

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.

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] strength and passion amidst challenges and struggles.

Biblical References: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Isaiah 58:9b-14, Luke 13:10-17

Age-Level Concepts

- We need to be an empowered Church in order to sustain our strength and passion in doing our tasks.
- Being an empowered Church, we can withstand challenges and struggles.

Learning Objectives

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

- Write a song (sung to a familiar tune) about the Church's need of the Holy Spirit.
- Cite examples of struggles and challenges that the Church is facing.
- Affirm that the Holy Spirit enables the Church to remain strong and passionate to do its mission.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Paper, Pens and musical instruments.

Biblical Background

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The text is about Jeremiah's call to be a prophet, a call which he is far from eager to accept. The reason he cited for his indifference to the call was his young age. God, however, did not allow Jeremiah's youth to hinder him from responding to the call. All throughout the Bible, we see God calling people to serve God in their youth. Jeremiah was called to do a gargantuan prophetic task which probably was the reason why he refused. He was set over nations to pluck up and breakdown, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. Of the six verb imperatives, four speak of judgment and only two speak of the promise of restoration. These imperatives indicate that Jeremiah's Oracle will center mainly on God's judgment because of Israel's hardheartedness. His messages of doom and judgment resulted in severe persecution. His own kin wanted to kill

him. He suffered much because of the message God called him to proclaim. This resulted in him having a love-hate relationship with his prophetic task. He complains to God about the difficulties of being a prophet but we never hear God chastising him for such. In the end, his faith prevailed even if he died as an exile in the land of Egypt.

Luke13:10-17

This passage is about the healing of a woman who was bent over for eighteen years. The healing of the woman happened in the synagogue during the Sabbath day. The law of the Sabbath says that no work must be done during this day. The Jewish leaders were indignant at what Jesus did. Jesus responded by using the imagery of the untying of the ox. The term *untie* has been used several times in the Gospel to express that someone's sin, transgression or penalty has been canceled. The healing of the woman shows that the community can either be the cause of disease or an agent of healing. Thus a question is being raised. What kind of community should the church be? Jesus' act of healing the woman on a Sabbath is a challenge to the religious authorities at that time. The greatest law is love and concern for the needy and the downtrodden.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

"YOU ARE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PERSEVERE IN DOING GOD'S WORK"

Make a handshake to establish bonding with the Class (Roman's Handshake- hands extended to the forearms)

Sharing: Allow 2 to 3 students to share "What's God been doing in your life lately?"

Songs of Gathering

"I Got Spirit in My Body"

I got Spirit in my head and it's keeping me alive,

It's keeping alive, it's keeping me alive

I got Spirit in my head and it's keeping me alive.

Jesus is keeping me alive

(Shoulder, Hands, Legs, ... body)

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 181

Spirit of God descend upon my heart,

Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move

Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are

And make me love you as I ought to love

Teach me to love you as your angels love

One holy passion filling all my frame

The baptism of the heaven descended dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Opening Prayer

Descend in our hearts O Holy Spirit, fill us with knowledge and wisdom as we study your word. May your nurturing love empowers us to persevere in all life's challenges. This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Read the biblical texts. Group the class into 2 and discuss the texts given.

Read Jeremiah 1:4-10. Points to reflect on:

- Describe Jeremiah's struggle in responding to God's call?
- How does God convince Jeremiah to take the call?
- What is the relevant of Jeremiah's call to the young people these days?
- How does God empower the young people in the church to participate in doing God's Mission in the midst of changing times?

Read Luke 13: 10-17. Points to reflect on:

- Describe the scenario of how Jesus healed the woman who was bent over for 18 years?
- Compare the reactions of the crowd from the Jewish leaders' responses?
- How did Jesus able to make a point that healing this woman is more important than observing the Sabbath Law?
- How does Jesus empower his disciples to do what has to be done?

- How does God help the Church to be persistence in doing God's Mission in the midst of changing times?

Sharing of the Group's Reflection. Tell the groups to share their responses to the questions.

Lessons Learned (Facilitator will have a class fun and games / inter-action session. Playing Samson, Delilah, Lion and a Pair of scissors game, let the group that lost the round, answers and discusses one question below. There will be three rounds all in all)

Appreciating the Life Work of the Holy Spirit in our Church. (Local, National and International)

- a. Cite examples of struggles and challenges that the Church is facing.
- b. How does the Holy Spirit sustain our Church to overcome the struggles and challenges?

c. How do we appraised ourselves to be more receptive and welcoming to the works and leading of the Holy Spirit?

Applying the Lessons Learned

Creative Song Writing. Compose a song that tells about the Church's need of the Holy Spirit using a very familiar and contemporary song. Share this to the whole class or present this during the Sunday School Sharing Time at the worship service.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse

"But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you." declares the Lord. Isaiah 1:7-8

Offertory

Leader: We are empowered to give that is why we are extravagantly generous in our giving. Give now so that we may be God's blessings to others.

Giving of our Offerings

+Doxology

+Thanksgiving Prayer

God our Extravagant Giver and source and fount of every blessing, we offer to your our gifts of thanksgiving. May these offerings reach to it's purpose of empowering your people. Amen.

+Closing Song "Empower Me" by Kelly Carpenter

Nobody knows how weak I am, better than you; Nobody sees all of my needs, better than you. And nobody has the power to change me, From what I was born to be. Jesus be strong in my weakness, empower me!

Chorus

Empower me, like a rushing river flowing to the sea.
Lord, send your holy spirit flowing now through me.
Till I'm living as your child, Victorious and free,
send the power of your love, Empower me.

Nobody's eyes see through my soul, better than yours;
Nobody's love can make me whole, No one but yours. And nobody has the power to lift me, To reach for eternity. Jesus breaks through all my defenses, empower me.

(Chorus to Coda)

Coda:

Send your love, And lord Empower me. Victorious and free, send the power of your love, Empower me.

+Prayer of Dedication (Assigned Student)

+Benediction A Gaelic Benediction
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face.
And rain fall soft upon your field.
Till we meet again my friend till we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand,
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand.

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of August) "Trading My Sorrow"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzjFIQvJvDo>

I'm trading my sorrow
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord
I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord
And we say yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord Amen
I'm pressed but not crushed persecuted not abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I'm blessed beyond the curse for his promise will endure
And his joy's gonna be my strength
Though the sorrow may last for the night His joy comes with the morning

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

The month of August:

- a. Feeding Program for Street Children or Children located in a depressed area.
- b. Exposure of young people to different depressed communities.
- c. Training on Mission and Evangelism and hold an Evangelistic Practicum
- d. Each One, Bring one friend to attend the Sunday School Class and other Youth Services.
- e. #lessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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 References: Psalm 112: 5-9, Hebrews 13:16

Age-Level Concepts

- Our Church can rely on itself to sustain its life and work.
- A self-reliant Church sustains itself by optimizing the God given gifts, material and human resources available

Learning Objectives

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

- Classify the resources (material, human) used by the Church to sustain its life and work.
- Assess one's gift, skills or material capacity that can be used to help the Church.
- Commit ones gifts to God for the Church to use to sustain its life and work.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Manila Papers and Marker Pen

Biblical Background

Psalm 112:5-9

Psalm 112 proclaims that the fruit of glorifying God is joy and happiness. Glorifying God is manifested not in empty rituals but in obeying wholeheartedly God's commands. Obedience begets blessings. The blessings poured down upon God's people must be shared and experienced by all especially the poor. The church in order to be true to God's mandate should teach that everything we have in life are blessings and must be shared with others.

Hebrews 13:16

The writer of Hebrews ruminated on the power of Christ's sacrifice. In response to this he exhorts Christians to have a beneficent character. As response to Christ's sacrifice every follower and believer must offer their own sacrifices of praise and good deeds.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.
"YOU ARE GOD'S GIFT TO OUR CHURCH")

Sharing: Allow all students to share their answer to this question, "What God's given talent you have that you wanted to share to our church?"

Songs of Gathering “Jesus Loves Me” (GBB)
Jesus loves me the way I am, I love you the way you are
Jesus loves us the way we are. Hallelu, hallelujah!
Halle hallelujah 3x Jesus loves us the way we are

“A Gift to You”
Everything I am , Everything I'll be
I give it to You, Lord And do it thankfully

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

Everything I have, All You've given to me
I give it to You, Lord And do it thankfully (Chorus)

Opening Prayer

You bless us O Lord that we may become Your blessing to the world. Be with us as we uncover our gifts you have given and share these to glorify your name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Getting Ready

Talent Show Game. Group the class into 4 groups and let them prepare a 1-minute presentation on these following task: Dance, Choir, Spoken Poem, Stand-Up Comedy and Drama. Give them 10 minutes to prepare. The facilitator will say the category and all groups will present their 1-minute piece. After the group presentation, the other 3 groups will give a point ranging from 1-5 and 5 is the highest. The group who has the highest score wins.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts.

Read Psalm 112:5-9. Points to reflect on:

- What does the Psalmist tell us about glorifying God? What are its benefits?
- How do we glorify God as a Church in these changing times?
- How do we work out God's commands and intentions in helping others as a church?

Read Hebrews 13:16. Points to reflect on:

- What value/s that you can learn about Christ's sacrifice?
- Discover ways how can we replicate Christ's example of giving the self for the sake of others?
- What sacrifices can we give or do to help the church stand on its own?

Lessons Learned (Facilitator will prepare these illustrations ahead and show these during this session)

Identify the Church Human and Property Resources.

Discuss and fill up what kind of Church Resources needed to implement the 3 fold ministries of Jesus in your Church? What can you contribute in doing Christ's ministries?

| Church Resources | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Human Resource | Property Resource |
| farmers | 1 hectare of donated farmland |
| Singers | piano |
| businessman/ woman | game boards |

| Church's 3 Fold Ministries of Jesus | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Teaching | Healing | Preaching |
| What do we have? | eg. 2 High School Teachers | eg. Doctor | eg. Lay Preacher |
| What Can I Contribute? | I can assist, help | I can help in advertising our Medical Mission in our Community | I can share my faith testimony to my fellow CYFer's during our Bible Study |
| | | | |

Applying the Lessons Learned

Letter to God. Write a letter to God that contains these following;

- Thanking and glorifying God
- Offering your gifts in service to God and God's people to help the church become self-reliant
- Committing oneself as co-workers in doing Christ's 3 fold ministries.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16

Offertory

Leader: Give generously for you have been generously loved by God. Without measure or counting, bring your offerings to God.

Giving of our Offerings

+Doxology

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Generous God, we offer to your our gifts of thanksgiving. May these offerings reach to it's purpose of empowering your people. Amen.

+Closing Song *“Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ”*

New Century Hymnal, 347 NCH

Let us talents and tongues employ, Reaching out with a shout of joy
Bread is broken the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Chorus: ::Jesus lives again, Earth can breathe again

Pass the word around, loaves abound.::

Christ is able to make us one, At his table he sets the tone

Teaching people to live, to bless Love in word and in deed express.

Jesus calls us in, sends us out, Bearing fruit in a world of doubt

Gives us love to tell, bread to share God Immanuel everywhere.

+Prayer of Dedication (Representative of the Group who won the Talent Show Activity)

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September “Universal Dance for Peace”)
(The Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Concentrations are spiritual practice in motion. Drawing on the sacred phrases, scripture, and poetry of the many spiritual traditions of the earth, the Dances blend chant, live music and evocative movement into a living experience of unity, peace and integration. This taste of our true nature - as Universal Peace - opens to the possibility of a deep spiritual revolution within the person)

“We Are Opening Up”

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender

To the luminous love light of our God

We are opening we are opening 2x

Assignment for the Next Meeting

Read the UCCP Document concerning the FIVE YEARS SELF-RELIANCE PLAN
Executive Committee 5-7 December 1974

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
The month of September:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, conduct a human resource survey in your church.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make an inventory to all properties of your church.
- c. Organize a Youth Creative Team that will develop the young people's talents of singing, dancing, poetry, writing, visual and multimedia arts that will contribute be of used in the Church's life, work, and ministries.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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: Deuteronomy 30:15-16

Age-Level Concepts

- We should be able to sustain and fully support the ministry of the Church.
- The Church should be able to attend to its needs and solve its own problems.

Learning Objectives

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

- Articulate the rationale behind the proposal to be self-reliant.
- Read the important portions of the proposal of the Church to launch a plan for self-reliance.
- Make a statement expressing their appreciation of the action of the Church.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, photocopies on UCCP Article about Self Reliance, Manila paper and Pentel Pen for the Statement of Appreciation

Biblical Background

Deuteronomy 30:16-15

This passage is part of the third speech of Moses to the Israelites. In here Moses sets before the Israelites choices in living their lives. This text reminds us that one of our God-given ability is the ability to make choices and decisions in life. Yes, there are choices but what is the best choice? Moses does not explicitly tell the Israelites what the best choice is. Instead, he pressed the people to love God and obey God's command. In doing such they will reap the rewards of long life and blessing of the land. Throughout the Book of Deuteronomy, faithfulness and obedience to God is deeply emphasized. Faithfulness to God will bring about blessings that will ensure the endless sustenance of life.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

"YOUR TALENT IS GOD'S GIFT TO YOU! WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS YOUR GIFT
BACK TO GOD."

Sharing: Allow 3 students to share their answer to this question, "Why there is a need for self-reliance?"

Songs of Gathering "Magagawa Natin"
Magagawa natin ang lahat ng bagay, lahat ng bagay dito sa mundo
Isang bagay hindi magagawa, hindi magagawang nag- iisa

Malulutas natin ang mga problema kung tayo,y magkakaisa
Ang suliranin dagling mapaparam, at may bagong buhay

"People of God, Let Us Adore Together"

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 241

People of God, let us adore together Christ who has called us from night and into day;
We've been redeemed by His eternal goodness; To live up to His love and holiness.

Body of Christ magnificent is our name; we are in Holy Communion with the Lord;
We trust Him for the life that He has given; to save us from our death and sin and
shame.

Called to be saints, all consecrated are we; Christ's willing servants in service for the
world;
We're called to serve the lost, the high the lowly; And anyone who needs His saving
grace.

O Bride of Christ, from heaven He came to call us; into the baptism in His purity;

We are the new Jerusalem that will be; People of God through all eternity.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God of wisdom and source of all blessings, we come before you today with an open ear to hear your word again, with open minds to understand it's essential to our being, and with open hearts to live it out in our daily living. Amen.

Getting Ready

Fun and Learn. Preparation. Record 10 recent dance craze hit songs including KPop Dance hits. Group the class into 2 groups and make a dance space zone for the group members to dance. The facilitator will play a dance craze hit and any member of the group can dance to it with its proper dance movement. The group who has a large number of dancers dancing in a synchronized movement of a particular song has the point.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts.

Read Deuteronomy 30:16-15. Points to reflect on:

- What does the Lord offer to the people of Israel?
- How can the People of Israel attain God's promises to them?
- How does the text connect to the concept of self-reliance of our Church? What does it mean to be faithful and to be good stewards of God's resources?

Lessons Learned

Group the class into 4 and let them discuss their Assignment on UCCP's 5 Years of Self-Reliance Plan. Discussion may be guided on these following questions:

1. What is your impression of the said document? What do you think is the rationale of becoming a reliant church at that time? Share a striking phrase that is essential to the whole document.
2. How important is this document to our church? What does this document mean to you and the whole UCCP?

Share the gist of per group discussion.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Encourage the class to make a statement expressing their appreciation of the action of the Church and present this statement to the whole congregation during church concern.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse

"In God I trust; I am not afraid. What can a mere mortal do to me?" Psalm 56:11

Offertory

Leader: God is faithful to us. In the giving of our offerings, we demonstrate how faithful we are to God. Let us bring our offerings of thanks and love to God.

Giving of our Offerings

+Doxology

+Thanksgiving Prayer

All gifts around us come from you, O God. May our offerings and our lives be an expression of our obedience and gratitude to you. May these gifts help the church become self-reliant and become gifts to the world. Amen.

+Closing Song “Christian Unity” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 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.

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

As we seek, Lord, to reclaim living faith of old,
May the lessons of the past guide us in the tasks.

Our commitment be renewed to your mission, Lord;
Make us channels of unity, following your way.

+Prayer of Dedication (Youngest of the Class)

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September “Universal Dance for Peace)

“We Are Opening Up”

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of our God
We are opening we are opening 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

Month of September:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, conduct a human resource survey in your church.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make an inventory to all properties of your church.
- c. Organize a Youth Creative Team that will develop the young people's talents of singing, dancing, poetry, writing, visual and multimedia arts that will be of used in the Church's life, work, and ministries' promotion.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

FIVE YEARS SELF-RELIANCE PLAN

Executive Committee

5-7 December 1974

NAME OF PROJECT: FIVE (5) YEARS SELF-RELIANCE PLAN

OBJECTIVE

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 1 975.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

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.

IN RESTROSPECT : ANALYSIS OF THE 10 YEARS SUBSIDY TO THE UCCP

| Years | In Dollars | \$-P Rate | Peso Equivalent |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1974 | \$ 70,000.00 | P 6.70 | P 502,005.54 |
| 1973 | 68,132.36 | 6.70 | 456,486.00 |
| 1973 | 92,949.46 | 6.55 | 635,019.00 |
| 1971 | 121,921.11 | 6.40 | 780,295.13 |
| 1970 | 176,158.36 | 3.90 | 687,017.63 |
| 1979 | 159,347.00 | 3.90 | 621,453.32 |
| 1968 | 159,937.00 | 3.88 | 620,555.56 |
| 1967 | 164,495.95 | 3.87 | 636,599.36 |
| 1966 | 169,407.29 | 3.87 | 655,606.25 |
| 1965 | 173,817.03 | 3.87 | 672,671.91 |
| 1964 | 165,262.33 | 3.87 | 639,567.56 |
| 10 years | <u>\$1,525,989.49</u> | | <u>P 6,405,272.54</u> |

From 1964 to 1974 the United Church of Christ in the Philippines received from the Boards \$1,525,989.49 or P6,405,272.54. There is no iota of a doubt the UCCP sustained its commitment to the Gospel ministry very actively and meaningfully because of the funds that came from the cooperating Boards. Of course both UCCP and the churches in the United States represented by the Cooperating Boards are agreed that these funds, while channeled

through the churches in the United States, are basically (theologically) God's money. There is no denying the fact however, that the giving churches specially lately have felt the pinch of the tight money situation. 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.

IMPLICATIONS

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. Whether the churches in the USA can sustain this dependency is very hard to tell. Changes in both attitudes and structures may make it more and more difficult for the cooperating Boards to continue nurturing, as a child, the UCCP. National politics, cosmic economic and social situations may drastically and adversely affect this relationship.

A PROPOSAL

A new proposed system of partnership therefore between the cooperating Boards and the UCCP has to be evolved before the *night* comes.

RATIONALE

The traditional system of aid gave donors the final say in the specific use of every penny they sent. It was the donors who decided whether a certain program was still relevant or not. But now donors cannot ignore the techniques available for bringing new benefits with dollar aid. These are:

1. Increased financial efficiency

An investment of say P1 million pesos earns a minimum amount of P120,000.00 a year forever. In thirty years the same total amount can have created a permanent income of three times the annual amount. The effects snowball. On the other hand a million pesos in annual gifts will last only 10 years.

2. Increased selfhood and emotional self-reliance is the best gift of all, far transcending the immediate physical benefits of annual gifts. Everything has its price - in this case extra work for the donors are:

- a. to give attention to the form of the investment.
- b. establish with receivers a careful form of words, to be written into the constitution of the investment, on how the income may be used. This must be specific enough to give a real flexibility to the receiver, that is, the income shall be used for all or any of the programs of the UCCP, or for any subsequent UCCP plans in the areas of education, community development, evangelism, etc.

Donor agencies sometimes fear that:

1. Their constituency will not give towards general programs;
2. That they will not be consulted on specific implementation of the general plans;
3. That they will not receive reports.

None of these fears need materialize. An effort in clear education and good subsequent reporting will persuade the man *in the pew* of the overwhelming advantages of the new form of aid, and the receiving church or churches usually welcome consultation, especially so when they do not *feel* threatened.

The ministries to be supported by the UCCP after it has attained sufficiency and self-support are, primarily, the following:

1. Continuing Leadership Development

- a. theological education scholarships
- b. teachers education scholarships
- c. hospital personnel scholarships
- d. agricultural technicians scholarships
- e. scholarship to upgrade personnel
- f. non-theological education

g. other personnel training

2. **Christian Education**

- a. production of indigenous Christian Education materials
- b. annual training of Sunday School teachers
- c. youth work
- d. women's work
- e. men's work

3. **Church Growth** (Evangelism)

- a. equipping the UCCP constituency for service
- b. increasing UCCP membership
- c. production of materials in evangelism, stewardship, etc.

4. Assisting **Church-related schools** improve school plants, curricula offerings

5. Continuing **research** to pinpoint weaknesses and strengths of UCCP's ministries in order to improve its program concerns, thus making those concerns humanizing and meaningful to people

6. **Home Mission programs** in cultural communities

- a. organization of settlement areas for the people in cultural communities
- b. literacy programs
- c. economic (agricultural), medical programs
- d. helping the people in the survey and titling of their properties

7. **International Ecclesiological Relationships**

- a. Ecumenical sharing of funds and personnel (ESF)
- b. Christian Church in Asia participation (CCA)
- c. World Council of Churches participation (WCC)
- d. Alliance of Reformed Churches Participation (WMC)

8. **Pension** and Retirement for Church workers

9. **Development programs** among the *poorest of the poor*

10. Continuing church **leadership training**

11. Assisting calamity victims in their **emergency needs** and in rehabilitation

12. **Salary subsidy** for Moderators and other church workers working among the *poorest of the poor*.

74-237 VOTED: That the 5-year Self-Reliance Plan (Appendix VI) be presented to Philippine Joint Action Group as the only project proposal from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines; provided that this action shall not prejudice the askings and/or project proposals, already submitted and favorably responded to, including, but not limited to the case of Union Christian College School of Nursing.

Ref: **Executive Committee** December 5-7, 1974, p. 16.
Proposal is in Appendix VI pp. 62-66.

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

Fourth Sunday in Kingdomtide
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

Age-Level Concepts

- A caring church expresses concern and empathy toward 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 a caring community means.
- Identify the needs of people and the appropriate responses made by the Church.
- Pledge to become an active part of a caring community.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Pictures that depict Human Suffering

Biblical Background

1 Timothy 1:14

1 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

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

“WITHOUT A SENSE OF CARING, THERE CAN BE NO SENSE OF COMMUNITY”

(Anthony J. D'Angelo)

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence.

Songs of Gathering "Rejoice Evermore"
(Create an action that enhances the singing and understanding the song)
Rejoice evermore for this is the will of God 3x
In Christ Jesus concerning you.

Praying without ceasing...
Caring for the poor...
Visit those in prison..
Loving our enemies..

"What a Perfect Joy" Hymnal of faith Journey, 53
What a perfect joy in our hearts today, When we always walk and live with our God
All the darkness of life will disappear In Jesus who is light.
Rejoicing always, fulfilled our gladness; our hearts refreshed when we are with our
God.

What a perfect joy in our hearts today; When we love and serve the Lord our God
All creation praise and bless with joy Glorifying Jesus Christ
Despite our hardships, we don't regret ;We are light-hearted when we are with our
God.

Opening Prayer (Unison)
God who cares for the poor and needy, we come before your presence with
humility. Be with us as we listen to your still small voice. Teaching us how to love
and care for others. Amen.

Getting Ready

Display pictures that depict human suffering. Group the class into 2 and let them choose 2 pictures for their group work.





Learning Time (Groupings)

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts aloud.

Read 1st Timothy 1:14. Points to reflect on:

- What does Paul mean about, “the grace of God overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus?”
- How does the grace of God manifest in our lives?

Read Luke 15:1-5. Points to reflect on:

- What was Jesus intention of telling the parable of the lost sheep? Who are the lost sheep during the time of Jesus?
- What is the message of the Parable and how does it relate to our mission which is to care for others?

Lessons Learned

Telling Their Story: Reflecting on the Pictures of Human Suffering

Describe the pictures by creating a background story of each picture. Connect the two pictures and try to make a slogan to express your campaign/ cause.

(Example: Stop Extra-Judicial Killings).

Share the Group’s Work to the Whole Class

Applying the Lessons Learned

Encourage the class to make a statement of how to respond to these human sufferings which are happening in our country today. Express how we can show that the church cares.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse:

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father, is this to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” -James 1:27

Offertory

Leader: Having received new life and love through the generosity of God, let us give thankfully and extravagantly that we may be called generous children of God.

Giving of our Offerings
+Doxology

+Thanksgiving Prayer

We offer these gifts to you O God to be a means of your love for others. Amen

+Closing Song *“When I Needed a Neighbor?”*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym8yOdCFGPc>)

When I needed a neighbor? Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbor, were you there?

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there?

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, were you there?

When I needed a shelter Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a shelter were you there?

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, were you there?

When I needed a healer, Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there?

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, Were you there?

Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the color and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

+Prayer of Dedication

Gather and form the whole class in one circle. Recite your prayer and do a body movement.

“We open our lives to you O God (Open arms and hands, slowly raising it on high) Use us to care for your people in need (arms down and open palms reaching forward) Make us a caring community in Christ’ name that cares for

those who are in need (hold hands together). Amen. (Both arms extended to the respected shoulder of the persons standing at your right and left side)

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September “Universal Dance for Peace”)
“We Are Opening Up”

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo\)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of our God
We are opening we are opening 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of September:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, conduct a human resource survey in your church.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make an inventory to all properties of your church.
- c. Organize a Youth Creative Team that will develop the young people’s talents of singing, dancing, poetry, writing, visual and multimedia arts that will be of used in the Church’s life, work, and ministries’ promotion.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you’ve learned from the session. (Weekly Task)

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

Age-Level Concepts

- We have to be a caring Church because that is our task as children of God.
- We have to be a caring Church as an expression of our obedience to God’s will.
- Caring is an appropriate response of the Church to the needs of others.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain why the Church needs to be a caring community.
- Point out situations in the community that needs concern and empathy of the Church.
- Express their feelings and thoughts on the identified situations of people in the community.
- Suggest appropriate responses on given situations and or needs.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Logo of different service and caregiving agencies and the Philippine Poverty Statistic.

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 these 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.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

"GOD COMMANDS US TO CARE FOR OTHERS"

Welcome and gather all student. Say this statement, "Whoever you are and whatever you are on this life's journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence."

Songs of Gathering

"DUBIDAHDAH PRAISE GBB 19-25-07

Chorus

We gonna um! Ahh! (dubidadidahdah 2x)

Let's praise our God 2x

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad
Together let us join our hearts in prayer as we dance and praise God's name.

"Sing Praise to God for Life" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 372

Sing praise to God, sing praise to God for life,
For beauty, hope and love, for tenderness and grace
Sing praise to God, sing praise to God for life

With all of earth sing the praise of God's life

Lift up your eyes to see the works of God
In every blade of grass, in every human face,
Lift up your eyes to see the works of God
Through-out all life, in all time and all space

Open your ears to hear the cries of pain
Arising from the poor and all who are oppressed,
Open your minds and use your wits to find
Who are the cause of this world's unjust ways.

Reach out your hands and share the wealth God gave
With those who are oppressed and those who are alone,
Reach out your hands and gently touch with Christ
Each frozen heart which has said "No" to love.

Through all our life we'll love the God who cares,
We'll love the God who cares and Spirit of all care
Through all our life we'll serve the God who cares
And sing God's praise with our eyes, hands and hearts.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God of light, of night let your Spirit come on us here gathered. This is the holy ground and assembly where we, your people, call on you in faith, joining heart and minds in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen

Getting Ready

Post these logos on the board and let the class identify each logo and the services the agency is doing.



Learning Time

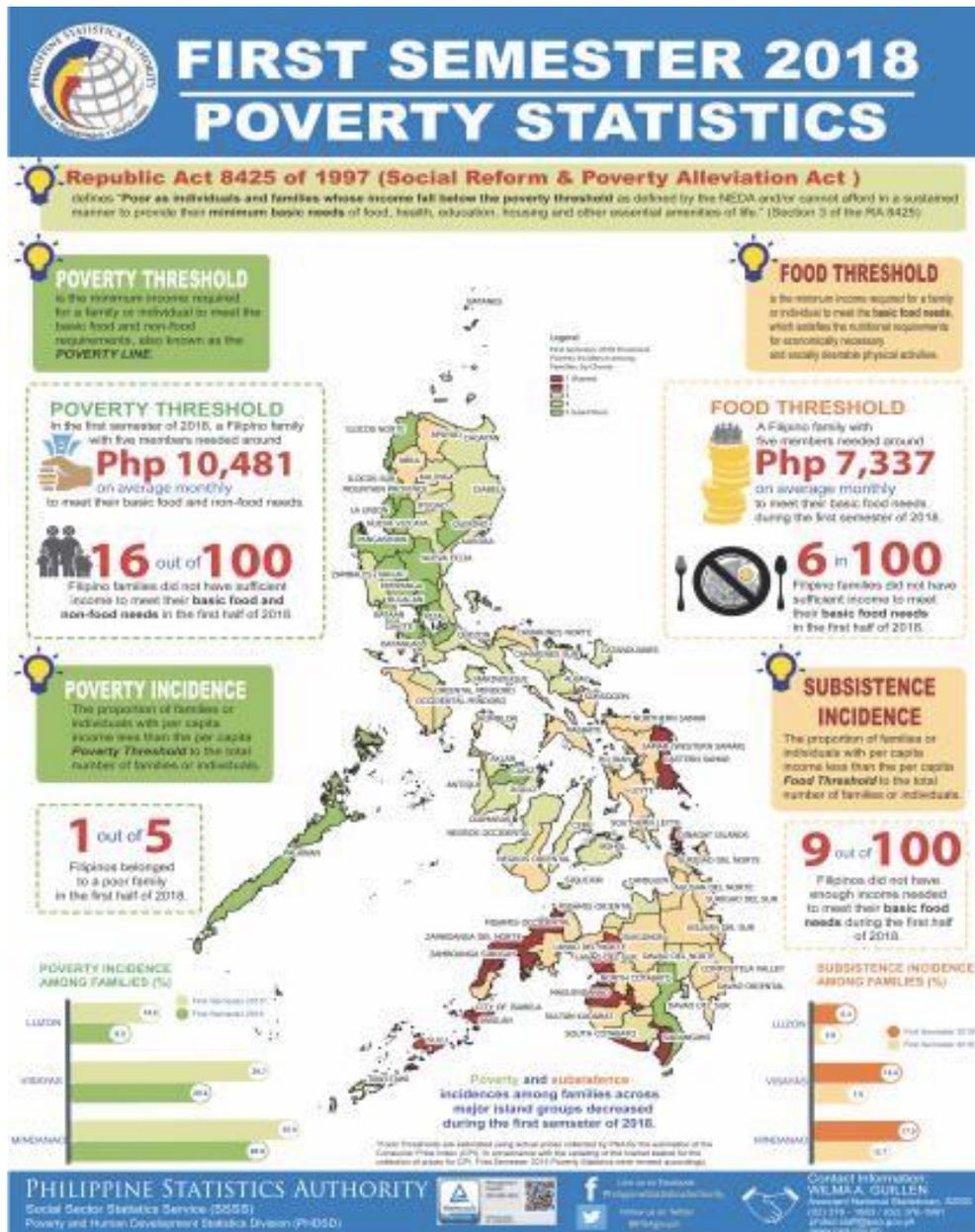
Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts.

Read Jeremiah 8:21-22. Points to reflect on:

- What does the text say about poor people?

- How did Jeremiah empathize with the poor people?
- Read Psalm 79:1-9. Points to reflect on:
- What does the Psalmist say about God helping the poor and distress?
 - Why there is a need to help the poor?
 - As God's people, how would we translate what God did for the poor in our present context?
 - How do we raise, lift and make the poor and needy sit with people in power?

Lessons Learned. Allow the class to observe and share their reflection about the



Philippine Poverty Statistic. (<https://psa.gov.ph/poverty-press-releases>)

Applying the Lessons Learned

What is God's mandate to our church in helping the poor and the needy?

What are the programs and ministries of our church that help the poor?

Identify the poor and the needy of your community and create ways how can y our local church able to extend help and services?

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: "God raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes." Psalm 113:7-8

Offertory

Leader: All good and perfect gifts around us come from God, let us share what we have for others may also experience God's bounty.

Giving of our Offerings

+

"We Give You But Your Own" Hymnal of Faith Journey, 93

We give you but your own, what'evr the gift may be

All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Leader: We give you nothing but our gratefulness and love. May these offerings be of used to lift up others in need. Amen.

+Closing Song "How Can Our Song This Time be Chanted"

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 368

How can our song this time be chanted, living is yoked with heavy burdens

Some are not mindful of each other, and life can be bought with money

How cheap it is! Can it be!

Chorus

Open wide, O God, the heavens and let our dreams come like the falling rain

Let our hopes be ever brighter, loving Savior, let not our faith forsake nor fail us

Many are hungry, all around us, thirsty as well for truth

and justice while all the rich have more than plenty.

They wallow in pleasure always, their lives are all so easy.

O Let our vision for tomorrow go forth beyond the fiery mountain

Up and above the dark clouds hanging and facing the storm in battle

O Lord, our Lord, O our God.

+Prayer of Dedication

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September "Universal Dance for Peace")

"We Are Opening Up"

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of our God
We are opening we are opening 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

Month of September:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, conduct a human resource survey in your church.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make an inventory to all properties of your church.
- c. Organize a Youth Creative Team that will develop the young people's talents of singing, dancing, poetry, writing, visual and multimedia arts that will be of used in the Church's life, work, and ministries' promotion.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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-15, 18-19

Age-Level Concepts

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

Learning Objectives

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

- Profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- Draw out ideas on what the community of believers should be from the experiences of the Early Christians.
- Contrast the life of the Christians before from that of today.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse.

Biblical Background

I Timothy 6:11b-15, 18-19

The passage contains Paul's reminder to Timothy to be steadfast in faith amid all the dangers and lures of life. Paul reminds Timothy of how true Christians conduct themselves. The riches of

the world should not be the foundation of ones' security. Ones' trust must be in God for God own everything. Faith God must be manifested in acts of kindness and generosity.

Matthew 16:13-20

"Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am?" These questions posed by Jesus to the disciples remain powerful questions to us today. The question of Jesus' identity has always been a core of the Gospel accounts. Even opponents wonder about his identity and where his authority came from. Answers to the first question included names of key people from Old Testament. The answers to Jesus' first question denotes that God's creating and liberating power transcends time. The message of God reverberates through the various moments of history. In the second question, Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Peter answered correctly. Followers of Christ need to have a strong conviction and faith. To start the mission of proclaiming God's kingdom we have to start with the conviction that Jesus is the Messiah.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

"CHRISTIAN means I Am Nothing without Christ"

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on a life journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence.

Songs of Gathering "I Am A Christian"
I am a C
I am a C-H
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N
and I have C-H-R-I-S-T
in my H-E-A-R-T
and I will L-I-V-E E-T-E-R-N-A-L-L-Y

"Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so
Little one to Him belong, they are weak but God is strong
Shanananananananana Hoo 4x
Yes Jesus loves 3x the Bible tells me so
Yes Jesus love (Clap)

"Can Others see Jesus in Me?"
Can others see Jesus in me?
Can others see Jesus in Me?

Oh, how can the world see Jesus?

If it cannot see Jesus in me.

- Can others see Christ's love in me?...
- Can others see goodness in me?...

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Come to our midst O Lamb of God and indwell us to your loving presence. Teach us your ways that we may follow you in each step you will take. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Getting Ready

Sing the song and each learner will describe who Jesus is to one's life.

"Who is your Jesus?"

(Group will sing)

Who is your Jesus? Hallelujah 3x

(Hallelujah 2x Hallelujah) 2x

(to be sung by a learner supplying the blank of who Jesus is to one's life)

My Jesus is my _____. Hallelujah (first learner)

My Jesus is my _____. Hallelujah (2nd learner)

My Jesus is my _____. Hallelujah (3rd learner)

(Hallelujah 2x Hallelujah) 2x (the whole class)

Option:

Watch in Youtube: Who is Jesus?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k0bEB2N5do>

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth

Tell the students to read the biblical references in unison. Divide the class into two groups. Assign 1 Timothy 6:11b-15, 18-19 to group 1 and Matthew 16:13-20 to group 2. Allow each group to discuss and answer the guide questions being asked.

Guide Questions:

Group 1-1 Timothy 6:11b-15, 18-19

- How do Christians should act as Paul charged Timothy do so?
- Are Christians nowadays still conduct what the early Christians did?
- Compare and contrast the early Christians to the Christians of today.

Group 2-Matthew 16:13-20

- Who was Jesus to His Disciples? How does the answer of Simon Peter able to make clear who Jesus is?

- Who is Jesus to the young people these days? Who is Jesus to you? (Personal question)

Share the gist of per group discussion.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Portrait of Christ. Invite each learner to write or draw an image on a Manila paper that best describes who Jesus is to you and the world. Post the Manila paper on the board/ wall and silently let the whole class observe and reflect on their unified work.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'" - Matthew 16:16

Offertory

Leader: Christ taught us how to love and that is expressed in how we give. Let us give joyfully our offerings to God.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Song "Dear Lord God, Receive Our Offering"
Hymnal of Faith Journey, 96

Dear Lord God receive these offering we are bringing to your altar
For you, O God our fount of blessings, from your great love outpouring flowing

Chorus

Because you have loved us so much from the very beginning
and you made all thins on earth for us, And so our lives to you we offer O Lord,
Our God, in service for the people

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Leader: May these offerings be of great help to those who need it. May you bless us and use us to be God's blessing to your people. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

+Closing Song "My Best Friend "(Tune of Danny Boy)

I have a friend, in whom I am confiding
His presence fills my soul with joy each day
A friend in whom I have a peace abiding
Naught can my heart with fear or dread dismay

Refrain:

He's my best Friend, to whom my soul is clinging,
My Rock, my Strength, in every hour of need

While He is near my heart is ever singing
I have a Friend who is a friend to me indeed.

Come days of gloom, with heavy weight of sorrow
'Midst shadows deep, temptations sharp and keen
This Friend so near, today and thro' to tomorrow
Dispels all fear He ever stands between.

This Friend of mine is Christ, the Rock of Ages
I'll trust in Him while here on earth I roam
He'll keep me safe though fierce the tempest rages
Till comes the morn within my heav'nly home.

+Prayer of Dedication

Unison: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we profess that you are our God who became human and is Sovereign Lord of life and history. In your suffering, death, and resurrection, we are redeemed from our disobedient and sinfulness. Through you, we are called to participate in the establishment of a just and compassionate social order. We are entrusted with God's ministry and that is to make each person a new being in Christ and let love, justice, and peace prevail to all the earth. You called us to be co-workers for God's kingdom which is being an experience where faith in Jesus Christ is shared, where healing is given to the sick, where food is given to the hungry, where light is given to the blind, and where liberty is given to the captive and oppressed. We believe that your resurrection has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death and we look forward to Your coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful in the kingdom of God. Amen.

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September "Universal Dance for Peace")
"We Are Opening Up"

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo\)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of our God
We are opening we are opening 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of September:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, conduct a human resource survey in your church.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make an inventory to all properties of your church.

- c. Organize a Youth Creative Team that will develop the young people's talents of singing, dancing, poetry, writing, visual and multimedia arts that will be of used in the Church's life, work, and ministries' promotion.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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

Seventh Sunday in Kingdombtide
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: II Timothy 1: 3-14, Luke 17:5-6

Age-Level Concepts

- A Christian believer emulates the way of life Jesus has demonstrated to the people.
- A Christian believer actively participates in doing Christ's works in the world.

Learning Objectives

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

- Assess as to what characteristics of Jesus they have emulated.
- Analyze why Jesus chose to be with the poor, the sick, the needy, sinners, demon-possessed and other undesirable kind of people.
- Pledge to follow Christ's life and participate in his works.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, Meta Cards, and Board Pen

Biblical Background

Luke 17:5-6

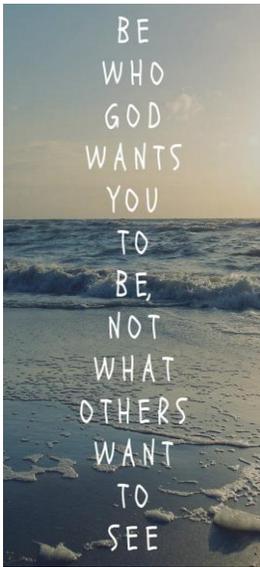
Jesus has always described what it takes to follow him. One who prioritizes family matters on top of everything or one who cannot carry his/her own cross cannot be Christ's follower. In Greek grammar verse 6 is actually a criticism of the disciples' faith. The size of the disciples' faith cannot even be compared to that of a mustard seed. The increasing of ones' faith is not an easy task. Yet it is a task every disciple should accomplish. A strong and profound faith comes from deep rumination of ones encounter with God and with the wider community in his or her daily life.

2 Timothy 1:3-14

2 Timothy is like a final letter to a close friend. Paul penned this letter to urge Timothy to continue living the faith instilled in him and to offer his life as an example for others to emulate. Paul articulated that faith cannot be placed in a storage. It must be lived. The saving act of God in Jesus Christ must be proclaimed even in the face of persecution.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time



(Post a Poster that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson)
"Be Who God Wants You To Be, Not What Others Want to See"

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence."

Songs of Gathering "To Be Like Jesus"

To be like Jesus, To be like Jesus
All I ask to be like Him; All through life's journey ;From earth to glory
All I ask to be like Him.

"Jesu, Jesu Fill Us with Your Love" New Century Hymnal, 498

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with Your love, show us how to serve
The neighbors we have from You.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. (Refrain)

Neighbors are rich and poor, neighbors are black and white,
Neighbors are near and far away. (Refrain)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
All these are neighbors to us and you. (Refrain)

Loving puts us on our knees, serving as though we are slaves,
This is the way we should live with You.(Refrain)

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God of the morning and evening hours, let your Holy Spirit come on us here gathered. We call on you in faith as we study your word today. Amen.

Getting Ready

Write the qualities of Jesus on meta cards. You can use different colors of meta cards, one meta card per quality of Jesus. Instruct the learners to choose one quality of Jesus that they aim to have and one that they already have. Tell them to write their choices on the different meta cards. Allow the learners to share their choices and the reason why they chose that characters of Jesus.

Qualities of Jesus:

Compassionate

Approachable, Prayerful, Unselfish, Forgiving, Zealous, Humble, Patient

Good listener, Believer, Obedient, Loving, Giver, Kind, Gentle, Dedicated, Passionate

Suffering servant, Compassionate, Honest, Self-Control, Mover, caring, faithful

Innovative, Godly, Holy, Pure, Down to Earth, Wise, Witty, Defender of the Poor

loves the poor, Principled, Straight Forward, welcoming, creative, lived simply, strong

(You can add more characteristics of who Jesus is.)

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts together as a class. Divide the group into two. Tell the groups to discuss and reflect on the following questions.

Luke 17:5-6 (Group 1)

1. Why does Jesus choose to be with the poor, the sick, the needy, sinners, demon-possessed and other kinds of people who are considered undesirable in their time?
2. How does faith move us to be like Jesus who is for, by and of the least, the lost, and last?

2nd Timothy 1:3-14 (Group 2)

1. How does Paul encourage Timothy to be loyal and true to the gospel of Jesus?
2. How can we as believers of Jesus Christ be able to follow Christ's life and work?

Lessons Learned: Youth Speak! (An Intimate Youth- Faith Dialogue)

Each group will choose a speaker within to be in the Youth Speak.

Share one's thought about these following questions:

1. What is it for me to be a follower of Jesus Christ in these changing times?
2. How can we emulate the way of life Jesus demonstrated? How can we as young people of today actively participate in doing Christ's works in the world?

Learners are encouraged to ask a question to the two speakers. Make it more lively and interesting by asking relevant and crucial issues of the teens.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

Offertory

Leader: With joyful hearts, let us present our offerings for the work of Christ’s Church.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Song “O God Receive this Offering” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 91
O God receive this offering that we are bringing to You,
This is the sign of our gratitude for your great love for us.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

Leader: For the bounty of your grace and love, we thank you O God. May you bless these offerings as well as those who gave. May you enrich their lives as they too become Your blessings to your people. Amen.

+Closing Song “You Are the Seed” New Century Hymnal, 572

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
You’re a star that will shine in the night;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt,
a beacon to glow in the dark.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day;
You’re the wheat that will bear golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch,
My witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose;
“Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world.”

You are the flame that will lighten the dark,
Sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world
Through valleys and pastures of peace.

You are the friends that I chose for myself,
The word that I want to proclaim.
You are the new kingdom built on a rock
Where justice and truth always reign. (Ref)

You are the life that will nurture the plant;
You're the waves in a turbulent sea;
Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide,
Nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God. (Ref)

+Prayer of Dedication

Invite all learners to say this prayer of Commitment in unison, "I, _____
(state your full name) promise to make you as my Lord and Savior. Wherever you
lead me, I will follow. Whatever you want me to do, I will obediently do with my
best. Amen."

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of October "Universal Dance for Peace")
"Peace Shalom Salaam"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNACZGqwkC>)

Peace Peace Shalom Salaam

Peace Shalom Salaam (Repeat 4x)

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

Month of October:

- a. Exposure to the near Indigenous People during the semester's break.
- b. Learn the IP's life and struggles and their cultures. Present your learning during the Indigenous People's Sunday, October 20, 2019.
- c. Make a Vlog concerning the life of our Indigenous People and post it in your Youtube Account.
- d. #CYFSSLessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Lesson 18: What is transformation?

Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide
October 13, 2019

General Concept: Transformation is the process toward radical change.

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

Age-Level Concepts

- Transformation is an activity which makes appearances, situations, and conditions change radically into something better.
- Transformation can be achieved when people unite themselves and work for it.

Learning Objectives

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

- Give metaphors of transformation which they experience or observed around them.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of changing things, situations and conditions of people.
- Express their feelings and thoughts towards the changes they see around them.
- Resolve not to fear change.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase, Things to Change and Transform into Activity, and Memory Verse.

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 was 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 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 come near Jesus. They simply called out to him from a distance. How can they come near to him when they were deemed by the 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 a 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 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

(Post A Poster that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson)
"The true transformation takes place within." ATGW

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence.

Songs of Gathering DUBIDAHDAH PRAISE
We gonna um! Ahh! (dubidadidahdah 2x)
Let's praise our God 2x

This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad
Together let us join our hearts in prayer as we dance and praise God's name.

"Deep and Wide"

Deep and wide, deep and wide,
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide,
Deep and wide, deep and wide,
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide

"Time to Change"

It's time for us to make our dreams come true
A guiding voice will tell us what to do
It's a time to change ourselves and show the world
That we still care for all, and will lead them there.

We'll lead them to a place beyond the sea
A place of love where everyone is free
Don't despair the path to happiness is wide
If we must change our ways, call on God for our guide.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

God who transforms all things and become new, we come before you with openness and willingness to change. Create in us a new being in Christ as we study your word today. Amen.

Getting Ready

Hymnology. Let the class learn and sing this hymn. After singing, read the brief background of the hymn. Try to let the learners sing the hymn again knowing the

background and let them pick a phrase of the hymn that moved them while singing.

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”
Words and Music by Julian Rush (1985)

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

[Refrain]

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain?
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

This hymn was written by Rev. Julian Rush, a United Methodist minister who served churches in Dallas, Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs for 17 years, until he acknowledged his own identity as a gay man.

When he came out, the United Methodist church in Boulder decided he was no longer fit to be their minister, and stopped paying his salary. In 1981 Bishop Melvin Wheatley appointed Julian to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Denver. This was a small church, which already had a pastor and had very little money. But they decided to accept the appointment of Rev. Rush as a public gesture of support for the gay community, and as a statement about their commitment to social justice.

In 1984, St. Paul UMC became one of the first three churches in the nation to become a Reconciling Congregation, believing that all persons are children of God and are welcome in the church.

This hymn is Julian’s own record of the struggle to be honest and open, even in the face of rejection which came as a result of his integrity. Following the church’s inhospitable reaction to Julian, he wrote this loving and affirming hymn. What a powerful lesson for us all about what it means to love God – and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts. Group the class into 2 and discuss the following text.

Group 1- II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15

1. How would you describe Naaman's transformation?
2. How would you relate Naaman's journey towards healing to our own sickness/ diseases?
3. Who were God's instruments in bringing healing to Naaman and in what way they contribute to Naaman's transformation?
4. What do we need to change and experience wholeness and healing?

Group 2- Luke 17:11-19

1. What kind of transformation occurs during Jesus' healing of the 10 lepers?
2. How does the healed leper demonstrate one's right response to Jesus' healing?
3. What do you think the community's reaction of these 10 lepers who were healed by Jesus?
4. Would they be accepted again to their families, friends and their community?

Lessons Learned: **Youth Speak! (An Intimate Youth Faith Dialogue)**

Each group will choose a new speaker among to be in the Youth Speak.

Share one's thought and response to the following questions:

1. Based on your group discussion, define what transformation is and how does the Young Christians of today be able to experience and achieve transformation?
2. What is it for me to be a transformed follower of Jesus Christ in these changing times?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of changing things, situations and conditions of people? Express one's feeling and thoughts towards these changes.

Learners are encouraged to ask the question to the two speakers. Make it more lively and interesting by asking relevant and crucial issues of the teens.

Applying the Lessons Learned

Each learner is invited to write a word or draw a picture on the respective columns that entail aspects of Self, Church, Nation, which need to be changed from and be transformed into.

| SELF | | CHURCH | | NATION | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Need Change from | Transformed into | Need Change from | Transformed into | Need Change from | Transformed into |
| Prejudice towards LGBTQIA+ Bullying people who are different | Actively join in awareness campaign and involve in the discussion of LGBTQ's Issues and Concerns | Teaching one's members that LGBTQ community are an abomination to God's eyes. | A welcoming and inclusive Church to LGBTQ Community | Discrimination and prejudice towards the LGBTQ community | Draft bills and laws against discrimination and for Marriage Right of LGBTQ couples. |
| | | | | | |

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: *Romans 12:2*

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Offertory

Leader: God transforms us into God's likeness to be generous to others. Let us now give our love and offerings to show God's generosity within us.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Song "All That We Have in Our Lives"

Hymnal of Faith Journey, 92

All that we have in our lives comes from you, gracious God,
We offer all these back to you to glorify your name.

+Thanksgiving Prayer (learner from Group 1)

+Closing Song "In the Midst of New Dimension"

+Prayer of Dedication (Member from Group 2)

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of October "Universal Dance for Peace")

"Peace Shalom Salaam"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNACZGqwkC>)

Peace Peace Shalom Salaam
Peace Shalom Salaam (Repeat 4x)

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.

Month of October:

- a. Exposure to the near Indigenous People during Semester's break.
- b. Learn the IP's life and struggles and their cultures. Present your learning during the Indigenous People's Sunday October 20, 2019.
- c. Make a Vlog concerning the life of our Indigenous People and post it in your Youtube Account.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104

Age-Level Concept/s

- To be transformed means radical change of persons, things, relationships, and structures.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify people, things, situations, relationships that need transformation
- Suggest ways or steps on how to achieve the change that they want
- Commit to helping in the work for the transformation

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, Meta Cards and Board Pen .

Biblical Background

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The prophecy 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, exiling, or killings, and suffering to majority of the

population. In Judah in 586 BCE, the kingdom would have been ravaged by grief and loss; put on to exile and those left behind would have had to scramble to survive. All that they have were either destroyed or taken. Every object of value was plundered. Why does it happened? God would destroy 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 holding subsequent generations responsible for the transgressions of 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 allows the survivors and their descendants to start their lives over with God as they rebuild their homes and nation. Hence 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.

Psalm 119:97-104

This text presents the consequence of loving God's laws or commandments. Because he had faithfully adhered to God's commandment, the psalmist made good decisions and had acted in his best conduct. 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, his never neglecting to think about them.

Romans 12:1-2

The text is the transition to the last major segment of this Epistle to the Romans. The doctrinal foundation for the Christian life has been laid down in the first 11 chapters. Now in chapters 12-15 Paul will spell out some of the ways our faith and doctrine should be demonstrated in our daily lives. These transitional verses introduce us to the attitudes and actions which should set the Christian apart from the world in which he lives. In the Jewish practice and tradition, law required Jews to observe a complex system of animal sacrifices to atone for sin and to remind the people of the significance of their sins. Only animals without blemish were acceptable offerings (Leviticus 23:18). The Christians in Rome to whom Paul is writing this epistle are for the most part Gentiles, and feel no obligation to offer animal sacrifices. Paul says, however, that they

have a sacrificial obligation that, in fact, surpasses that of the animal sacrifices required by law. Christians are not allowed to substitute an animal's life for their own, but are instead required to sacrifice their own lives. The requirement, however, is no longer ritual slaughter, but is instead the presentation of the living person to God—a living sacrifice- a life dedicated to the service of God—a life committed to doing God's will—a life lived in faith and lived out in faithfulness.

Suggested Lesson Outline

EVERY NEXT LEVEL
OF YOUR LIFE
WILL DEMAND A
DIFFERENT YOU.

· LEONARDO DICAPRIO

Greeting Time

(Post a Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.)

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on a life journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence.

Songs of Gathering

"Jesus Loves Me"

*Jesus loves me this I know for the bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but God is strong.
(Shanana..Ho) Yes, Jesus loves me 3x The Bible tells me so.*

"Jesus Loves Me the Way I Am"

*Jesus loves me the way I am
I love you the way you are. Jesus loves us the way we are
Hallelu-hallelujah. (Halle hallelujah 3x)
Jesus loves us the way we are.*

"I'm Part of You"

*I'm part of you and you're part of me
Together in God's family 3x
We're living together in God's household.*

Opening Prayer

All: Jesus as we gather together to learn about You, may You meet us here. Help us to be able to answer the questions posed, and help us listen and retain what we hear. Help us to be attentive and for our facilitator, to be patient. May the lessons that are taught help us to instill righteousness. May the seeds planted here continue to guide us throughout our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Getting Ready

Watch a short film about Change and Transformation entitled “Time For Change” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPNsxScXBfM>)

Encourage the learners to react and make comments about the film. Ask them about how change and transformation occurred? In the given situation, what does change of situation mean to the husband? How does he manage to achieve transformation?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts. Group the class into three and allow the learners to study their assigned text and let them answer the questions.

Group 1 -Jeremiah 31:27-34

1. How does God transform the lives of the people?
2. What does it mean to be transformed by God?
3. What kind of transformation God made to the people?

Group 2- Psalm 119:97-104

1. How does our relationship with God able to transform us to be a better person?
2. How do meditation and prayer able a person to make change or transformation?

Group 3-Romans 12:1-2

1. What does it take to make one’s body to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God?
2. How do we concretize this as Christians of today?
3. What does Paul mean to be transformed by the renewal of one’s mind?

Share the gist of per group discussion.

Lessons Learned

Using the three groups, tell them to identify things, situations, people and relationships that need to be changed or transformed.

| | What is the situation that needs change | What kind of change should happen? | How can change be achieved? | What can we commit to do to effect change? |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Farmers/workers/ Young people/IPs | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| /elderly/poor | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Economy | | | | |
| Politics | | | | |

Tell the groups to present first the situations they identified. The facilitator may verify or ask questions to clarify things.

Class Work

After the presentation, tell the groups to go back to their chart and fill the columns provided. Answers will be based on the situations they have identified earlier. Tell each group to present their chart.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Romans 12: 2

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is- his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Offertory

Leader: We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves — our talents and material possessions — to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able.

Giving of Offerings

+Offertory Response “We Give You But Your Own” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 93
 We give you but our own, whate’er the gift may be
 All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

God, We thank You today for Your blessings that you bestow upon us all. We pray that all of us will continuously give with gladness and sincerity. God, no one ever gives a present to someone with reluctance and we should never give You what already belongs to You with reluctance either. Bless these offerings this day. We love You, O God! Amen

+Closing Song

“Growing in Jesus”

It takes a lot of growing for a tree to reach the sky
 It takes a lot of rain to help it grow
 It takes a lot of running for a child to catch the wind
 It takes a lot of walking to learn to run.

Chorus: Yes, I'm growing in Jesus
getting stronger each and every day, in every way
'cause Jesus is growing in me.

Many times I felt discouraged for the rain got in my way,
I didn't know that it could help me grow.
And every time I run ahead I always miss the turn
And in that walkin' that we've once learned.

+Prayer of Dedication

As we go from Sunday School Back to our family's care, help us to remember all we've learnt, each day to love and share. The stories and the activities we've involved, And heartfelt change we take home, Remind us Jesus is our Change Maker, We're never on our own.

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of October "Universal Dance for Peace")
"Peace Shalom Salaam"

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNACZGqwkC>)

Peace, Peace, Shalom Salaam
Peace Shalom Salaam (Repeat 4x)

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of October:

- a. Exposure to the near Indigenous People during Semester's break.
- b. Learn the IP's life and struggles and their cultures. Present your learning during the Indigenous People's Sunday October 20, 2019.
- c. Make a Vlog concerning the life of our Indigenous People and post it in your Youtube Account.
- d. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

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, Psalm 84:1-2

Age-Level Concepts

- A transformed church does its mission in line with that of Christ's.

- A transformed church adheres to Jesus' attitude and viewpoint of the world and people.

Learning Objectives

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

- Evaluate whether the Church today manifests the characteristics of a transformed church
- Identify aspects of the church that need to be transformed
- Decide to take part in the process of transforming the church

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse, Manila Paper - where Table 1.0 is written, and Meta Cards.

Biblical Background

Joel 2:28-29

This book of Joel portrays 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 with a series of noun word pairs and verb synonyms. The three verbs used; prophesy, dream, and envision have a tradition of divine revelation. The noun pairs refer to 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 will usually reserve 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.

Psalm 84:1-2

Usually viewed to be a poetic account of the experience of a pilgrim approaching the temple in Jerusalem for a religious festival. The sense of excitement and awe must have been almost overwhelming as the city on a hill with its exalted temple first came into view. But what makes going here so "special" or so "different" from anything else a person might do is that this is the dwelling place of the "Lord of hosts" (verse 1). Referring to God in this way is reminiscent of stories surrounding the Ark of the Covenant in which God is invisibly enthroned upon the cherubim but nonetheless present in a real way among the people. This "Lord of hosts" is also the "living God" (verse 2). Not only does all life come from this God, but living further characterizes the holy one who dwells in Zion as one who is dynamic, at work, and active in the very life among that which he has created. Thus, excitement found in the psalm is not so much about going to the particular place, but more so about who and what may be found there which is the very presence of God. It is because of God's presence that the psalmist may say, "Happy are those who live in your house" (verse 4). Even the birds seek to be in the presence of God and thus find homes among God's altars (verse 3).

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.)

"If you're waiting on God, do what waiters do: SERVE!"

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement, "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence".

Songs of Gathering "Enter Rejoice and Come in "

Enter rejoice and come in, open your hearts to the Lord

Today will be a joyful day; enter rejoice and come in.

Gather us all in Your love, gather us all in Your love,
That we may all be one body, gather us all in Your love.

Sing alleluia to the Lord, sing alleluia to the Lord

Today will be a joyful day, sing alleluia to the Lord

"Behold What Manner of Love"

(Behold what manner of love, the Father has given unto us.)2x

That we should be called the children of God 2x

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Everything we do, as we play, work and have fun, You see it all because You are with us Lord. So we meet today in this Sunday School, to learn more about You through the life and work of Jesus. We love the stories about you. Help us to listen, learn, grow and love, Today we celebrate our Heavenly Parent above. Amen

Getting Ready

Film Showing: THE MONKEY/STEPLADDER EXPERIMENT

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkTOBtFOB-M>)

Ask, "What was the short film all about?"

Encourage the learners to react and make comments about the film.

- a. Do you agree about the message?
- b. How do you apply it to one's church context in relationship with the phrase, "That's Just the Way it Is."

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts aloud and try to involve the whole class in the discussion. Group the class into two and let each group

focus on one biblical reference. Give each learner 4 pieces of meta cards for them to use in answering the following questions.

Focus Points to Reflect On (Table 1.0)

| | Joel 2:28-29 | Psalm 84:1-2 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| 1. What does the text say about a transformed Church? | | |
| 2. What are the characteristics of a transformed Church? | | |
| 3. What aspect of our church that needs to be transformed? | | |
| 4. How can I as CYF take part in this transformation? | | |

Each learner will share their answers to their group and will choose a reporter to share the gist of their sharing with the whole class. (Place the 3 meta-cards that answer question 1-3)

Applying the Lessons Learned

Create a Cross Shape on a wall or board using the 4th Meta Card. Each learner will read one’s answer and paste it’s meta-card to the respective assigned place creating one big Cross Shape that symbolizes the Class collective response to the called of a Transformed Church.

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: -Joel 2:28-29

“I will pour my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughter will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams your young men will see visions. Even on your servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Offertory

There are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As the plate comes around to commit to giving of your whole selves. Give your talents and material possessions to the Church with the expectation that they are used to further God’s dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you’re able.

Giving of our Offerings

+Offering Song “We Give You But Your Own” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 93
We give you but our own, whate’er the gift may be
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

+Thanksgiving Prayer

O God, We thank You for your steadfast love and mercy on us. We believe that every word in the Bible was breathed out by You (2 Tim 3:16), and we believe Your promise that You will bless us when we are obedient to Your Word. And so, without hesitation, we gladly give to You what is Yours. Bless these offerings, O God. We love You! Amen

+Closing Song “A United and Uniting Church” Hymnal of Faith Journey, 244
Refrain

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 (Refrain)

Come, let’s reclaim together the vision of the pioneers to serve beyond all burdens Reach out to one and all In obedience to God’s divine will, We seek for the reign of God (Refrain)

Come, dreamers, visionaries, Examples of true witnesses, leaving the trace of footprints, for people to tread on, with a burning faith and commitment, Proclaiming God’s message of love.
(Refrain)

+Prayer of Dedication

God, we thank You for meeting us here, and for delivering Your Word through this Sunday School Class. May each soul in this place have been touched through the songs and the learned lessons, and may each take to heart the Word that came forth. We pray that those seeking an answer received it and that those who needed a special touch were granted that touch. Bless each of us and keep us safe until we can gather together again. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of October “Universal Dance for Peace”)
“Peace Shalom Salaam”

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNacZGqwk>)

Peace, Peace, Shalom Salaam
Peace Shalom Salaam (Repeat 4x)

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of October:

a. Exposure to the near Indigenous People during Semester’s break.

- b. Make a Vlog concerning the life of our Indigenous People and post it in your Youtube Account.
- c. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

Assignment: Read the UCCP Statement on Social Concern and the Pastoral Letter from the Council of Bishops on the Killings.

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

Age-Level Concepts

- A transformed society is just, compassionate and genuinely peaceful.
- We need to work hand in hand as a people to achieve a transformed society.

Learning Objectives

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

- Read and discuss the policy statements of the church on justice, peace, human rights and integrity of creation
- Look into daily experiences of people and affirm if the manifestations of a transformed society are experienced
- Show examples of how justice, compassion and peace can be manifested
- Pledge to involve in the process of transforming society

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Cut Paper for Paper Chain, Glue, and Board Pen.

Biblical Background

Isaiah 1:16-17

Our biblical text 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 God's favor depends.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

This epistle shows what a principal occasion of joy is to the faithful; 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: to the practical and energetic character of their faith from the beginning (1 Thessalonians 1:3); and due to their cheer remaining despite the persecution they had undergone.

Suggested Lesson Outline

Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.
"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement
"Whoever you are and whatever you are on life journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence.

Songs of Gathering 'Magagawa Natin"
Magagawa natin ang lahat ng bagay. Ang lahat ng bagay dito sa mundo
Walang bagay na di magagawa, na di magagawang nag-iisa
Malulutas natin ang mga problema, kung tayo'y nagkakaisa
Mga suliranin, dagling mapaparam kung may bagong buhay.

Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God of truth, prepare our minds to hear and heed your holy word. Fill every heart that longs for you. With your mysterious presence, Lord, teach us to love eternal truth and seek its freedom everywhere. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Getting Ready

Short Film about Isang Magsasaka, Dalawang Panginoon
(Spoken Word) | Jonel Revistual

<https://www.facebook.com/wordsanonph/videos/252750315578153/UzpfSTqzMjE5NzY2NzoxMDE1Nzk0MTIzMjAwNzY2OA/>

Encourage the learners to react to the spoken word. Ask them about what transformation is needed in this situation?

Learning Time

Discovering the Biblical Truth. Divide the learners into triads. Allow each triad to read and discuss the biblical texts in Isaiah 1:16-17 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3. On a sheet of paper, write a word that describes the condition or situations of the people in the biblical times that resembles to the conditions and conditions of our country that need to be transformed. One word per sheet of paper, write as many as you can and form all the sheet of papers into a paper chain. (eg. Injustice, oppression, poverty, discrimination, violence, war, displacement of families, etc)



Lessons Learned

Sharing of the assignment about the UCCP Statements on Justice, Peace and Integrity of God's Creation and the Council of Bishops Pastoral Letters.

- a. How do we as UCCP define a transformed Society?
- b. In what way does our Church able to show how justice, compassion, and peace can be realized today even in these changing times.

richer, though, may we give because we simply love You! Accept these tithes and offerings today. We love You, Lord! Amen

+Closing Song You Are Salt for the Earth” HFJ # 246
You are salt for the earth, O People, salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God

Refrain

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy, bring forth the kingdom of peace.
Bring forth the kingdom of justice. Bring forth the city of God!

You are the light on the hill, O people, light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright O people; shine for the kingdom of God! (Refrain)

You are a seed of the word, O people, bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the kingdom of God! (Refrain)

We are a bless'd and a pilgrim people, bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland; love is the kingdom of God!

+Prayer of Dedication

As we close this meeting, Lord, we want to give honor to You. Thank You, God, for the time we had today to discuss issues and make decisions. May You bless each person who took the time to gather here today and let Your hand of protection be on them throughout the rest of the week. Let the work done here tonight come to fruition, and let it all be before Your glory. Help us each to do our parts to bring about a transformed society that reflects Your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen

Response: Sing and Dance for November

“Wake” by Hillsong Y&F Live (Dance Cover by IgniteWorship)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GOMuEIGcrU>

Assignment

Let someone volunteer to deliver the Spoken Word Piece by Dante Acain Jr. of UCCP Lapasan for the next session.

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of November:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, make a Church Map that will display an overview of the Church and its members' location.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make Offering envelopes for the Youth and Children of your local church. Make a simple structure that will be used to place these envelopes.

- c. Church Garden. In consultation with your pastor and the church council, make a church garden that will be planted with herbs and vegetables. If there is no lot available, make use of recycled materials to plant on.
- d. Organize a Youth Stewardship Team that will promote Christian Stewardship among the Local Church youth and children. (eg. Promoting and encouraging the Youth and Children to start having an offering envelop of their own, start an Income Generating Project for local church activities such as Vacation Church School and Summer Youth Camp, Clean Up Drive for the Community, Tree Planting, Implement Segregation of Garbage or Waste Management, Implement Church Energy Conservation.
- e. #CYFSSlessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you've learned from the session.

RESOURCES:

A STATEMENT OF SOCIAL CONCERN

*General Assembly
19-24 May 1960*

INTRODUCTORY THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Throughout Asia today, people and their governments are in the midst of a political, economic and religious upheaval. The tremors of this upheaval have shaken the old foundations of Asian culture and are making way for the building of new political, economic, and religious structures. It is imperative that the Church ask herself what her role is in this new day.

The church cannot hold itself aloof from the world in which it lives. Even as the Lord of the church came **not to be ministered unto, but to minister**, so He calls His disciples to be His servant-people. (John 13:14-17). They are **called to witness and to serve Christ in the world**. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 20:26-28). It is through its members that the church **confronts the world** at all points of daily life. (II Cor. 5:17-20). Even as Christ came **that men might have life and have it abundantly**, (John 10:10), so Christians are **to bear witness to this and have been called from the world into a fellowship of unity and peace with forgiving love by their concern and compassion for the world**. (Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:23-27).

As one who has been sent forth to live in the world, the Christian needs to know the world in which he lives. He is **to be in the world, but not of the world**. Being in the world, the Christian soon recognizes that there are often no clear cut answers to the issues he must face. He is dwarfed by the enormity of social evils and confused by the complexity of the issues of life. But as a Christian he knows he can neither abdicate his responsibility to face the social evils, nor can he comfort himself with easy answers to difficult social, economic, and political problems. (Phil. 2:12-13).

As he seeks to live in this world, the Christian realizes the necessity of thinking and acting together with other Christians as well as persons and groups other than his own. The Christian does not face the world alone. But he grows in strength through the Christian community into which he has been called. (Phil. 1:27). Within this community he is bound together in the unity of the Spirit with others who belong to Jesus Christ. (Eph. 4:15-16). The Church is composed of men and women from all walks of life and with a variety of experience. It is within this community that fellow Christians share their knowledge and their experience in the world. Within this community also God calls his people to listen to what the world is saying to the church. In this act of the church there is a need for this continual sharing and reflection upon the issues confronting Christians in the world. As the church does this

in faithfulness to the mind of Christ, it can provide its people with a Christian understanding of the issues, a guide for living their faith, and strength for action in the present world.

It is in answer to this call to live and to serve God in the world that this statement of social concern is made. It is provided as a guide for Christian thinking and action in meeting the present problems of Philippine society.

The Church and Economic Development

Immediate economic development is today a pressing problem for all Asian countries. To meet the demands of their people for a more abundant life, the governments of Asia have concentrated their energies in discovering the right economic formula for increasing national income and alleviating their nation's economic poverty.

Population Trends

The necessity for immediate solution to economic problems has been intensified by concern over the consequences of present population trends. Population experts and governmental authorities throughout the world are apprehensive over the ability of the earth's resources to meet the demands of the rapidly expanding world population. The problem is especially acute for those nations just beginning to develop their economic potential. In these lands, unrelenting population expansion put even greater pressure on speeding up the process of economic development.

Reliable estimates of Philippine population growth show an annual increase of almost 3%. In 1957, the Philippines showed a figure of 203 persons per square mile of land area. By 1980 an estimated population of 57 million will push this figure to over 500 persons per square mile. This increase in population will vastly affect the direction taken by the Philippine economy in the immediate future. *What should the Philippine government stress in its economic development plans?* The necessity for the agricultural sector to produce enough food to meet basic human needs stands high on the priority list. The ability of industrialization to provide the machinery for rapid development and to provide jobs for the increasing numbers entering the labor market is another major concern. Still another problem is the need to provide adequate space and facilities for already over-crowded urban areas.

Modern Technology

Faced by the immensity of their tasks, Asian governments have looked to modern technology as answer to their dilemma. In their plans for economic development, great stress has been laid upon building up the industrial masses. And industrialization produces mass results. To feed, clothe and house the growing millions require technological efficiency and the methods of production. With this in mind the Philippine government has made concerted efforts to industrialize its economy. Leaders in all areas of the nation's life have pointed to the need of a healthier balance between the agricultural and industrial sectors of the economy. In the post-war period, industry has taken on a greater importance in the nation's economy. The industrial sector which has accounted for 13% of the total national income in 1948 has been raised to a figure of 24% in 1958. As industrialization becomes more of a force in the nation, the Philippines can look forward to more locally manufactured goods in meeting her people's particular needs. Not only will industry provide more jobs, it will decrease the dependence of the Philippines upon overseas manufactured goods. Industrialization will bring benefits to the people in the form of greater variety of locally produced goods, in terms of higher wages, and a rising standard of living. But in this movement to industrialize there are problems which should not be overlooked.

Need for Agricultural Development

There is a danger that in intensifying the demands for industrialization the nation will neglect its agricultural base. A healthy agricultural sector is not only necessary to the physical well-being of the people, but the income from productive and efficient agriculture can provide capital for the development of the industrial sector as well. It should, therefore, be the concern of the Philippine churches that in the development of the economy, due attention be paid to programs aimed at increasing the productivity and income of the agricultural areas. Alongside this problem is the need to encourage employment in the agricultural areas of the country. WE LOOK WITH APPROVAL UPON ALL ATTEMPTS AT MEETING THE PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL AREAS WITHIN THE BROAD PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LIFE. WE GIVE OUR SUPPORT TO PROGRAMS (I.E., PACD) WHICH FOSTER SELF-HELP AND FURTHER COMMUNITY COOPERATION ON THE BARRIO LEVEL. WE ENCOURAGE OUR

PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS TO MAKE USE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS AIMED AT INCREASING THEIR FARM PRODUCTIVITY AND DEVELOPING SOUND COMMUNITY LIFE.

Believing in the process of grass roots democracy we encourage our rural people to discuss policies of the national government which directly or indirectly affect the agricultural areas. We, furthermore, encourage them to express their thinking on these issues through local government channels and to those national officials responsible for making Philippine policy and legislation.

Industrialization and Rapid Social Change

Another effect which should not be overlooked is the impact of industrialization upon the total culture. The growth of a strong industrial sector, which took over two centuries in Europe and the United States, cannot be capsulized into a short period of time without having repercussions both on Philippine culture and economy. The demands technology makes upon a people and the new social context it creates, disrupts old cultural patterns. Industry requires a new discipline which was unknown in farm work. Factories are run according to strict daily time schedules. These schedules do not take into account -the social obligations of family life or *fiesta* celebrations. Industry breaks down old social patterns and draws men into new social relationships with other fellow workers, and with new friends in the city.

Urbanization

Industrialization spurs on the growth of cities. In the organization of industry, factory sites are chosen with an eye to the area's labor supply, the transportation facilities and a stable market for the product produced. In underdeveloped countries, industry chooses existing cities. Thus in establishing factories in these cities, industry has helped to create what a UNESCO Report called *primate* cities. Into these cities flock thousands of people looking for work or seeking an escape from the boredom and drudgery of farm life. In the rapid growth of cities, social problems have been multiplied beyond the resources of the city governments. Over-crowding in slum areas create health, law and order, and education problems.

Thus industry must bear some of the burden of the social problems it has helped create in the cities.

The Church must apply itself to the problems arising in the cities. The Church recognizes that the concentration of industry in one or two urban centers, not only creates over-crowding in these centers, but also deprives other areas of the benefits of industrialization. THEREFORE, WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH THE GROWING INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY CAN BE DECENTRALIZED OVER A WIDER AREA. WE CALL UPON THE NATIONAL AND CITY GOVERNMENTS, AS WELL AS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, TO EXPAND THEIR PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS TO PROVIDE FOR THE GROWING POPULATION OF THE CITIES. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE CITIES' SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CALL UPON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK TOGETHER WITH CITY GOVERNMENTS IN EXPANDING WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE NUMEROUS SQUATTER FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT IN DISINTEGRATING SOCIAL CONDITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME WE OFFER OUR RESOURCES IN WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES IN STUDYING AND MEETING THESE PROBLEMS.

Unemployment

One of the factors which fosters poor social conditions within cities is the problem of unemployment. Many people is seeking to escape the boredom of the countryside some to the city for work. They come wholly unprepared for the conditions they will face and without the abilities necessary for employment in the cities' business life: *unemployment is the end result*. In viewing this situation the church realizes its own responsibility in appraising its own people in the rural areas of the difficulties of city life. Not only should the church educate its people in the rural areas to the personal and family adjustment required by city life, but it must point out the limited job opportunities that exist for unskilled workers.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION, WE ENCOURAGE THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT AIMED AT DEVELOPING THE VOCATIONAL SKILLS OF THE PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE TRAINING PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PLANNED ACCORDING TO PRESENT AND FUTURE INDUSTRIAL NEEDS. AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE BEING TRAINED FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, WE CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT, TOGETHER WITH PRIVATE

INDUSTRY, TO STRENGTHEN THOSE AGENCIES WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH THE QUALITY AND STANDARDIZATION OF LOCAL PRODUCTS.

In the rural areas where seasonal unemployment often times sends people to seek their 'fortunes in the city, the church recognizes the need for the development of household and cottage industries. WE CALL FOR THE CONCERTED EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING THROUGH COTTAGE INDUSTRY PROGRAMS. WE NOT ONLY ENCOURAGE OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO INVEST IN WELL-PLANNED COTTAGE INDUSTRIES WHICH WILL MEET LOCAL NEEDS, BUT WE ALSO OFFER OUR SUPPORT TO ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE COTTAGE INDUSTRY PROJECTS.

One of the necessities of spreading the benefits of industrialization is the development of roads in the outlying areas. Not only do roads help in raising the economic level throughout the country, but they also encourage the movement of industry to other areas. WE CALL UPON THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR A WIDER NETWORK OF ROADS IN FURTHERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC POTENTIALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Trade Union Movement and Management Relation

In the last 10 years the trade union movement has come to play an active role in the Philippine economy. Since 1953 with the passage of the ***Magna Carta*** of Labor, trade unions have grown from 803 to 2,505 in 1959. As industrialization continues it can be expected that trade unions will also increase. Not only has the trade union movement been organizing the industrial sector of the Philippines, but it has moved into the agricultural sector as well.

Trade unions exist to see that the benefits of the industrial system are more equitably distributed to those who help produce these benefits. In a rapidly growing society responsible trade unions are not only means for seeking justice, but they also provide a new social grouping for workers drawn away from the older social patterns of the countryside. Trade unions have the great task of training those in the lower economic groups to take responsibility as citizens within their own community and in the nation as a whole. Besides this educational task of the trade union, there is also the need to better prepare their people for the discipline required by the new industrial society. Responsible trade unions have the opportunity of serving the whole people by training their trade unionists to understand their role in the production needs of a growing nation. Responsible trade union leadership seeks to foster better labor-management relations.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS SITUATION WE ENCOURAGE A FREE, RESPONSIBLE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. WE SEE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATING THE GREAT NUMBERS OF WORKERS TO RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP AND WORKMANSHIP THROUGH THE TRADE UNIONS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE PLACE OF TRADE UNIONS. IN ACHIEVING A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFITS PRODUCED BY LABOR. WE CALL UPON OUR OWN CHRISTIAN WORK MEN TO SUPPORT THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND TO PROVIDE THE RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE IN SOCIETY. WE ARE CONCERNED ALSO WITH THE TREMENDOUS TASK AND RESPONSIBILITY PLACED UPON MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE NATION. THEREFORE, WE ENCOURAGE THOSE ENGAGED IN THIS TASK TO DISCOVER WAYS AND MEANS OF DIRECTING THE FORCES OF ECONOMIC LIFE INTO HEALTHY PATTERNS OF COMMUNITY LIVING.

The Responsibility of the Laity

INDUSTRIALIZATION NOT ONLY BRINGS ABOUT NEW SOCIAL STRUCTURES, BUT CREATES NEW ATTITUDES TOWARD LIFE. OUR JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE, WHICH SEES THE WORKS AS CREATED AND RULED BY GOD, IS REPLACED IN A TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY BY AN OVER-APPRECIATION OF MAN'S POWER IN CREATING THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. IN A COMMERCIALIZED SOCIETY, THINGS BECOME MORE VALUED THAN PEOPLE. RELIGION BECOMES MORE AND MORE RELEGATED TO THE PRACTICE OF ANCIENT RITUALS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES. REALIZING THE DANGER OF MODERN SOCIETY TO PUSH RELIGION OFF INTO A CORNER, WE REMIND OUR PEOPLE OF THEIR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAYMAN'S WITNESS IN HIS WORK AND CALL UPON OUR PEOPLE TO LIVE OUT THEIR CHRISTIAN CALLING RESPONSIBLY IN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REALMS OF DAILY LIFE. WE DECLARE THAT THE LORD OF THE CHURCH IS ALSO THE LORD OF THE FACTORY, THE FARM, AND THE OFFICE, AND IS SOVEREIGN WHEREVER MEN LIVE AND WORK.

POSTSCRIPT

Our attention has been called to other social issues which should concern us as a church. Some of these issues are planned parenthood and birth control, rural credit and cooperatives, effect of fiestas upon economic life, and Filipino First Policy. While we consider these issues worthy of the church's attention we have not had time to study them carefully and thoughtfully. We, therefore, pass on these problems of the Department of Public Welfare for further consideration and study:

Ref: Action 60-55 **General Assembly**, Legaspi City, May 19-24, 1960 pp.32, Statement is in Appendix pp. 222-227; Action 60-141 **Executive Committee**, May 27-29, 1960 p. 58.

STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

General Assembly
8 June 1964

God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is the ruler of all human affairs — families, towns, nations, economic systems, social orders. To him belong our souls and bodies, our possessions and cultures, our communities and churches. The Government makes many fateful decisions concerning the life and welfare of the people; yet it also is under the judgment of God. In a democracy, the course that the Government should take, is the will of God.

THEREFORE, WE CALL UPON OUR CHURCHES AND THEIR MEMBERS TO STUDY, PRAY AND WORK:

1. For effective, representative, responsible government from the smallest sitio to Congress and the Presidency. To this end we encourage church workers to study Republic Act 3590, commonly known as the Barrio Charter, and to call it to the attention of the members.
2. For the development of a deep concern for the affairs of government, including the election of responsible and dedicated citizens to public office. Toward this end, it is suggested that a program of non-partisan political education be conducted by the **United Church Men**, the **National Christian Women's Association**, the **Christian Youth Fellowship** and other groups within the Church.
3. For the effective endorsement and implementation of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and all of the laws and legal orders of the duly constituted authorities, including those separating church and state.
4. For understanding of the financial structures of the Government; and for the payment of taxes and other financial obligations as an expression of Christian and civic responsibility for the common good.
5. For critical evaluation, within the fellowship of the church and in the perspective of the Christian faith, of policies, political issues and practices of candidates, of office holders and of government agencies and institutions.
6. For increasingly effective social welfare agencies (governmental community, and private); for more specific information about their services; for fuller understanding of their functions and for more voluntary services to them. To this end, we request the Department of Public Welfare, in cooperation with the Moderators, to prepare a list of the social welfare agencies which are available for referral, consultation and cooperation.

Ref: **General Assembly**, Action # 64-30.

STOP KILLING OUR PROPHETS!

August 8, 2019 by UCCP 568

STOP KILLING OUR PROPHETS!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ ‘Therefore, you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those

who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?" (Matthew 23: 29-27)

These words of Matthew reverberate throughout the land as another victim of murder fell the ground last Friday morning in Antipas, North Cotabato. UCCP Pastor Rev. Ernesto "Tata" Estrella was shot dead, August 2 in the morning while driving his motorcycle in Antipas, North Cotabato, by still unidentified motorcycle-riding assailants.

We deplore this grisly act of terror committed against our prophet as we also call for justice for the growing number of victims of extra-judicial killings. We are aghast that ferocious acts like this continue to be perpetrated despite the existence of Martial Law in Mindanao – a clear indication that Martial Law is not an apt solution to the problem of violence in the country. Killings and all forms of violence MUST STOP!

We call for justice in favor of Rev. Tata Estrella and an end to the climate of impunity! Let us not wait until the whole nation drips in blood.

In calling for justice we also echo the words of Matthew in condemning such acts of terror committed against our prophets and all advocates of peace: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! thou who murderest the Prophets and stonest those who have been sent to thee! how often have I desired to gather thy children to me, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not come!" (Matthew 23:37)

STOP KILLING OUR PROPHETS! Justice to REV. ERNESTO "Tata" ESTRELLA! Stop Extra-Judicial Killings in Negros and elsewhere! Let Just-Peace Prevail!

THE UCCP COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
August 5, 2019

UCCP COUNCIL OF BISHOPS DENOUNCES ILLEGAL ARREST AND DETENTION OF A CHURCH WORKER, CHURCH MEMBERS AND ORDINARY FARMERS AND CIVILIANS IN HIMAMAYLAN, KABANGKALAN AND SAGAY TOWNS OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

June 28, 2019 by UCCP 3236

UCCP COUNCIL OF BISHOPS DENOUNCES ILLEGAL ARREST AND DETENTION OF A CHURCH WORKER, CHURCH MEMBERS AND ORDINARY FARMERS AND CIVILIANS IN HIMAMAYLAN, KABANGKALAN AND SAGAY TOWNS OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The UCCP Council of Bishops denounces in the strongest terms the unlawful arrests of seven (7) civilians, yesterday June 26. They are mostly members of our church and IFI in the remote area of Buenavista Himamaylan, Negros, including Pastor Jimmy Teves, UCCP Lincientiate Pastor who together with a co-pastor has been serving 17 UCCP local churches in Himamaylan, Negros. Aside from them there were other arrests made by the local police, two (2) in La Castellana and two (2) more in Sagay town all in Negros Occidental Province.

According to verified reports as of today June 27 from the Office of the Bishop of West Visayas Jurisdiction, the seven (7) were arrested on charges of murder and frustrated murder which are obviously trumped up. Two of the four arrested were brought to an undisclosed place. They were arrested without the benefit of subpoena and no preliminary investigation.

We strongly refute the claims of the military that they are members of the New People's Army (NPA). They are subsistence farmers who are trying to eke out of their dire economic situation by practicing Christian diakonia and biblical forms of sharing of farm produce. Most of them are active members of UCCP, IFI and Roman Catholic churches.

We believe this action is part of the ongoing "Operation Sauron" the undeclared Martial Law in Negros, Samar and Bicol region and operationalizes the Executive Order/Memo Order 32 that declared the "state of lawlessness" in these islands and region. This legitimizes the targeting of farmers and rural communities that resist onerous usury in land rental and displacement of rural communities to give way to large scale agri-business and mining operations.

Farmers are subjected to harassment by government security forces and the Philippine National Police because of their diaconal food production and their stand for justice, peace and human rights. In recent months, scores of farmers had been pitilessly killed in Negros.

Among those extra-judicially executed is human rights lawyer Attorney Benjamin Ramos and a few other human rights workers. Justice has not been meted out for the victims of extrajudicial killings and their families are scattered and now fear for their lives. We call on the government of President Duterte to halt these killings and stop the climate of impunity in the whole country.

These harassments clearly depict the vicious schema of this government that fails to respect the right to life and right to decent livelihood of farmers and workers and rights of those who advocate and call for social justice and peace in our country. Such violations are the handiwork of those willing to blatantly transgress upon the fundamental rights of the human in pursuit of their rancorous strategy.

As Shepherds of our flock, we firmly stand against this appalling reality, where now even our pastors and members have become helpless targets of military transgressions and government harassments. Yet the fearless faith and fiery Christian witness of pastors and members of the Church will not be quelled by the powers of the evil ones.

The words from Proverbs 31: 8-9 compel us to abhor ungodly acts like this. "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

We demand that:

All those illegally arrested be released immediately;

The President of the Philippines order police and military forces to stop harassing and intimidating civilians and advocates of peace and human rights;
The Duterte government ensure the safety of every Filipino and stop the climate impunity and extrajudicial killings;
In areas of unrest, the root causes of conflicts be squarely addressed, in peaceful ways.
RELEASE THE DETAINED CIVILIANS NOW! RESCIND EO/MO 32!

THE UCCP COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
May 25, 2019

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, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Age-Level Concepts

- Church and society need to be transformed in order that God's Reign will be experienced by all.
- God's Reign can become a reality in the here and now.

Learning Objectives

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

- Correlate the transformation of church and society to the Reign of God
- Express their thoughts on why Church and society need to be transformed
- Internalize their role in the work so that God's Reign can happen in the here and now

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably the New Revised Standard Version [NRSV]), song chart, offering plate or basket, Used Calendar for Sunday's Phrase and Memory Verse. Pictures of injustices in the Philippines

Biblical Background

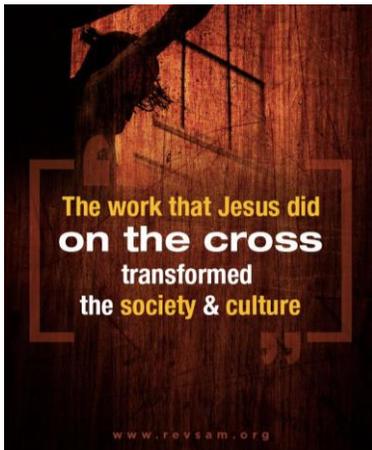
Psalm 98:7-9

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.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 At Thessalonica, the apostle had been there in person, and had preached there with great boldness and success. He had declared the whole counsel of God, and the Gospel came in power and worked effectively in them. And yet there was too great a forgetfulness of it; with which the apostle tacitly charges them, and rebukes them gently for it. Paul reminds them of former truths he delivered to them. Historically, Paul was charged of teaching that Jesus was another king, a rival to Caesar (Acts 17:7). That leads one to wonder how far Paul went when there in contrasting the kingdom of the world of which Rome was ruler and the kingdom of God of which Christ is king. Hence, as he taught them when he was present with them and now repeated it to remind them to fasten it upon their mind and memories. It is necessary to deliver the truth, both to warn the faithful against delusion and to fortify the faithful against persecution.

Suggested Lesson Outline



Greeting Time

(Post A Phrase that invites the class to center oneself to Sunday's lesson.

Welcome each student with a big hug. After gathering around, say this statement "Whoever you are and whatever you are on life's journey, all are welcome here. Our gathering evokes God's presence."

Songs of Gathering

"This is the Day"

(This is the day that the Lord has made, We will rejoice and be glad in it.)2x

"I'm Excited in the Lord"

I'm Excited (3x) in the Lord

I'm excited (3x) in the Lord 3x

When you're walking with the Lord you can't get bored.

Sing Allelujah Amen. Yes!

"Splendid Light"

I'm gonna light my (splendid light 2x) I'm gonna light my splendid light shine

I bless the earth with my (splendid 2x) I'm God's child and I'm with divine

Like splendid light, Shoooo.. Im gonna let it shine shine, shine 2x

Opening Prayer

Bless us as we meet together in this Sunday School Class dear Lord we pray.

Bless the singing of your praise, the reading and studying of your Word, the sharing and learning, the prayers that will be heard. Bless us as we fellowship together in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Getting Ready

Allow the assigned learner to deliver the Spoken Word entitled ABKD by Dante Acain Jr. in the class. Encourage the learners to react on the spoken word. Ask them about their understanding of the Kingdom of God and it's relationship with the transformed Church and Society.

Learning Time

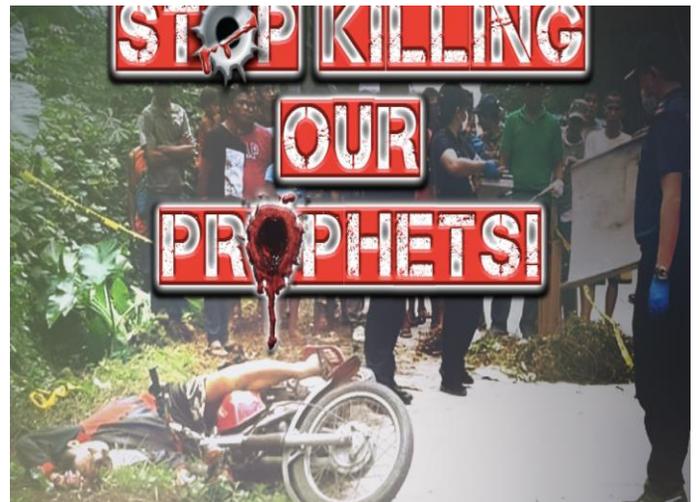
Discovering the Biblical Truth. Read the biblical texts in Psalm 98:7-9 and 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5. Group the class into Triad, and allow the learners to read and discuss the texts.

Points to Reflect On

1. What does the Psalmist say about God's judgement?
2. How does God's judgment bring about transformation in the life conditions of the people?
3. How does Paul describe the kingdom of God?
4. How does Paul differentiate the kingdom on earth and that of God's?

Sharing of the Triad's Reflection

Lessons Learned: Picture Study. . Place these pictures around the class room and allow the learners to have a silent viewing of each picture around the room.







Applying the Lessons Learned

Divide the class into two or three groups. Tell them to fill up the spaces that affirm one’s response to the crisis we are facing today. Their responses will be shared to the whole class later. The facilitator will synthesize the sharing based on the concepts of today’s session.

| National Situation | Church Response | Our Participation |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Extrajudicial Killings | | |
| 2. Killings in Negros | | |
| 3. Red Tagging | | |
| 4. Bakwit in Mis. Or. and in other places | | |
| 5. IFI & UCCP Red Tagging | | |
| 6. Illegal Arrests | | |
| 7. Mining | | |
| 8. Martial Law | | |

Closing Worship

Memory Verse: Matthew 25:35-36

+Prayer of Dedication

Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road.
Go forth without fear, for God who created You has made you holy,
Has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Amen

Response (Sing and Dance- Month of September “Universal Dance for Peace”)
“We Are Opening Up”

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpNV46rS_Wo)

We are opening up in a sweet surrender
To the luminous love light of our God
We are opening we are opening 2x

Youth At Work. Monthly projects that involve the young people of the church.
Month of November:

- a. In consultation with your pastor, make a Church Map that will display an overview of the Church and its members’ location.
- b. Together with your Board of Deacons, make Offering Envelops for the Youth and Children of your local church. Make a simple structure that will be used to place these envelops.
- c. Church Garden. In consultation with your pastor and the church council, make a church garden that will be planted with herbs and vegetables. If there is no lot available, make use of recycled materials to plant on.
- d. Organize a Youth Stewardship Team that will promote Christian Stewardship among the Local Church Youth and Children. (eg. Promoting and encouraging the Youth and Children to start having an offering envelop of their own, start an Income Generating Project for local church activities such as Vacation Church School and Summer Youth Camp, Clean Up Drive for the Community, Tree Planting, Implement Segregation of Garbage or Waste Management, Implement Church Energy Conservation.
- e. #CYFSSLessoninlife. Post in your Multimedia account the lessons you’ve learned from the session.

A BA KA DA

by Dante Acain Jr.of UCCP Lapasan

Sisimulan ko ang tulang ito sa apat na letra
Apat na letrang madaling basahin,
Madaling sabihin pero kay laki ng kahulugan sa atin
A Ba Ka Da

A, Ang mundong ito ay puno ng pagbabago
Pagbabago mula mamamayan hanggang sa kapaligiran

Hindi natin namalayan na tayo'y unti unting kinain,
Kinain ng sistema at makabagong teknolohiya.
Tayo'y hindi dapat magpakabulag bulagan kung nakamit na ang ating kasiyahan.
Minsa'y nakakalimutan natin kung saan tayo nanggaling,
Nanggaling bilang isang tao, pero tao pa ba tayo?
Tao pa ba ang walang awang pumatay ng sariling angka?
Tao pa ba ang walang awang winawasak ang kalikasan?
At tao pa ba ang walang awang sinisiraan ang kapwang pinanggagalingan?

Ba, bakit nga ba nangyari ito sa ating mundo?
Sa kayrami raming mabubuting gawain pero bakit pa ito?
Ang tanong na ito'y nagpaiwan sa isip ko, bakit nga ba?
Mahirap ba, mahirap ba pigilan lahat ng ito?
Sabi ng iba'y mahirap,
Oo, mahirap talaga kung pera lang ang nagpapatakbo sa buhay natin,
Kung pera lang ang ating iisipin,
At kung pera lang ang pinangarap na ating aabutin.
Kailan ma'y hindi inisip kung anong mangyayari sa kinabukasan,
Kung patuloy natin itong sinasaktan.
Masakit man sa pakiramdam na tayong lahat ang nagdudusa sa pakawalan
At pagpapakabaya sa kalikasan,
Kalikasan na unti-unting nawawala
Dahil sa pang aabuso na walang pagsasawa.
Mga taong nagbago,
Nagbago ang pananaw sa mundo,
Nagbago ang pananaw sa kapwa tao na kay simple nalang patayin.
Ito ang kailan may labag sa batas sa mata ng Panginoon para sa atin,
Extrajudicial killing, ganito nalang ba kadali pumatay?
Pumatay na galing sa Kanya?
Pumatay ng ginawang katulad Niya?
Saan, saan na ang pagkatao at dignidad sa usapang ito?
Naglaho ba? O kaya'y nagbago na?

Ka, kahit simbahan ay sinisiraan,
At pwera ng tao ang ginamit bilang mamamayan,
Talaga bang kailangan itong ipaglaban?
Ipaglaban ang ginawang lugar ng Panginoon dito sa mundo na kahit kaila'y walang laban?
Mga taong naghihirap na dapat ay tulungan, pero kanilang kinukorap,
Mga taong LGBT na kailangang tanggapin, pero tinutukso pa rin,
Mga taong lumad na merong sariling lupa, pero kanilang kinukuha,
Mga taong walang ginawa, walang ginawa kundi nagtutulala.
Ano ba talaga ang nangyari sa mundong ito,
Sa mundong puno ng pagbabago.
Oo, alam ko, alam kong ang pagbabago lang ang permanente sa mundong ito,

Pero ating isipin ang mga sinabi ng Dios na pupukaw sa ating buong pagkatao,
Mga sinabi niya na kailan ma'y hinding hindi maglalaho.

Da, dahil tayo ang tinawag ng Panginoon upang gumawa ng kanyang misyon,
Misyong harapin ang pagbabago at gagawan ng solusyon.
Tayong mga kabataan na miyembro ng isang organisasyon,
Organisasyon na kailan ma'y hindi lang magaling sa salita kundi pati sa aksyon.
"C Y F", CYF ang tinawag niya mula noon hanggang ngayon,
Hanggang ngayon na binibigyan niya ng mga plano,
Mga plano Niya na kahit kaila'y hindi tinanggihan,
Mga plano Niya na kahit kaila'y hindi pinagsisihan.
Masasabi ko talagang "Hayaan natin Siya na tayo'y gagamitin
At talagang ating makamit ang kapayapaan na para sa atin."
Sa mundong ito lahat ay magbabago pero Siya lang,
Siya lang ang kailan ma'y hinding hindi magbabago,
Na kahit kaila'y minahal tayo ng husto,
Na kahit kaila'y palaging nandiyan sa ayaw at sa gusto,
At kahit kaila'y tinanggap niya kung ano tayo.
Kaya't minamahal kong Panginoon tanggapin mo ang pyesang ito,
Dahil itong apat na letra ay para sayo
At sa mundong ito. A BA KA DA.