

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

LESSON TOPIC

THOUGHTS ON LIFE AND DEATH

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Future Life

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matt. 25:31-46; Mark 12:26-27; Luke 24:1-12;
John 14:1-6; 1 Cor. 15:3-20, 50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 22:1-5

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 15:13-20, 51-58

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Reality of Resurrection – (I Corinthians 15:13-20)
- II. The Mystery of Transformation – (I Corinthians 15:51-53)
- III. The Victory of Life Over Death – (I Corinthians 15:54-58)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

**But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
(1 Corinthians 15:20, KJV)**

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People question what happens after death. What expectations can we hold for life after death? It is Jesus' own resurrection that sets Paul's expectation that all those who believe in Christ will know a future resurrection life.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson focuses on one, if not the most foundational, truth of the Christian faith. The Resurrection of Christ encapsulates the purpose and fulfillment of His birth, death, and divine mission. Great intentionality must be used to assist students in being clear about this foundational truth.

LIFE AIM

People have accepted and aligned themselves with many beliefs, often developing an argument statement about the belief and their acceptance position. As a Christian, it is imperative that you have a thorough understanding of why you believe the Gospel is vital and be able to accurately articulate it. The Resurrection of Christ should be an essential part of a Christian's foundational belief system.

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

WHOSE RULES RULE?

UNIFYING TOPIC

Respect for Rightful Authority

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-14; 1 Peter 2:13-17

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6-8; 1 Peter 2:13-17

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Authority of God and Human Governance – (Mark 12:17)
- II. Submitting to Authorities – (Romans 13:1, 6-8)
- III. Living as Good Citizens – (1 Peter 2:13-17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him. (Mark 12:17, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Generally, people respect and obey those who are in authority. How is a leader’s rightful authority established? The message across Mark, Romans and 1 Peter affirms God’s ultimate authority, while advocating that we respect the rightful governance of human leaders.

LESSON AIM

Today’s lesson focuses on three primary concepts: rules, authority, and obedient submission. Jesus addressed the topic in a way that not only revealed His mastery of the scriptures but also revealed the heart of those seeking to discredit and trap Him. We aim to use Jesus’ answer to the question about taxes to understand the Kingdom principles of rules, authority, and obedient submission, as taught by the Apostles Paul and Peter.

LIFE AIM

Rules are a part of every aspect of life. Whether it is the rules that govern a household or a job, rules exist and are overseen by someone in authority. Even nature obeys rules: the sun shines by day, and the moon provides light for the night. They follow the rule of order and submit to the established will of God. Understanding the purpose of rules, authority, and submission helps believers to live according to God’s rule on earth and in the Kingdom.

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LESSON TOPIC

THE BEAUTY OF DEPENDENCE

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Child in a Christian World

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 9:36-37, 42; 10:13-16; Luke 2:1-20

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 9:36-37, 42; 10:13-16

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Value of Humility and Childlike Faith – (Mark 9:36-37)
- II. The Warning Against Leading Others Astray – (Mark 9:42)
- III. Receiving the Kingdom Like a Child – (Mark 10:13-16)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. (Mark 10:15, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Worldly standards for success often focus on accumulating wealth and power. What is an alternate path to success that is not dependent on wealth and power? Jesus teaches us to become “like children” who derive status from their relationship to the Father—because wealth and power are futile in God’s economy.

LESSON AIM

Jesus made numerous references to children in various places throughout Scripture. By His actions, it is obvious that children have a very special place in the Lord’s heart. In today’s lesson, greater emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of a child and on how children provide the perfect environment for servanthood and greatness.

LIFE AIM

Character matters. Even though education and skills are extremely important for survival in the world we live in, without character, we produce no sustainable, godly good that reflects the values God desires and rewards. Children possess an innocence and dependence that is often lost or regarded as undesirable as they age. However, with a clearer understanding of the value of Kingdom childlikeness, every believer should strive to cultivate a new sense of innocence that leads to dependence on God.

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LESSON TOPIC

LOVE THAT SHAPES SOCIETY

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Christian Home in a Modern World

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Matthew 19:3-9; Luke 2:40-52; 24:28-32;
Ephesians 6:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15

LESSON PASSAGE

Deuteronomy 6:3-9; Matthew 19:3-9

LESSON TEXT

- I. Covenant Love Begins at Home – (Deuteronomy 6:3-9)
- II. Marriage as a Sacred Trust – (Matthew 19:3-6)
- III. Family as a Moral Compass for Society – (Matthew 19:7-9)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Some people see a correlation between values learned at home and the moral compass of the dominant culture. We learn from Jesus and the Deuteronomic covenant that God demands that we honor the contract of marriage, that we love and respect family members, and that we teach the precepts of faith to our children.

LESSON AIM

A loving family is one of God's clearest pictures of covenant love. Today's lesson invites us to see family not just as a household or a collection of individuals that share the same DNA. It is intended to reveal the family and home as a sacred place where Christlike love is practiced, protected, and expressed with purpose.

LIFE AIM

From the beginning, God revealed His heart for family. From His creation of animals with companions to Adam and Eve, we can recognize that the covenant relationship is woven into the very foundation of humanity. Today's lesson helps us understand family as a sacred, covenant-shaped relationship established by God Himself.

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