

ANTIOCH CHICAGO

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME – FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS

LESSON TOPIC

LOVE ACTS

UNIFYING TOPIC

Recognizing Our Debt to Others

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Nehemiah 4:15-23; Mark 12:28-34; Romans 15:1-7;
Philippians 2:1-8; Colossians 3:12; 4:1; James 2:14-17

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 12:28-34; James 2:14-17

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Heart of the Matter – (Mark 12:28-31)
- II. The Wisdom of Action – (Mark 12:32-34)
- III. Faith That Works – (James 2:14-17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. (Mark 12:33, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We often have difficulties developing and maintaining healthy, wholesome relationships with one another. How can we build strong social bonds that sustain healthy relationships? Mark's Gospel points to Jesus' commands, which stress the love of God and neighbor, while James stresses how works are essential to healthy relationships.

LESSON AIM

In His interaction with a scribe of the Jewish Law, Jesus reveals the intimate connection between loving God and loving others. The greatest commandment is not one or the other, but rather a marriage of the two, rooted in God's love for us. Believers who embody Christian love and faith act in ways that benefit those around them.

LIFE AIM

In the same manner that our good works reveal the genuineness of our faith, our love for our neighbor reveals the genuineness of our love for God. This love is not limited to expression only when it is convenient or given an allotted amount. Rather, it is in every moment toward every person, just as our God loves the world He has made.

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 – FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS

LESSON TOPIC

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FITNESS

UNIFYING TOPIC

Keeping Fit for the Sake of Others

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Daniel 1:8-20; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; 1 Timothy 4:7-12;
2 Timothy 2:1-5

LESSON PASSAGE

Daniel 1:8-17; 1 Timothy 4:7-8

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Test of Physical Discipline – (Daniel 1:8-17)
- II. The Priority of Spiritual Training – (1 Timothy 4:7-8a)
- III. The Promise of Godly Fitness – (1 Timothy 4:8b)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Train yourself in godliness, ⁸for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:7b-8, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We desire to be strong and healthy in mind, body, and spirit. What can enable us to keep physically and spiritually fit? The Book of Daniel and Paul's First Letter to Timothy both stress the significance of striving for physical and spiritual fitness as pleasing to God and beneficial to others.

LESSON AIM

Daniel's commitment to honor God with his body, facing extreme pressure, models for us that our bodies aren't something "extra" to our spiritual lives; they are the arenas in which we oppose sin and enemies of God. Throughout his letters, Paul views the body as something good to be stewarded, but for the purpose of serving God, not ourselves.

LIFE AIM

While we all intuitively understand the value of physical fitness, the benefit of spiritual fitness eternally outweighs any gain from exercising our bodies. This truth should not discourage us from stewarding our bodies as gifts from God, but it should inform how we pursue godliness with our entire selves.

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 – FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS

LESSON TOPIC

GIVING GENEROUSLY

UNIFYING TOPIC

Helping Neighbors in Need

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Deuteronomy 15:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46;
Luke 10:25-37; James 1:27; 2:14-17

LESSON PASSAGE

Deuteronomy 15:4-11; Matthew 25:42-45

LESSON TEXT

- I. An Open-Handed Heart – (Deuteronomy 15:4-8)
- II. The Motive: Blessing and Obedience – (Deuteronomy 15:9-11)
- III. The Identification: Giving to Jesus – (Matthew 25:42-45)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. (Deuteronomy 15:11, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

We sometimes have doubts and uncertainties about helping those who turn to us for assistance. What determines our willingness and standards for helping others? The Deuteronomy passage and the verses from Matthew 25 reveal God's command to give generously to those in need.

LESSON AIM

In Deuteronomy 15, Moses reminds Israel of the type of generosity God has demonstrated and commanded well before they reach the edge of the Promised Land. Jesus takes the principle of serving those in need even further, saying that how we treat them is how we treat Jesus Himself.

LIFE AIM

The motivation for generosity may not seem as important as the fact that we are being generous. In some small way, when we are generous toward our neighbor—especially those in need—we reflect the heart of God through our generosity.

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 – FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS

LESSON TOPIC

PUTTING AN END TO PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

UNIFYING TOPIC

All Are One in Christ

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Ruth 1:1-18; John 4:5-10; Acts 10:1—11:18;
Romans 1:14; Galatians 3:28-29

LESSON PASSAGE

Acts 10:9-15, 30-35; Galatians 3:28-29

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Vision: Shattering the Sacred Wall – (Acts 10:9-15)
- II. The Realization: The Truth Lands – (Acts 10:30-35)
- III. The Proclamation: One New Humanity – (Galatians 3:28-29)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

How can we learn to accept and respect one another's uniqueness and differences? Peter's vision and Paul's spiritual revelations in Acts and Galatians clearly indicate God's impartiality and acceptance of all persons in Christ Jesus.

LESSON AIM

Peter and Cornelius' interaction in Acts 10 illustrates God's truly global plan of redemption—a vision for salvation that crosses ethnic and cultural boundaries. As Paul wrote in Galatians 3, no single people group has a monopoly on status in the family of God. We are all one in Christ.

LIFE AIM

Maturing Christians recognize that any instance of the Spirit pointing out mistaken beliefs about the Christian life is a blessing. We must commit to repenting of any form of prejudice, both individually and corporately, and pursue reconciliation where necessary.

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 – FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS

LESSON TOPIC

UNDERSTANDING LEADS TO PEACE

UNIFYING TOPIC

World Peace through Mutual Understanding

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Isaiah 2:2-22; 11:6-10; John 18:28-38; Acts 17:22-28;
Ephesians 4:4-6, 13-19

LESSON PASSAGE

Isaiah 2:2-4; Acts 17:26-28

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Mountain of True Knowledge – (Isaiah 2:2-3)
- II. The Verdict of Divine Wisdom – (Isaiah 2:4)
- III. The Common Ground of Creation – (Acts 17:26-28)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

The pursuit of knowledge leads some people to become arrogant in their opinions, leading others to feel ostracized. What is the characteristic of a search for wisdom that facilitates peace and mutual understanding in a community of learning? Isaiah defines knowledge and peace that are fully realized in God, while Paul makes clear that God's peaceable wisdom is made known to us through Jesus Christ.

LESSON AIM

Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 2:2-4 about the "days to come" reveals that true, lasting peace only comes from God. Until He returns in judgment, the only chance we have for peace is by acknowledging our shared humanity as created in the image of God, the *imago dei*, much like Paul does in Acts 17 when addressing the Areopagus.

LIFE AIM

Christians should be the first to build bridges with their enemies and practice peace among themselves, if for no other reason than because this is how the Creator has treated us.

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)