

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME
FAITHFUL WITNESSES TESTIFY TO GOD'S PROMISES

LESSON TOPIC

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

UNIFYING TOPIC

Deborah, a Leader in a National Emergency

LESSON PASSAGE

Judges 4:4-10, 14, 21-22

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Judges 4:1-24

LESSON TEXT

- I. Deborah—A Leader Raised by God – (Judges 4:4-10)
- II. God Goes Before the Battle – (Judges 4:14)
- III. Jael—Deliverance Through Unexpected Means – (Judges 4:21-22)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. (Judges 4:4-5, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Our bad choices can land us in a hole from which we find it impossible to climb out. Where can we find rescue when our troubles are too big to manage on our own? God empowered judge Deborah to deliver Israel when they called on God for rescue from the grips of an oppressive foreign power.

LESSON AIM

Leadership should never be approached lightly or based solely on personal strength. When God's hand rests upon an individual, His purposes move forward through them, often in ways others may overlook. Today's lesson reminds us that God delights in using ordinary and unexpected people, empowered by His presence, to accomplish extraordinary Kingdom assignments.

LIFE AIM

Some of God's most impactful leaders are hidden in ordinary places, overlooked because they don't resemble what people expect of a leader. Familiarity closes our eyes to God's choices. True Christian leadership is recognized not by appearance, but by the unmistakable evidence of God's presence revealed through a person's words, character, and actions.

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)

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME FAITHFUL WITNESSES TESTIFY TO GOD'S PROMISES

LESSON TOPIC

WISHING AND HOPING AND PRAYING

UNIFYING TOPIC

Hannah, A Godly Mother

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Samuel 1:9-20, 25

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:1-11, 18-19; 3:1-18

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Heart of a Prayerful Mother – (1 Samuel 1:9-11)
- II. The Assurance of God's Faithfulness – (1 Samuel 1:12-20)
- III. The Fulfillment of Hopes and Dreams – (1 Samuel 1:25)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

**Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.
(1 Samuel 1:20, KJV)**

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Everyone has experienced fears that their dreams and hopes for the future may not be realized. How do we seek reassurance that our hopes and dreams may yet come true? Hannah turned to prayer, confident that the Lord would fulfill her hopes for conceiving a child.

LESSON AIM

Few experiences are more discouraging than carrying a deep, heartfelt longing that seems continually out of reach. No matter how much effort is invested, the desire remains unfulfilled, leaving the heart weary. Scripture reminds us that God responds to persistent prayer and unwavering faith. Today's lesson highlights a longing that was finally realized—not by human striving, but through steadfast prayer and God's faithful intervention.

LIFE AIM

Most people struggle with the word "no." It often carries a weight of disappointment, signaling denial, limitation, or the painful gap between what the heart desires and what circumstances allow. Today's lesson reminds us that persistent faith and the unwavering faithfulness of God can transform a "no" into the very fulfillment of long-held hopes and God-shaped dreams.

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 12 for Week of June 21, 2026 (Father's Day)

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME FAITHFUL WITNESSES TESTIFY TO GOD'S PROMISES

LESSON TOPIC

A FOREVER BOND

UNIFYING TOPIC

Jonathan and David, A Noble Friendship

LESSON PASSAGE

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17, 32-34, 42; 2 Samuel 1:26-27; 21:7

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42;
2 Samuel 1:17-27; 21:7

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Depth of Friendship – (1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17)
- II. Standing Firm in Adversity – (1 Samuel 20:32-34; 42)
- III. Honoring a Friend's Legacy – (2 Samuel 1:26-27; 21:7)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since both of us have sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants, forever." (1 Samuel 20:42, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Amid danger and troubles, we may desire support from a trustworthy friend. How does a friend prove trustworthy in a difficult situation? Jonathan proved a trustworthy friend to David despite his father, King Saul's, paranoia, and David honored their friendship by providing for his son, Mephibosheth, after Jonathan's death.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson highlights the remarkable friendship between David and Jonathan, Saul's son. Their relationship is often lifted as Scripture's clearest picture of loyal, sacrificial friendship. Their bond demonstrates the depth, commitment, and covenant love that define true friendship, offering a powerful model for believers seeking relationships rooted in loyalty and selflessness.

LIFE AIM

True friendship is a familiar phrase, yet its meaning is often distorted by actions that fall short of its true intent. Genuine friendship is rare, pure, and deeply rewarding. When God blesses us with such a relationship, it becomes a gift that must be protected, nurtured, and honored with intentional care.

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)

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME FAITHFUL WITNESSES TESTIFY TO GOD'S PROMISES

LESSON TOPIC

STANDING UP TO THE POWERFUL

UNIFYING TOPIC

Amos, A Herdsman Called of God to Be a Prophet

LESSON PASSAGE

Amos 1:1; 2:11-12; 3:7-8; 7:10-15

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Amos 1:1; 2:11-12; 3:7-8; 7:10-15

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Call of Amos: A Shepherd's Commission – (Amos 1:1)
- II. Confronting Authority: Speaking the Truth – (Amos 2:11-12, 3:7-8)
- III. Facing Rejection: The Cost of Prophethood – (Amos 7:10-15)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

The LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. (Amos 7:15, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We may experience intimidation when speaking truth to those in positions of authority. How can we be bold to speak the truth even if people are not inclined to receive our message? Amos was a lowly shepherd who faced rejection when God called him to speak truth to powerful kings and priests.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson turns our attention to the reality that when power goes unchecked, injustice and oppression often fall hardest on the vulnerable. In this study, we will witness how the Lord, in His sovereignty, raised an unlikely individual to speak truth, demand accountability, and champion justice on His behalf.

LIFE AIM

Injustice can be found in every culture and generation. Yet God is neither indifferent nor silent. In His sovereign timing, He brings judgment, and in His grace, He offers opportunities for repentance. Today's lesson encourages believers to resist evil and be willing and ready to stand with courage, even if it means confronting leaders and systems that dishonor God and lead others to sin.

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)