

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME
FAITHFUL WITNESSES SAY “YES” TO JESUS

LESSON TOPIC

AUTHORITY AND COMPASSION

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Believing Centurion: A Gentile Whose Faith Jesus Commended

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 8:5-13

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 8:5-13

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Centurion's Desperate Appeal (Matthew 8:5-7)
- II. Faith in God's Authority (Matthew 8:8-10)
- III. The Reach of the Kingdom (Matthew 8:11-13)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (Matthew 8:10, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We do not expect our enemies to trust us and ask for our help. When someone we previously considered our enemy asks us for help, how do we respond? Jesus responds favorably to the extraordinary faith of the centurion, all the more remarkable given the centurion's ties to the evil Roman government.

LESSON AIM

Students should understand that God created the world and so loved the world that Jesus came to save it, regardless of ethnicity, status, or any other category human beings may create.

LIFE AIM

Believers must know that a Christian's authority derives from faith in God's ability to do all things well. God's authority is rooted in compassion for all people and all of creation. The Christian should strive to emulate God by being inclusive in their compassion towards all people, nations, and tongues.

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

FROM A ROCK TO A HARD PLACE

UNIFYING TOPIC

Simon Peter: From Weakness to Strength

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:31-34; John 18:25-27; 21:15-17

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:31-34;
John 18:25-27; 21:15-17

LESSON TEXT

- I. A Declaration of Faith (Mark 8:27-29)
- II. The Crisis of Denial (Luke 22:31-34; John 18:25-27)
- III. Restoration and Reaffirmation (John 21:15-17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

He [Jesus] said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

It often seems impossible to overcome one’s failures and regain respect. How might one be restored from the shame and dishonor of personal failure? Aware of Peter’s shame and remorse for his betrayal of Him, Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned him to “feed my sheep.”

LESSON AIM

Students will journey with Peter from his valley of despair after refusing to admit he knows Jesus three times, to forgiveness and restoration by Jesus as one who feeds the sheep because of his love for the Lord.

LIFE AIM

Students must understand that a confession of faith is the foundation for life in Christ. Yet it is only the starting place. Our journey of faith will have its ups and downs, disappointments and victories. Nonetheless, God’s grace is sufficient.

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LESSON TOPIC

CLIMBING A TREE, WHAT WILL I SEE?

UNIFYING TOPIC

Zacchaeus: The Publican

LESSON PASSAGE

Luke 19:1-10

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Luke 19:1-10

LESSON TEXT

- I. Seeking to See Jesus (Luke 19:1-4)
- II. Called By Name (Luke 19:5-7)
- III. Zacchaeus Responds to Jesus (Luke 19:8-10)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. (Luke 19:5, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

An unexpected encounter with someone we've never met before can result in a transforming experience. What is it about a new relationship that opens the possibility of transformation in our lives? When Zacchaeus opens his home to Jesus as his special guest, he is transformed by the experience and becomes a follower of Jesus who does more than the Law requires.

LESSON AIM

Students will journey with Zacchaeus from his position as an outsider in his community, to his gracious reception and acceptance by Jesus Christ, to his response of radical generosity.

LIFE AIM

Students must seek God for spiritual transformation regardless of the obstacles in place, judgmental attitudes, or cliquish habits. Consider the way we value money and material goods, and practice radical generosity based on the love of Christ.

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LESSON TOPIC

LIVING WITH WHAT YOU DIDN'T ASK FOR

UNIFYING TOPIC

Mary: Mother of Jesus

LESSON PASSAGE

Luke 2:15-19; John 2:1-5; 19:25-27

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Luke 2:15-19; John 2:1-5; 19:25-27

LESSON TEXT

- I. With A Heart of Surrender (Luke 2:15-19)
- II. With A Voice of Intercession (John 2:1-5)
- III. With a Posture of Steadfastness (John 19:25-27)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We are faced with many choices throughout our lives, but it is impossible to commit to everything. How do we prioritize our commitments? We see Mary's commitment to Jesus at significant moments throughout His life – from the announcement of His birth to His first miracle, to His crucifixion.

LESSON AIM

Students will journey through Mary's life as the mother of Jesus, touching on a few events and thinking about the commonalities of all mothers, as well as the circumstances with which she had to cope.

LIFE AIM

Students will realize that parenthood is a lifetime journey that requires constant communication with God and a community of faith that will listen, stand, and walk with you in times of trouble. All parents face circumstances that they didn't ask for.

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