



**A KING FOREVER  
AND EVER**

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

## THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

## THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

## EDITORIAL STAFF

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### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

### THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.



Lesson 1: December 1, 2024

## JESUS IS FROM KING DAVID'S FAMILY

**Lesson Scripture:** Ruth 1–4, Luke 3:23–38

**Focus Scripture:** Ruth 4:9–17; Luke 3:23, 31b–32

**Key Verse:** The women...gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17 (NRSV UE)

RUTH 4:9–17; LUKE 3:23, 31B–32 (NRSV UE)  
**Ruth 4:9–17**

- 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.
- 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.”
- 11 Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem;
- 12 and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”
- 13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son.
- 14 Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel!
- 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse.

17 The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

### **Luke 3:23**

23 Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli,...

### **Luke 3:31b-32**

31b ...son of Nathan, son of David,

32 son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,...

## **WORD POWER!!!**

- **Boaz (bo'-as)** – The husband of Ruth.
- **Obed (o'-bed)** – The son of Ruth and grandson of Naomi, in the line of David.

## **GETTING READY!!!**

**A**ngela was excited! She had just ordered an app to trace her ancestry; and, her mother and father were going to contact other family members to let them know. She couldn't wait to see how many of their ancestors she could find. Today, she was going to bring the app to class so that her social studies teacher could help her with the process. She was going to be allowed to use her ancestry activity for her midterm grade!

“Why do you think it’s important to trace your family history?” Mrs. Simpson was speaking to the class about family history and how African Americans often did not know who their ancestors were.

“I think it’s because it lets us know where we came from and what makes us like we are,” Angela said.

“That is true,” her teacher said. “In addition, it gives us a sense of purpose as a people. When we are connected to our ancestors, we are connected to our history. Let’s hope that Angela is successful in learning about her past!”

## **INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

Ruth is one of only two books in the Bible that are named for women. One of the most important parts of Ruth's story is that she was not a Jew. Yet, she loved her mother-in-law and did not allow the differences in their backgrounds to separate them. In chapter 4, we see that she is to marry Boaz and become the mother of a son who was in the line of David. This is important, because King David is an ancestor of Jesus Christ, our savior! When we read about the ancestry of Jesus Christ in our New Testament text, Luke 3, we see Boaz, Ruth's husband, and we realize how important she was (Ruth's name is found in Matthew 1:2)!

## Ancestry Apps and You

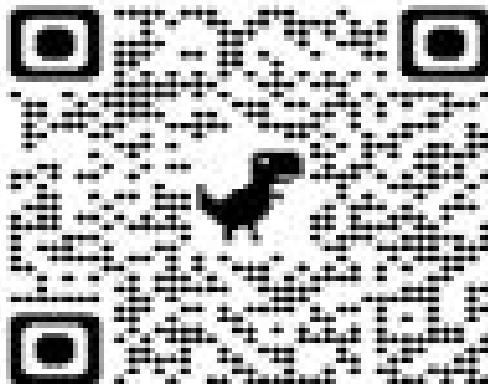
Have you or your family ever used an ancestry app? If so, were you successful in learning who your ancestors were? Share your story with the class, or share the story of someone else who you know who traced their family's history.

### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**A**ngela was fortunate, because she was able to trace her ancestry and use the activity as a class project. You may not be able to do that, but you can certainly use other resources and apps that are available to do yours at home.

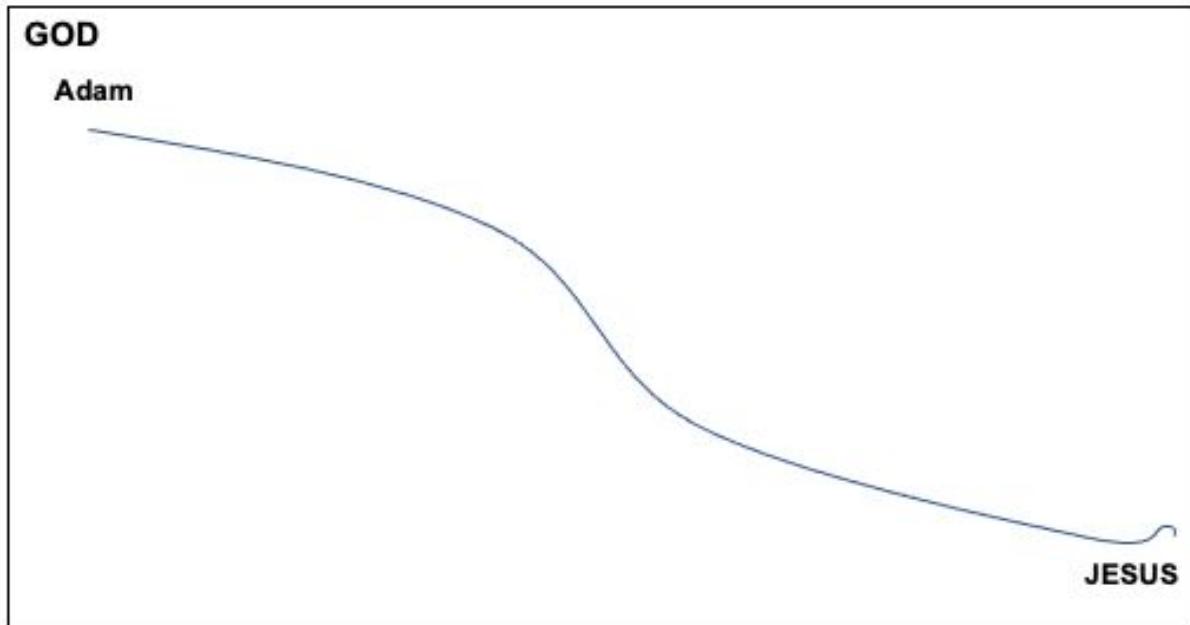
For example, an agency of the federal government that interviews families and communities every 10 years can assist you in learning something about your background for free. The Census Bureau is a research organization that you can access to help you find out about your background regardless of where you were born (<https://www.census.gov/en.html>). You may use the QR code to learn more about the Census Bureau after you get home. You should be able to find something about your neighborhood and family.

<https://www.census.gov/en.html>



### *The Ancestry of Jesus*

In the chart, fill in the other names of Jesus' relatives by using Luke 3 in our Bible lesson. It is written in reverse order, which means it starts with the most recent or present name, and then works backwards. Each name is a person who was in the line of Jesus and who were his ancestors.



As you read the names, place them in your chart on the line. Remember, starting from the top left-hand corner (GOD) on the chart, you will have to begin at the end of the names in the Bible and move back up. The first two names and the last name have been filled in for you!

#### **REMIX!!!**

**T**he ancestry of Jesus Christ from Adam to the birth of the Son of God is a very important lesson to learn. It shows that God used ordinary people such as Ruth and Boaz to bring God's Son to earth. God uses each of us, too, even though we are ordinary people, to do great things wherever we are. Do you think there are some talents and gifts that you have that may have come from your family members? What are they? How can you use ancestry apps to learn more about who you are and what you can do to make the world a better place?

#### **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

We are FAMILY!

**T**o the tune (chorus only) of "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge, sing these lyrics:

We are family, God, Jesus, you and me. We are family; everybody get up and praise!

<https://youtu.be/uyGY2NfYpeE?si=pM-t6fyKJf6caDpx>

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each month you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord and to be a better person. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



**Lesson 2: December 8, 2024**

# A HOUSE FOR GOD

**Lesson Scripture:** 2 Samuel 7:1-17

**Focus Scripture:** 2 Samuel 7:4-17

**Key Verse:** The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 2 Samuel 7:11b (NRSV UE)

## 2 SAMUEL 7:4-17 (NRSV UE)

- 4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,
- 5 "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
- 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
- 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'
- 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel,
- 9 and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
- 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
- 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
- 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he

commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

15 But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

17 In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Nathan** – The priest who guided King David and spoke to him about God's plans about building the temple.

### GETTING READY!!!

**S**t. John's basketball team was going to play in the finals! Jamil played center, and this was the first final he would play in since he joined the team. He and his family were all very excited and were making plans to take Jamil's grandparents and one or two cousins to the game. The evening before the game, Jamil was in the yard practicing with some of his teammates, when the phone rang; it was his coach. Jamil's father answered the phone and listened to the coach's message. He slowly went out to the yard to tell Jamil the news.

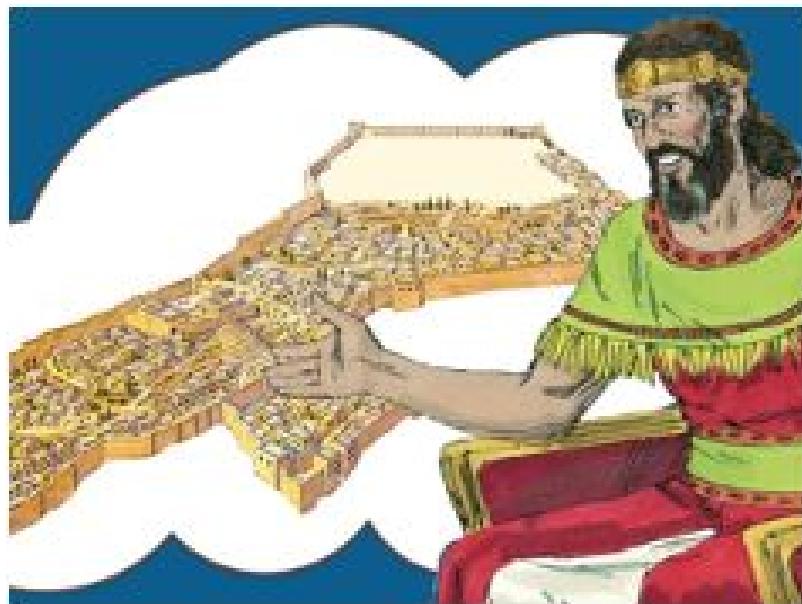
"Jamil, come sit here a moment. This is going to be disappointing, but I want you to understand that because you are a sophomore, you have time to play. The coach has changed the team lineup, and he is allowing one of the graduating seniors to take your place. You are still on the team, but you will be on the bench and may not get to play very much this time. He explained it to me, and I agree with his decision. Your classmate will not have another chance for recruiters to see him play. I hope you understand."

Jamil put his head down, dropped the ball, said goodbye to his friends, and went to his room. After thinking about it for a while, he realized that his father was right. But it still hurt.

### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Even though we can make plans in our lives, God may have another

**E**plan for us. King David wanted to build the temple for God and give God a new home on earth. This would be a magnificent place where people would worship God and pay tribute to the Lord. However, Nathan, who was a priest and gave advice to King David, realized that this was not going to be the final plan, even though it was David's desire. Through a vision to Nathan, God made it clear that David's son would build the temple. David would not be able to fulfill his dream to build the temple himself. Although it may have been disappointing, David was obedient and submitted to God's will.



#### USING GODS WORD!!!

**H**ow do you think you would have felt if you were in Jamil's place? Do you agree that it was the fair thing to do, since his teammate would not be able to play the next year? In the end, it was a matter of trusting the coach's judgment, and more importantly, trusting that God would have something better for him. In the same way that David had to trust God, even though he may have been disappointed, we have to be willing to sacrifice at times and give up something we really want. We must trust God's will for us. Later, the temple was built, and it was magnificent as David had hoped. He didn't live to see it, but his son, Solomon, did the work just as God

had planned. Jamil was able to play enough in that game so that the recruiters came back to see him the next year! He was rewarded for his sacrifice.

Color the picture below and give it a short caption using ideas from today's lesson. Then post it on your bulletin board at church; add your name!



*Caption Example: Jamil Wins!*

**REMIX!!!**

**Y**our disappointment may not come in the form of a delayed game, contest, or other activity. It may be something that you have been waiting for in another area of your life. Maybe you have a low grade in a class and are trying hard to improve; it could be, that you've had a disagreement with a friend and are waiting to make up.

Whatever it is, be prayerful and ask God to help you wait for the right time and place for whatever God has for you to do. Remember the story of King David and the temple and if you are still unsure, talk to your parents, your church school teacher, or other trusted adult to help you.

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**T**here are many gospel songs and hymns about trusting God. Do you have a favorite? One of mine is “I Trust You” by James Fortune and Fiya. Play it on your device or ask your teacher to play it for you!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each month you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord and to be a better person. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



Lesson 3: December 15, 2024

## ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

**Lesson Scripture:** Luke 1:5-23, 57-80

**Focus Scripture:** Luke 1:67-80

**Key Verses:** And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Luke 1:76-77 (NRSV UE)

LUKE 1:67-80 (NRSV UE)

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

# WORD POWER!!!

- **Zechariah (zeck-ah-rye'-ah)** – The father of John the Baptist, who was the cousin of Jesus the Christ.

## GETTING READY!!!

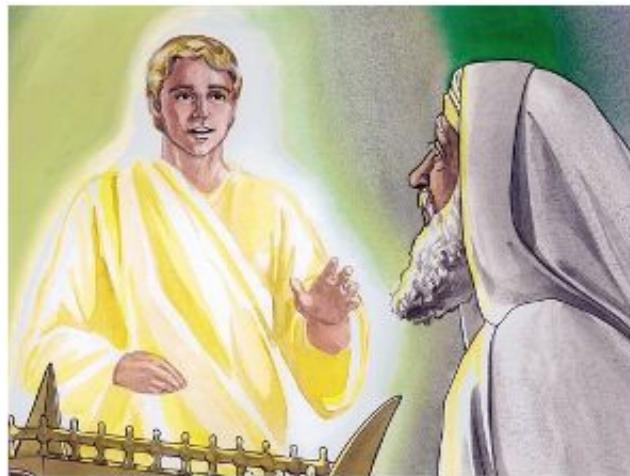
**A**manda was going to have a little sister! There was a new bassinet for her in her parents' bedroom, and everyone in the family seemed so happy. All week, her mom and dad had been talking about the baby and how it would be to have a new little girl. Her mother was almost ready to have the baby and was on her way to the hospital. While she waited at home with her aunt, Amanda asked about what was going to happen to her once her sister came home. "Are mommy and daddy still going to have time for me?" she asked her Aunt Thelma. "Of course they will, sweetheart! Your parents love you and will always love you, no matter how many brothers and sisters you end up having. Their love is big enough to be shared with each of you. When your little sister comes home, your job will be to help take care of her, but your parents' job will still be to take care of you both." Her aunt gave her a big hug, and Amanda felt much better.

## INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**I**n this story, we see Zechariah, who was an elderly man, and his wife Elizabeth preparing for the birth of a son. It was a miracle, and now Zechariah was talking about what would happen when his son was born. God had given him a vision, and it was very clear that his son would be special. He would be the cousin of the Messiah and would come before him to introduce Jesus to the world! Although John, who was to be called John the Baptist, was not to be a divine being or the same as the Son of God, he still had a very special place and a very important role to fill. He was going to be the voice that people heard first. He would preach about salvation and then

baptize the one who would bring salvation to others. This gave Zechariah great joy, and he praised God for this blessing!

After listening to the Bible story, write at least two reasons below why Zechariah could be happy about the birth of his son John.



#### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**J**ust like John the Baptist, Amanda had a special role to play in her family. She was going to be the big sister to their new little girl! This was hard for her to understand, but after listening to her aunt, she knew a little more about how she was still loved and important to her parents. Perhaps Zechariah would one day explain to his new son how he would be important, as well. Jesus was the Son of God, but he would not have done all that he did without the help from friends and others that God put in his path. One of those most important friends was his cousin, John the Baptist, who pointed the way for him. What might be a praise song that Amanda could write that is similar to what Zechariah said? Can you think of lyrics? If so, write them in the box!

## Amanda's Song

### REMIX!!!

**A**re you a big sister or brother at home? Do you have a big sister or brother who has been a help to you? What do you think is the most important thing about being either an older or younger brother and sister? How can you give love to each other?

One of the things that you can do is to be thankful for your brothers and sisters, or it may be cousins if you are an only child. Whoever it is, say a prayer for them when you pray, and thank God that they are in your lives! Then, each day, remember to be kind and not worry when new family members arrive. You are still special, and God loves you!



**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**S**hare the lyrics that you wrote for Amanda's praise song with the class! Later, plan to put those lyrics to music by sharing them with someone who knows how to play an instrument and can help you with the melody.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



Lesson 4: December 22, 2024

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS ANNOUNCED

**Lesson Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20

**Focus Scripture:** Luke 2:1-16

**Key Verse:** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2:15 (NRSV UE)

LUKE 2:1-16 (NRSV UE)

- 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
- 3 All went to their own towns to be registered.
- 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.
- 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.
- 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
- 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.
- 8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
- 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
- 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
- 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the

heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Shepherds** – Individuals who, during the time of the Messiah’s birth, were caring for sheep and followed the directions of angels to visit the Christ child.

### GETTING READY!!!

Mr. Brown’s class was preparing for the annual Advent - Christmas play. “Does anyone know what Advent means and the difference between Advent and Christmas?”

“Advent comes before Christmas,” said Pat. “We celebrate it by lighting candles.”



“That’s very true, and Advent is the time that we prepare for the coming of Jesus and remember why his birth was the beginning of salvation for the world. Christmas is the celebration of the birthday of Jesus Christ,” added Mr. Brown. The class then began to talk about the role of the shepherds and others who came to visit Jesus. They learned about how the shepherds were the first to whom angels gave instructions about the birth of Jesus. The shepherds trusted the message they had been given and were obedient regarding what God had asked of them.

### INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Shepherds had a special role during the time of Jesus and in many ways, had some of the same traits that Jesus did. That is why in some places of the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the *Good Shepherd*; and, we are his sheep! Just as the shepherds cared for their sheep and took care of them, Jesus cares for us. He guides us and finds us when we are lost. After reading the Bible story, you should see some of those traits that shepherds had. They were obedient; they were caring; they were very happy to serve. In the puzzle below, circle five words that describe a special shepherd.

## SHEPHERDS ARE SPECIAL

There are five words in the puzzle that describe how a special shepherd lives. Can you find them?



### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

As we end Advent, a very appropriate lesson to keep in mind is how the shepherds were trusting and obedient to God's Word and direction. They knew that they had a very important mission to perform! As this year comes to an end, there may be problems we have had or other things that confuse us. We may feel that we didn't succeed at everything we wanted to do, or there could have been disappointments. By focusing on the goodness of God in our lives and our blessings, we can be happier and at peace wherever we are. The New Year brings hope, and it reminds us that God has more joys in store for us. Write a short story of how you plan to use some

of the traits of a special shepherd to make life better at home, at school, and with friends.

*My Story*

**REMIX!!!**

In telling the Bible story each year at Christmas, we may miss some of the important background of those visitors who came to see Jesus. The shepherds were hard-working people who had a very special profession. Taking care of sheep and doing the things that protected them from harm, feeding them, leading them to safe passages, and so on, meant that the shepherds were very busy. Yet, as soon as they heard the message from God, they dropped what they were doing to go visit the king. Look at it as a lesson and an example of how we should be in our lives and in all that we say and do. When God calls, we should answer!

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

While listening to Christmas carols and your favorite Christmas songs, share your stories about the joys of Christmas with each other. Enjoy the Spirit of Christmas!

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Did you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



**Lesson 5 : December 29, 2024**

# JESUS HEALS A BLIND BEGGAR

**Lesson Scripture:** Luke 18:31-43

**Focus Scripture:** Luke 18:35-43

**Key Verse:** Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God. Luke 8:43 (NRSV UE)

## LUKE 18:35-43 (NRSV UE)

35 As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.  
36 When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening.  
37 They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”  
38 Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”  
39 Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”  
40 Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him,  
41 “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.”  
42 Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.”  
43 Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Optician** – A person who sells and provides eyeglasses and other eyewear.

## GETTING READY!!!

**H**ow about that? Are you able to see better now?” The optician pressed the eyeglasses on Karen’s face, touching behind the ears to make sure they were comfortable.

“Yes, they are okay.” Karen spoke quietly because she wasn’t very happy about having to wear glasses. As they were leaving, she complained to her mother that she thought she was going to be kidded at school and that her friends would call her ugly. Her mother touched her on the shoulder and gave her a very serious look.

"Karen, you are able to see. Do you know how many people would love to be able to say that? Do you remember Aunt Alice? She lost her sight when she was a teenager, and she was never able again to see the sky, cars on the street, or the friends that she had known. Be grateful, and never complain about something like this, when it could be so much worse for you. Thank God that you are able to have the glasses that you need to see. Understand? Besides, some of the prettiest young women that we have around us wear glasses. In the end, the most important thing is that you still have your sight. You'll be all right."

#### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**T**he man in this story was not only blind, but poor. He probably lived on the street and survived from money that he could get from people who passed by. When he heard about Jesus, he yelled out to the Lord to give him back his sight. He did not allow others to discourage him, although they tried.

Karen's mother did not allow her to feel ashamed because of what she felt might be embarrassment or what we call peer pressure. Karen was blessed to be able to see with her glasses, and her mother knew that being thankful was something Karen needed to learn. Is there something that you have been ashamed of or that you did not want to do because you thought it would be embarrassing? If you think about it now, are you able to find something in that situation that you could be thankful for? Your teacher will give you construction paper and color pens. On the paper draw some circles and write in each one something that you are thankful for, and if possible, include one thing that used to bother you. For example, maybe you did not like a dress that your parent bought for you. But you can be thankful that you have a dress to wear!

#### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**J**esus answered the blind man's prayer despite the fact that people around him were trying to prevent him from getting to Jesus. Jesus did not look at him as someone who was not worthy simply because he was on the street and was a beggar. When the man called out to the Lord, knowing that Jesus had the power to restore his sight, he was demonstrating his faith. In a way, the disciples and others who tried to discourage the blind man had a blindness of their own, because they did not see the importance of

everyone being worthy of a healthy life. All of us are special, and all of us are children of God! Today, once you are at home, think of one thing that you can do this week to encourage someone who may not be as fortunate as you are. Perhaps you can just say hello and wish them a wonderful day. Maybe you can invite them to sit with you at lunch or offer to visit with them. Maybe you can share something with them, that you know they need and will make them happy. Just think about it and pray, and ask God to show you how you can show someone else they are special! Be ready to tell the class about your experience next week.

**REMIX!!!**

**R**emember, being grateful to God for what you have is part of what makes you a Christian and different from others in the world who do not know the Lord as their savior. Also, when you see others who are not treated well or who may suffer in some way, you can be a light in their lives by offering love and kindness. Do not be like the people who tried to discourage the blind man and keep him from Jesus. Instead, be the one who actually invites that person to the Lord. Maybe you can invite them to church or church school, and as noted above, show them that they are special.

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

In a circle, hold hands and go around the circle with each person saying to the other, "You are special!"

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Are you able to say this prayer without looking at it?)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



**Lesson 6: January 5, 2025**

# **GOD IS OUR PROTECTOR**

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalms 9 and 10

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 10:12-18

**Key Verse:** Oh Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart; you will inclinde your ear. Psalm 10:17(NRSV UE)

## **PSALM 10:12-18 (NRSV UE)**

- 12 Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.
- 13 Why do the wicked renounce God and say in their hearts, “You will not call us to account”?
- 14 But you do see! Indeed, you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands; the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan.
- 15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers; seek out their wickedness until you find none.
- 16 The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations shall perish from his land.
- 17 O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear
- 18 to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more.

## **WORD POWER!!!**

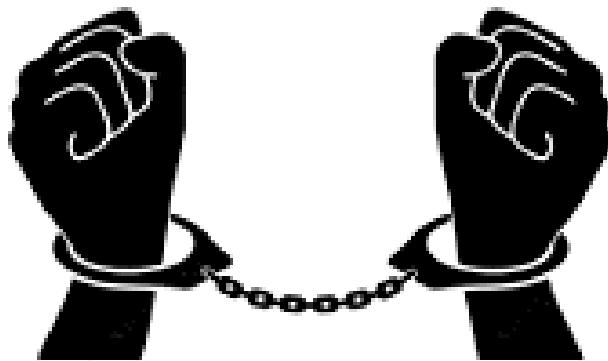
- **Incline** – To lower or bow, to move close in order to listen.

## **GETTING READY!!!**

**T**he class had never seen Reverend Freeman this angry. One of the teenage boys in the class had been arrested by police, who said he was trying to break into a store. However, the police did not know that he worked at the store and was trying to get the key to work. Reverend Freeman had gone to the police station to post his bond and bring him home. This morning, he was talking to the class

about racism and how in many instances, black males are treated unfairly because of who they are. Everyone remembered George Floyd and so many others who had been killed needlessly by careless and racist police. Although all officers were not this way, far too many were, the pastor told them.

"We cannot and we will not tolerate this kind of discrimination in our community," Reverend Freeman said. "And I for one, am fed up! Today, we are going to write letters of protest to send to the mayor, and we are going to demand an apology. Also, we will have a meeting with all of the males in our church to talk about safety and understanding how to conduct ourselves when we are faced with this kind of situation. So, let us pray and ask God to help us through this trying time."



#### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

In earlier lessons, we learned about King David and how he was the ancestor of Jesus the Christ. Yet, although he was a king, David was not always safe, nor did he have an easy life. At times, he had to fight many enemies including members of his own family. People who were either jealous of him or wanted to take his land would plot against him and make plans to kill him. In these psalms, David turns to the Lord for protection and asks God not to desert him. He also thanks the Lord for being such a wonderful God and being at his side whenever he called. Reverend Freeman was very angry because of the way police had treated his young church member. Yet, he knew that the God that he served would be at their

side as they moved to fight against injustice. As angry as he was, Reverend Freeman did not forget to pray.

#### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

Injustice is a terrible thing. In our country, we see it happen all the time, and we may feel afraid. David may have felt the same way, and the young man in our story most certainly would have been frightened when the police arrested him. What we must do every day, is learn how to behave and to be careful to begin our day with prayer. Below, write your psalm to God for protection. Use some of the words that David did in Psalm 9! Later, you may choose to put your psalm to music!

*My Psalm for Protection:*

#### **REMIX!!!**

Because psalms are often songs that we sing, one or two that you may have sung in church might work for the words that you wrote for your song. For example, "Praise Him" is a popular song that comes from Psalm 113. There are others! Explore with your teacher and see if you can identify one or two more. Meanwhile, look at videos and put psalms in the search engine. See what comes up!

#### **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

Choose a song from one of the videos and learn it together! Your teacher may help you choose one that everyone can sing. Also, don't forget to share your experience from last week!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift and the blessing of music in our lives! You are our song!  
Amen.



## Lesson 7: January 12, 2025

# GOD'S REIGN IS MAJESTIC

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalms 47 and 93

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 93

**Key Verse:** More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!  
Psalm 93:4 (NRSV UE) PSALM 93 (NRSV UE)

- 1 The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; 2 your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.
- 3 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.
- 4 More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!
- 5 Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Majestic** – Something that is glorious, beautiful, and wonderful; an attribute of God almighty.

### GETTING READY!!!

Mrs. Baxter's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class had gone to see the movie, *The Lion King*. Now they were talking about what they liked about the movie and who their favorite characters were. The teacher was explaining some of the similarities to the way God is in our lives. Although the movie was fiction, it taught very real life lessons. She asked them what some of their favorite scenes were, and one or two said they liked Simba and how he was so very brave in the end. "Yes, that is a very good point," said Mrs. Baxter. "But let's not forget about Simba's father, who was courageous and taught him the important lessons of life. A lion is known to be a ferocious animal and

dangerous; yet, a lion represents royalty, strength, and power. This is the same way that we can think of God. God is one whom we can see in the psalms in our lesson today, as a fearless and powerful protector. Just as David felt that power, we can feel it, too. He is our awesome God."

#### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**A**s we read through the different psalms this quarter, look at the language and how it explains the way the writer feels. Very similar to Simba, the authors of these psalms may have felt afraid, but in the end they were victorious and praised the Lord with song and celebration! There are a number of ways that we can celebrate by using our bodies. We can dance; we can sing. Also, clapping our hands is one way to show our joy and express our thanksgiving to God. Looking at the first verse in Psalm 47, we see that that is what the writers ask us to do. Below, trace the fingers of your hand, and then write the words on each finger that you would like to use to describe God. Use the psalm to give you ideas! Use a single sheet of paper and be sure to color your hand to match your own and title it "*My Hand of Praise!*".

#### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**U**nderstanding how God is so awesome can be easier when watching nature. You may not think about it when you look up at the sky, swim in the pool or at the beach, use your cell phone or other device, or simply walk down the street. But God has made all of this possible! Your teacher will show you scenes from *The Lion King*. After watching them, be ready to give examples of the way God has made our world beautiful and how blessed we are! Everything that helps us to live a better life and gives us joy should never be taken for granted! To help with the process, write your answers below about God: 1.

### 3.



#### REMIX!!!

Go back to Psalm 47 that we read today and choose one verse that you like. Learn the verse, and keep it in your heart to say each day. When you feel low or frightened, these words can be an inspiration and source of comfort for you! Which one did you choose?

#### PRAISE THE LORD!!!

**P**lay the song called, "God Is an Awesome God!"

*(God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above!)* **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)* Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift and the blessing of music in our lives! You are our song! Amen.

Lesson 8: January 19, 2025

## PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS!

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 103

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 103:1-14

**Key Verses:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Psalm 103:1 (NRSV UE)

### PSALM 103:1-14 (NRSV UE)

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Oppressed** – People who are not given the same freedoms and rights as others;

the condition of being mistreated or discriminated against.

- **Righteousness** – Being in a satisfactory or right relationship with God; being in sync with God.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

**T**he Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Choir at Bethel AME Church was discussing who Dr. King was; and, they were learning about some of the songs that were sung during his time. The minister of music had agreed that the choir could sing the songs that they wanted for the entire summer, if they learned at least two songs from the civil rights era this month. Some of the choir had never heard of freedom songs and were listening to them for the first time. So far, the choir members had listed, “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around,” “Oh, Freedom,” “If I Can Help Somebody,” “We Shall Overcome,” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Today they would choose two of those songs to sing at the morning worship, and although they were not that enthusiastic about singing the songs at first, as they listened to them, they began to see the value of learning these very important hymns of faith.

### **INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

**P**salm 103 is a song of praise and admiration for the Lord and God’s goodness. In this passage, the message for us is that we should love the Lord and sing God’s praises every day. Also, the psalm talks about how God cares for people who are treated unfairly. Verse 6 mentions that God loves the oppressed, and today, that includes people who are poor, who are black or of color, and who are less educated. Dr. King lived his life to help people of all colors and backgrounds. He preached about justice and the importance of loving one another. He fought for justice and gave his life for what he believed. As we read Psalm 103, let us remember the blessings God gives including those leaders who fight everyday on our behalf and who in the past, made sacrifices for us all.

*MLK Bulletin Board!*

Copy and then color this picture and write your tribute sentence to Dr. King beneath it. You may begin your tribute with, *I honor Dr. King because...* display all of the pictures on a bulletin board for others to share!

**REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



**USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

*Video and Play*

**W**atch a video or short movie about the civil rights movement and learn something about the songs that were sung. After the video, work on a short skit that demonstrates what you learned in the video. Ask your teacher to help you choose a scene that you can learn quickly and be sure to include at least one song in the skit! See if you can present it to the church school later, such as during Black History Month.

Use the space below to take notes or write your part in the skit.

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**REMIX!!!**

**W**e love the Lord because of the mercy and grace that we receive. But we should remember that God is also a just God and give praise for this trait as well. Read Psalm 103 again and remember verse 6 that says how the same God of mercy, the same God of grace, is the God of the oppressed. That is why the Lord has sent to us persons who are willing to fight for justice and even die for the cause of freedom.

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

Sing one of the songs that you learned from the video or another freedom song from the civil rights era.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift and the blessing of music in our lives! You are our song!  
Amen.



## **Lesson 9: January 26, 2025**

# PRAISE OUR GRACIOUS GOD

**Lesson Scripture:** Psalm 145

**Focus Scripture:** Psalm 145:8-13

**Key Verse:** The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9 (NRSV UE) PSALM 145:8-13 (NRSV UE) 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, 12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Compassion** – Having love for others; showing mercy and kindness.

## GETTING READY!!!

**A**s we have learned, psalms are often songs that we sing. In many instances, psalms in the Bible were put to music by worship leaders and musicians that were in the temple. David would provide the lyrics and present them to worship leaders. Mr. Grayson's vacation Bible school group was working on their own song that included words from their favorite scripture, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Because everyone already knew the words, it was easy to put lyrics together that they could sing. Here is what they wrote: *The Lord cares for me, my shepherd he is! He is! He is! The Lord cares for me, my comforter he is! He is! He is!*

*No matter where I go*

*No matter how hard it seems, He leades me along the gentle streams; my Shepherd he is!*

### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**P**salms 145 is much longer than Psalm 23, but that does not mean that in reading it we cannot look at segments to use as a basis for our celebration and words of praise. The main theme of both the psalms is praise and thanksgiving for a gracious and merciful God. In both cases, God is given glory and honor as the one supreme being who loves and is faithful to us all.

*A Psalm to Sing!*

You have already had practice in other lessons using lyrics to write your own song or musical creation. Musicians in your church or the minister of music are perfect ministry leaders to help you with your ideas. If you like the lyrics that were provided by Mr. Grayson's group from vacation Bible school, use them to come up with your own original song. If not, choose lyrics from Psalm 145 to develop a completely new work! It does not have to be very long, but it should include words from whichever psalm you choose. Ask your teacher for the time you need to complete the project.

### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**I**n the section below, write out the final version of your song. In the first space, write the title that you gave the song; in the second space, be sure to write the psalm that you took the lyrics from for your song. Record the music by using someone from the class who would like to sing it or ask a choir member to help you. This is a group effort! After you have completed the entire song with lyrics and music, make arrangements with your church to perform it.

*Title of song:*

*Name of Psalm:*

### **REMIX!!!**

**N**ow that you have learned about the psalms in the Bible and how they affect our worship, try to choose one of the verses that you have learned to recite or to say to yourself and a prayer each day. Even if you don't remember every word, remember some

of the basic lessons we have learned. First, God is an almighty God who created us all. Next, God loves us and is merciful, but wants our obedience. And finally, God gives us a song to sing!

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**U**se this time to sing your song together as a practice. Enjoy the gifts God has given you and others for writing, singing, and composing!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)* Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift and the blessing of music in our lives! You are our song! Amen.

Lesson 10: February 2, 2025

## GOD'S WILL BE DONE

**Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 6:5-15

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 6:5-15

**Key Verse:** Your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 (NRSV UE)

### MATTHEW 6:5-15 (NRSV UE)

- 5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
- 6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- 7 When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.
- 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- 9 Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy.
- 10 May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- 11 Give us today our daily bread.
- 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- 13 And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.
- 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
- 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

### WORD POWER!!!

- **Kingdom** – God's place and creation in the world; the people who honor and

worship God.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

**T**he Jones family was at a concert of the Atlanta Christian Choir which was made of different denominations in the city. Melissa was singing the solo and was about to start. Her family was so very proud of her as they listened intently to the solo. She sang, "The Lord's Prayer," her beautiful alto voice carrying over the entire auditorium. When she was finished, everyone in the audience shouted, "Amen!"

After the concert, the family went to dinner, and Melissa's little brother asked her why everyone shouted *amen!* when she finished singing. "It seemed like they were all going crazy over the song," he said, and everyone laughed. "Because it is a song that is very important in our faith," she said, "and it is the prayer that Jesus Christ himself taught us. It was an honor for me to sing it."

### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**T**here are many prayers in the Bible including those that persons in the Old Testament would pray when they were in trouble or as we learned last month, when they wanted to praise God as David did in the Psalms. Yet, this may be the most important prayer that you will ever learn, and it is certainly the most significant in the New Testament. In our Bible lesson, we see Jesus preaching on a mountain to the disciples and others about how to live together in love and harmony and what blessings they have when they are the children of God. The part of the prayer that we are talking about today deals with how God's kingdom on earth is to be according to his will as it is in heaven. This means that we, as faithful followers of the Lord, agree to live as God wants us to live and to accept his will for our lives. We don't know what goes on in heaven or exactly what it looks like, but we say to God that we accept the plans that are in place for us and that we are willing to obey God's will.



## **"The Lord's Prayer"**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. Amen.**

### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**O**ne of the reasons that the people responded to Melissa's solo as she sang "The Lord's Prayer" with an *amen!*, may be because of the beautiful words in the prayer. The prayer begins with giving honor to God and then asks that God's will be done. That is followed by requests for what we need and for forgiveness. All the lessons that we need to learn regarding our faith and the most important parts of what we believe, can be found in this prayer! It is not very long, yet it teaches what we need to know about God and our relationship with the Lord. Have you already learned "The Lord's Prayer"? If you have, then this exercise will be easy! You should be able to help your classmates. If not, then let us learn it together! It will be fun, and most of all, it will a very important part of your faith journey.

The way that you hear the prayer prayed or sung in public may be a little different from what you see in the Bible, and that is because we added an ending of our own to the prayer. But this is the way that we will learn it today. It is what the Lord Jesus taught his disciples.

### *Team Prayer*

Find a teammate, and each one of you recite a verse of “The Lord’s Prayer” with every other verse spoken by each team member. In other words, you may start with, “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” Then your teammate will continue with, “Thy (your) kingdom come, thy (your) will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Do this until you finish the prayer. Each of you should write your part on a sheet of paper or a card. When you feel comfortable, recite “The Lord’s Prayer” together and present it to the class. Be sure to keep practicing until you can pray “The Lord’s Prayer” on your own!

### **REMIX!!!**

**A**s you pray “The Lord’s Prayer” in church, at home, and other places, remember the lesson today about its importance in our lives. When you are not sure of how to pray, you can always pray as the Lord taught you and each of us in our Bible lesson. Perhaps, if you don’t remember it all, you can focus on these first words that say so very much: “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

### **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**L**isten to any version of “The Lord’s Prayer” that you like. Your teacher can help you find one. You may choose one from a video or other music source. Listen and pray along as you hear the song!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord! You have made me your child and part of your kingdom on earth. Now, I will try to love others in this blessed family as you have loved me. Amen.



Lesson 11: February 9, 2025

## STANDING UP FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

**Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 11

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 11:1-15

**Key Verse:** This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" Matthew 11:10 (NRSV UE)

### MATTHEW 11:1-15 (NRSV UE)

- 1 Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.
- 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"
- 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."
- 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?
- 8 What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.
- 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
- 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
- 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
- 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and violent people take it by force.
- 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came,

14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.  
15 Let anyone with ears listen!"

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Prophesy (prah'-fi-si )** – To tell of the future or to give a message from God about a future event (verb)

### GETTING READY!!!

**W**hen Jesus came to earth and began his ministry, it was important for someone else to introduce him to the world and prepare the way for him. Earlier this quarter, we learned about John the Baptist, and here in our lesson, Jesus is saying that the people's expectation of who John was proved not to be what John was meant to be. Jesus explained that they were looking for what God did not actually send. Because John the Baptist was different, and did not live as they did, some people felt that he was strange. Yet, God had a very important role for John to fulfill, and he did just that. In the end, the people heard Jesus' testimony about John. Jesus said there was no human greater than John.

### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**T**he African Methodist Episcopal Church is filled with testimonies and historical events about men and women who were not accepted in the community or by their peers in some instances. Nevertheless, God had a mission for them and made a way for them to carry that mission out. Jarena Lee, for example, was a woman who wanted to preach in the 1800s, but could not be ordained because of a law. Bishop Richard Allen, who was our first consecrated bishop, was very impressed with her, but the church did not want to accept women preachers. Despite her calling, she could not be ordained. She still went on from church to church, however, to preach the Word of God, and in 2016, Lee was awarded a certificate of ordination after her death by the AME Church. She's the first woman preacher of our denomination and one of the first in the entire country.



## USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Women in Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is a very important organization and significant part of our history and purpose. The women who have been called to preach the Gospel and serve in the



AME Church as clergy, are getting more involved in various parts of ministry all over the world. Today, more women hold senior pastor titles of major churches, and they are serving as presiding elders and bishops. Do you know who our first female bishop was? The Women in Ministry website, <https://amewim.org/>, may give you the answer! Also, you can learn about our first woman preacher, Jarena Lee, as well from this lesson. Take the remainder of the class time to visit the site, and then find the answer you need.

*The First Consecrated Woman Bishop of the AME Church*

Below, write the name of our first woman bishop and when she was consecrated.

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## REMIX!!!

Just like John the Baptist, Jarena Lee was not accepted because she was different. Yet, she did not allow this to stop her from doing what God had called her to do. Although she had stumbling blocks in her way and suffered some setbacks, she still pressed on. If you have a special gift that God has given you, or you believe there is something important that God has for you to do, do it! You may need

to get help from your parents, your teacher, or your pastor, but never allow doubts to stop you from fulfilling your dreams! The AME Church is full of persons who started out with opposition in their way, but fought on until they were victorious! You can do the same!

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**T**his may be an excellent time to present the skit that you worked on in January about songs during the civil rights movement!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord! You have made me your child and a part of your kingdom on earth. Now, I will try to love others in this blessed family as you have loved me. Amen.



## Lesson 12: February 16, 2025

# SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST

**Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 19:16-30

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 19:16-30

**Key Verse:** Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 (NRSV UE)

### MATTHEW 19:16-30 (NRSV UE)

- 16 Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”
- 17 And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”
- 18 He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness.
- 19 Honor your father and mother. Also, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- 20 The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?”
- 21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”
- 22 When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.
- 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”
- 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?”
- 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

27 Then Peter said in reply, “Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?”

28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my name’s sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

## **WORD POWER!!!**

- **Mortals** – Human beings, the people on earth.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

**M**ika was one of hundreds of children who lived in a family shelter with her mom and little brother. The shelter had opened a month ago after there had been a storm and flooding in her neighborhood. Her family could not make the necessary repairs and did not have flood insurance. The Red Cross and other agencies were helping, but Mika and her brother had very few things right now of their own. They wore some of the same clothes each day, and the only healthy meal they ate was at school. Mika felt ashamed, and was thinking about going to the mall or anywhere just not to have to face her friends. She knew her mother was doing the best that she could, but she hated her life. She was not happy, and she didn’t want to hear any more lame talk about how things could be worse.

### **INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

**I**n our world, money and possessions are very important; people judge others by what they wear and how they look. Jesus warned about this in this Bible lesson, letting the rich man know that being a child of God and living a godly life went beyond following the law, going to church, and saying prayers. If we are to be true Christians,

we must look at the needs of others and be willing to share. That is why the Bible story is so important. Putting God first means that we do not put so much emphasis on material things, but rather on spiritual things that matter more to the Lord!

#### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**T**oday, although it is not very wise, many of us assume that a person is either very successful or happy because they have money. On the other hand, it is never fun to be in poverty or to not have enough. Not having enough food, not having enough clothing, and not having adequate shelter are all experiences that can break the spirit of a person and make them feel worthless. What are some things that you would do if you knew Mika? How could you help her and give her a sense of pride in her appearance?

#### *Helping Mika*

In the list below, write five things that you would do to help someone like Mika who did not have proper clothing, shelter, or enough food to eat. If you know someone like Mika, these ideas may very well be helpful to them! In the left column, list your idea or suggestion; in the right column, list places that you can go to get the support that you need. Your teacher will be able to help you if necessary. One is done for you.

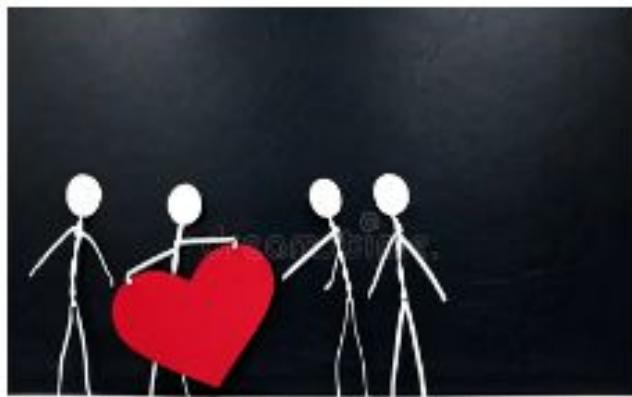
#### **Ideas / Ways to Help Places to Go for Help**

1. Share clothing A church's clothing closet or items of your own
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

## 5.

### REMIX!!!

**S**haring with others and giving sacrificially of your own resources and belongings is one of the ways that you show your love for Jesus Christ and your neighbor. Jesus taught us that possessions of the world do not save. We deserve to enjoy the things that we have, but we should not put them before the Lord and we should not worship them. That means they should not be more important to us than our faith.



### PRAISE THE LORD!!!

**D**evelop one poster with ways to help those who are less fortunate that is a combined list from the class; then work with your teacher to choose an individual that you can help as a group or individually. We just finished celebrating Valentine's Day, and perhaps your Valentine act can be the love you show to a stranger; it's never too late to show compassion. Make it a long-term ministry, if that is something that you and your church leaders are able to do! Plan to follow up next week!

### CLOSING PRAYER

*(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)*

Dear Lord! You have made me your child and a part of your kingdom on earth. Now, I will try to love others in this blessed family as you have loved me. Amen.



Lesson 13: February 23, 2025

## BEING THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS

**Lesson Scripture:** Matthew 25

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 25:31-40

**Key Verse:** “The king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:40 (NRSV UE)

### MATTHEW 25:31-40 (NRSV UE)

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’

38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?

39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’”

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Family** – Persons who are among the same group of people; individuals who are cared for and loved.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

**S**ince December, we have learned many important lessons about serving God and others. We know that God expects us to love one another and give as God has given to us. We, through music, can express our praise for the Lord, and just as important, we can show our love for the savior by helping others! In fact, in our very first lesson, we talked about family. David's family included Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has a family, too, and that is each of us! Family members do not have to be related to one another; they simply have to be among a group that is served and that serves. In this final lesson, Jesus is telling the people that when they serve others in his family, they are serving him! His words teach us that we should love one another, even those who are outside our biological families.

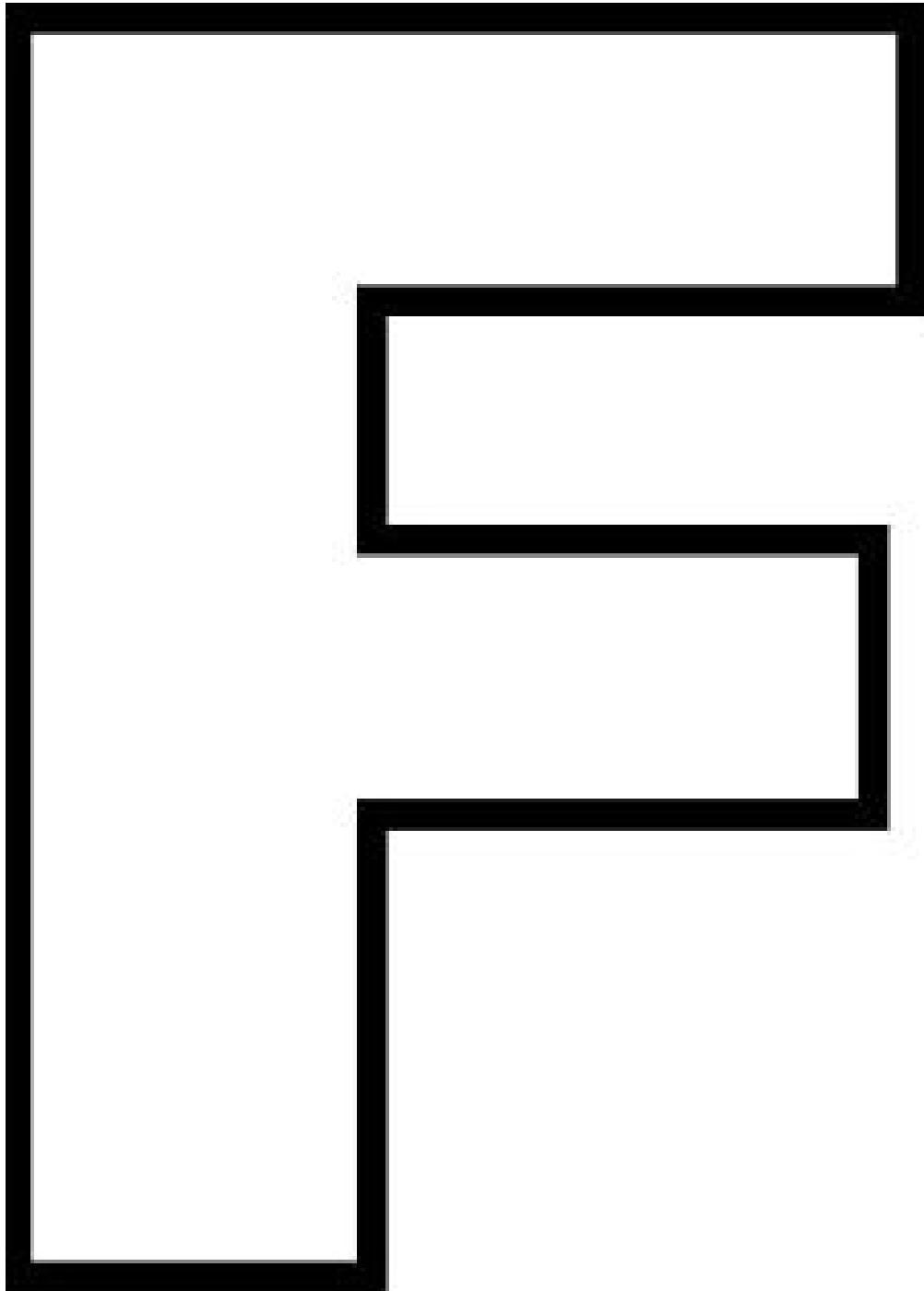
### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**L**ast week, you were planning a way to help someone that you knew who was less fortunate and in need of assistance. Did your class come up with a plan? If so, use part of your time today to finish all of the steps that you will take. Perhaps you were going to visit a shelter each week to take clothes and other items. Maybe you can open your own food pantry or serve sandwiches to others each month. Whatever it is, make sure that you are taking care of the needs of someone who is among "the least of these" (verse 40).

### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

# **FAMILY**

F" is for family! For this final project, cut out the letter "F" below, or copy and then color it in pretty colors and designs. Finish writing the letters to make the word *Family*, and then post as a collage on your bulletin board. A collage is a group of pictures all connected together, just as we as a family should be connected in Jesus Christ. Be sure your names are on each picture, and work together enjoying the time that you spend on this activity. Remember, we are family, and the Lord Jesus loves us all!



**REMIX!!!**

**W**hat are some of the most important lessons that you have learned this quarter? Do you have a favorite? Discuss that with the class, and take a picture of your bulletin board with the collage of

*Family* word pictures. Share yours on social media or with your family, and remember the lesson you have learned that was most important to you. Put it in action by practicing it as you go through the remainder of this month and this year. Being a part of God's family means doing what God would have you to do including those things that may not always be easy. Whatever the task, however, know that the Lord is with you and will guide you each step of the way.

**PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

**S**ay together these words: "Lord, we are your family and we are each other's friend. We promise to love each other as on you we depend. Amen!"

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*Have you memorized your prayers this quarter? Will you remember them?*

Dear Lord! You have made me your child and a part of your kingdom on earth. Now, I will try to love others in this blessed family as you have loved me. Amen.