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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

GOD PUTS ISAIAH TO WORK

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 6:1-13; 7:1-7; 20:1-6; 38:1-22

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 6:1-8; 38:1-5

Key Verses: I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"
Isaiah 6:8 (NRSV UE)

Isaiah 6:1-8; 38:1-5 (NRSV UE)

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

3 And one called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

5 And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among

a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

38:1-5

1 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. The proph-

et Isaiah son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.”

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord:

3 “Remember now, O Lord, I implore you, how I have walked before you in faithfulness with a whole heart

and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah:

5 “Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Isaiah (I-zay'-ah)** – The faithful follower and prophet of God who spoke to kings and to the people about God’s prophecies.
- **Call** – God’s request or command to serve as a leader or in a particular position for ministry.

GETTING READY!!!

“Who wants to be the team leader for this project?”

“**M**e, me!” Two hands were raised, and Mr. Jameson decided to ask the class to vote. They were studying the democratic process and how elections were run. This would be an excellent learning experience.

“Okay,” Mr. Jameson said, “We are going to vote, just as we do when we are electing a governor, mayor, or city council person. I’m going to ask each of our candidates why they would like to be team lead-





ers.” He looked at the two students who raised their hands and asked if they were willing to participate in the election and then serve in whatever position they were given. They both nodded. “All right! Then we are going to have an election!” The two would-be team leaders went to their separate corners of the room and were allowed to speak with friends about their speeches. They began to jot down a few notes and prepared for the election that would take place in 30 minutes.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Isaiah was an unsuspecting, everyday individual whom God selected to serve as a prophet. During biblical times, prophets who were chosen by God had the task of warning the people of mistakes that they were making so that they could correct them. They advised kings and other important people, as well as citizens in the community, about how they could serve the Lord better.



They were to be obedient, not worship other gods, and lovingly treat each other. Isaiah did not feel he could do a decent job, but he was willing to try. He demonstrated this when he told the Lord, “Send me.” What are some things that you can say when you are asked to serve or to assist with a task?

Yes, Send Me!

Below, circle the sentences that will show you are willing to work. Cross out the ones that show you are not a willing worker.

I will
I am happy to assist
I'm really busy
Not a problem!
Maybe some other time
I don't think I can

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

When the two students agreed to participate in the election and serve in whatever way they were asked, they were answering the call of the class or the teacher who needed them in the position as team leader. Isaiah responded to the Call of God by saying he was willing to go wherever God sent him. He did not understand why God wanted him, but God knew what Isaiah could do, and because God created Isaiah as he has all humankind, he was truly clear on how everything would turn out. After watching the video your teacher selects, you will be able to understand how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things! Just think, one day, he may very well use you to accomplish great tasks!

REMIX!!!



Just as God used Isaiah to do wonderful things as a prophet, the two students who answered the call of their teacher to serve, once elected, were able to seize the opportunity to help others by offering themselves for leadership. The class decided to select the winner as team leader and the second-place winner as assistant team leader. The two of them were able to work together and have a successful project! How can you be a good leader or respond to an opportunity to help others? Think of some of the phrases that you selected as positive responses when you're asked to serve and use one of those the next time someone asks you to volunteer or to work on behalf of others.

PRAISE GOD!!!

What did you like about your video? In a circle, talk about the pros and cons or the things that you thought were helpful and the things that were not in the video. Be sure to share your feelings honestly with the group.

CLOSING PRAYER

(This quarter, you will have a prayer that will help strengthen your relationship with and service to the Lord. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Jesus, I know you have given me gifts to help others and serve you. Please show me how to use them in the best way I can. Amen.

HEZEKIAH AND THE PASSOVER

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2CHRONICLES 30:1-27

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 30:1-9, 26-27

Key Verse: (God said,) “The Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.” 2 Chronicles 30:9b (NRSV UE)

2 Chronicles 30:1-9, 26-27 (NRSV UE)

1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord the God of Israel.

2 For the king and his officials and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month

3 (for they could not keep it at its proper time because the priests had not sanctified themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem).

4 The plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly.

5 So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the

Lord the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it in great numbers as prescribed.

6 So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his officials, as the king had commanded, saying, “O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

7 Do not be like your ancestors and your kindred, who were faithless to the Lord God of their ancestors, so that he made them a desolation, as you see.

8 Do not now be stiff-necked as your ancestors were, but yield yourselves to the Lord and come to his sanctuary, which he has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God,

so that his fierce anger may turn away from you.

9 For as you return to the Lord, your kindred and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

26-27

26 There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon son of King David of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

27 Then the priests and the Levites stood up and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; their prayer came to his holy dwelling in heaven.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Hezekiah (he-ze-ki'-yah)** – A wise and dutiful king who led the people and helped them prepare to celebrate God and Passover.
- **Passover** – A Jewish festival where the people gather to celebrate their freedom from slavery.

GETTING READY!!!

Parties and celebrations are fun! Most of us have experienced at least one kind of celebration in our lives, such as our birthdays, Christmas, or family reunions. Labor Day is an example of a holiday where families and friends come together to celebrate. It is time to be off from work and enjoy the holiday. Even if you do not work, you can think of it as a time to relax while school is closed. We can honor God, as well, who helps us to find jobs and identify careers that help us thrive.

For this Labor Day, why not plan a church festival and cookout where friends, family, and members of the community can come together? If you're not able to do a large gathering, start with a

smaller church family event where everyone can help to plan the activity. Make it a true celebration and remember to keep God in the mix and have activities such as Bible trivia games and feature a gospel entertainer or comedian. Loving the Lord does not mean we cannot enjoy life. As we will see in our Bible story about King Hezekiah and the Passover, celebration was a big part of Jewish living. It is and should be a big part of ours as well. As you plan your celebration, at each step along the way, think of ways that you can celebrate God at the same time!

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

King Hezekiah was a faithful king who honored the Lord. He gathered all the people from different tribes and communities and invited them to the temple to celebrate Passover. The people were very joyful and happy to attend the festival, and priests were there to make the celebration complete with prayers and blessings. This was a very joyous time because it was a gathering to remember when Jewish people who had been slaves were freed by God. They were not punished but passed over and kept safe from harm. Hezekiah made sure that everyone was invited and made the temple a wonderful place to celebrate. The Bible says that when the people stood to pray, God heard their prayers!



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Planning Our Celebration!

In the space on the next page, begin making plans for your celebration or party. Decide what you will be celebrating,



who you would like to invite, where it should be, and how much it will cost. Your teacher will assist you, and this will be an opportunity for everyone to take part. Remember, no matter what the situation may be, you have something to celebrate!

The event (ex: Labor Day cookout, birthday party)

REMIX!!

What did you decide to celebrate, and how did you include God in the event? Share your ideas when you get home with your family and let them know what you are planning. Hezekiah made sure that people from all over were invited to celebrate the Passover. You can do a similar activity by inviting members of the community and those whom you may not know to participate in your celebration. Videotape the event! Take pictures! Enjoy the Lord and enjoy each other.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Say this together before ending your class: We have something to celebrate, Amen! Friends and family are here; God

has brought us cheer. We have something to celebrate, Amen!

CLOSING PRAYER

(This quarter, you will have a prayer that will help strengthen your relationship with and service to the Lord. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Jesus, I know you have given me gifts to help others and serve you. Please show me how to use them in the best way I can. Amen.

GOD'S LAW BOOK IS FOUND!

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 34:1-33

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 CHRONICLES 34:14-19, 26-27

Key Verses: Hilkiah said to the secretary Shaphan, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord" . . . When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes. 2 Chronicles 34:15a,19 (NRSV UE)

2 Chronicles 34:15-22, 26-27 (NRSV UE)

2 Chronicles 34:14-19

14 While they were bringing out the silver that had been brought into the house of the Lord, the priest Hilkiah found the book of the law of the Lord given through Moses.

15 Hilkiah said to the secretary Shaphan, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord," and Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

16 Shaphan brought the book to the king and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing.

17 They have emptied out the silver that was found in the house of the Lord and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workers."

18 The secretary Shaphan

informed the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book." Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

19 When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes.

26-27

26 "But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Regarding the words that you have heard,

27 because your heart was penitent and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord.'"

WORD POWER!!!

- **Book of the Law** – Early parts of the Old Testament that were discovered by a high priest during early years in the Bible.
- **Hilkiah and Shaphan (hil-ky-yah and sha-fan')** – A high priest and officer during the reign of King Josiah. Hilkiah discovered the Book of the Law.

GETTING READY!!!

Mrs. Johnson's class was going on a field trip to visit a museum that featured people and historical events from the Civil Rights era. The class already knew about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks, but there were many others that Mrs. Johnson wanted them to learn about for their history class. While at the museum, the class learned about hundreds of protesters, boycott organizers, and others who helped to improve life for African Americans. There were college students, ministers, custodians, domestic workers, and people from all levels of society who had given their time, resources, and, in some cases, their lives to acquire freedom for all. After the tour was over, Mrs. Johnson asked the class what they thought about the museum. Angela raised her hand. "I didn't know about domestic workers who boycotted buses. My grandmother worked cleaning houses, which means she could have done the same thing that they did." Mrs. Johnson told her that she was correct; God can use anyone to do remarkable things.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

King Josiah was another good and faithful king. He was able to bring part of the Jewish faith practices back into the temple because of his commitment to doing God's will. Even though he

was crowned king as a young child, he did important things for the Lord. He demonstrated respect and reverence for Jewish customs and prayed to God that he would do what was right for his people. Once the Book of the Law was discovered, and Josiah had it in his possession, he made sure that it was safe and that the rules within were followed. This young king, just like Hezekiah before him, honored God and honored God's Word. His age and status as a young person did not prevent him from still being a great king! What are some things that you could do to honor the Lord even as a young person? How can you do something to support the ministry or efforts in your church or community? Be sure to keep whatever you decide in mind! If you like, jot it down below:



A Monologue: Josiah the King

Use these words and phrases to write a short monologue about King Josiah. Be sure to use our Bible story for background information. Ask for help from your teacher but be sure to use most of your own words when you write your monologue.

Book of the law

God

Became king

The Will of the Lord

Honored

Although I was young

I was only eight

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Josiah made sure that he did the will of God and did not neglect his responsibility as king. The housekeepers and domestic workers that Angela learned about were simple people, leading quite simple lives. Yet, because they worked together and supported the boycott that took place in their city, they were able to accomplish remarkable things toward freedom and equality. This protest was known as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. It was spearheaded by leaders in that community after being inspired by Rosa Parks, who kept her seat on a bus. Although she was the focus of this movement and given credit for the boycott, she could not have done it without the people who supported her, including domestic workers like Angela’s grandmother.



REMIX!!!

Do you have friends, or do you know people, who have done important things in your community? How do they remind you of the organizers who were responsible for the Montgomery Bus Boycott? What are some traits that you see in them that King Josiah had? Are they respectful? Do they pray to God and ask for guidance when they must make decisions? Think about that and use those special abilities to carry out one of the ideas that you decided on in the **Into God’s Word!!!** section.

PRAISE GOD!!!

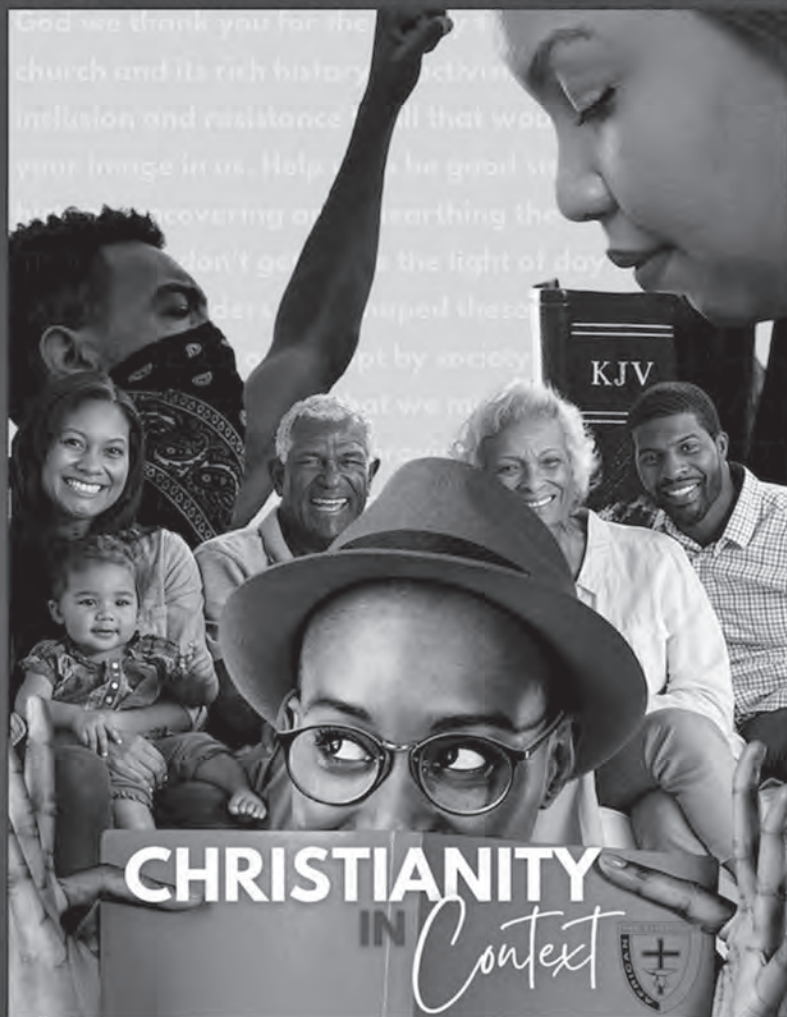
It's time to perform! Be King Josiah and read your monologue. If there is time, make a crown and wear a costume like that of kings during this era. Be creative and enjoy your presentation.

CLOSING PRAYER

(This quarter, you will have a prayer that will help strengthen your relationship with and service to the Lord. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Jesus, I know you have given me gifts to help others and serve you. Please show me how to use them in the best way I can. Amen.

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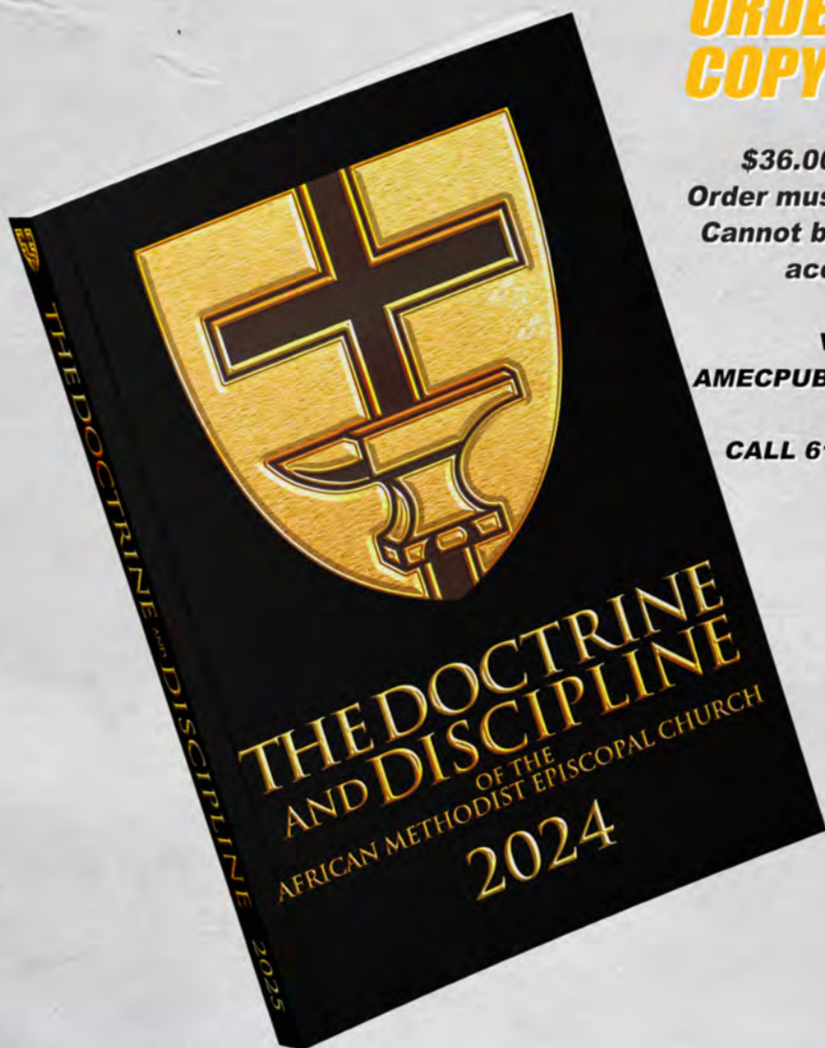
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