

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT II THEME
FAITHFUL WITNESSES SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

LESSON TOPIC

I'LL SEE IT WHEN I BELIEVE IT

UNIFYING TOPIC

Thomas, The Honest Doubter

LESSON PASSAGE

John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29; 21:1-2

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

John 11:14-16; 14:5-8; 20:24-29; 21:1-2

LESSON TEXT

- I. A Willing Disciple in Hard Places (John 11:14-16; 14:5-8)
- II. Honest Doubt Meets Gracious Response (John 20:24-27)
- III. From Doubt to Declaration (John 20:28-29; 21:1-2)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. (John 20:27, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

In the face of doubts, many people will seek out solid evidence or proof. What source of evidence is persuasive enough to address our doubt? John indicated that after Thomas received evidence from Jesus, his doubts were relieved, and his faith restored.

LESSON AIM

Students will explore the relationship of Thomas with the One he followed, Jesus Christ, and the range of emotions and reactions he had in his encounters with Jesus.

LIFE AIM

Students will understand that doubts and fears are part of the human condition, for which Jesus, in His love and mercy, understands and has compassion. Also, He gives us pathways to greater faith in Him.

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

A DIRTY JOB

UNIFYING TOPIC

Stephen, An Early Interpreter of Christianity

LESSON PASSAGE

Acts 6:7-10; 7:54-60

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Acts 6:1—7:60

LESSON TEXT

- I. Equipped by the Spirit (Acts 6:7-10)
- II. The Violent Reaction to the Truth (Acts 7:54-58)
- III. Faithful to the End (Acts 7:59-60)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

**Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.
(Acts 6:8, NRSVue)**

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People may hesitate to speak up and take action even when their beliefs are called into question. What sparks a readiness to act on and speak the truth? Stephen, full of grace and the power of the Spirit, was equipped to defend his faith and speak the truth of God's Word.

LESSON AIM

Students will follow the ministry of Stephen as he serves, preaches, and defends the Christian faith, as empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, ultimately becoming the first Christian martyr due to speaking the truth about the Gospel.

LIFE AIM

Students will better understand the cost of true discipleship, learning the importance of being equipped by God upon seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, knowing the scriptures, and being vocal about the teachings of Christ, sharing them at every opportunity.

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LESSON TOPIC

TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW

UNIFYING TOPIC

Saul of Tarsus, How a Pharisee Became a Christian

LESSON PASSAGE

Acts 22:3-15

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Acts 22:3-15

LESSON TEXT

- I. Before Paul, He Was Saul (Acts 22:3-5)
- II. Encounter Along the Road to Damascus (Acts 22:6-11)
- III. A New Mission for the Pharisee (Acts 22:12-15)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. (Acts 22:14-15, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

It's sometimes difficult to believe that a change in a person is authentic. What convinces us of the authenticity of the changes a person claims to have made? Paul testifies to his faith in Christ to convince Christians that he had truly repented of his former convictions and violent actions against believers.

LESSON AIM

Students will hear the story of Saul's conversion from being the foremost enemy of Christ and the Church, to his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, to his response and receipt of a new mission to spread the Gospel as its foremost proponent.

LIFE AIM

Students will understand that each believer has an identity, gifts, and purpose in Christ to be used to help spread the Gospel of Jesus. We must accept that past actions can affect current and future outcomes.

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LESSON TOPIC

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

UNIFYING TOPIC

Timothy, The Influence of Home Training

LESSON PASSAGE

2 Timothy 1:1-6; 3:14-16

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Acts 16:1-3; Philippians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 1:1-6; 3:14-16

LESSON TEXT

- I. Faith Passed Down (2 Timothy 1:1-6)
- II. Continuing in the Word (2 Timothy 3:14-15)
- III. Equipped for Every Good Work (2 Timothy 3:16)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. (2 Timothy 1:5, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People closest to us can influence us either positively or negatively. How can we discern the positive influences from the negative influences in our lives? Paul reminds Timothy of the genuine faith of his mother and grandmother and encourages him to see in them models for his own faith.

LESSON AIM

Students will understand the importance of mentorship and discipling people at various points in their walk of faith so that each Christian can be a blessing to the expansion of the blessed community of Jesus Christ.

LIFE AIM

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LESSON TOPIC

ALL ARE WELCOME

UNIFYING TOPIC

Lydia, Judged to Be Faithful

LESSON PASSAGE

Acts 16:11-15, 40

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Acts 16:11-40

LESSON TEXT

- I. A Heart Open to Receive (Acts 16:11-14)
- II. The Power of Hospitality (Acts 16:15)
- III. A Legacy of Faith (Acts 16:40)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us. (Acts 16:15, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We question the sincerity of others when their words are not backed up by their actions. How do our actions show that we are genuine? Paul and his companions accepted Lydia's hospitality after her household showed their faith and were baptized.

LESSON AIM

Students will recognize that Lydia, a businesswoman, accepted Jesus Christ, showing her commitment through the baptism of her entire household. By practicing radical hospitality, Lydia provided a place for the first church in Europe to take root.

LIFE AIM

Students will understand that hospitality is a two-way street, to be offered and received graciously with love and respect. Students will also learn that God's Word is a seed planted and nurtured by those who love Him, but God gives the increase.

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