous lessons that what makes John distinct from other gospel writers is that he is not interested in details and facts but focused his writing on the meaning of what Jesus had done and said. If we read John, we see a writer who seemed to have plenty of time to reflect upon the tales and stories of his teacher. John's gospel accounts try to answer the question who Jesus is and what the reason of his existence is. He chose seven miracles in order to point to something or emphasize a message. These miracles are sometimes considered "signs" that point to an important meaning.

The story in the text tells us about Jesus having a dinner with his disciples. After a time, Jesus had warned them about his coming suffering and death to which the disciples have different reactions. Jesus told the disciples that he is going away and that when he comes back, they who believe in him will be with him. Jesus even further explained that these things are only revealed to those who loved and obeyed him. Jesus was not making the story up but everything came from God.

John is telling us that believers should expect and wait for Jesus' coming with faith and obedience. Everything has been revealed and the way to God has already been made clear to us. Believers should not falter in their faith but must wait with hope because God intended from the very beginning to dwell among his children – his people.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Welcome the learners with a warm smile. Tell the first two learners about the game the class is going to play later. The two of them will be placed into separate groups. They are going to make excuses to delay the game until such time that the members will give up and lose their patience in waiting.

Opening Song "They That Wait Upon the Lord"
They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength
They shall mount up their wings like eagle
They shall run and not be weary



They shall walk and not faint
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait.

“Give Me Oil In My Lamp”

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray. Alleluia
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Ref. Come on and sing hosanna, sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King of kings,
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to the King!

Give me faith that endures while waiting
Give me faith that endures I pray
Give me faith that endures while waiting
While waiting for that glorious day.

Opening Prayer

We are filled with life and joy, Lord, as we gather today in Your name. Continue to dwell in us as we continue to understand and study Your Word. May You find us worthy to call You our God and ask anything in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Getting Ready. Tell the class that you are going to play a game. Divide them into two groups. Tell them that the group cannot proceed if they are incomplete. All members should be in to start the game. Hint at the two early comers to make excuses and delay the game. The clue should already be decided before the class starts. When the excitement of the groups died down, the teacher may then cancel the game.

Process the game by asking the following:

1. What are your expectations from the game?
2. How did you feel when the game was canceled?
3. What are the reasons that you think have contributed to the failure of the game?
4. Do you have other experiences wherein you waited hopefully for a long time but was still disappointed at the end? Let the learners share their experiences.
5. What does the virtue of waiting require?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the learners read the biblical texts. Ask learners to read them aloud while others read their Bible silently. After the reading, ask the following questions:

1. What are the biblical texts telling us about God?
2. Based on the texts, what is expected to happen when Jesus comes again?



3. Why do you think it is worthy to wait for Jesus' coming?
4. What do you think Christian believers should value the most while waiting for Jesus' coming?

Lessons Learned

Ask someone to act as Jesus. Let him sit in front of the class or in the middle of the room. Let each of the learner respond to the question: "If Jesus comes today and is here with us in this room, what would you like to say to him?"

Let each learner go near the learner acting as Jesus and say whatever he wants to say to him. Process the response of the learners after all have come forward and said their piece.

Applying the Lessons Learned

SONG WRITING. Tell the learners to add a stanza to the song, "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" based on what they've learned from the lesson.

Closing Activity

Offering. After placing their offering to the plate, let the learners form a circle. Then ask them to sing the song "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" including the stanza they've composed.

Recite the memory verse: Revelations 21: 6 "He said to me, "It is done. I am the alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty, I will give to drink water without cost from the spring of water of life. (NIV)

Closing Prayer. Ask somebody to say the closing prayer. Everybody will respond "Amen".

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 26, 2019

53. *Topic Title:* **Jesus Christ Will Come Again in Glory**

General Concept: *God is glorified in Christ and Christ in God; God's rule of peace will be welcomed by all peoples when Christ comes again, making a home with them, God's children.*

Biblical References: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 67

List of Lectionary Readings for the week: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29

Age-Level Concepts

- God is glorified in Christ and Christ in God when Christ ascended into heaven.
- All people will welcome Christ when He comes again.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Explain in their own words what 'glory' or 'being glorified' means.
- Tell of ways how they can glorify God.
- Show how they will welcome Christ when he comes back.



Memory Verse: Acts 1:11 "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

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

Biblical Background

Acts 1:1-11

The Book of Acts is considered to be the bridge between the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the letters of Paul). One might ask, "By the way, who is Paul,?" or "How on earth did the story of Jesus reach Rome?" The Book of Acts puts everything into its place. It connects the stories of Jesus' life and works to how Christianity spread to big cities. The book talks about the works of the apostles and also introduces Paul to the scene of the movement. Jesus himself has given the clue as to how and where the good news will be spread by saying, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." The Book of Acts followed said outline; the first seven chapters talk about the churches in Jerusalem; the following five chapters talk about Judea and Samaria, and the rest of the book talks about the churches that were under Roman rule.

The beginning chapter of Acts seemed to be addressed to a single person named Theophilus who is most probably a student or a convert to Christianity. The writer talks about Jesus' ministry and the concluding days of Jesus which bears great significance to all believers. The writer particularly mentioned Jesus' resurrection and the instances wherein he appeared to other people before his disciples and before he ascended to heaven. The account specifically mentioned about the disciples' reaction to the glorious moment when Jesus was taken up to heaven; "they were looking intently up to the sky" and, later, received the wonderful news that Jesus will come back in the same manner as he had been taken – people will gaze upon with awe and with great reverence the One whom God has sent and with whom God's name is glorified. Jesus' complete obedience to God's plan has glorified God. Thus, he ascended in heaven in God's glory and will come back the same.

Psalm 67

This psalm is an affirmation of God's majestic reign over all nations. The psalmist has clearly pictured out in his song the manner by which all nations should exalt the name of the Lord. He tells how people should express their awe and gratitude to God who reigns over all powers of the earth. Only God deserves such exaltation and praise. Such glory should be attributed only to the God present since the beginning of the world. The psalm is affirming that the name of the Lord should not only be glorified in the end times but in every moment of the peoples' lives.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Make today very special for the class. The teacher may prepare something; a cut-out heart or a DO-IT-YOURSELF flower or anything the teacher may find easy to prepare. As each learner enters the classroom, give each of them a piece of that 'something'. Observe how they react to it.

Opening Song: "Be Glorified"
In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified



In my life Lord, be glorified today.

In our words Lord, be glorified, be glorified
In our words Lord, be glorified today.

In our works Lord, be glorified, be glorified
In our works Lord, be glorified today.

In our church Lord, be glorified, be glorified
In our church Lord, be glorified today.

Opening Prayer

We thank You Lord for the blessings we received today. Thank you for our family, our friends and all things around us that make our lives meaningful. Continue to be with us today as we continue to understand and know You as our God. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen

Getting Ready. Ask the learners how they've felt upon entering the classroom and receiving the 'something'. Their responses may vary but they must understand that what happened has something to do with the lesson today.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into two groups. Assign to each group a biblical text. Ask each group to choose a representative to draw their lot to see how they are going to present their assigned biblical text. The teacher may write on a piece of paper these choices: news reporting, advertisement, pantomime, or skit.

Lessons Learned

After the presentation, process the activity by asking the following:

1. How well do you think was Jesus received as he ascended to heaven?
2. How did the people react or respond to such event?
3. What do you think will be the manner of Jesus' coming?
4. If Christ is in us, how can we glorify God?

Applying Lessons Learned

Show and Tell. Using the same group, tell them to present, as young people, what they can do to glorify God. They may show it through a pantomime then explain later to the class.

Closing Activity

Offering



Recite the memory verse: Acts 1:11 “ This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

Closing Prayer

May our words, thoughts and actions be pleasing in Your eyes, Lord. May our life as young people can glorify You and make us worthy of Your Kingdom. Teach us through Your empowering Spirit to live a life of service and commitment to the least of the people whom You love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Seventh Sunday of
Easter
June 02,2019

54. *Topic Title: Jesus Christ Will Come Again to Make All Creation New*

General Concept: Christ will make all creation totally and completely new; we are called to participate in this task of making all things new.

Biblical References Romans 8:19-22, Revelations 21: 1-8

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26

Age-Level Concepts

- When Christ comes back, he will make all creation totally and completely new.
- We are called to help make all creation new.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Enumerate examples or situations that convey how creation is groaning or suffering.
- Cite ways on how young people can participate in making the whole of creation anew.
- Express their commitment to help in making the whole of creation anew.

Memory Verse: Revelations 21:5 “He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new.”

Materials Needed: The Holy Bible (preferably use the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, meta cards. Bible, markers

Biblical Background

Revelations 21: 1-8

The book of Revelation is said to have been written by a writer who is imprisoned. He is believed to have written the book of Revelation 60 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. More so, it is also believed that persecution against Christians is still widespread during the time the book is written. Therefore, to prevent further suffering from the hands of the Roman authorities, the writings of this book are full of symbolism and codes. The writings may reflect the on-going movement to suppress the Christian movement or they tell of events that are to come, to which the writer refers to as signs of the coming of Jesus or the coming of the end of days. The writings are supposed to give hope to Christians who are afraid and are hiding for their lives, and yet, continue to proclaim Jesus as the Christ.



The biblical text in Revelation 21 is an affirmation of who God is for Jesus Christ. The God who created the heavens and the earth will be the same God who will restore creation to its full glory. The God that was acknowledged in the beginning will be the same God who will be recognized and glorified in the end. This means that no matter what happens after creation of and before the end of the world, God was, is and will be there. Newness, as mentioned in the text, does not imply that things are only being brought into being now. It could mean that the “old heaven and old earth but having a new character, new aspect, and being adopted to a new end” (Holy Bible Expositors Commentary).

Romans 8:19-22

The purpose of Paul in writing this epistle is to address the problem that confronts the church. Paul emphasized in his letter that there is no distinction between the Jewish convert and the Gentile convert and that one gains more favor than the other. The Jewish Christians tried to shut out the Gentiles from any share in the blessing of salvation brought by Christ.

The particular passage in chapter 8:19-22 tries to explain that the sufferings of the saints will not last. These are only light afflictions. In fact, Paul explains that they are not alone in their sufferings for even creation itself is groaning and is waiting to be freed. As humans fall into sin, creation suffers. There is abuse, deformity, and infirmity of creation because of human sinfulness. Yet, there is hope that awaits creation. God will deliver it from its bondage from the sinful hands of human beings when Christ comes.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Welcome the learners with a warm smile as they enter the classroom.

Opening Song

“In His Time”

In his time, in his time
He makes all things beautiful
In his time.
Lord please show me every day,
As you’re teaching me Your way,
That you do just what You say,
In Your time.

In Your time, in Your time
You make all things beautiful
In Your time.
Lord, my life to you I bring,
May each song I have to sing,
Be to you a lovely thing,
In Your time.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, open our hearts and our minds as we ponder upon Your word today. Renew our eagerness to study that we may grow pleasing in Your sight. Bless each one of us present in this place, in Jesus’ name, Amen

Getting Ready



WHAT DOES IT SAY? The teacher needs to prepare this beforehand. Tell the learners to arrange the scrambled letters posted on the wall and say aloud what it says.



Clue: this declaration is found in Revelations 21:5

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group a biblical text. Tell the learners to underline or to pick phrases or words that talk about creation and about God as the Creator.

Example: creation is groaning; creation will be liberated

Ask the following:

1. What is this phrase trying to say to us?
2. Who is God based on the biblical text read?

Lessons Learned

Ask the learners the following:

1. What are concrete examples or situations that young people can see around us that tell us that creation is suffering?
2. What is the role or part of human beings in the suffering of creation?
3. What does the biblical text mean when it said "God will make all things new"?
4. What should human beings do to save creation?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Tell the learners to go back to their small groups and ask them to cite ways on how can young people of today can help in making creation new. Let them write it down and share it to the class.

Closing Activity

Offering

Recite the memory verse: Revelations 21:5 "He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new."

SENTENCE PRAYER

Let the learners finish this sentence prayer.

"Lord of Creation, I offer my _____ to help in the work of making Your creation new."

June 09, 2019

55. Topic Title: Jesus Christ Will Come Again to Gather All The Faithful Under God's Kingdom

General Concept: All who believe will be gathered together and the Holy Spirit will abide with them in God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice, as they do all that Jesus commanded them.

Lectionary References: John 14:18-20, Revelation 21: 1-4

List of Lectionary Readings for the Week: Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, 25-27

Age- Level Concepts

- All who believe in God will be gathered together as a community.
- The Holy Spirit will be with us in God's Kingdom of love, peace and justice.
- We commit to follow Jesus.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, the learners will be able to:

- Act out the passage in the Bible about Jesus coming again.
- Express their commitment to following Jesus.

Memory Verse: Revelation 21: 3 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look, God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be his people and God will be with them and be their God."

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

Biblical Background

Revelation 21: 1-4

As we have already discussed from the previous lessons, the book of Revelation is said to have written by a writer who is imprisoned. He is believed to have written the book of Revelation 60 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. More so, it is also believed that persecution against Christians is still widespread during the time the book in which the book is written. Therefore, to prevent further suffering from the hands of the Roman authorities, the writings of this book are full of symbolism and codes. The writings may reflect the on-going movement to suppress the Christian movement or they tell of events that that are to come, to which the writer refers to as signs of the coming of Jesus or the coming of the end of days. The writings are supposed to give hope to Christians who are afraid and are hiding for their lives, and yet, continue to proclaim Jesus as the Christ.

The new heaven and the new earth will not be separate from each other. The old world with all its sufferings and afflictions will pass away. Everything will be perfect and there will be no more earthly disruptions or conflicts that will divide or break the community of believers. The presence of God among and with his people will also not be interrupted by earthly concerns. God will be with the people for eternity. The people gathered in God's kingdom will be judged according to what they have done and have not done. The faithful will no longer remember any signs of sorrow from the past. God will make all things new. God's dwelling is with the faithful gathered in his name and glory.



John 14:18-20

In this biblical passages, Jesus talked with his disciples before he ascended to heaven. Jesus sensed the anxiety of the disciples when he made mention of his going away. The passages gives the disciples and other believers reassurance that even if Jesus is away, he will continue to care for them. On the other hand, Jesus reminded them that the surest evidence of their love for him is their obedience to Christ. If there is love, tasks will be performed in obedience. Jesus declared that he will come again and in that time, he will take pleasure in loving the faithful and will dwell with them. God will make the people his home. Such privileges will be experienced only by those who keep his teachings close to their hearts and will commit to follow him, his way of life, and his works.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time. Greet the learners as they enter the class.

Opening Song “Jesus Is In Me”
Jesus is in me and Jesus is in you
Jesus is in us for he loves us
Jesus is in me and Jesus is in you
Jesus is in us for he loves us.

Oh, therefore we should be one
Love another as he loves us
Oh, therefore we should be one
Love one another as he loves us.

Opening Prayer

Today, we come as Your children whom You have called for a purpose. May we feel Your presence Lord as You have promised to Your disciples. Send us the Comforter as we learn more about Your life and work. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Getting Ready

THE BOAT IS SINKING. (Game)

Form a circle. Instruct the students that when the teacher shouts “the boat is sinking. Group yourselves into 6” or “group yourselves according to your age”, the learners will follow and group themselves according to what was being asked by the teacher. Those who will fail in following instruction will be out of the game.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth.

The teacher may read the texts to the class. After reading, the teacher may ask the questions:

1. What will happen to the people when Jesus comes again?
2. What is the reassurance given to the disciples that proves Jesus is telling the truth?
3. Where will we find God when Jesus comes again?



Lessons Learned

CREATIVE PRESENTATION. Divide the group into two. Tell the groups to give a creative presentation –skit, drawing, song, dance or any other art form that would picture out what will happen to God and the people when Jesus comes again.

Applying the Lessons Learned

LETTER OF COMMITMENT. Let the learners write their commitment to follow and obey Christ until he comes again in a letter. Tell them to offer their letters of commitment during offertory.

Closing Activity

Offering. Tell the learners to offer their letters of commitment together with their offerings.

Recite the memory verse: Revelation 21:3 “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look, God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be his people and God will be with them and be their God.”

Closing Prayer

The teacher may take 2 or 3 letters of commitment and read it aloud to the class. It will serve as the closing prayer of the session.

