

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT II THEME – THE CHURCH AND ITS TEACHINGS

LESSON TOPIC

WORKING TOGETHER MAKES US BETTER

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Christian Church

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 4:26-32; Romans 12:4-8;
Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:13-22; 4:4-6, 11-16; 5:22-27; 1 Tim. 3:15

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-18

LESSON TEXT

- I. Growth Through Small Beginnings – (Mark 4:26-32)
- II. Unity in Diversity – (Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-13)
- III. Maturity Through Togetherness – (Ephesians 4:14-18)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

**But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
¹⁶From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16, KJV)**

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

An infinite number of issues threaten the unity of families, communities, and nations. How will we resist what threatens to divide us? When we use the unique gifts Christ gave the church to minister to one another, then we can grow together and experience spiritual unity.

LESSON AIM

The Kingdom of God grows mysteriously yet exponentially, according to Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. Spiritual maturity doesn't come by isolating and improving our individual relationship with God. Rather, as we use our gifts to build one another up, we live our shared calling as God's people.

LIFE AIM

Small, ordinary acts of faithfulness can seem misplaced or negligible in the grand scheme of God's Kingdom. However, Jesus' parable teaches the exact opposite. Any small act of charity toward a neighbor or using a God-given skill to benefit the church has an eternal impact that outlasts the moment in time in which it is performed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

OUTER EXPRESSIONS OF INNER TRUTHS

UNIFYING TOPIC

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acs 2:38, 41;
Romans 6:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:23-29

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20;
1 Corinthians 11:23-29

LESSON TEXT

- I. Baptism: Identifying with Christ – (Matthew 3:13-17)
- II. Communion: Remembering Christ's Sacrifice – (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
- III. The Great Commission: Making Disciples – (Matthew 28:19-20)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People seek a strengthening and steadying force for life's journey. What gives vitality to our life and work? Baptism and the Lord's Supper are given to the Church by Christ as vital for its mission and witness to God's saving work.

LESSON AIM

Baptism marks our entrance into the family of God as we identify with Christ's death and resurrection, committing to live a life of repentance. The Lord's Supper is a reminder of Christ's death for us and our commitment to follow Him, as well as hope in His eventual return. These two practices are the backbone of the Christian life.

LIFE AIM

It is only by being identified with Christ and remembering what He has done and will do that we have hope of carrying out our God-given mission.

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LESSON TOPIC

RHYTHMS OF REST AND WORK

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Lord's Day

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-14;
28:1-10; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:4-6

LESSON PASSAGE

Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 14:4-6; Revelation 1:10

LESSON TEXT

- I. A Creation Rhythm – (Exodus 20:8-11)
- II. A Christ-Centered Conscience – (Romans 14:4-6)
- III. The Lord's Day – (Revelation 1:10)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:11, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People carve out time to do the things that are important to them. How do we prioritize our daily activities? The early Christians set apart the Lord's Day as a testimony to the Resurrection and God's gift of rest.

LESSON AIM

Sabbath rest is a divinely ordained rhythm of life, woven into the fabric of creation. It reminds us of our limits and of God's limitless provision. While Jesus' finished work for us changes our relationship with the Law, including the keeping of the Sabbath, it does not abolish our need for rest and for the rest God has provided for us.

LIFE AIM

As chaotic and fast-paced as life seems to be, resting can be hard for many people—including Christians. God not only modeled rest for us but commanded it (Exodus 20:8-11). We should honor the principle of rest, allowing for Christians of differing opinions to still enjoy fellowship with one another.

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LESSON TOPIC

VALUES, MONEY, AND EXPERIENCES

UNIFYING TOPIC

Stewardship and Mission

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Genesis 12:1-3; Deut. 8:17-18; Jonah 3:1-10;
Mal. 3:7-12; Matt. 13:1-3; 26:12-20; 28:18-20; Rom. 1:14-16;
1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; 9:1-15

LESSON PASSAGE

Acts 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:3-9

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Kingdom of Misguided Values – (Acts 1:6)
- II. The Kingdom of True Experience – (Acts 1:7-8)
- III. The Currency of God's Kingdom – (2 Corinthians 8:3-9)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We have a deep concern for living the most self-fulfilling life possible. How can we live this life in a happy and gratifying way? Acts and 2 Corinthians describe principles for stewardship and mission that prioritize heaven's gains over earthly gains.

LESSON AIM

In his second account aimed at confirming Jesus' ministry, now through His church, Luke begins by describing Jesus' mission entrusted to His disciples. As His Spirit-empowered witnesses, the disciples will leverage all of their earthly resources, even their very lives, to further the Kingdom of God.

LIFE AIM

We must define success in ministry by Jesus' definition, not our own. While we likely have many expectations of what following Jesus will look like, the truth is that we're called to serve faithfully in our roles as witnesses to the power of God in our lives. We depend on God for any Kingdom-minded action we take.

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