

# Vision

A responsible, empowered, self-reliant and caring community of Christian believers committed to the pursuit of a transformed church and society towards an abundant and meaningful life for all.

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## Lesson 11: Why do we need to become an empowered church?

### Mission Sunday

First Sunday in Kingdomtide

August 25, 2019

**General Concept:** We need to be an empowered church for us to be able to sustain our vigor and passion amidst challenges and struggles.

**Biblical References:** Jeremiah 1:4-10, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

**Key Verse:** Jeremiah 1: 8 “Do not be afraid of those to whom I sent you, for I will be with you to protect you”, says the Lord.

### Age-Level Concepts

- Our Church always needs the Holy Spirit to remain strong and alive.
- Our Church needs to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to face the challenges of the times.

### Learning Objectives

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

- Discuss the reasons why the Church needs the Holy Spirit
- Mount a short play expressing the need for the Holy Spirit to empower the Church
- Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit

**Materials:** The Holy Bible, song chart, offering plate or basket, cotton, a card with a dove drawn inside.

### Biblical Background:

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Jeremiah came from a priestly family, but he never has practiced as a priest because God’s will for him is to become a prophet. God called him to be a prophet long before he was born. At the time he was called to be a prophet, he was no more than 20 years of age. His prophetic ministry lasted at least forty years – from 627 BC (the 13th year of Josiah’s reign) until 587 BC (the era that followed the destruction of Israel) When Jeremiah refused and objected to being a prophet because he is too young and inexperienced, God replied that God would be with him and give him the message to speak and that he had no cause to be afraid. Jeremiah’s message (a message from God) is about God’s judgment because of self-righteousness and sinful ways of people. God’s message through the prophet Jeremiah talks about a new spirit that people needs to embrace to sustain them and lead them to a new life with God. (Bridgeway Bible Commentary)

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

In this passage, Paul gives emphasis on the unity of the church. He infers that in the church, there are different gifts given by God for the benefit of the whole church. Each person is given a gift, not just for his/her own benefit, nor a privilege to boast for, but for the benefit and growth of the entire church.

Paul acknowledged and reminded the members in the Corinthian church that their gifts were given by God, through the works of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, as the source of Spiritual Gifts. It is the same God, who gives every gift to each member for the edification of the church. The entire passage shows the connected work and concerted effort of the Triune God towards the purpose of redemption. This is also proof of God's love and intention to all of the creations.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

Preparation/Arrival

Preparation for the Lesson: The teacher prepares the materials for the lesson (refer to the listed materials above). Ask the learners to help you with the preparation.

Greeting: Greet the learners by giving them a card with a dove drawn inside. This will remind them of God's peace given to His disciples. It will also remind them of the Holy Spirit they received before Jesus' Ascension. Ask them to keep the card until the discussion part of the lesson.

Opening Prayer (by the teacher)

#### **Getting Ready**

Learning a Song      "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

*Chorus: Spirit, spirit of gentleness. Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.  
Wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,  
Then You coaxed up the mountains. From the valley of sleep,  
And over the eons, You called to each thing,  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Chorus)*

*You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill,  
Then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still,  
And down in the city, You called once again  
When You blew through Your people On the rush of the wind. (Chorus)*

*You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, Our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions, Your people arise. (Chorus)*

Explain that the song is about the Holy Spirit; how it moves and gives power to the believers. The Holy Spirit empowers believers to do things beyond their capacity. The Holy Spirit gives power to believers and enables them to render services to the people. The work of the Holy Spirit keeps the believers inspired and bold as they went through places preaching, teaching and healing.

Game: “Blow the Object Up”

The game demonstrates how the Holy Spirit empowers believers to keep their faith and life moving and sailing.

Group the learners into smaller groups of 3-4 members. The objective of the game is to sustain the object (cotton) up in the air as the members of the group, simultaneously and continually, blowing the cotton and keep it on air.

### Discussion Sharing

- a. What did you do to keep the cotton on air? What is needed to sustain it?
- b. What makes it difficult to keep the cotton on air?
- c. What did you feel when you were able to sustain the cotton on air? And when not?

**Synthesis:** The cotton represents our life and works, the power that sustains our life and work is the power from the Holy Spirit. It keeps blowing us up to sustain and enable us to win over life’s challenges we must bear and withstand. The Holy Spirit gives us strength and power to overcome our weaknesses and failures. It gives us courage and endurance to move on forward.

### Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Group the learners into two groups and ask them to read the biblical texts from Jeremiah 1: 4-10 and 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7. As they read the passage, let them take note of the following:

1. How were the characters empowered by the Holy Spirit?
2. What gifts or abilities were given to them?
3. What was the main purpose or goal of the empowerment?
4. How did they use their Spirit’s given gifts?
5. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to empower us – as individuals, community and church?

**Synthesis:** Why the church needs the empowerment of the Holy Spirit?

*God, through the Holy Spirit, empowers and gives believers and the church power or gifts in order to fulfill God’s given task. We have work to do, as believers. We are called to participate in doing God’s work in our church and in the community. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts and power to do our task, individually and collectively. We have to use the Spirit’s empowerment to uphold and sustain the ministry entrusted to us.*

### Lessons Learned

Short Play – “Jeremiah’s Call”

Encourage the learners to plan for a short play about Jeremiah’s call. Let them be guided with the following tasks:

1. Assign who will act the role of Jeremiah, narrator and God (voice over).
2. What will be the scene to be portrayed and what will be the sequence?
3. Decide whether to present it through mime, skit or role play.

### **Applying the Lessons Learned** “Celebrate the Gift of the Holy Spirit”

Ask the learners to get the card given to them earlier. Inside the card, let the learner, write or draw what gift/s the Holy Spirit gave to them. They will share their work, quickly, during the closing worship. This will serve as their commitment and thanksgiving to God for empowering them.

### **Closing Worship**

Song: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Offering. Let the learners share their Spirit’s given gifts

Closing Prayer: (by the Teacher)

*( Praise and thank God for the gifts of empowerment to sustain and keep the church’s ministry alive and active.)*

## **Lesson 12: What is a Self-reliant church?**

Second Sunday in Kingdomtide  
September 1, 2019

**General Concept:** A self-reliant church is self-sustaining and optimizes its available resources.

**Biblical Reference/s:** Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 4:13

**Key Verse:** Philippians 4:13

### **Age-Level Concepts**

- Our Church can stand and sustain itself.
- God blesses the Church with material and human resources that can be used for its life and work.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- List down the material resources the Church has that can be used to support its life and work
- Identify the gifts, skills, and talents the people have that can be helpful to the Church
- Offer to God the gifts they have

**Materials:** The Holy Bible, song chart, offering plate or basket, paper strips, marker, pentel pen, Manila paper or Cartolina, print out (Outline of a church building) paper and ball pen or pencil.

### **Biblical Background**

Ephesians 4: 11-16

God instituted the church to be an embodiment of holiness, unity, and humility, just as what God embodies. To uphold and edify the body of Christ, the church (as a people) was given various gifts to uphold God’s purpose. The blessings that God has given should not lead the believers to pride but rather manifest the blessings in great humility and love. Though people in the church come from various racial, cultural and social backgrounds, they must observe respect and never allow differences to destroy the unity God has given them. The Apostle Paul reminded the believers in Ephesus that they all hold important things in common and they are indwelt by the same spirit; hold the same faith, baptized by the same baptism and look forward to the same salvation. Just as people in the church differ from one another, so with the spiritual gifts that Christ has given to the church. Different gifts

were vested for the full functioning of the body of Christ. These divine gifts are in the people and are people – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. They are given gifts to build up or improve the ministry and service of the church. This will help the Christians, individually and as a whole, to grow in maturity towards the fullness of life that is found in Jesus Christ.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

**Pre-Arrival:** Before the children arrive, the teacher will write on strips of paper talents and skills that learners may possess (see the list below) and put those on different places around the room. Let them find the paper a little later, as the teacher proceeds.

Spiritual Gifts: Singing, Dancing, teaching, preaching, artwork, cleaning, decorating, planting, giving, cooking, helping, caring, etc.

### **Greeting Time**

Encourage the learners to greet each other; they may shake hands, give high five or simply greet “hello” to everyone.

### **Learning Time**

#### **Discovering the Biblical Truth**

Motivate the learners to read the biblical text, Ephesians 4: 11-16. From the information given in the biblical background, the teacher will give a short background about the situation of believers in Ephesians and why did Paul write them. What was Paul’s ultimate intention in giving this instruction, according to the passage?

Let the learners list down all the gifts mentioned in the passage. Ask children the following questions?

1. Why did Paul mention the different gifts within the church?
2. What were the different gifts mentioned in the passage?
3. What is/are the purpose/s of giving gifts to the church?
4. How can the member’s gifts and talents help the church become self-reliant?

Give ample time for the children to answer these questions according to what they have read.

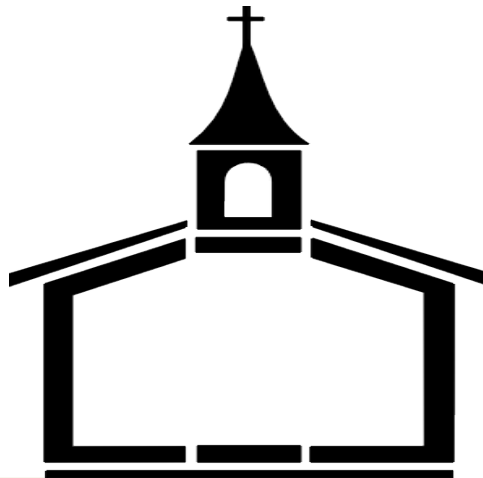
#### **Lessons Learned**

**Collage Making.** After the discussion, let the learners make a collage depicting the different gifts/talents, material resources their church possesses that help the church stand on its own.

Let them gather the paper strips hidden around the room and use them to make a collage. Aside from what they gathered, they may also draw, write or cut out pictures to show the different gifts that the whole church may make use of. They must cut all the pictures or drawings and paste those cut-outs

inside the church building outlined below. They can put the caption or title of their collage accordingly.

The collage represents a church gifted by God to build up the Body of Christ. Let them know that the church becomes dynamic and alive whenever each member contributes their gift/s to uphold the church's ministry.



A GIFTED CHURCH

#### Sharing of Experiences about being Self-Reliant

The teachers will facilitate the discussion on sharing the learner's experiences about being self-reliant; be it personal or individual, in the family, in the church, and in the school.

#### Applying the Lessons Learned

Writing an essay "I am Self Reliant"

After sharing of experiences, let the learners write an essay about their being self-reliant, with the caption, "I Am Self Reliant". Encourage them to reflect on their gifts/talents and let them think of ways how these gifts/talents will help the church become self-reliant.

#### Closing Worship

Closing Hymn "When the Spirit of the Lord" Children Praise God, 203

When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts, we can sing like Mary sang,  
When the Spirit of the Lord is in our hearts, we can sing like Mary sang,  
We can sing, Oh Lord, we can sing, Oh Lord, we can sing like Mary sang,  
We can sing, Oh Lord, we can sing, Oh Lord, we can sing like Mary sang.

Offertory

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

*(Thank God for the gifts and talents that help make the church self-reliant)*

## Lesson 13: Why do we need to become a self-reliant church?

Third Sunday in Kingdomtide  
September 8, 2019

**General Concept:** We have to be self-reliant to be able to sustain and fully support our ministry.

**Biblical References:** Luke 14: 31-32, Romans 8:28

**Key Verse:** Romans 8:28

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

### Age- level Concepts

- Our Church takes care of its members and solves its own problems.
- We should support the life and work of our Church.

### Learning Objectives

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

- Say why we need to be self-reliant
- Appreciate the story of how the Church declared its independence from churches abroad
- Express their thoughts and feelings regarding the decision of the Church

**Materials:** Bible, Song Chart, Drinking Straw, Scotch Tape, Electric Fan, Manila Paper, Pentel Pen

### Biblical Background

Luke 14: 31-32

The parable talks about the responsibility of a person unto the task he/she receives. When we are given a task, there should be planning as to how we should implement things to work out the plan. We have to make an inventory of our resources – both human and material – to know if we are able to do the task, accordingly. We have to consider the source and the expense, meaning the current capacity as against what is needed. This further means assessment and capacity building. The word “sitting down and count the cost” is in effect, a serious matter to attend to and a thing not to be taken haphazardly. It should also consider the sources and its sufficiency, whether it is enough until the work ends.

Wanting to be Jesus’ disciple, one has to consider what it would cost and what it would involve. If people are not prepared to give everything for the sake of Jesus and His work, their lives could be of no use to Him. They would be as useless as salt that had no saltiness.

### Suggested Lesson Outline

**Greeting Time** – Upon arrival, the teacher greets the children and converse with them.

Opening Song                      “One Man’s Hand”  
One man’s hands can’t tear a prison down.  
Two men’s hands can’t tear a prison down;

Chorus: But if two and two and fifty, make a million,  
We'll see that day come round, we'll see that they come round.

One man's voice can't shout and make them hear.  
Two men's voices can't shout and make them hear. (Chorus)

One man's love can't set a people free.  
Two men's love can't set a people free. (Chorus)

One man's cry can't make a landlord change.  
Two men's cries can't make a landlord change. (Chorus)

One man's case can't make land grabbing cease.  
Two men's cases can't make land grabbing cease. (Chorus)

One man's rice can't feed the hungry throng.  
Two men's rice can't feed the hungry throng. (Chorus)

One man's faith can't bring a world of peace.  
Two men's faith can't bring a world of peace. (Chorus)

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

### Getting Ready

GAME (Being Self – Reliant) “Building a Tower”

Group the learners into 2 or 3 groups. Give each group 10 pcs. of a plastic drinking straw.

The group's task is to build a tower using the straw and a scotch tape provided to them. The groups are given 10 minutes to build the tower. Remind the group to use only the materials available.

They have to see to it that the tower they have to build is durable and can withstand strong winds and storms.

Use an electric fan to prove that the towers built are strong and sturdy. After the game, have a discussion/sharing about their experiences, individually and as a group.

Highlight in the discussion the group work, contribution of each player, the maximization of resources and how they used the limited materials? Sum up the discussion by giving emphasis on being self-reliant – reliant upon one's self, trusting and relying on one's power, decision and judgment and use of resources.

### Learning Time

The teacher will discuss this statement, as simple as possible, to the learners that they

may be able to understand that our Church aims to become Self-Reliant that manifests our viewpoints of stewardship in terms of partnership in mission. To guide the teacher in the class discussion, the following information should be considered and emphasized. The teacher should write the salient points on the board or Manila paper for discussion and sharing.

### **UCCP Statement on how the Church Became Self-Reliant**

On December 5-7, 1974, the Executive Committee presented a project entitled “FIVE YEARS SELF-RELIANCE PLAN”. Its general objective is “To make the United Church of Christ in the Philippines fully self-supporting and self-reliant in the carrying out of its ministries after five years from 1975”.

Whereas, the specific objectives are as follows:

1. To obtain from supporting churches in America, namely: UCMS, UCBWM, UPC-USA for five years to be invested for earning purposes.
2. To raise local resources apart from the one million pesos fund campaign the amount of P100,000.00 annually for five years.

The idea of the project towards self-reliance happened on the premise of Good Stewardship. Part of the statement clearly shared this stewardship views:

- “The UCCP does not want to abuse, however, the stewardship of our partners in mission in the United States. Like them, we would also like to mature fully in our stewardship of God's money.”
- “If the partnership of the US churches and the UCCP continues to be the same, the UCCP will forever be dependent upon them for financial support.”

### **Questions for Clarification:**

1. When was the Statement presented and approved?
2. What was the main reason why UCCP thought about this project?
3. Do you think this is a wise decision of our Church? Why yes and Why not?
4. Is it necessary for the church to be self-reliant? Why?

After the discussion, the teacher will give the summary of the discussion and point out to the learners the very reason of giving and how important self-reliance is for the church.

### **Discovering the Biblical Truth**

Read the biblical texts. Let the learners read the biblical reference - Luke 14: 31-32. Ask them how they understood the text in relation to the activities and discussion they have had a while ago. The teacher may refer to the Biblical background to have additional information about the passage.

### **Lessons Learned**

Based on the biblical reference, ask the learners the following questions for discussion:

1. Why is it necessary to have an inventory of your resources?
2. Where can we possibly get the resources of the church?
3. Why is it significant for the church to be self-reliant?

4. What are the possible ways to make the church self-reliant?

### **Applying the Lessons Learned**

As a group, let the learners draw a portrait of a self-reliant church. Consider the answers from the discussion they had earlier. Encourage them to be more creative and make the drawing attractive and colorful. Let them offer their work in the closing activity.

### **Closing Worship**

Closing Song                      “One Man’s Hand”

Offertory (aside from offering of money, let the learners offer the portrait and ask 1 or 2 learners to say something about the portrait)

Closing Prayer ( by the teacher – include in the prayer the birthday celebrants and other praise items. Pray also for the portrait offered by the learners)

### **Lesson 14: What does it mean to be a caring church?**

Fourth Sunday in Kingdombtide

September 15, 2019

**General Concept:** A caring church expresses concern for and empathy towards others by responding to their needs.

**Biblical references:** 1 Timothy 1:14, Luke 15:1-5

**Key Verse:** 1 Timothy 1:14

### **Age-level Concepts**

- A caring church shows concern and feels for others.
- Our Church responds to the needs of others.
- We are a caring church.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Define what caring means
- Illustrate/Show what a caring community does
- Give examples of how the Church cares for others

**Materials:** The Holy Bible, song chart, offering plate or basket, Construction Paper or Art Paper, Colored Pencil,  
Marker, Crayon, other art materials

### **Biblical Background**

1 Timothy 1:14

1st Timothy stipulates directions for church life. The fundamental message of this epistle is the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Paul recounts who he was prior to his calling and conversion. He described himself as a blasphemer, a persecutor and a fanatical enemy who through God’s grace and mercy was transformed into a staunch proclaimer of the Gospel. This transformation, which resulted from God’s

immeasurable grace, leads to thankfulness and gratitude. Paul used his own testimony of life to teach others and to instill in them the truth of God's grace.

Luke 15:1-5

Luke 15 opens with the contrasting effect Jesus have on people. Tax collectors and sinners are drawn to Jesus while the religious authorities abhor him. The Pharisees scorn Jesus sharing a meal with people they consider unclean and sinners. In most culture sharing a meal is a sign of inclusivity and hospitality. The parable of the lost sheep was told by Jesus as a way of rebuking the hostile and heartless attitude of the Pharisees. This parable puts across the message that caring for others is not an option but an imperative of our Christian faith.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

**Greeting Time:** Greet the children as they arrive. Make them feel that they are welcome and encourage them to show their care to each other. Let them express the care to one another.

Opening Prayer (led by a learner)

Learning a Song: "I Care" (VCS Song)

Even if they don't speak, it doesn't mean they don't want to say  
Even if they can't hear, it doesn't mean they don't know anything  
'Cause they are just like you and me, I care whoever they are  
I care whatever they are I care because they are you and me  
All deserve to be happy

### **Getting Ready**

Song Analysis. "Do You Really Care"

Chorus: Do you really care? Do you know how to share with people everywhere?  
Do you really care? Will you take the dare, spread good news everywhere?  
The cross of Christ to bear, do you really care?

I look around in the place where I live. I see people with so much to give  
yet there are those who are dying to know just that somebody cares. (Chorus)

I see people just longing to know what they can live for and where they can go  
we have the hope and the purpose to share, but do we really care? (Chorus)

Ask the children what they understand about the song:

- What is the message of the song?
- What is the challenge of the song?
- What does the song tell about caring? How does it happen?

### **Learning Time**

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical text in Luke 15:1-5. Ask the learners to act out the passage. Let them assign the characters among themselves. Let them feel the role they play. Afterwards, ask each of them how they feel about their role and what were the lessons they learned from the passage.

### Lessons Learned

Let the children write their views or perspective about a caring community. Ask them to make an artwork that illustrates a caring community. Motivate them to be creative and innovative on their work. They can include drawings or other artworks to give more color and meaning to their work. They may adopt a title for their work, e.g. “The Art of Caring”, “A Heart to Care”, “Caring Heart and Hands”, etc.

### Key Verse: 1 Timothy 1:14

Let the learners memorize the key verse. Use a method for them to memorize the verse easily and quickly. Ask them how they understand the key verse and have a brief explanation.

### Applying the Lessons Learned

Game: Paint a Picture or Sculpturing

The objective of the game: To show different ways of how the church cares for others

The teacher will prepare situations or scenarios which the learners will portray. Write those on the strips of paper. Group the learners into small groups (depends on the number of students). Ask each group to designate a leader in each scenario. The group’s task is to portray the scenario or situation, written on the strips, as good and as clear as possible.

At the end of the game, the teacher will give a summary about the situations or scenarios being portrayed; identifying ways on how the Church cares to people in need.

### Closing Worship

Closing Hymn

“I Care”

Offertory (This time, the learners may offer their artworks thanking God for the motivation and reminders to care for others)

Closing Prayer (Make this a collective prayer. Each learner will utter a sentence prayer stating his or her commitment to being more caring and understanding to people around them, especially those who needed care, at the most)

### *Lesson 15: Why do we need to become a caring church?*

Fifth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
September 22, 2019

**General Concept:** We have to be a caring church because that is our mandate as children of God and is the appropriate response to the call of the times.

**Biblical References:** Jeremiah 8:21-22; Psalm 113:5-9; Mark 5: 1-5

**Key Verse:** Psalm 113: 7

### **Age-level Concepts**

- We care for others because we are God's children.
- Caring for others is doing God's will.
- Caring is one way of helping people who are in need.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Distinguish between caring for self and caring for others
- Relate experiences of caring for others
- Express their feelings and thoughts when they care for others

**Materials:** Bible, Song Chart, Pictures or photos of children or people showing care for others and for self.

### **Biblical Background**

Jeremiah 8:21-22

Jeremiah is a kind of prophet who holds nothing back from God. He expresses his anguish and laments to God. His laments, however, are not manifestations of unbelief but rather it manifests how deeply he cares for God's people. In verse 21, he expresses his grief over Israel's arrogance and perpetual unfaithfulness. He is fully aware that God's judgment is imminent. In here, we see Jeremiah's sensitivity to the misfortunes of Israel amid their incessant waywardness. Though he knew God's judgment was imminent he continues to hope that there will be a remedy for Israel's malady. He continues to care despite the persecutions he suffered. The church should embrace this same character.

Psalms 113:5-9

This Psalm declares that God is worthy of praise. The psalmist asks, "Who is like the Lord our God?" In the succeeding verses, the psalmist declares that there is no one like God. God is the greatest of all in heaven and on earth. This is a hymn calling the community of faith to offer the highest praise to God for all, that God has done.

Mark 5: 1-5

The story in this passage talks about the Paralytic Man and his friends. Jesus heals people's disabilities because they are incapable to work for support. As such, the paralytic man is dependent on the people around, to show grace, compassion, and care for daily survival. His friends saw this dire need, that they extended help to their friend by bringing him to Jesus for healing. Jesus saw their amazing faith, on how they creatively brought their friend to him for healing. Jesus was impressed with their collective effort as an expression of their faith. Their faith is strong and active, showing care, compassion, and grace to a person who was excluded and labeled as a sinner by the community.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Arrival and Greeting Time**

Before the children arrive, the teacher has already prepared a big picture of the story of the Paralytic Man and his friends. Cut them into pieces, making it into a big puzzle. Hide those pieces around the room and as the children arrive, ask them to look for a piece and keep it until the lesson starts. Keep the piece and avoid showing it.

Greet them with a cheerful and beautiful smile that they may feel welcomed and loved.

Opening Hymn      “Parang Bangka” Children Praise God, 88

Koro: Parang bangkang nasa ilog, tumihaya, tumagilid

Ang puso mo, ang puso ko ay as Diyos lamang iibig.

Pag-ibig ko’y limang bagay: May sa ulo, may sa kilay

May sa pisngi, may sa binti, may sa dulo ng daliri.

Ako’y hindi namimili, mga taong mapuputi,

Kahit damit tagpi-tagpi, maganda lang ang ugali. (Koro)

Ako’y hindi namimili, mga taong maiitim,

Kahit ilong niya ay pango, may kabutihan ang puso. (Koro)

Ask the children to find a partner and a new partner, every time the song is repeated.

Opening Prayer (led by a learner)

**Getting Ready**      “Photo Language”

Before the class, prepare cut out photos or real-life photos of different people or children in different situations. Make sure the pictures show caring for others and for the self.

As you show the pictures, ask the children how they feel upon seeing the picture or photo. Choose real-life photos that provoke an emotional response. The purpose of this activity is to look at other people with compassionate eyes and emotions. Ask the children to think and imagine their lives, dreams, hopes, joys, and pains. Always ask the learners how to care about them.

At the end of the discussion, ask the learners which are easy to do; to care for oneself or to care for others? Why?

What does God want us to do?

**Learning Time**

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts. Group the children into 3 groups and let them study the biblical passages.

The teacher has to read the biblical background to have an idea what is the passage all about that may help the teacher understand the texts.

**Guide Questions:**

1. What is the text all about?
2. What part in the text relates or connects to the act of caring?
3. What is the passage telling us about caring?
4. What is God’s message to us, according to the text?

### Lessons Learned

Ask the learners to put out the picture piece they got upon arrival. Let them complete the picture just like a puzzle. After completion, the teacher will re-iterate the story about the Paralytic Man and his friends, giving emphasis on the “caring” part. Let the learners know that the caring acts of his friends made Jesus happy. The caring acts of his friends were seen by Jesus as acts of faith, and because of that faith, Jesus was moved and amazed which lead to the healing of their friend and made him whole again. Encourage the learners to relate their own experiences of caring for other people, just like the paralytic man’s friends.

### Applying the Lessons Learned

Project Plan – how to show care to others? To concretely practice what they have learned about caring for others, let them plan a special project. The teacher may suggest concrete ways to plan for, for example, a visit to a family in the street or to a home for the elderly, hospice for children with disabilities, indigenous community or displaced communities. Motivate them to pool their resources and give or offer some gifts to them. But more than the gifts they can offer, let the learners interact and play with other children in the community.

Memory Verse: Psalm 113: 7

### Closing Worship

Closing Hymn “Do You Really Care?”

Refrain:

Do you really care, do you know how to share  
With people everywhere, do you really care?  
Will you take the dare, spread good news everywhere?  
The cross of Christ to bear, do you really care.

I look around in the place where I live  
I saw people with so much to give  
Yet there are those who are dying to know  
Just that somebody cares. (Refrain)

Memory Verse

Offertory

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

### Lesson 16: What is a community of Christian believers?

Sixth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
September 29, 2019

**General Concept:** The community of Christian believers is a gathered people who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**Biblical References:** I Timothy 6:11b-19; Matthew 16: 13-20

**Key Verse:** Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

### **Age-level Concepts**

- We are Christians.
- We believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
- We belong to a community of believers gathered in the name of Jesus Christ.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Own up to their belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- Appreciate the life-story of the early Christian believers
- Discuss why we call ourselves a community of Christian believers

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, a tray full of rocks, a tray full of sand, paper and ball pen

### **Biblical Background**

I Timothy 6:11b-19

The text discusses the responsibility of church leaders in their pursuit of good and faithful living. As a leader, Paul urges Timothy to maintain not only faithful nurture but also careful attention to personal piety, thus, observing a healthy ministry through personal lifestyle and example.

Timothy's ministry happened when the interplay of false teachings and teachers and faithful ministers were at its height, therefore, personal holiness and high regard to ministerial duty is at the top observance.

Paul regarded Timothy as a man of God, the same regard were given to Moses (Deut. 33:1), David (Neh. 12:24), Elijah (1 Kings 17:18) and Elisha (2 Kings 4:7). In so doing, God sets the minister apart as one having a special relationship with God. The minister is regarded as God's special representative, whom God personally has chosen and sent. Therefore, God's minister must observe an exemplar life as expected of him/her not to a particular church but to the whole community of believers. (Bible Gateway Commentary)

### **Matthew 16: 13-20**

This particular passage is about Jesus and his disciples' conversation and clarification about Jesus' identity according to the community and to his disciples, as well. When Jesus asked them what the community knew about him, the disciples reported that the people around regarded him as John the Baptist, Elijah and one of the prophets. Jesus wanted to make sure that his disciples have a vivid grasp of his identity, he as well asked his disciples. Peter, as bold as he is, affirmed his personal confession, "You are Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God". With this Jesus blessed Peter, declaring him as the "rock" of the church's doctrine, not a church's foundation; Jesus is the only Rock regarded as the sole foundation of the church. It was the authority given to Peter and his co-disciples, wherein, the binding and loosing, in the common language of the Jews, signifies to forbid and to allow, or to teach what is lawful or unlawful. (Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary)

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

### Opening Song “Christian Unity” HOFJ # 272

Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, that our life shall be  
Living channels of faith and love, Christian unity.

Chorus: Bless, O Christ, we humbly pray, this our Christian unity;  
So our faith and love shall be following Your way.

When the way may seem so hard, and our faith is tried;  
May we help each other Lord, carry each one’s load. (Chorus)

May we help each other grow in our faith in you;  
May you help us to forgive, and your grace to show. (Chorus)

As we seek, Lord, to reclaim living faith of old;  
May the lessons of the past guide us in the task. (Chorus)

Our commitment be renewed to your mission Lord;  
Make us channels of unity, following your way. (Chorus)  
Opening Prayer (To be led by a learner)

### Getting Ready

Game: Sand vs. Stone

Divide the learners into two groups. Give to one group a tray full of rocks and the other group a tray full of sand. Give each group 10 playing cards or improvised cards to build card churches out of the cards. They will use the 5 cards to build a church on the sand and 5 cards to build a church on the rocks. After they have finished, have them gently blow on the side of the church. If their church stands, give them a point.

The game reminds us that believing in Jesus Christ, as the Messiah and Son of the Living God, is a strong foundation of a church.

### Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts, from I Timothy 6:11b-19; Matthew 16: 13-20

Group the learners into two groups and assign each with a passage. Instruct them to read the passage.

- The first group will write down the behavior/s or ways of life expected of a Christian believer, thus, reasons they were called the community of believers.
- The second group will discuss their understanding of Peter’s confession? What does Peter’s confession mean to him and his faith in Jesus Christ?

*Additional Thoughts:* (Teacher may add)

Peter’s confession was the very foundation of our faith confession as a community of believers. This confession is the reason Jesus blessed Peter in the way he verbalizes his belief. This implies that we are called the community of believers whenever we confession this faith and, as a community, firmly believed that we are believers

because we confess the same belief.

#### Lessons Learned

##### Discussion-Sharing

- From the behavior/ways of life listed above, and as required by the early believers, would it be possible for the church to observe and keep in their daily lives the standards or norms set by the community?
- Do you agree that the community of believers should live by these standards of norms? Why?
- Do you share with Peter in his confession about Jesus Christ? Why?
- In your own words, express your faith, verbally, about Jesus Christ.

#### Applying the Lessons Learned

Write a statement about their faith in Jesus Christ. Who is Jesus Christ? What is their belief about Jesus Christ? What is the significance of Jesus in the community of believers?

#### Closing Worship

Key Verse: Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Offertory

Declaration of Statement of Faith about Jesus Christ (from their own work)

Closing Hymn "Christian Unity"

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

#### *Lesson 17: What does it mean to be a Christian believer?*

Seventh Sunday in Kingdome  
October 6, 2019

**General Concept:** To be a Christian believer means to follow and embody Jesus Christ's way of life and ministry.

**Biblical References:** Mark 1: 14-15; Matthew 4: 23-25

**Key Verse:** Mark 1: 15

#### Age-level Concepts

- A Christian believer imitates the way Jesus lived with the people.
- A Christian believer follows the works of Jesus like preaching, teaching, healing and giving of self for others.

#### Learning Objectives

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

- Identify the kinds of people Jesus ate and talked with, and who he healed and cared for
- Choose what particular work of Jesus they are very interested in and would want to participate in
- Appreciate Jesus' kind of life and express their desire to live it out

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, strips of paper, bond paper, Pen, colored pen or crayons

## **Biblical Background**

It is noteworthy to take a view of Jesus' ministry to fully grasp the meaning of his life and ministry. This brief survey will give the learners the lens on the ministry of Jesus and inspire them to follow and model the commitment of Jesus to the ministry, which, God wants every believer to exemplify.

### **Jesus' Beginnings:**

Luke 3:23

Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age.

Matthew 3:13

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John [the Baptist] at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:12

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee.

*After the succeeding events, Jesus returned to Galilee to start his ministry and begin to fulfill God's purpose of salvation to all the created beings.*

### **The Emphasis of Jesus' Ministry**

Mark 1:14-15 – "Good News"

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

*The word gospel means "good news". What is the good news all about? It is all about God's plan to open the opportunity for salvation to all, the whole created being. This salvation means eternal life; where God's will and desires to experience a full life – abundant and free, is fulfilled.*

### **Matthew 4:23 – "Jesus Went About doing Good"**

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases among the people.

*Jesus' life and ministry focuses on preaching, teaching, and healing of people and the whole of the community. Jesus went to various places to respond to the people's needs especially those who are sick and poor. Jesus cares for the people not only for their physical needs but for their spiritual needs, as well. Jesus' ministry is the best model and pattern for each believer to follow and emulate. Above all, Jesus' ministry is motivated by love toward others regardless of gender, race, status, and views; a kind of love and care that people had not yet experienced even with the people in the temple. Jesus serves as a role model for all the followers, even to the next generations. His life and ministry are worth following and living out.*

## Suggested Lesson Outline

### Arrival and Greeting Time

Before the session, the teacher writes the passages found in the biblical references and biblical background on strips of paper. See to it that all the learners have enough strips.

As soon as the learners arrive, let each pick out a strip and ask them to keep it until being told.

Opening Prayer (by one of the learners)

Learning a Song "The Hands of God" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 295

The hands of God that make the whole creation new  
That guide us through the path that we must tread  
They lifted up the lowly and the poor,  
Hands that brought down the mighty from their thrones.

Refrain: The hands of God that guide us through the years.  
From doubts and fears those hands have led us through,  
They call for faith, and hope, and love to reign in us,  
The hands of God that work through you and me.

The hands that make the lame to walk and blind to see  
The hands that work to set our people free  
The hands that touch the sinners and the lonely  
Are hands of God that work through you and me. (Refrain)

The hands of God that make the church to live and grow  
That give its pow'r to face all fears and woes  
That hands that make for peace to reign all o'er us  
Are hands of God that work through you and me. (Refrain)

After learning the song, ask the learners the following:

- a. What do you think is the song all about?
- b. Identify what the hands of God can do.
- c. Cite some acts or tasks that we can do as followers of Jesus.

### Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Let the learners read the following passages. Divide the learners into two (2) groups and assign a passage. Tell them to answer the basic questions regarding the biblical text.

Mark 1:14-15- What is the central message of the gospel preached?

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

*The word gospel means "good news." Jesus' message was about God's plan to offer the opportunity for salvation to all humanity, which means eternal life in the Kingdom of God!*

Matthew 4:23 – 25 – What are the works and ministries that Jesus did to help the people in the community?

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases among the people.

*Jesus healed people everywhere He went, which reveals several important things. His miracles proved that He was sent by God (Acts 2:22). They showed that He cares for our physical needs as well as our spiritual needs. He loved and respected all people, regardless of gender, race, age or status, demonstrating a degree of love the world had never seen and which serves as a role model for all His future followers (John 13:34-35). He also used miracles to prove that He had the authority to forgive sins and to heal us of our spiritual problems (Matthew 9:6).*

#### Lessons Learned

Ask the learners to get the strips of paper they picked out earlier. Let them discuss, briefly, the theme of the passage and its challenge to us, in our time. How will you participate in or follow Jesus' work and ministry? Let them express their thanks that Jesus showed care and concern to the people who needed his help at the most.

#### Applying the Lessons Learned

##### **Trace Hands or Feet**

Let the learners trace their feet or hands and write on the traced papers ways on how they can follow Jesus or serve others in their own handprint. This creative art will manifest their appreciation and thanks to Jesus' life and ministry by following and showing to others Jesus' example. Let them think of doing good things each day and write those thoughts in each traced feet and hand. May they have the courage to fulfill these commitments as they live each day.

#### **Closing Worship**

Offering – aside from money, let them offer the creative arts of hands and feet. Let them know that all the things written on it will become a commitment that needs to be done and accomplish in their everyday lives.

Closing Hymn     “The Hands of God”

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

#### **Lesson 18: What is transformation?**

Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
October 13, 2019

**General Concept:** Transformation is the process towards radical change.

**Biblical References:** II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15, Luke 17:11-19

### **Age-level Concepts**

- Transformation happens when forms or situations change into something totally different and far better.
- Transformation can happen when people work for it.

### **Learning Objectives**

#### **By the end of the session, the learners are expected to**

- Share experiences of change that they have gone through or have observed around them
- Express their feelings and thoughts about the changes they see and experience

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, construction paper, pen or pencil or crayons (black and white); cereal or milk boxes, heart-shaped papers.

### **Biblical Background**

II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15

Naaman's healing is one of the miracles of Elisha. This miracle story is remarkable as it shows that God's power to transform goes beyond national boundaries and statuses in life. Naaman was a commander of the King of Aram while his slave and Elisha were Israelites. Naaman has wealth and power while the unnamed slave girl had none. Yet this young girl dared to speak her mind and voice her suggestion for Naaman's healing. This slave girl points Naaman to the healing power of God and initiates hope. The story clearly tells us that every person regardless of status, age or race can be an instrument of God through which transformation will be achieved.

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus cares for the marginalized. The 10 lepers did not really come near Jesus. They simply called out to him from a distance. How can they come near to him when they were deemed by society as outcasts? One of the 10, the one who came back to thank Jesus after having been healed must have experienced greater marginalization as he was a foreigner. In the story we see the disclosing important aspects of the transformation which includes healing, praising and thanksgiving. The passage culminates with the charge for the foreigner to "Get up and go." This charge indicates that a momentous transformation or change is about to happen. To "Get up and go" is also a charge to really manifest God's transforming power in a person's life through committed service and in proclaiming God's love and mercy to all.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### **Greeting Time**

Arrival: As the children arrive, the teacher will play the song "Heart to Change the World"

Let the learners listen as they greet and chat with each other. After settling down, introduce the song to the learners and let them sing along with the music.

#### **Opening Hymn**

"A Heart to Change the World"

You and I've got to have a heart to change the world.

Let the song start to sing in every boy and girl.

Start to care. Start to share from a heart of love. Let the world know that Jesus loves them.

Jesus told us to go and share in every land; Overseas, through the hills, across the desert sand

Start to care. Start to share from a heart of love. Let the world know that Jesus loves them.

How will the people know, How will the people know,  
How will the people know unless we show them.

You and I've got to have a heart to change the world.

Let the song start to sing in every boy and girl.

By God's grace, in God's strength; We can change the world.

Let the world know that Jesus loves them.

Opening Prayer (led by a learner)

### Getting Ready

Ask the learners to take note on the following, based on the song:

1. What must people do to have a change in heart?
2. What should people know?
3. How will the people know?
4. What are the experiences of change the learners have gone through?

Let the learners share to the whole class, their answers. In the discussion, give emphasis on how changes happen in the individual or in the community.

### Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

FIVE OR MORE LINES. Read the biblical texts. Group the learners into two. Allow the learners to read the biblical references. After reading, give each group a paper and a pen. Let them write something about the characters in the story. At the top of the paper write the activities' title: *"Five or more Lines about the characters"*. Let the learners take a turn to write a sentence about the story in the passage until they completely tell the story. At the bottom of the paper, let them write: God, help us to transform our lives and help others, as well. Let them share with the whole class what they have written.

Lessons Learned

**BEING TRANSFORMED:** Give each child 2 pieces of construction paper, one white and one black and a black and white crayons or pens. On the black paper, use the white pen or Crayola and on the white paper, use a black pen or Crayola. Children will write on the black piece of paper their "NOT SO GOOD" attitudes or traits they want to change. However, on the white paper, they will write the "GOOD ATTITUDES" or traits they want to strengthen further.

Ask the learners:

- How do you feel about what you have written on the black paper?
- What will you do to change it?

- How do you feel about what you have written on the white paper?
- What will you do to strengthen or improve it?

### **Applying the Lessons Learned**

**TRANSFORMING PRAYER BOX:** The teacher will prepare small boxes (Cereal or Milk box) to be distributed to the learners and cover with any wrapping papers. Wrap the lid or top cover, separately.

Together with the box, give them heart shape papers (cut out) where learners can write prayer requests for the transformation of their attitude or actions or prayer request for their loved ones or friends and place into the box. Place a pen or pencil inside the box together with the notepaper. Children may take their boxes home and continue to use as they pray each day. Write outside the box the title; 'MY TRANSFORMATION PRAYER BOX'.

### **Closing Worship**

Offertory: As they give their offering, let them bring in their work – Transforming Prayer Box and their paper for “Being transformed”. Praise and thank God for the opportunity for being with the children.

Closing Song “A Heart to Change the World”

Closing Prayer (by the Teacher)

## **Lesson 19: What does it mean to be transformed?**

Ninth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
October 20, 2019

**General Concept:** To be transformed means the radical change of persons, relationships and structures.

**Biblical References:** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:97-104

**Key Verse:** Jeremiah 31:34

### **Age –level Concepts**

- Transformation can happen to persons, things, surroundings and relationships.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Make a table of things, persons, situations which they think should be changed
- Identify how these need to be changed
- Determine their role in the changes that need to happen
- Commit to work towards making change happen

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, bond paper, construction paper or art paper, crayons or colored pens, other art materials.

### **Biblical Background**

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The passage portrays the promise of God to a broken people for restoration. This promise of restoration is coupled with a new covenant. During the time of Jeremiah, the people lived through the demise of their life as a nation when the Babylonians invaded Judah, destroyed Jerusalem, and reduced the temple to rubble. Many were exiled, killed and suffered. In Judah in 586 BCE, the kingdom have been ravaged by grief and loss; put to exile and those left behind have had to scramble to survive. All that they have were either destroyed or taken. Every object of value was plundered. Why did it happen? God destroyed Judah and Jerusalem for their sin, specifically the injustices of their rulers. Now the day of Zion's destruction had come upon them. Yet God had not abandoned the people. God spoke to and through Jeremiah. The same God who planted the Garden of Eden and crafted humanity from its soil will replant Judah. God will replant, tend, and nurture human and animal life amid the ashes of Judah, Jerusalem, and the temple. In 31:29, God promises to cease in holding subsequent generations responsible for the transgressions of the previous ones: "In those days they shall no longer say, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'" Instead, according to verse 30, "all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge." The remission of the sin of the past generations gives the survivors and their descendants an opportunity to start their lives anew with God as they rebuild their homes and nation. Hence, in the promise accompanied with a new covenant, God will make, literally engrave, this new covenant on the hearts of the people, instead of on tablets that can be lost, stolen, or broken. Here, God is willing to start over with them and make it easier for God's people to keep the covenant; this time God will engrave the law on their hearts (verse 33). They will not have to be told to know the LORD; for the knowledge of the LORD will be implanted within them.

Psalms 119:97-104

The passage signifies the expression of loving God's law or commandments. Because of faithfully adhering to God's commandment, the psalmist made good decisions. Observing and following God's commandments made him wiser than his enemies, for they refused to follow it and pursued paths that would eventually lead to their ruin. He valued God's commandment as his treasured possession in life. The psalmist's understanding, discernment, or insight exceeded that of all his teachers combined. He attributed this to his meditation on God's testimonies or solemn charges and for not neglecting to think about them.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

Teacher's Preparation: The teacher has to print the passages (double spaced, 12 font size, 2 copies each passage) particularly Jeremiah 31: 33-34 and Psalm 119: 97-104 (print the verses in vernacular). This will be distributed to the learners later.

#### **Greeting Time**

Opening Hymn

"Sumasaakin ang Espiritu"

Koro:

Sumasaakin ang Espiritu ng Panginoon; Ako'y hinirang N'ya pang tumugon,

Sa daing ng mga aba, at ihatid sa mga dukha, ang magandang balita ng kaligtasan.

Sinugo ako pang ipahayag ang kalayaan sa mga bihag  
Bigyang paningin ang mga bulag dalhin ang nasa dilim, sa may liwanag. (Koro)

Ang inaapi at mga sinisiil, ay hahanguin as mga hilahil.  
Ipapahayag ang pagsapit ngayon ng tanging pagliligtas ng Panginoon (Koro)

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

### Getting Ready

Game: “Change Your Look”

Tell the learners to find a partner. Determine who is A (observer) and B (transformer). The objective of the game is to observe their partner, closely, and determine the changes in looks made by their partner. At first, take a close look at your partner because your partner will be making some changes; remember their looks, their styles, what they wear, etc. After a few seconds, ask the observer to turn their back (or close their eyes) and ask the transformer to make, at least, five changes in their appearance. For example, the partner will put away some things from their body, or change the position of the jewelry or accessories they are wearing, etc. Give the transformer 30 seconds to complete the changes.

After 30 seconds the partners may face each other again and identify as many changes, as possible. They may exchange the roles and repeat the process, as far as time permits.

\*To make the game more challenging and exciting, gradually increase the number of things to be changed and transformed until the learners find it difficult to do or resistance will occur.

Have a short discussion about the process, their experience, and feelings about the game. This will lead to the day’s discussion about the meaning of transformation and how the learners participate in the process of transformation.

### Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Divide the class into 2 groups. Distribute the printed passages among the learners, 2 copies for each group. Instruct them to read through the passage and have a discussion and sharing.

Guide Questions:

1. Describe the previous situation or life the people of God.
2. Identify their weaknesses and shortcomings.
3. How did God renew or transform their lives?
4. List down the new ways they embraced after returning to God for restoration and renewal.

Lessons Learned

After the discussion, ask the learners to get back to the copies of the passages distributed previously. From the copies, ask each learner to cut a verse from the

passage, which they think have the same situation, may it be by other person or their own situation. Let them identify the situation which they think needs to be changed and suggest ways how changes can happen and how can they help to make the change possible.

Example: Psalm 119: 101 *"I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word."*

<i>Situation Before</i>	<i>Changes Needed</i>	<i>How?</i>	<i>Help which I can do</i>
Away from God and follow evil ways	Keep oneself from evil ways and obey God's word	read, study and follow God's instruction and word	Be a good influence and example to friends, siblings, neighbor by doing good

#### Applying the Lessons Learned

From the selected verse, encourage the learners to create art that will enhance their commitment to change their ways. They can make it into a card, poster, wall décor, and other related creative arts. They will bring their arts home to remind them that they are committed to doing good things to oneself and to others.

#### Closing Worship

Key Verse: Jeremiah 31: 34

Offertory - bring to the altar their offering of money and their creative arts

Closing Hymn - "Sumasaakin ang Espiritu"

Closing Prayer – (by the teacher)

#### Lesson 20: What is a transformed church?

Tenth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
October 27, 2019

**General Concept:** A transformed church is a church whose perspective and life-ministry is attuned with Christ's.

**Biblical References:** Joel 2:28-29, Luke 18:15-17

**Key Verse:** Luke 18:17

#### Age-level Concepts

- A transformed church has changed its outlook of the world and people in line with how Jesus viewed the world and people.
- A transformed church has changed itself to be able to do its mission just like Christ.

### **Learning Objectives**

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

- Enumerate as many characteristics of a transformed church as they can think of
- Check whether these characteristics agree with how Jesus looked at people and the world
- Express their willingness to participate in the mission of a transformed church

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Bond Paper, Manila Paper, white or green board, pen, markers, chalk, Cartolina, and crayons.

### **Biblical Background:**

Joel 2:28-29

This book of Joel portrays a two complementary parts; the call for repentance (2:12-13) and the eschatological expectation and transformation (2:28-30). The first portrays an imperative nature of calling people to return to the Lord, while the second emphasized the promised of pouring out the Holy Spirit. In other words, it gives the impression that the repentance in the earlier section might give rise to the gift of the spirit in the later part. In 2:28-29, it is being emphasized that the empowering of divine spirit will occur "upon all flesh." The writer then explains what "all flesh" includes all that is part of the household: the heirs, sons and daughters, old and young men. In other words, every generation and every gender will have divine access to divine which is usually reserved only for the privileged. The prophet extends the empowering work of God's Spirit beyond the heirs of the household. Even the slaves, both male and female, have divine access through the spirit.

Luke 18:15-17

This passage of Jesus, taught to his disciples and the people around, was exactly a reversal of what do adults thought of about themselves, as far as the reign of God is concerned. Adults supposed of themselves as the primary benefactors of God's reign; as if they could gain God's favor through their own efforts. But in the passage, Jesus referred to children as the heirs and principal inheritors of God's kingdom. Here, Jesus instills to the minds of the people that in entering God's kingdom they are as helpless and reliant of God as children. No one has to put or hold oneself in high opinions of themselves or think they will attain and achieve eternal life through wisdom or good works.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

#### ***Arrival and Greeting Time***

#### **Opening Hymn**

"Faith in the Service of the people" Children Praise God, 192

Chorus: Faith in the service of the people, faith in the service of the poor,

This is our response to the call of God, faith in the service of the poor.

Tribals of the mountains have the vision of land that is rich and free

They work and struggle, and protect the land, from the greed of the pow'rs that be. (Chorus)

People of the church have the vision of Kingdom of God on earth.

A kingdom of justice and righteousness, a kingdom of joy and love. (Chorus)

Let us come and celebrate together our joys in the service of God.  
And giving thanks for all the work well done. Pray for years to come. (Chorus)

Opening Prayer ( by a learner)

### Getting Ready

#### Bible –Word Relay

The teacher will prepare words, phrase or situation taken from the bible that points out to Jesus' teachings about loving one another, respect of fellow humans, helping the poor and the needy, virtues in the Kingdom of God, etc. Write on the strips of paper the word, phrase or situation. Put the strips in a box or basket. Group the learners into two groups and ask them to form a line. The first player of each group will be the first to pick a strip from the box or basket and hand it over to the game master. The game master will reveal the word to first players and the first players will whisper the word to the following player, which the next player will pass on until it reach the last player. The last player will run to the board or Manila Paper and write the word being passed. The same mechanics will be repeated until they are able to score of 5. After the game, the teacher will discuss, briefly, that the words or situations written and passed on were part of Jesus teachings about transformation; a change in the person, community or family that pleases God.

### Learning Time

#### Discovering the Biblical Truth

Group the learners into two. Assign each group a passage. Instruct them to read the passage. Give out papers and pens and ask them to list down new things and situations God promise to happen for the people. On the chart as shown below, tell the learners to write on the left column the negative or not so good ways of the characters in the passage and on the opposite side of the chart, write their positive or good works.

Example:

Not so good ways and works	Good ways and works

Let the learners share their work to the whole group. Let them highlight the positive and negative attitudes of the Israelites and Jesus' disciples as accounted in the passages. Let the learners know that God wants to save the Israelites from destruction and desire for them a good and completely changed life. Whereas, Jesus desires for his disciples to live a life as that of a child; humble, reliant and trusting. Thus, the kind of transformation that God envisions for His children and the church.

#### Lessons Learned

From the work done, focus the discussion on the following:

- What does God desire the people to live out?
- Why, do you think, God wants our lives to be transformed?
- Why did Jesus give utmost importance to children?
- How can the learners participate in God's work of transformation?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Tell the learners to make a “Commitment Card”. Write on this card their commitment and willingness to participate in the mission for a transformed church. Identify what particular work or commitment they want to extend and how will it happen?

### Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn “Faith in the Service of the People”

Key Verse

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

### Lesson 21: What is a transformed society?

#### Trinity Sunday

Eleventh Sunday in  
Kingdomtide

November 3, 2019

**General Concept:** A transformed society is just and compassionate, and is where genuine peace prevails.

**Biblical References:** Isaiah 1:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 1:3

**Key Verse:** 2 Thessalonians 1:3

#### Age-level Concepts

- A transformed society is fair, kind, and truly peaceful.
- We need to help build a transformed society.

#### Learning Objectives

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

- Define in their own words the concepts of fairness, kindness and peace
- Describe how manifestations of a transformed society could be experienced in the daily lives of people
- Pledge to help in their small way in the work to achieve a transformed society

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, picture of a tree and a fruit, Manila Paper, tape, bond paper, construction paper or art paper.

#### Biblical Background

Isaiah 1:16-17

The biblical account in Isaiah refers to God’s demand for people’s moral amendments. God, having put aside the worthless plea of outward religiousness made by his people, goes on to declare, by the mouth of his prophet, what he requires. First, in general terms “Wash you, make you clean” (ver. 16), and then with distinct specification “Cease to do evil; learn to do well” (ver. 17), he calls on them to amend their ways, both negatively (“cease to do evil”) and positively (“learn to do well”). If they will really amend, then he assures them of forgiveness and favor; if they refuse and continue their rebellion, the sword will

devour them, verse 16. In other words, In opposition to this false practice, God calls for moral transformation and enunciates the true conditions on which the restoration of His favor depends.

## 2 Thessalonians 1:3

The epistle shows what the principal occasion of joy is to faithful co-workers in the Lord. It is the faith and love, patience and constancy of the people to whom they work and serve with. The apostle's address here is admirable and aims to encourage other churches to carry on. He exceedingly emphasized the emulation of other churches by boasting of the Thessalonians to them. And he quickened the Thessalonians by telling them how much he had praised them in the hearing of the churches. The Apostle realized himself under a special debt of gratitude to God for that which His grace had wrought in the Thessalonians that the faithfulness of this Church had cheered and sustained the Apostle in a season of peculiar trial, perhaps even of discouragement to himself. For this thanksgiving is a matter of inherent fitness, not due from personal feeling only, as he said "Your growth in grace deserves such acknowledgement to God." Moreover, emphasizing on the words, "your faith grows exceedingly" – a strong confirmation of growth as he sent Timothy to the Thessalonians. Timothy therefore confirmed and testified to an extraordinary growth in Thessalonian faith. This was due to two causes: the practical and energetic character of their faith from the beginning (1 Thessalonians 1:3); and the persecution they had undergone.

## Suggested Lesson Outline

***Greeting Time and Arrival:*** Greet each learner as they arrive. Let them feel they are welcome and important part of the class. Give out cut-out letters to each learner.

Opening Hymn                      "A United and Uniting Church"   Children Praise God, 4  
A united and uniting church, that we may all be one.  
Reformed and transforming, in mission and in faith.  
Onward UCCP, building God's kingdom of peace.  
Come, let us all remember, a heritage of faithfulness,  
Of ardent men and women. Devoted to Christ's way.  
Covenanting as one together, with God's Spirit, sole Enabler.

Opening Prayer (by a learner)

## ***Getting Ready***

Ask the children to get the letters they received upon arrival. Tell them that there are 3 words they have to form. Give clues on how many letters are there on each word. Have them spell out the word on the floor and tape the completed words on the board.

After completing the words, ask the children, who formed the word, to define the meaning. They can write the concepts/ideas opposite the word.

After writing, have a short discussion and explanation about their ideas/concepts.

Example:

Words = Ideas/Concepts/Definition:

1. fairness = give everyone a chance
2. Kindness = good deeds
3. Peace = no worries

## Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

As part of the preparation, the teacher should have read the biblical background for deeper understanding about the text.

Have the learners read the passages from Isaiah 1: 16-17 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3 .Ask the learners the following:

1. What are the manifestations of a transformed society/community?
2. Identify the characteristics of a transformed society/community.
3. How could these manifestations, of a transformed society/community, be experienced in our daily lives?

Lessons Learned

*Kindness, Peace and Fairness Tree.*

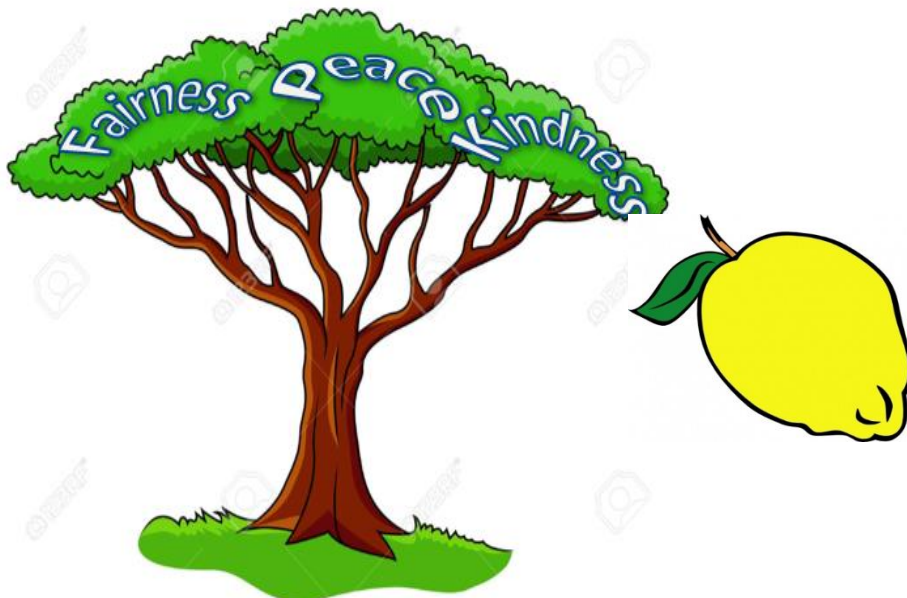
To further the learners' understanding on a transformed society, introduce this activity. The tree symbolizes the transformed society whose life and works are guided with kindness, peace and fairness. When a society lived out their faith, their acts of kindness, peace and fairness will bear fruit.

Divide the learners into 3 groups and tell them to read the listed passages. Tell them to identify the words associated or related to their group names. List down those words on the fruit-shaped papers and tape them on the tree tucked on the board. Use only one kind of a fruit to display one kind of a tree.

Group Kindness - Ephesians 4:32 and Micah 6:8

Group Fairness - Deuteronomy 25:15; 2 Corinthians 8:13-14, Col 4:1

Group Peace - John 14:27, Romans 12:20-21, 2 Corinthians 13:11



### Applying the Lessons Learned *“Caring Box”*

To concretize their desire to live in a transformed society/community, encourage the learners to have a “caring box”. The idea is to be able gather and offer some items or goods that can be distributed to the community or church whenever need arises during times such as, calamities, birthdays, to the sick and needy family or persons. The collection will be done monthly. Perishable goods should be distributed immediately. They can distribute the good/items on a monthly basis.

### ***Closing Worship***

Offertory

Closing Hymn “A United and Uniting Church”

Key Verse 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Closing Prayer (by the teacher)

### ***Lesson 22: Why do we need to transform church and society?***

Twelfth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
November 10, 2019

**General Concept:** Church and society needs to be transformed in order that God’s Reign will become a reality in the here and now.

**Biblical References:** Psalm 98:7-9, Mateo 11: 1-5

**Key Verse:** Psalm 98: 9

### ***Age-level Concepts***

- Church and society need to be transformed so that God’s Reign will be experienced.
- God’s Reign can happen in the here and now.

### ***Learning Objectives***

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

- Give concrete examples of how Church and society need to be transformed
- Describe how “God’s Reign” looks like when Church and society has been transformed
- Express appreciation that God’s Reign can become a reality in the here and now

**Materials:** The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, papers, markers, pens, board, video clip, pictures of different situations, audio and visual materials to watch the video clip.

### ***Biblical Background***

Psalm 98:7-9

This psalm expresses the call on the inanimate things of nature to rejoice for all the Lord’s marvelous deeds. Nature will rejoice when God comes to judge the earth. With righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity. "God by his righteous judgment will bring the whole earth from a

state of sorrow into a state of salvation and joy." This indicates that the judgement of God will transform the world and that all inhabitants not just human but the rest of God's creation join in praising the Lord. The circle of the writer's imagination gets bigger and bigger. Here not only all the people on the planet are to praise God, but also the seas, the fish and the humpback whales (Psalm 8:8; 104:25). All are invited to give a cheer for the marvelous deeds of God! And the hills are alive with the sound of music, and applause for the coming of the Lord.

### **Matthew 11: 1-5**

John, the Baptist, received report about Jesus' ministry when still in prison. This report affected him to wonder if Jesus was really the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament or shall they wait for another? This prophecy was told in Isaiah 35: 5-6. To have a concrete hold of the report, he sent his disciples to verify. From the very mouth of Jesus, John's disciples heard what Jesus told them. And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers<sup>[a]</sup> are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

Jesus showed by his action and words that those promises were fulfilled through his service to the people. God's promise and reign is, indeed, realized as Jesus' served the people and community who hoped for a new life and situations. Behold, God's reign has yet to realize.

### **Suggested Lesson Outline**

Teacher's Preparation: Cut from newspapers and other reading papers that depict current situations of the country or local municipalities. This will aid the students have a grasp of the country's or communities' current problems or issues that need to be changed or transformed in the society.

If the church has an internet access, you can download the video clip of Jaime Rivera's song "We are all God's Children". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whS6eIJq6dM>)

#### **Arrival and Greeting Time**

- Opening Hymn (Select from previous action or greeting songs)
- Opening Prayer (led by a learner)

#### **Getting Ready**

(Choose from here which are available in the church)

- a. Downloadable Video of Jaime Rivera's song, "We are All God's Children"  
Let the children watch the video and let them give their reaction or comment afterwards.
- b. Make use of the pictures cut out (by the teacher) from the newspaper or other reading papers. Tuck those on the board and let the children browse through.

Guide Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the situations shown on the materials?
2. What do the materials trying to say to you?
3. Do you think God wants us to help change these situations?
4. What can you do about these situations?

## Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical passages with the children. The teacher will discuss the content to the learners with the aid of the information given in the biblical background. Give emphasis on the ministry of Jesus in Matthew 11: 1-5, wherein Jesus tries to respond to the needs of the people in his time because this is what he has to do to fulfill God's promise of salvation to all. God wants to reign in this world; to transform the people, the situations and their lives for them to experience God's love and care for all.

Lessons Learned      *"My Dream of a Transformed Church and Society"*

Motivate the children to draw or write about their dream of a transformed Church and Society. Let their thoughts and ideas be manifested in their works. Include in their drawing or write-up their participation in making their dream come into reality. Display their works in the classroom to remind them of this dream and work out for its realization in their daily lives.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Encourage the children to write hash tags expressing their appreciation that God's reign is possible in the here and now, and enjoin the people to participate towards the fulfillment of God's reign.

Example:

*#God's Reign*

*# Transformed Church and Society*

## Closing Worship

Offertory

Closing Hymn      "We are All God's Children"

Key Verse              Psalm 98: 9

Closing Prayer      (by the teacher)