

LESSONS ON THE UCCP VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

A Sunday School Guide for Older Elementary

Lesson 1: The Church as the People of God

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2019

General Concept: The Church is the people called and chosen by God.

Biblical References: Galatians 3: 26-28

Key Verse: For in Christ you are all sons of God through faith. Galatians 3: 26

Age-Level Concepts

- We all belong to God.
- We are the Church.
- God calls and chooses people for a purpose.

Learning Objectives

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

- Verbalize their understanding of the Church
- Give examples or ways God calls and chooses people
- Thank God for being part of the people being called and chosen

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Paper, Pen, Pictures of church buildings, people worshipping outside the church, church activities inside and outside the church, Manila Paper or Poster Paper, Pentel Pen.

Biblical Background

Galatians 3:26-28

This text refers to the great privilege of everyone given by Christ, through his life; a great and exceptional privilege that real Christians enjoy under the gospel. It is a real privilege for us to be called children of God and no longer servants. Since the coming of Christ, all believers are united with Christ and are called God's children, regardless of race, social status, gender or law. When Jesus came, those who trusted him were forgiven and were put right with God. Instead of being like children under a guardian (law), we now enjoy the freedom for full-grown (mature) children of God. We belong to God, regardless of our status and God has given us the privilege; admitted us unto the fold as rightful children under God's reign.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

United Church of Christ in the Philippines

Older Elementary

Greet the children upon arrival. Let them participate in all the preparations and give them time to greet their co-learners. Encourage interaction among them in whatever ways.

Opening Prayer (*by a learner*)

Getting Ready

Introduce the lesson by showing the learners several pictures and let them identify one at a time.

Show to them pictures of church buildings, pictures of church people meeting at the house or garage or in other places and pictures of church members doing different church works or activities.

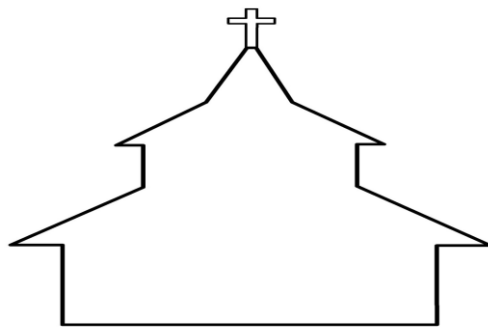
Learning Time

Activity

In a large poster paper or Manila paper, the teacher will draw a big outline of a house and a church building. So big, that the outline went at the edge of the large paper.

Group the learners into two: The first group will work on the outline of a house. Let them draw their families and their families' activities inside the outline.

The second group works on the church building outline. They will also draw inside the outline the people in their church, as well as their activities inside the church.



After the group work, ask the learners to discuss about their work. Let them explain their drawings. After the discussion, the teacher will cut away the outline edges, first of the house. Ask the children whether the family is still called a family even without the house?

When they go to mall together, are they still family? When they eat at the restaurant together, are they still family?

The same is true with the church outline. Cut away the church building and ask them the same questions as that with the family. If the church went to a congregational outing, are they still the church? If they go to a certain place to conduct bible study, or feeding program, are they still the church?

Therefore, let the children know that the church is not a building but the people. Even without a building, they can still be called a church, as long as the people are doing and carrying out God's work.

What is the meaning of the church? Who comprises the church?

Meaning: ekklesia (greek word) meaning = an assembly; the whole body of the redeemed, Christians, assembled together for religious worship.

A Church is a community of believers called and chosen by God

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let them read the biblical text, Galatians 3: 26-28. Group the learners into 3 groups and assign each group a verse for them to study. Ask them to take note on the following:

Words they want to know or understand more

- Questions they want to ask and clarify
- New insights or lessons they learned
- Come up with a 1line statement or a slogan or a call, as members of God's church

Lessons Learned

Let them share their thoughts into the big group and present their statement or slogan or call.

This statement/slogan/call will serve as their affirmation as members of God's called and chosen people.

After the discussion and presentation, let them learn the song "I Am the Church." Let the teacher explain the message of the song for additional input about being a Church.

Chorus:

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together

All who follow Jesus, all around the world.

Yes, we're the church, together.

The Church is not a building; the Church is not a steeple.

The Church is not a resting place, the Church is a people.

(Repeat Chorus)

(While singing, encourage the learners to do the action, by acting out the lyrics of the song)

Applying the Lessons Learned

Ask the learners to write their personal commitment as members of the church, based on the discussion above. How can they help in the church as a member?

Assignment: Request the learners to ask their parents or other adults about the history of their church. How did the church grow, develop and sustain its ministry? Bring pictures, if any, about their church.

Closing Worship

Statement of Commitment

Let the children complete the sentence: "I commit myself for God's ministry through

_____."
Offertory and Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer (Be thankful to God for being part of God's Church; the body of Christ)

Lesson 2: **The Church as an Organic and Dynamic Movement**

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 2019

General Concept: The Church has life: growing, developing and evolving.

Biblical References: Psalms 42: 1-2; Ephesians 4: 14-16

Key Verse: *I thirst for God, for the Living God. I say, "when will I be able to go and appear in God's presence?"* Psalms 42: 2

Age-level Concepts:

- Our Church is alive.
- Our Church is growing and changing.
- We also grow, change and become better members of the Church.

Learning Objectives

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

- Describe the Church as growing and alive
- Point out the changes they observe in the Church over time
- Share how the Church helps them become better persons

Materials: Song Chart, Memory Verse Chart, Pictures of the church and its activities, copy of the survey below, paper, pencil or ball pen, Pentel Pen, Manila Paper, scotch tape

Biblical Background:

Psalm 42

Psalm 42 expresses the sorrow of the Psalmist, a devoted worshipper, who could no longer worship at the temple at Jerusalem, since he already live in the far north of Israel. The Psalmist's longing to go and worship in the temple is likened to a thirsty deer seeking for fresh water amidst dry places. He longs to worship God whom he can turn for help, a God who gives him strength and keep him going. Though his heart's desire to worship the Living God has not yet been filled, he has the confidence that someday, when he returns, he will, again, meet God at his altar. The thirst of the Psalmist to worship God is an expression of intense need and devotion; an experience that makes his life growing, developing and evolving.

Ephesians 4: 14-16

In this text, Paul describes how people lived before they become Christians. The new Christians should have now stopped living the old ways, but many around them still live in the old and immature ways. So Paul reminded the believers that they are no longer children but should grow from childhood to maturity; which means growing and developing. Paul also clarifies that mature believers

practice the truth in love - loving others, loving the community of God and all of God's creation. A healthy and growing body practices truth in love.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

Review songs, key verse and lessons learned
Opening Prayer (led by a learner)

Introduction of New Lesson

Learning Song "I'm Alive, Alert, Awake, Enthusiastic"
I'm alive, alert, awake, enthusiastic (2x)
I'm alive, alert, awake, awake, alert, alive.
I'm alive, alert, awake, enthusiastic.

(The teacher may think of an action to make the song more lively and interesting to the learners)

The message of this song does not only refer to our physical body, but can also be applied to the church. The church should be a growing church; alive, awake, alert and enthusiastic, in some, if not, in all aspects. Being alive, alert, awake and enthusiastic are signs of a growing church.

Discussion - Sharing of Assignments

Ask the learners to share what they have written on their assignments. As they share, let them take note on the development or growth of the church particularly the following: (check appropriate observation)

Membership	<input type="radio"/>	growing	<input type="radio"/>	stagnant	<input type="radio"/>	declining
Physical Set-Up	<input type="radio"/>	developing	<input type="radio"/>	fully- developed	<input type="radio"/>	not yet develop

List down the different activities of the church (if the learners are aware)

Note:

If they have pictures, let them paste the pictures on the board.

The teacher will provide additional research/input to further the discussion.

Learning Time

Discussion about a growing Church

Guide Questions: (Based on the information above)

1. What are the signs that a local church is growing or not?
2. From the identified activities, enumerate the activities that help the church grow.
3. Share how the church helps learners become better persons.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the learners read the biblical texts – Psalms 42: 1-2; Ephesians 4: 14-16

Lessons Learned

Based on the biblical truth, ask the children to take a full attention to the words within the verses. Divide the learners into two groups and assign each group a passage to study with.

For the first group, invite them to:

- Identify or list down the things that the psalmist usually do or wish to do, even in times of worship.

- Meanwhile, for the 2nd group, ask them to study the verse and take note of the following:
(v.14) What is the verse saying about the believers in the Ephesian Church?
(v.15) What will the church do in order to grow up in Christ?
(v. 16) Who and what makes the church grow and united?

Let the group share their answers.

The teacher will give a summary of what have been shared. Let the learners know that all of those experiences, of the Psalmist and believers (Ephesian church) are present in our churches today.

These experiences are part of the church's life; in its development and growth; of being dynamic and alive.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Ask the learners to write about or describe their local church. What are their observations and recommendation, specifically, for the children's welfare? (Take note of the examples below)

- *Provide a place for children's Sunday School and Junior Worship*
- *Allocate budget for children's activities*
- *Help them form a children's choir*
- *Let them participate in the Adult worship service, etc.*

Let them share, and from the sharing, assign 1 or 2 volunteers to give a testimony about their experiences in the church;

Ask:

How did the church help them grow in their faith and in their everyday lives as believers?

Closing Worship

Testimonies – Let the 2 assigned volunteers to share

Closing Hymn - "It Takes a Lot of Growing" Children Praise God, 185

It takes a lot of growing for a tree to reach the sky

It takes a lot of rain to let it grow

It takes a lot of runnin' for a child to catch the wind

It takes a lot of walking to learn to run.

Yes, I'm growing in Jesus, growing stronger each and everyday
In everyday, 'cause Jesus is growing in me.

Closing Prayer – (by a learner)

Lesson 3: The Church as an Institution and Organization

Third Sunday after
Pentecost June 30, 2019

General Concept: The Church has evolved as an institution and organization to be effective and relevant.

Biblical References: 2 Kings 2:9-10, Galatians 5:13-14, 22-23

Key Verse: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Age-level Concepts

- The Church is composed of men, women, youth, young adults and children who have responsibilities.
- We choose leaders of the Church.
- The Church makes plans for the people to do.

Learning Objectives

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

- Name the different judicatories and organizations of the Church
- Identify the leaders of the Church and of its organizations
- Express appreciation of what the Church is doing
- Pray for the Church and the people leading it

Materials: Song Chart, Memory verse chart, organizational chart, pictures of church leaders (National, Jurisdiction and Conference), colored or construction paper, color pen, pentel pen

Biblical Background:

2 KINGS 2:9-10

The book of 2 Kings is a continuation of the stories of the divided kingdom during the monarchy period. The interest of the writer of this book is to introduce into the heart and mind of the people faithfulness to Yahweh of rulers and people. Most common figure here is prophet Elisha who succeeded prophet Elijah. Prophet Elisha is here introduced as a successor of Elijah's spirit – he receives not only Elijah's powers but also the legacy of a firstborn son, a double portion of his spirit.

Elijah and Elisha were together before Elijah disappeared. The two prophets walked from Gilgal down to Bethel, to Jericho and to Jordan. Elisha did not for a moment separate himself from Elijah because he knew that Elijah would soon be taken away from him. It shall be noted that he wanted to have the double portion of his spirit. And it will only be granted to him if he will witness Elijah's disappearance.

Elisha, being the successor of Prophet Elijah, wanted to inherit his spirit of prophecy in the degree befitting his task as a prophet of God. He depends on it for he knows that being a prophet is not easy. God's spirit is his only hope and will always be his greatest protection.

GALATIANS 5:13-14, 22-23

This part of Paul's letter to the converts of Galatia is an encouragement to Christian living. Most important to note in this section is freedom and service. Paul elaborates on what believers are called to do and be; they fulfill the law by love of neighbor, walking in the Spirit as illustrated by concrete fruit of the Spirit in their lives. It is not law, but the Spirit of God leads to such traits.

Every Christian must recognize that true freedom is attained only as one lives in dependence on God's grace and in obedience to God's will. Moreover, against the work of evil is placed the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit is the full harvest of righteousness bestowed on those who live by faith. The fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, truthfulness, gentleness, self-control, are not to be regarded as separable Christian virtues in the ordinary sense. That is why it is called fruit of the Spirit not fruits of the Spirit. Humans do not achieve them by their own heroic effort, but receives them by faith. By God's grace and in the power of the Spirit only that life is transformed.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

Before the learners arrive, tuck pictures of local church leaders and national and jurisdictional leaders of UCCP for discussion later in the session.

Learning Time

Introduce the new lesson by showing to the learners the pictures displayed around the room. Ask them who the people are in the pictures. After identifying the pictures, discuss to them who are the leaders of our church from National, Jurisdiction, and Conference (*The teacher should provide the pictures with corresponding positions and discuss it to the learners, as simple and easy as possible.*)

Try to explain the importance of leaders in the church.

- Why do we have to elect leaders?
- What are their positions in the church and why those positions are important?

Place the corresponding pictures to their respective positions, for association and familiarization.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts from the Old and New Testament.

- From the Old Testament, discuss the story about the prophets God has chosen.
- From the New Testament, discuss about the fruit of the Holy Spirit, being the expected qualities or traits of church leaders.

Focus on the following areas for discussion:

- a. Describe the characters in the story
- b. Purpose of God in choosing leaders
- c. What does God require to the chosen leaders?
- d. What are the qualities or traits of the prophets God has chosen?

Lessons Learned

Thru a game, ask the children to match the names of the church's leaders with the corresponding pictures, according to the a while ago, including the pictures. Let them explain the significance of having leaders in the church.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Let the learners think of ways they can express their appreciation to what the church is doing in their lives. They can write a poem, slogan, hash tag, drawing, cards, etc. In your work, indicate this statement, "I appreciate what you are doing. I am praying for you..." Let these thoughts of appreciation be given to the chairperson of the council or to the administrative pastor to let them know that the children appreciate what the church is doing in their lives.

Assignment:

- Allow the learners to ask their parents/church officers/to list down the names of their church council members and officers of each organization.
- Ask them about the functions of the council, the different boards and organizations.
- Encourage them to ask the Pastor about the organizational structure of the church.

Closing Worship

Sharing of their work about appreciation

Offertory

Closing Hymn

Closing Prayer

Lesson 4: The Church Has a Structure

Fourth Sunday after
Pentecost July 7, 2019

General Concept: As an institution and organization, the Church needs a structure for efficient and systematic implementation of its work.

Biblical Reference/s: Luke 10:1-9

Key Verse: ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10: 2

Age-level Concepts

- In order to effectively do its work, our Church needs to coordinate tasks and the people doing them.
- Every member of the Church has to work according to the tasks and functions given to him/her.

Learning Objectives

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

- List down the positions in the Church (local church) into which people are chosen

- Mention the corresponding tasks of each position or office
- Share their preferred tasks in order to help the Church
- Thank God for people who are willing to do the tasks given them

Materials: The Holy Bible, song chart, memory verse chart, offering plate or basket, Papers, Marker, strips of paper, pentel pen, Masking or Scotch Tape and board

Biblical Background

Luke 10:1-2

The biblical text tells us about similarity on how Jesus looks at his ministry. It also tells us about how Jesus sees to it that the work of spreading the Gospel will reach as many places and touches as many lives as possible. Through the life and work of Jesus, God planted the seeds of the Word. Jesus recognizes that there should be some way of collecting the “harvest”. There seemed to be an urgency in his words when he declared that the “the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few”. Thus, to call and send laborers was an appropriate response to the demand.

Jesus uses the analogy to let the hearers understand that the proclamation of the Gospel and gathering of those who believe is first and foremost God’s work – the “Lord of the harvest”. To work in the harvest as a “laborer” is a privilege and honor. The ‘laborers’ are to become part in God’s work. Therefore, the “laborers” in the harvest are people that are called and commissioned by the Lord of the harvest.

Sending the seventy disciples separating them by twos was one of the efficient ways to achieve the goal of spreading the Gospel. Jesus saw the need to send them in pairs so that they may encourage and strengthen each other for the task is not that easy.

The Church as a body has a structure through which its mission can be efficiently carried out. But it has to recognize that its role in doing mission is like that of the “laborers” in the harvest. The Church has to recognize that its mission is God’s work through Christ and shares in the privilege and honor to be part of God’s workforce. The Church as community of faith is called and commissioned by the “Lord of the harvest” to take part in the work.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn “When the Spirit of the Lord” CPG # 203

When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts, we can **sing like Mary sang.* (2x)

We can sing, Oh Lord; we can sing, Oh, Lord; we can **sing like Mary sang.* (2x)

(Substitute the italicized words with the following, with corresponding action)

** we can pray like Daniel prayed....*

** we can lead like Moses led...*

** we can dance like Miriam danced...*

** we can serve like Martha served....*

** we can shout like Deb’rah shouted...*

** we can preach like Peter preached....*

Opening Prayer (assign one from the learners)

Learning Time

Discussion and Sharing of Assignment

Invite the children to bring out their assignment and let each of them share about:

- a. Names of the members of Church Council and Board and Officers of each organization
- b. Mention about some functions of these officers in the council, boards and organizations
- c. Show the organizational structure as shared by the Pastor

After the sharing, the teacher will explain why do the church elects officers? What is the importance of an organizational structure and how does it help the officers do their functions/tasks?

- *We elect leaders to guide and lead the church to do its mission*
- *Organizational structure will help the officers complement with each other as they implement the church's ministry. For them to know that authorities are given by God to have order and discipline inside the church.*

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Give time for the learners to read the biblical text. Ask them to take note of the following:

- *People involved in the text – Who are they?*
- *What are the tasks given to them?*
- *Try to draw an organizational structure from the given text (let the teacher give clues e.g.)*
 - a. Who directed or commanded the people to do mission?
 - b. Who sends them to do mission?
 - c. Where did they send out by God?
 - d. To whom were they sent?
 - e. Who is accountable to whom?

Lessons Learned

GAME. On the strips of paper, write the name of the officers of the council, boards and organizations; roll the paper and put into a container or any box. The teacher will make an outline of the organizational chart (the same with the organizational structured discussed earlier) and put it at the board/paper within their reach.

As the background music plays, the learners will fall in line. The first player will go in front of the line to pick out a strip from the box or container and read aloud the name written on the strips, mention their position and will go to the board and try to put the strip at the right place/location within the outline of the organizational chart. The player will return to the line and touch the next player to play the game. The process will continue until the last player. The teacher will check their work to find out the correct or incorrect answers. Give a big applause to every correct answer and commend the learners' effort and participation in the game.

Applying the Lesson Learned

As members in the body of Christ, we are also called as disciples of our time. Just like the seventy-two disciples sent out by Jesus, each one of us has task to do, in our own little ways.

Let them share what they can do to help the church. If they will be given an opportunity to be a leader of the church, what position do they want to take and why? What particular work will they do to help the church's mission?

Closing Worship

Closing Hymn "When the Spirit of the Lord" (Gathering of offering, while singing)

Closing Prayer (include in the prayer the leaders of the church and pray for them as they lead the body of Christ into a meaningful and relevant ministry)

Lesson 5: The UCCP has Vision, Mission and Goals

Trinity Sunday
Fifth Sunday after
Pentecost July 14, 2019

General Concept: The purpose and direction of the UCCP is expressed in its Vision, Mission and Goals.

Biblical Reference: Luke 10:25-37

Key Verse: ⁷ He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" ^[a]; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b]"
Luke 10: 27

Age-level Concepts

- The Vision, Mission and Goals serve as our guide on how to do our mission and where to go as a Church.
- We need to appreciate our Church's purpose and direction.
- We need to know and be proud of the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Church.

Learning Objectives

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

- State the reason for having Vision, Mission and Goals
- Express with appreciation and pride for having a Vision, Mission and Goals as a Church
- Pray for God to help the Church attain its Vision, Mission and Goals

Materials: Bible, song chart, memory verse chart, copy of the closing prayer

Biblical Background:

Luke 10: 25-28

Jesus has his own creative ways of conveying his messages. Sometimes, he uses parables to answer questions or directly confront them with questions. In this instance, a teacher of the Law came to test Jesus with a question about eternal life. It seems that this person thought that eternal life can be achieved by doing something special or just knowing the law. But Jesus taught that eternal life is something that is not separated from how people lived their daily lives. Jesus wanted the hearers to understand that if one put God first and love their neighbors before themselves, one can have no assurance of eternal life.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

As the learners arrive, greet them and have a brief conversation with them. Let them play or talk to their co-learners and befriend others.

Start the session by introducing the song,

“Hello to All the Children of the World”

(Refer to VCS Songs 2019)

Hello, bonjour, buenas dias; Good day, guten tag, konichiwa

Ciao, shalom, dobrey dien. Hello to all the children of the world.

We live in diff’rent places from all around the world.

We speak in many different ways; though some things might be different

We’re children just the same and we all like to sing and play.

Hello, bonjour, buenas dias; Good day, guten tag, konichiwa

Ciao, shalom, dobrey dien. Hello to all the children of the world.

There are children in the desserts and children in the towns

and children who live down by the sea

If we could meet each other to run, and sing and play

Then what good friends we all could be.

Hello, bonjour, buenas dias; Good day, guten tag, konichiwa

Ciao, shalom, dobrey dien. Hello to all the children of the world. (2x)

Hello to all the children of the world. (3x)

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical text from Luke 10: 25-37

The teacher will explain that in this biblical text God showed us what is required of us. God gave us these commandments that will manifest God’s real intention and aspiration/vision for us. These commandments are the bases of our church in doing mission and pursuing the goal. Let each member of the UCCP embrace this vision and aspiration and in unity, work for the furtherance of God’s reign here on earth.

Ask the children if they have a dream/aspiration and what they want to become when they grow up. Let them share their thoughts. After the sharing, tell them the story below.

Story

“Boboy’s Dream”

Once upon a time, there was a child whose name was Boboy. His father died because of tuberculosis. His mother was the only one to take care for their family. Sadly, her mother was also infected with the same disease. Boboy was

afraid that both of his parents will die. They went to a church for help. Thankfully, the church supported them and her mother was cured.

Boboy aspired to become a medical doctor so that he can cure poor people who cannot afford to go to the hospital. He became a janitor in the church. The members helped him pay his tuition fees. After many years of hard work and sacrifices he achieved his goal to become a medical doctor.

Discussion and Sharing

1. Who was the main character in the story? (Boboy)
 2. How would you describe Boboy's life? (poor, has to work hard etc)
 3. Did the Church help Boboy and his mother? (Yes/No)
 4. What was the dream of Boboy? (be a Medical doctor)
 5. How did the church help Boboy?
 6. How did Boboy achieve his dream?
 7. How did Boboy repay those who helped him achieve his dreams?
- As persons, we have aspirations in our lives; what we want to become in the next years of our lives.
 - As a Church, we also have aspirations/vision; what do we want to be in the next years of existence. Our Vision, Mission and Goals, as a church, should always be aligned with God's will and purpose.

Creative Activity

Invite the learners to draw their aspirations or dreams for their church. What do they envision about their church in order to follow and obey God's will and purpose?

Ask from the learners 3 - 4 volunteers to share their drawings in front of the class. Give time to share their creative work.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Say, "The church is responsible in carrying out God's vision/aspiration. God's vision/aspiration for the church is to become a caring community where the church helps people, like Boboy and other children, to have a meaningful life."

Ask the learners how they can help the church carry out its Vision, Mission and Goals. Cite concrete and doable ways of helping.

Closing Worship

Closing Hymn

"Pananagutan"

Walang sinuman ang nabubuhay para sa sarili lamang
Walang sinuman ang namamatay para sa sarili lamang
Tayong lahat ay may pananagutan sa isa't-isa
Tayong lahat ay tinipon ng Dios na kapiling Nya.

Offertory (while singing, collect the offering)

Closing Prayer (Together)

We thank you, Loving God, for the dreams you have given us. We ask you to be with us as we learn more about Your vision/aspiration. Call us to be faithful children of Yours; loyal and obedient to follow Your will and purpose. We thank You for the church, whom You entrusted with vision. May You find us faithful to follow Your vision. Amen.

Note: Part of the lesson was adapted from the paper work prepared by Zandy L. Casia, a UTS Middler Student in Advance CE: Curriculum Development, 2018

Lesson 6: What is a church's vision?

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2019

General Concept: A Vision is a church's aspiration, which is aligned with God's intention.

Biblical References: Isaiah 65: 17-25; Joel 2:28

Key Verse: "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Joel 2: 28

Age-level Concepts

- The Church aspires for a world wherein God's intention is lived out by all.
- The Church's aspiration is shared by all its members.
- Our Church's dream includes other people and God's creation.

Learning Objectives

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

- To describe the world wherein God's intention for all is lived out.
- To give reasons why other people and the rest of God's creation should be included in the Church's dream.
- To suggest ways on how the Church's dream can be shared by all.

Materials: Bible, Song chart, memory verse, Manila Paper, board, colored or construction paper, Pentel pen, yarn, glue.

Biblical Background

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Isaiah lived and worked in a difficult time. Though King Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah had a good start he later lifted up his heart against Jehovah. Uzziah's son Jotham was a god-fearing king to a certain measure but his son Ahaz was a worshipper of idols. Hezekiah however brought about a great revival of the people. During this time enemies distressed the kingdom of Judah: Edom, Syria, Israel and the Philistines. The ungodly kings of the northern kingdom of Israel had allied himself with Syria and continued to attack Judah ([2 Kings 15:37](#); [2 Kings 16:5-6](#); [2 Chronicles 28:5-6](#)). Instead of putting their trust in Jehovah the kings of Judah looked for refuge with Assyria ([2 Kings 16:7](#); [2 Chronicles 28:16](#)) but never got real help ([2 Chronicl28:20](#); [2 Chronicles 32:1](#)). (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

It is within this context of war and conflict that Isaiah prophesied about the "new heaven and the new earth". His pronouncements about this new life contrasted the life that the people have endured for a very long time. It is not an improved version of the life in Israel nor that of Judah but a vision of an

entirely new life. In this new creation, the quality of life will be totally different from what people are experiencing. Instead of grieving, there will be rejoicing. People will not go weary nor hungry; people will enjoy life as God intended it to be. In this vision of new creation, people and the rest of creation will live in peace and harmony and in perfect fellowship with God.

Joel 2:28

Joel speaks in a time when the Land of Israel has been infested with locust. Prophet Joel sees this as a national disaster. It has destroyed Israel production of wine and grain, which is pertinent in their growth as a nation. There is a possibility however that Joel only uses the imagery of locust infestation to describe how Babylon invaded and crushed them. Their leading and able citizens were brought as exiles to Babylon. The whole book of Joel can be divided in to two parts: the call to repentance and the age and time when the Spirit of God would fully reign. Joel emphasized that true repentance results to divine transformation, which we eventually would usher in the receiving of spiritual gifts which are manifestations of God's presence in the lives of persons and communities.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time and Arrival

Opening Hymn "Whatever You Did to the Least of my Brethren"
Children Praise God, 196

Chorus:

Whatever you did to the least of your brethren, you did it to the King of all men. (2x)

He was standing by the highway, shivering under the rain, clothes all tattered,
Teeth all chatter and I went on my way. (Chorus)

A mother in the river washing Mr. Big's cloth, hoping for the money,
For the coming baby, and I lay on my bed. (Chorus)

Sister in a restaurant, working for less than her worth,
All for the money until midnight, and I went on my way.

Brother in a jailhouse, waiting for trial to begin,
Three years in prison, without any reason, and kept reading my book. (Chorus)

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Getting Ready

Song Analysis. Give a copy of the song "Whatever You Did.." to each learner. Divide them into 2 groups and assign stanzas from the song for the groups to work on.

Group 1 - 1st and 2nd stanza

Group 2 - 3rd and 4th stanza

Guide Questions:

1. What is the song telling us? Read each stanza.
2. What is the challenge of the song?
3. What is the song telling you?

4. What will you do to help them?

The message of the song is telling us about the situation of the people around us. They are experiencing hardships in life and Jesus is telling us to help them, to do something to make their lives good and happy. God's vision is for all the creations to live a happy and abundant life.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts from Isaiah 65: 17-25 and Joel 2:28.

Let the learners read the passages with the teacher. Go through the text. After reading, the teacher will relate to the learners the brief background of the text, why Prophet Isaiah mentioned these words (refer to the Biblical background)

After the background, go through the text again and the teacher will list down at the board or Manila paper all the words/situations God wanted the people to experience. These situations and statements are God's vision for the people, for the nation and for the church to experience.

Lessons Learned

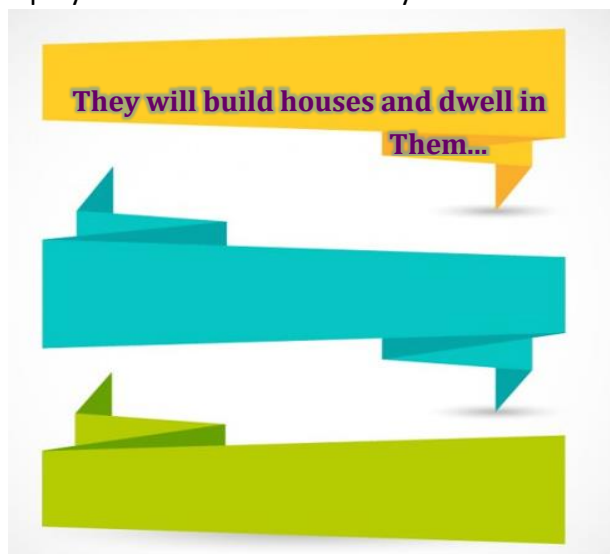
After the listing, ask the learners about their reactions or comments about the new situation that God envisions for all of the creation.

- *Would God's vision be made possible?*
- *How will it happen?*
- *How will the church participate in making this vision of God, possible?*

Applying the Lessons Learned

Banners of Vision

Group the learners into 2 or 3 groups and ask them to make banners – Banners of Vision. Give them construction or colored papers and Pentel pen or markers. The banners will serve as their expression, as a church, of their call to participate in God's Vision. They can ask permission from the Pastor or Council for the banners to be signed up by the members and be displayed in the church's vicinity.



BANNER OF VISION

Closing Worship

Hymn and Offertory “Whatever You Did to the Least of my Brethren” CPG # 196
(While singing and bringing the offering, the learners will bring the banners in front and be included in the closing prayer)

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 7: Why does a church need to have a vision?

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2019

General Concept: The church needs a vision to set the direction of its journey towards the fulfillment of God’s work.

Biblical References: Proverbs 29:18; Acts 2: 42-47

Key Verse: Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,
But happy is he who keeps the law. Proverbs 29: 18 (New American Standard Bible)

Age –Level Concepts

- The Church needs to have a vision so that it is guided in fulfilling God’s work in the world.
- The Church needs a common reason for working together as a community of faith.

Learning Objectives

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

- Listen to or watch a video documentation about the Early Church experience
- Explain why there is a need for the Church to know where it is going
- Express appreciation for being part of the journey of the Church

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Memory Verse Chart, Downloaded video clip (if available), Construction or colored paper, Manila Paper or Cartolina, Pentel Pen, Color Pen, Glue

Biblical Background:

Proverbs 29:18

The prophets in the Old Testament times are believed to be bearers of God’s message, may it be a pronouncement, announcement or denouncement. Nevertheless, they proclaimed not what people wanted to hear but what God wants to say. Prophets bring words of destruction, a call for repentance and visions of hope and restoration. The intended hearers of these prophetic pronouncements might as well listen to avoid loss and suffering and act according to God’s will in order to have life as God intended for the people to live.

Acts 2: 42-47, Acts 4: 32-35

The Early Christian community manifested a different kind of life that attracts other people around them. They exuded a strong sense of unity, fellowship, worship, study and care for those in need to the point that they brought their money and possessions together from which help can be extended according to the needs of people. This kind of community life inspired other believers from different places to emulate and live out. Our church today looked at this early church experience as something that believers need to look forward to and work on.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

Greet the learners as they arrive. Let them help in the preparations.

Opening Hymn “God’s Call for Today” Children Praise God, 217

From many places we have come, with burning hearts and minds
To share to all what we have seen and heard As God’s call in our lands and seas.
We have seen the struggles of the poor we have seen our bonds of unity.
We have heard God calling us today; pray for peace, work for justice and
Restore creation’s dignity.

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Learning Time

Video Documentation about Acts 2: 42-47

(Download from You tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INsNTdaBIG8>)

Discovering the Biblical Truth and Lessons Learned

Discussion and Guide Questions:

1. What is the video all about? (Story of the Early Church)
2. How did the church start? (Gathering of People through Worship)
3. What was the Early Church doing?
(They gathered regularly to hear people teach about Jesus)
(They spend time together as friends)
(They shared meals and prayed together)
(They helped each other and were generous)
(They worshipped God together)
4. Do you think we do all of those (Yes, we do!!)
5. What was God’s response to all of those?
(God continued to save people who put their faith in Jesus)
6. Do you think this still happens today? (Yes)
7. Why is it important for our church to do this?
(Because it is part of God’s vision/aspiration for us as a church)
8. What do we have to do with God’s vision?
(To follow and continue God’s vision in our church and community today)

Tell the children:

- Remember, God used the Early Church to spread the good news and blessings to others so that the people will see the life of early believers and worship God, so the church will continue to grow. God uses our church to show his plan/vision for the world.

Applying the Lessons Learned

In a big paper, the teacher will draw a picture of a community (residences, church, people, etc.) Let the children draw or cut out from magazines or newspapers pictures related to the work of the early church. Ask them to paste the pictures on the big paper and let them decide where to paste the pictures.

Closing Worship

Closing Hymn - "The Vision of Shalom" Children Praise God, 179

We want to live the vision, the vision of Shalom

To learn of peace and harmony, in church, at play, at home

Shalom, shalom, the vision of shalom

We'll learn to live the vision, in church, at work, at home.

Offertory

Closing Prayer - (by a learner)

Lesson 8: What does it mean to be a responsible church?

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2019

General Concept: A responsible church can be trusted to actively do its mandated tasks for the realization of its vision.

Biblical References: 1 Corinthians 15: 58; 2 Cor. 11: 23 – 30

Key Verse: ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15: 58

Age-Level Concepts

- Our Church is a responsible church.
- A responsible Church can be trusted to do its tasks.

Learning Objectives

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

- Make a contrast between an irresponsible church and a responsible church
- List down the tasks the Church is doing that show how it is a responsible church
- Ask God to be with them as they responsibly fulfill tasks given them by the Church

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Memory Verse Chart, Copy of the Article "That's Not my Job", Paper for Sentence Completion

Biblical Background

2 Corinthians 11: 23-30

Here Apostle Paul gives account of his own experience; his qualification, labors and sufferings. He claim all of these account not out of pride or conceit, but to honor God, who enabled him to do and suffer so much for the cause of Christ. He worked harder and suffered more for the gospel's sake and even to the point of his death. Despite Paul's hardships and sufferings, we can see the glory of Christ in his service to other people. Despite all hardships, Paul was one of the greatest blessings to believers; he carry with him the burden of all the churches for which he was accountable. No one ever felt ashamed and embarrassed but accounted all honors, glory and praise. He has been a responsible worker of God who teaches the churches to be more faithful and trusting.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival/Preparation

Community Singing : “Kumusta Ka”
Kumusta ka, halina't magsaya
Pumalakpak, pumalakpak, ituro ang paa
Padyak sa kanan, padyak sa kaliwa
Umikot ng umikot at humanap ng iba.

“This is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
For this is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Opening Prayer (by the teacher)

Learning Time

“That's Not My Job”

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

(Ref. <https://budbilanich.com/the-story-of-everybody-somebody-anybody-and-nobody/>)

Solicit learner's analysis about the message of the story. Help the learners to analyze it and discuss the situation one by one. Help them identify the values and virtues as well as the consequences or situations that will happen if this attitude will pursue.

Relate this to the church's context. Is the story true to the situation of the church? How? Cite some instances.

In summary, ask them whether the church, in general, is a responsible church or not.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts on 2 Corinthians 11: 23 – 30. After reading, discuss the life-experience of Paul as an Apostle.

- Ask the children to take note of Paul’s experiences and how he had overcome all the sufferings and sacrifices. Through his experiences, Paul learned how to be responsible, steadfast and firm in all his ways in order to fulfill his ministry and God’s aspirations/vision for all the believers.
- Ask the children about their own experiences, as individuals and as a family - problems and hardships - and how they were able to overcome. How did each one, as responsible persons, resolve the problem?
- Ask them, as well, to identify the church’s difficulties, problems and sacrifices and how the members and leaders had overcome all the challenges. How did they face the problems, responsibly and steadfastly?

Lessons Learned

Encourage the children to complete the sentence below, according to their experience.

“I have Shown Responsibility when _____.” □

“I have not shown responsibility when _____.”

Applying the Lessons Learned

Have a short discussion about their work and let them be aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Let them pray for their strengths and weaknesses and ask God to help them.

Closing Worship

Offertory Song - “A Gift to You” (While singing, offering will be collected)

Everything I am (Everything I am) Everything I’ll be (Everything I’ll be)

I give it to you, (I give it to you Lord) and do it thankfully (thankfully)

Every song I sing, Every praise I bring, Everything I do, is a gift to You.

Everything I have (Everything I have) All You’ve given me (All You’ve given me)

I give it to you Lord, (I give it to you Lord,) and do it thankfully (thankfully)

Every song I sing, Every praise I bring, Everything I do, is a gift to You. (Repeat 1)

Closing Prayer – (by the Teacher - ask God to help each one and the whole church to be responsible and trustworthy in all they do, say and act)

Lesson 9: Why do we need to become a responsible church?

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 2019

General Concept: We need to be a responsible church to express our love, obedience and accountability to God and God’s people.

Biblical References: Isaiah 1: 17, Luke 12:35-40

Key Verse: Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1:17

Age-Level Concepts

- We need to be responsible in doing our tasks because we respond to people and to God.

- We show our love and obedience to God by being responsible.

Learning Objectives

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

- Write down the tasks given them and how to do them responsibly
- Evaluate whether they have been responsible in doing their tasks
- Give reasons as to why we respond to people and God when we do our tasks

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Memory Verse Chart, Popsicle Sticks (assorted light colors) glue, Yarn, Marker or Pentel Pen, Color Pen, Colored Paper, Paper for the Statement, Pens

Biblical Background:

Luke 12:35-40

The Kingdom is God’s gift to God’s people. It is God’s intent for people to dwell in God’s Kingdom where peace and prosperity is experienced and shared by all. Yet, the receiving of this gift requires accepting great responsibility. In these verses, Jesus extols two significant important virtues: generosity and vigilance. We are called to give and be charitable to others not only because we have much but because we are aware of the afflictions of others. Though it was meant to be a lesson for his followers, Jesus’ words were also seen as a challenge for Rome; for Herod and their cohorts to divest themselves of riches that they have gotten at the expense of the people. This was also a challenge to the disciples. Even Peter asked, “Lord, was the parable for us, or for everyone?” Wealth is alluring but generosity is more valuable in the sight of God.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time/Arrival

Opening Hymn	“I Would Be True”
	I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
	I would be pure, for there are those who care;
	I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
	I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
	I would be faithful through each passing moment;
	I would be constantly in touch with God;
	I would be strong to follow where He leads me;
	I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

Learning Time

Wall Décor

List down some of the task or chores given to you in the family and church. Give them a Popsicle stick of different light colors where they will write the tasks assigned to them. Give them time for sharing and discussion. Focus on how they responded to the tasks given them. What were their attitude/s as they responded to the tasks? Are they responsible enough in doing the task?

Let them display the wall décor in their homes. It will remind them of their tasks and responsibilities.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical text, Luke 12:35-40. Analyze the text and find out what is Paul’s message about being a responsible and faithful steward. Discuss why we have to respond to God’s work. What is in our response that is significant to God?

Tell the learners:

“Remember, we do not just respond to God because it is our responsibility to do so. We respond to God because it is the expression of our love, obedience, respect and commitment because we love God and we love to do our task as way of participation. Responsibility is not only a work of responding; it is a way of loving, a result of understanding and a power of believing”.

Lessons Learned

“Statement of Commitment to be Responsible”

Encourage the learners to write their commitment to be responsible to the church work. As they become aware of being responsible in their own tasks, they must also be responsible to the church and the church’s works. If possible, try to use the acronym RESPONSIBLE on their statement.

Example: R -espect
E-ncouraged
S-incere
P
O
N
S
I
B
L
E

Applying the Lessons Learned

Challenge – Do this at Home

Get two containers and get some small items, like candy pieces, coins or small rocks. Put a label on each container. On one container, write “Responsible” and on the other jar, write “Not so much.” Over the week, ask your parents to tell you when they think you’ve been responsible and when you haven’t. When they say you are, put a small item in the “Responsible” container. When they say you haven’t, put a small item in the “Not so much” container. At the end of the week, see which jar has more items. If your “Not so much” container has more items, ask the Lord to help you become more responsible.

Closing Worship

Closing Hymn “I Would Be True”

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

Offertory

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

Lesson 10. What does it mean to be an empowered church?

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2019

General Concept: An empowered church is enabled and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Biblical References: Galatians 5: 22-23, Acts 4: 31 – 37

Key Verse: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5: 22-23

Age-Level Concepts:

- The Holy Spirit is with the Church.
- Our Church is enabled and inspired by the Holy Spirit to do its tasks.

Learning Objectives

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

- Review that the Holy Spirit is the presence of God in our lives.
- Relate the story of God's people in the Bible and of how the Holy Spirit helped and inspired them.
- Make a statement of thanks that the Holy Spirit enables the people of God to do their tasks.

Materials: Bible, Song Chart, Memory Verse Chart, box, heart, bible, picture of a family, flashlight, construction paper or colored paper or Cartolina (assorted colors – for the tree and fruits), paste or glue, Paper for the Statement and Pens.

Biblical Background:

Galatians 5: 22-23

On the second missionary journey of Paul, he visited them and got sick. While he was unable to travel, Paul preached to them. They gladly accepted his teaching and a church was born. The church was doing well when Paul left them, but when the Jewish teachers came in troubles and issues arose affecting the faith of the believers. These Jewish teachers of the Law insisted that obedience of the Law is a must to receive salvation and that all believers should be circumcised. They even question the credibility of Paul being an apostle.

The letter of Paul to the Christians in Galatia was intended to correct the wrong teachings that prevailed among believers and to establish his apostolic authority. In Galatians 5:22-23 mentioned that if believers allow God's Spirit to take control of their lives, they would manifest virtues that goes beyond what is written in the law. Believers who lived by the Spirit are empowered and enabled by the Spirit.

Acts 2: 42-47, Acts 4: 32-35

The Early Christian community manifested a different kind of life that attracts other people around them. They exuded a strong sense of unity, fellowship, worship, study and care for those in need to the point that they brought their money and possessions together from which help can be extended according to the needs of people. This kind of community life inspired other believers from different places to emulate and live out. Our church today looked at this early church experience as something that believers need to look forward to and work on.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

Opening Hymn "Spirit Song"
Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;

Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Opening Prayer (by the Teacher)

Learning Time

This time, the teacher will review prior knowledge of the learners regarding the Holy Spirit. Ask them to share their understanding about the Holy Spirit and how it works in the lives of the believers. To have a concrete understanding, the teachers will introduce the activity below, to further explain the works of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Explain that the Holy Spirit is like a gift, which, we received from God. Inside the box are different items that correspond to the gifts of God through the Holy Spirit.

The teacher will prepare a box with several items in it, e.g. heart, bible, picture of a family and flashlight. Ask some volunteers to come forward. Tell each volunteer to get an item from the box and let them share how they understand the works of the Spirit related to the item in their hand.

Refer to this example:

Heart-It is a gift to know that God loves and comforts His children.

Bible-God's Word is a gift to His children because we find His promises and instructions inside.

Family-It is a gift to be a part of God's family and be able to pray together and help each other.

Flashlight- is a gift of light. Light helps us to see, clearly and brightly, the things around us. It guides our way towards particular place we want to go. Our ways were lighted to keep us from harm and never stumble. It directs our path and leads us to right direction.

Have students who chose the flashlights stand. Have them turn on the flashlights. Talk about why one came on and the other did not. Let the students open the flashlight and discover there are no batteries and the empty flashlight.

The flashlight with batteries reminds us of another very important gift that God has given to believers. When we are saved God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He comes and lives in our hearts and gives each of us power to live a life that pleases God. A person who has not been saved has no power to live a life that pleases God. <https://ministry-to-children.com/pentecost-sunday-school-lesson/>.

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts. Group the learners into 2 groups and let them read texts. One group will read Galatians 5: 22-23 and the other group Acts 4: 31 – 37. Let them explore the texts and list down all the words and phrases related to the Holy Spirit or works of the Holy Spirit. Before they split into groups, the teacher will explain the background of each text (refer to the Biblical Background)

Lessons Learned

After the learners have read and listed down words and phrases, ask each group to draw or make a representation of what they have read; e.g 1st group – Tree with Fruit/s 2nd Group - community with people doing the things mentioned in the text. Present their work to the whole group afterwards.

The teacher will make a synthesis or summary of what has been presented as a way of conclusion.



Put the fruit/s into the tree (Fruit of the Spirit) doing using different kinds of fruits.



Surround the family (community) with people the things mentioned in the text.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Invite the learners to write a “Statement of Thanks for Empowering the Church through the Holy Spirit”

Closing Worship

Closing Hymn “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

(While singing, each group will bring their work to the front and will also bring the statement of thanks they have written)

Offertory

Closing Prayer (by a Learner)