

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT II THEME
FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS TO GOD AND SOCIETY

LESSON TOPIC

GRACE BEYOND BORDERS

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Higher Patriotism

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jonah 1-4

LESSON PASSAGE

Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-5; 4:6-11

LESSON TEXT

- I. Running from Grace – (Jonah 1:1-3)
- II. Grace for the Outsiders – (Jonah 3:1-5)
- III. Confronting the Limits of Compassion – (Jonah 4:6-11)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Then said the Lord, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou has not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle? (Jonah 4:10-11, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People tend to make decisions and form allegiances based on loyalty to their country of origin. Can patriotism go too far? Even after God rescued Jonah from death, Jonah hated to see God's grace so freely given to others.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson begins with a study of Jonah. Contained in that short book of the Bible is not only a story of a rebellious prophet, but also a clear expression of the commitment of a loving God.

LIFE AIM

As adults, the book of Jonah goes beyond dealing with the story of a big fish and the consequences of disobeying God. The story of Jonah magnificently reveals God's grace and love to all people and shows how we are expected to emulate Him by doing the same.

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 GOOD DAY'S WORK

UNIFYING TOPIC

Useful Work as Christian Duty

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Genesis 2:15-25; Exodus 20:9; Nehemiah 6:3;
John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33-35;
2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:28

LESSON PASSAGE

Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4;
Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

LESSON TEXT

- I. Work as a Divine Design – (Genesis 2:18; Exodus 20:9)
- II. Jesus and the Dignity of Labor – (John 5:17; 9:4)
- III. Work as Witness and Responsibility – (Acts 20:33-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

**In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
(Acts 20:35, NRSVue)**

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

At times, people struggle with idleness. How can we guard against idleness? Starting with creation, God ordains work both as a means of self-support and as a source of our generosity toward others.

LESSON AIM

Work was never meant to be a burden, but a blessing that reflects God's own character. From the very beginning of creation, God entrusted humanity with purposeful labor. Today's lesson invites us to see work as a sacred, covenant partnership with God rather than a task to endure.

LIFE AIM

With phrases like "Thank God it's Friday" and "another mundane Monday," work has been viewed as something to be dreaded. However, Scripture reveals work as a blessing from God to be approached with gratitude, purpose, and faithful stewardship.

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LESSON TOPIC

CULTIVATING GENEROSITY

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Christian Spirit in Industry

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Exodus 1:8-14; 20:17; Deut. 24:14-15; Amos 5:6-15;
Zechariah 8:16-17; Matthew 20:1-16; Mark 12:1-9;
Luke 3:14; Ephesians 6:1-9; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

LESSON PASSAGE

Deuteronomy 24:14-21; Ephesians 6:5-9;
1 Timothy 6:17-19

LESSON TEXT

- I. Justice and Compassion in Daily Life – (Deuteronomy 24:14-21)
- II. Equity in the Workplace – (Ephesians 6:5-9)
- III. Stewardship and Generosity as Witness – (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and has forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. (Deuteronomy 24:19, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Out of a fear of scarcity, people will hoard resources. What motivates people to treat others equitably and share with those in need? Scripture guides us to work together and to treat others in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord, to be rich in good works, and to be generous to one another.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson examines how believers are called to reflect Christ in the workplace. We will explore the responsibilities of both employees and employers, showing that Christian principles are never set aside at work but are lived out through integrity, excellence, and godly conduct in every task.

LIFE AIM

Work is essential for sustaining life, yet thoughtful employees seek more than a paycheck. They look for workplaces shaped by fairness, dignity, and integrity. Today's lesson examines how Christian ethics should inform business practices.

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LESSON TOPIC

A WELL-EARNED REST

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Christian View of Recreation

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Jeremiah 31:12-13; Zechariah 8:5; Matthew 11:16-19;
Mark 2:18-28; 6:30-32; John 2:1-11

LESSON PASSAGE

Mark 2:18-28

LESSON TEXT

- I. Fasting and Feasting in Their Proper Time – (Mark 2:18-20)
- II. New Wine, New Ways – (Mark 2:21-22)
- III. Sabbath for Humanity – (Mark 2:23-28)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:27-28, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Some people tend toward work while others tend toward rest. Why should we strive to balance work and rest? As Christians, we are instructed to value fasting and feasting as well as work and rest.

LESSON AIM

A life rooted in God embraces His rhythm of work, rest, and joyful recreation. Scripture teaches that every season has its appointed time and place, and true fulfillment comes when we honor that balance. Today’s lesson explores how rest, reflection, and celebration—whether quiet renewal or intentional enjoyment—become sacred when practiced in step with God’s design for a healthy, Spirit-led, purpose-prioritized life.

LIFE AIM

Although life consists of many constantly moving parts, there are moments when one area must take priority without risking the balance God intends. Rest, reflection, and recreation have their place in a healthy Christian walk. Today’s lesson invites us to approach these seasons with purposeful, Spirit-led intentionality so that joy, renewal, and obedience remain woven into the rhythm of our daily lives.

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LESSON TOPIC

PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER!

UNIFYING TOPIC

Fellowship through Worship

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Nehemiah 8:1-12; Micah 4:1-2; Psalm 122:1-9;
Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 10:19-25

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 10:22-25

LESSON TEXT

- I. Commissioned to Go Together – (Matthew 28:18-20)
- II. Drawing Near and Holding Fast – (Hebrews 10:22-23)
- III. Stirring Up Love and Good Works – (Hebrews 10:24-25)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;). (Hebrews 10:23, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People often struggle to succeed without the support of others. To whom do we look for support? The Matthew and Hebrews texts portray a community that supports one another in evangelism, worship, and fellowship.

LESSON AIM

Today's lesson highlights the beauty and strength found in fellowship and worship among believers. While worship takes many forms, gathering in unity remains one of the most powerful expressions of obedience. As we explore these practices, we'll see how God weaves them together to honor Him and strengthen His people.

LIFE AIM

When many think of worship, they picture songs and prayers in a service. Yet, true worship reaches far beyond a moment; it is expressed through obedience, service, fellowship, and a life that honors God daily. Today, we look deeper into the power of worship expressed through Christ-centered fellowship.

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