



**A KING FOREVER
AND EVER**

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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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• **Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce**, Editor
• **Rev. Monica C. Jones Ph.D.**, Lessons
• **A.L. Stanfield**, Copy Editor
• **O. Dotson**, Graphic Designer

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 work-
• er, every worker trained so that a
• worker need not be ashamed. This
• we ask in Jesus' name.

JESUS IS FROM KING DAVID'S FAMILY

LESSON SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1-4, LUKE 3:23-38

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: RUTH 4:9-17; LUKE 3:23, 31B-32

Key Verse: The women...gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17 (NRSV UE)

RUTH 4:9-17; LUKE 3:23, 31B-32 (NRSV UE)

Ruth 4:9-17

9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.

10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses."

11 Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem;

12 and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this

young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son.

14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel!

15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him."

16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse.

17 The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Luke 3:23

23 Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli,...

Luke 3:31b-32

31b ...son of Nathan, son of David, 32son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,...

WORD POWER!!!

- **Boaz (bo'-as)** – The husband of Ruth.
- **Obed (o'-bed)** – The son of Ruth and grandson of Naomi, in the line of David.

GETTING READY!!!

Angela was excited! She had just ordered an app to trace her ancestry; and, her mother and father were going to contact other family members to let them know. She couldn't wait to see how many of their ancestors she could find. Today, she was going to bring the app to class so that her social studies teacher could help her with the process. She was going to be allowed to use her ancestry activity for her midterm grade!

"Why do you think it's important to trace your family history?" Mrs. Simpson was speaking to the class about family history and how African Americans often did not know who their ancestors were.

"I think it's because it lets us know where we came from and what makes us like we are," Angela said.

"That is true," her teacher said. "In addition, it gives us a sense of purpose as a people. When we are connected to our ancestors, we are connected to our history. Let's hope that Angela is successful in learning about her past!"

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Ruth is one of only two books in the Bible that are named for women. One of the most important parts of Ruth's story is that she was not a Jew. Yet, she loved her mother-in-law and did not allow the differences in their backgrounds to separate them.

In chapter 4, we see that she is to marry Boaz and become the mother of a son who was in the line of David. This is important, because King David is an ancestor of Jesus Christ, our savior! When we read about the ancestry of Jesus Christ in our New Testament text, Luke 3, we see Boaz, Ruth's husband, and we realize how important she was (Ruth's name is found in Matthew 1:2)!

Ancestry Apps and You

Have you or your family ever used an ancestry app? If so, were you successful in learning who your ancestors were? Share your story with the class, or share the story of someone else who you know who traced their family's history.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Angela was fortunate, because she was able to trace her ancestry and use the activity as a class project. You may not be able to do that, but you can certainly use other resources and apps that are available to do yours at home.

For example, an agency of the federal government that interviews families and communities every 10 years can assist you in learning something about your background for free. The Census Bureau is a

research organization that you can access to help you find out about your background regardless of where you were born (<https://www.census.gov/en.html>). You may use the QR code to learn more about the Census Bureau after you get home. You should be able to find something about your neighborhood and family.

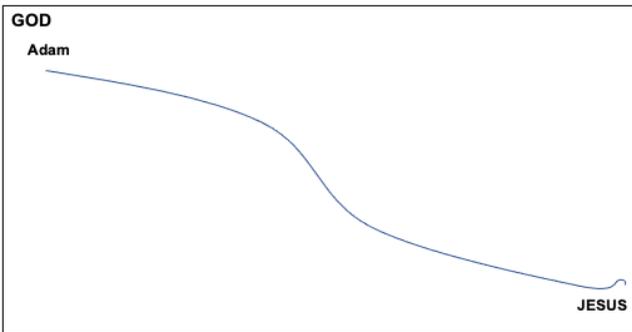


<https://www.census.gov/en.html>



The Ancestry of Jesus

In the chart, fill in the other names of Jesus' relatives by using Luke 3 in our Bible lesson. It is written in reverse order, which means it starts with the most recent or present name, and then works backwards. Each name is a person who was in the line of Jesus and who were his ancestors.



As you read the names, place them in your chart on the line. Remember, starting from the top left-hand corner (GOD) on the chart, you will have to begin at the end of the names in the Bible and move back up. The first two names and the last name have been filled in for you!

REMIX!!!

The ancestry of Jesus Christ from Adam to the birth of the Son of God is a very important lesson to learn. It shows that God

used ordinary people such as Ruth and Boaz to bring God's Son to earth. God uses each of us, too, even though we are ordinary people, to do great things wherever we are. Do you think there are some talents and gifts that you have that may have come from your family members? What are they? How can you use ancestry apps to learn more about who you are and what you can do to make the world a better place?

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

We are FAMILY!

To the tune (chorus only) of "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge, sing these lyrics:

We are family, God, Jesus, you and me. We are family; everybody get up and praise!

<https://youtu.be/uyGY2NfYpeE?si=pM-t6fyKJf6caDpx>

CLOSING PRAYER

(Each month you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord and to be a better person. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.

A HOUSE FOR GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 7:4-17

Key Verse: The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. 2 Samuel 7:11b (NRSV UE)

2 SAMUEL 7:4-17 (NRSV UE)

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,

5 “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’

8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel,

9 and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before

you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish

him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

15 But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.”

17 In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Nathan** – The priest who guided King David and spoke to him about God’s plans about building the temple.

GETTING READY!!!

St. John’s basketball team was going to play in the finals! Jamil played center, and this was the first final he would play in since he joined the team. He and his family were all very excited and were making plans to take Jamil’s grandparents and one or two cousins to the game. The evening before the game, Jamil was in the yard practicing with some of his teammates, when the phone rang; it was his coach. Jamil’s father answered the phone and listened to the coach’s message. He slowly went out to the yard to tell Jamil the news.

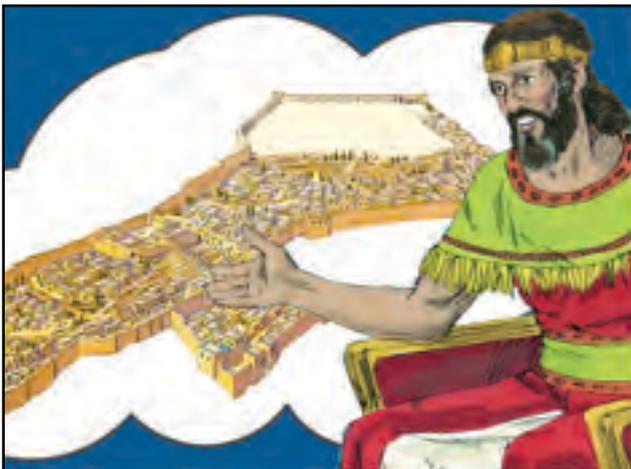
“Jamil, come sit here a moment. This is going to be disappointing, but I want you to understand that because you are a sophomore, you have time to play. The coach has changed the team lineup, and he is allowing one of the graduating seniors to take your place. You are still on the team, but you will be on the bench and may not get to play very much this time. He explained it to me, and I agree

with his decision. Your classmate will not have another chance for recruiters to see him play. I hope you understand.”

Jamil put his head down, dropped the ball, said goodbye to his friends, and went to his room. After thinking about it for a while, he realized that his father was right. But it still hurt.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

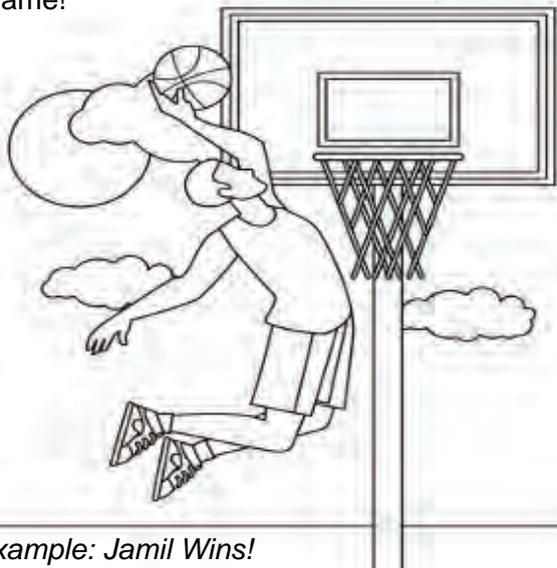
Even though we can make plans in our lives, God may have another plan for us. King David wanted to build the temple for God and give God a new home on earth. This would be a magnificent place where people would worship God and pay tribute to the Lord. However, Nathan, who was a priest and gave advice to King David, realized that this was not going to be the final plan, even though it was David's desire. Through a vision to Nathan, God made it clear that David's son would build the temple. David would not be able to fulfill his dream to build the temple himself. Although it may have been disappointing, David was obedient and submitted to God's will.



USING GODS WORD

How do you think you would have felt if you were in Jamil's place? Do you agree that it was the fair thing to do, since his teammate would not be able to play the next year? In the end, it was a matter of trusting the coach's judgment, and more importantly, trusting that God would have something better for him. In the same way that David had to trust God, even though he may have been disappointed, we have to be willing to sacrifice at times and give up something we really want. We must trust God's will for us. Later, the temple was built, and it was magnificent as David had hoped. He didn't live to see it, but his son, Solomon, did the work just as God had planned. Jamil was able to play enough in that game so that the recruiters came back to see him the next year! He was rewarded for his sacrifice.

Color the picture below and give it a short caption using ideas from today's lesson. Then post it on your bulletin board at church; add your name!



Caption Example: Jamil Wins!

REMIX!!!

Your disappointment may not come in the form of a delayed game, contest, or other activity. It may be something that you have been waiting for in another area of your life. Maybe you have a low grade in a class and are trying hard to improve; it could be, that you've had a disagreement with a friend and are waiting to make up. Whatever it is, be prayerful and ask God to help you wait for the right time and place for whatever God has for you to do. Remember the story of King David and the temple and if you are still unsure, talk to your parents, your church school teacher, or other trusted adult to help you.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

There are many gospel songs and hymns about trusting God. Do you have a favorite? One of mine is "I Trust You" by James Fortune and Fiya. Play it on your device or ask your teacher to play it for you!

CLOSING PRAYER

(Each month you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord and to be a better person. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.

ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:5-23, 57-80

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:67-80

Key Verses: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Luke 1:76-77 (NRSV UE)

LUKE 1:67-80 (NRSV UE)

67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

74 that we, being rescued

from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

75 in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

79 to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Zechariah (zeck-ah-rye'-ah)** – The father of John the Baptist, who was the cousin of Jesus the Christ.

GETTING READY!!!

Amanda was going to have a little sister! There was a new bassinet for her in her parents' bedroom, and everyone in the family seemed so happy. All week, her mom and dad had been talking about the baby and how it would be to have a new little girl. Her mother was almost ready to have the baby and was on her way to the hospital. While she waited at home with her aunt, Amanda asked about what was going to happen to her once her sister came home. "Are mommy and daddy still going to have time for me?" she asked her Aunt Thelma. "Of course they will, sweetheart! Your parents love you and will always love you, no matter how many brothers and sisters you end up having. Their love is big enough to be shared with each of you. When your little sister comes home, your job will be to help take care of her, but your parents' job will still be to take care of you both." Her aunt gave her a big hug, and Amanda felt much better.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

In this story, we see Zechariah, who was an elderly man, and his wife Elizabeth preparing for the birth of a son. It was a miracle, and now Zechariah was talking about what would happen when his son was born. God had given him a vision, and it was very clear that his son would be special. He would be the cousin of the Messiah and would come before him to introduce Jesus to the world! Although John, who was to be called John the Baptist,

was not to be a divine being or the same as the Son of God, he still had a very special place and a very important role to fill. He was going to be the voice that people heard first. He would preach about salvation and then baptize the one who would bring salvation to others. This gave Zechariah great joy, and he praised God for this blessing!

After listening to the Bible story, write at least two reasons below why Zechariah could be happy about the birth of his son John.



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Just like John the Baptist, Amanda had a special role to play in her family. She was going to be the big sister to their new little girl! This was hard for her to understand, but after listening to her aunt, she knew a little more about how she was still loved and important to her parents. Perhaps Zechariah would one day explain to his new son how he would be important, as well. Jesus was the

Son of God, but he would not have done all that he did without the help from friends and others that God put in his path. One of those most important friends was his cousin, John the Baptist, who pointed the way for him. What might be a praise song that Amanda could write that is similar to what Zechariah said? Can you think of lyrics? If so, write them in the box!

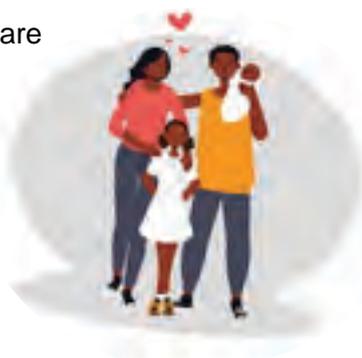
Amanda's Song 

REMIX!!!

Are you a big sister or brother at home? Do you have a big sister or brother who has been a help to you? What do you think is the most important thing about being either an older or younger brother and sister? How can you give love to each other?

One of the things that you can do is to be thankful for your broth-

ers and sisters, or it may be cousins if you are an only child. Whoever it is, say a prayer for them when you pray, and thank God that they are in your lives! Then, each day, remember to be kind and not worry when new family members arrive. You are still special, and God loves you!



PRAISE THE LORD!!!

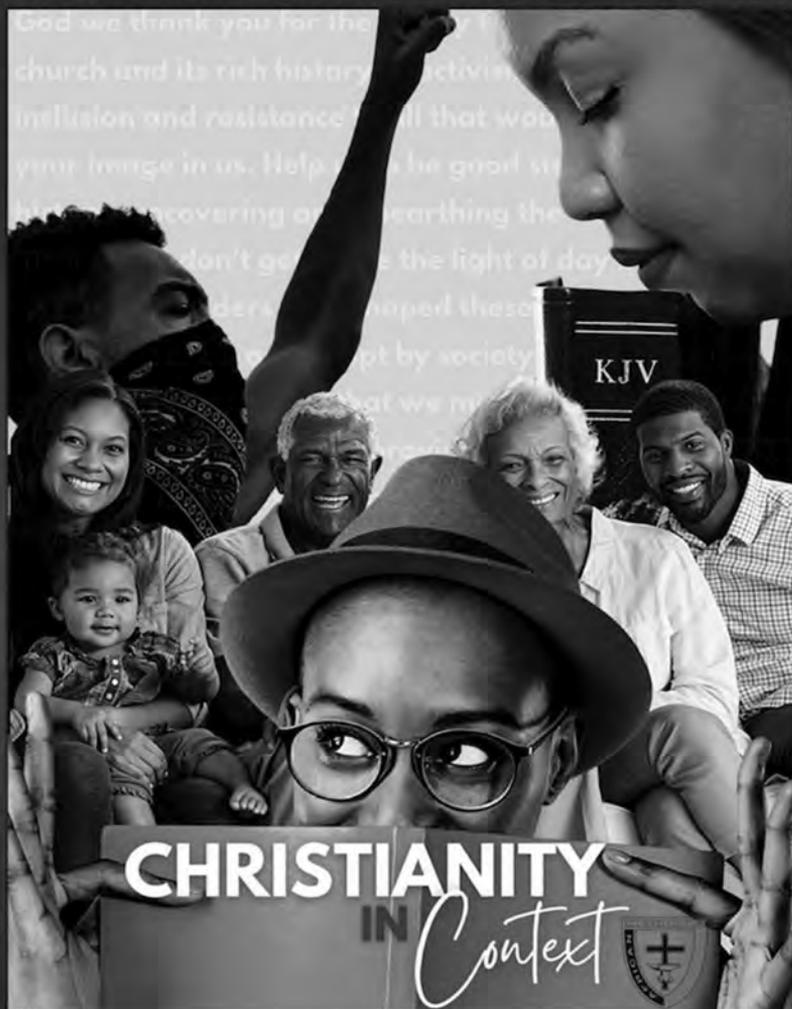
Share the lyrics that you wrote for Amanda's praise song with the class! Later, plan to put those lyrics to music by sharing them with someone who knows how to play an instrument and can help you with the melody.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Each quarter you will have a closing prayer that will help you strengthen your relationship with the Lord. Can you memorize it?)

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and learn how I can use it to your glory! Amen.

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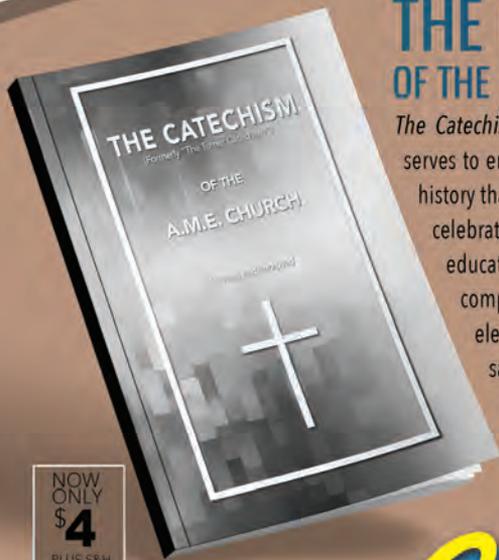
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