ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME
LIVING WITH GOD'S POWER

LESSON TOPIC
ALREADY, NOT YET

UNIFYING TOPIC
Power to Live Rejoicing

LESSON PASSAGE
1 Peter 1:1-12

BACKGROUND PASSAGE
1 Peter 1:1-12

LESSON TEXT
I. Living Hope in a Troubled World (1 Peter 1:1-5)
II. Rejoicing in Refined Faith (1 Peter 1:6-9)
III. The Fulfillment of God's Plan (1 Peter 1:10-12)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. (1 Peter 1:8, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
Writing to Christians who are suffering, Peter encourages them to rejoice by comparing their situation to the glory Christ received following His own suffering.

LESSON AIM
This lesson highlights the Apostle Peter's encouragement to believers living during tumultuous times. By focusing their attention on the power of the Resurrection and the assurance of salvation even amid suffering, the lesson is intended to shift the believer from despair to confident hope.

LIFE AIM
In times of despair and suffering, it can be easy to lose hope and believe that circumstances will not change or improve. However, by embracing Peter's call to anchor our hearts in the power of Christ's resurrection, believers can live with hope derived from the Word of God rather than from surrounding circumstances. Staying focused on God's Word is the source of hope and peace-filled assurance.

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LESSON TOPIC

OUR POWER STATION

UNIFYING TOPIC

Power to Live Holy

LESSON PASSAGE	BACKGROUND PASSAGE
1 Peter 1:13-21; Leviticus 20:26	1 Peter 1:13-21; Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 20:7, 26

LESSON TEXT

I. Preparing Minds for Action (1 Peter 1:13-16)
II. Living in Reverent Awe (1 Peter 1:17-21)
III. Set Apart for God's Purposes (Leviticus 20:26)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Peter says we find the strength to pursue the holiness to which God calls us only when we are living in a close relationship with God.

LESSON AIM

The primary emphasis of this lesson is to examine the believer's call to sanctification. Holiness is rooted in God's character and Christ's actions that redeemed believers. Because of God's character and Jesus' redemptive work, believers have been given the power and expectation to live set apart in an unholy world.

LIFE AIM

Living a holy life should be every believer's goal. Holiness means living set apart for God's glory and being a witness in the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, believers are given all that they need to represent God's character, which was secured through Christ's redeeming work. Living holy is not just a goal but also an expectation for all believers so that the world will see us as faithful witnesses to God's righteousness in a sinful world.

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LESSON TOPIC

WHO'S WITH US?

UNIFYING TOPIC

Christ Is Living with Us

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 1:18-25

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 1:1-25; 1 Peter 1:18-21

LESSON TEXT

I. The Miracle of Christ's Conception (Matthew 1:18-21)
II. Emmanuel: God With Us (Matthew 1:22-23)
III. A New Identity and Mission (Matthew 1:24-25)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1:23, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Matthew's Gospel presents Jesus' birth as a sign to the people that God is "with us," and by faith, we trust that Jesus comes to us today in fulfillment of God's ongoing promise of rescue, love, and grace.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson highlights God's revelation of His salvation plan through the miraculous birth of Jesus. Joseph's faith-filled acceptance of Emmanuel empowered him to partner with God's purpose in bringing the Savior into the world.

LIFE AIM

Recognizing and accepting God's plan is not always easy. Yet, even when obedience brings a challenge or a cost, trusting God allows His purpose to be fulfilled through us. Faithful surrender positions believers to walk confidently in every assignment God gives.

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)

Lesson 13 for December 27, 2026

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LIVING WITH GOD'S POWER

LESSON TOPIC

OUR HOUSE IS A VERY FINE HOUSE

UNIFYING TOPIC

Priestly Power

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:22-2:10

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:22-2:10

LESSON TEXT

I. Defined by Love (1 Peter 1:22-25)
II. Built on Christ the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:1-6)
III. A People with Purpose (1 Peter 2:7-10)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Peter instructs believers to see themselves as a priesthood, taking the place of Aaron, with the difference that they now have direct access to Jesus and do not need to come through an altar.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson outlines some of the privileges and responsibilities believers carry because of Christ's love and God's purpose, calling us to live faithfully as people set apart for His glory.

LIFE AIM

Very early in life, most people realize the necessity for establishing goals. In today's lesson, the believer is encouraged to have the primary goal of extending love that reflects God's character.

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