



Social Teachings of The Church

JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 63
Spring Quarter 2026

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

No. 2
Price \$5.39

----- **Ages 9-11 (GRADES 4-6)** -----

Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher

Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director, Department of Christian Education

Tiffany Gregory
Chief of Operations

Cover Design: Orlando Dotson, AMEC Publishing. Copyright © 2026 by AMEC Sunday School Union.

JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Volume 63, No. 2, March, April, May 2026. Copyright © 2026 by AMEC Sunday School Union.

Junior Scholar Sunday School Quarterly, Volume 63, No. 2, March, April, May 2026 — Lessons based on The International Sunday School Lessons, The International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Copyrighted © 2026 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; AMEC Sunday School Union © 2025. Lessons and/or readings are based on the Uniform Series International Sunday School Lessons, International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Copyright © 2026, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For permission to reproduce any material in this publication call (615) 256-5882 or write the Rights and Permissions Department, the AMEC Sunday School Union, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

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

Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin, Publisher
Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce, Editor
Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn, Lessons
A.L. Stanfield, Copy Editor
O. Dotson, Layout/Design

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.

— A.M.E. Discipline



AMEC
PUBLISHING HOUSE
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION



LOVING AS JESUS LOVES

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

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

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

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

Key Verse

(The scribe said to Jesus,) "...'to love (God) with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Mark 12:33

WORD POWER!!!

- **Scribes** – People in ancient times who copied the law. They got to know it so well by doing this that many also began to teach it.
- **Whole Burnt Offering** – An offering that is completely burned up in place of the person making the offering. It was offered to mend broken relationships.
- **Faith** – Knowing, trusting, and believing something and/or someone.
- **Works** – Good and right actions





SCRIPTURES

MARK 12:28-34; JAMES 2:14-17

Mark 12:28-34

- 28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”
- 29 Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
- 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’
- 31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
- 32 Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’;
- 33 and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with

all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

- 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

James 2:14-17

- 14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it?
- 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food
- 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?
- 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

GETTING READY!!!

Faith and her friends were part of a new class for tweens at Bethel AME Church that was co-taught by the YPD advisor to the Allen Stars and Junior Sunday school class teacher. They used *The Catechism of the AME Church* to

teach the students about God, the Ten Commandments, baptism, Holy Communion, salvation, and the history of the AME Church. Ms. Debra, the YPD advisor, would ask the questions and Mr. Jack, the Sunday school teacher, would help the students memorize the answers. After the students finished learning the questions and memorized the answers from each section of the catechism, an adult would ask them a question from that section. If they were able to answer with the response Mr. Jack had helped them memorize, they got to place a star on an image of a nighttime sky with their name on it.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The scribes in today's lesson were teachers of religious laws who did their best to help Jewish people learn things from the Old Testament that would help them follow God. One of these scribes was impressed when he overheard the way Jesus responded to questions about the resurrection and paying taxes. He probably liked the way Jesus answered because there were no set answers for such questions.

There was a question that was more set in stone, though. It was so important to Jewish people that many memorize the answer as a prayer that's said every day. That prayer is called the Shema. Guess how Jesus answered the question about the first commandment? He recited the Shema and then added the second commandment about loving our neighbors like we love ourselves. That's why the scribe told Jesus that his response was more important than any offering or sacrifice.

The way Jesus responded showed he could talk about his faith in ways that lined up with what God says is important. But he didn't stop there. He did it in a way that modeled his love and respect for God first and his love and respect for others second. Our challenge is to identify ways to do the same.





Activity #1: A Shema of My Own. After re-reading Mark 2:29-30, use the 3x5 notepad paper your teacher provides to create a kid-friendly version of the Shema. Next, transform what you've written into a chant or rap that can be recorded and shared with others.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

We talk about loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbors like we love ourselves but practicing those ideas isn't always easy. Jesus models it for us in the Mark text, though. Jesus could've been as disrespectful to the Jewish leaders asking him questions as they were to him, but he wasn't. He realized that he couldn't just recite the Shema. He also needed to live it. He put his faith into action by responding with love, care, and respect. And that's what the James text in our lesson is asking us to do. That way we can be a cross in the world and connect ourselves with God so that God can connect us with others in loving and helpful ways.

Activity #2: Cross Bumps. Use the two craft sticks and the rubber band that your teacher provides to create a cross. Next, talk through some ways that young people can put their faith into action when faced with the situations below. If you like a response that someone gives, give them a cross bump by taping their cross with yours.

1. Someone comes to school without a ruler but needs one to get a project done. You've finished using your ruler. What can you do?
2. Your aunt is watching you while your parents are away. She packs your lunch box with more food than you can eat. Someone at your lunch table trips and the food on their lunch tray falls onto the floor. Then someone else steps on the food. What can you do?
3. As you're coming back from recess, you notice another kid crying near the slide. What can you do?

REMIX!!!

Participating in special classes or Holy Communion each month are important, because people say something about what we believe about God. But they don't increase the godly good in the world like helping others in need does. We need to know who and how God is so that we can share what we know with others. We also need to know that God expects us to love other people so that being loving to others comes more naturally.

PRAISE GOD!!!

We lift our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies to you, O God.
We stretch our arms out to others in need
And we accept your guidance
Until a cross is built that connects us all in a love
That makes everyone better because
We brought you with us when we came. ~ Amen.





GOOD FOOD FOR BODY AND SOUL

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

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

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

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



Train yourself in godliness, for, 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

WORD POWER!!

- **Defile** – To make unclean and/or unacceptable to God.
- **Insight** – Special ability to uncover the meaning of something.
- **Profane** – Unholy or ungodly.





SCRIPTURES

DANIEL 1:8-17; 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

Daniel 1:8-17

- 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself.
- 9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion from the palace master.
- 10 The palace master said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your age, you would endanger my head with the king."
- 11 Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:
- 12 "Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.
- 13 You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal

rations and deal with your servants according to what you observe."

- 14 So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days.
- 15 At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations.
- 16 So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables.
- 17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

- 7 Have nothing to do with profane and foolish tales. Train yourself in godliness,
- 8 for, 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.

GETTING READY!!!

Derrick was surprised to learn that human beings have been trying to erase the cultures and beliefs of other human beings for a long time. He thought it started and ended with the people from Africa who

were enslaved in the United States. Then he learned that people in Bible times were forced to leave their homeland, given new names, and told to abandon their beliefs. Are you as surprised as Derrick that efforts to erase a group of people's culture isn't new? Yes No

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Daniel and his friends were part of the group of young people that were forced to leave Jerusalem and become servants in Babylon. As was the practice of the time, their names were changed, they were taught a new language, and they were told to only eat the food that the king said they should. Guess what? These things were done for several reasons. First, the Babylonians wanted to prove they were better than the Israelites. Second, Babylonians wanted the Israelites to become like them.

Daniel and his friends couldn't do anything about having their names changed or being told to speak a new language. They could do something about eating what the king wanted, though. It may seem like a little thing, but Daniel realized it could lead them to abandon their faith in God. That's why Daniel asked for permission to eat something different. It's also why God made sure the person Daniel asked would let them follow a different diet. In the end, Daniel and his friends proved that they didn't have to give up their commitment to God to be successful. They could be healthy, strong, and useful without defiling themselves and so can we.



Activity #1: God-Directed Resistance Is Required. Look at the sentences below and place them in the proper order to show that the God-directed resistance of Daniel and his friends ended up benefiting more than them.

- The guard tested Daniel and his friends for ten days.
- The palace master/chief of staff was afraid to go against the king's orders.
- God made sure that the palace master/chief of staff favored and respected Daniel.



- Daniel made a commitment not to defile himself by eating the royal food and drinking the royal wine.
- Daniel asked the guard to test him and his friends by letting them eat vegetables and drink water instead of the royal food and wine.
- Daniel and his friends passed the test, were able to continue eating their special diet, and were given special knowledge by God.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

It takes a lot of courage to resist the influence of people in authority who want to fill our minds, bodies, and spirits with ungodly beliefs. If we ask God, God will give us what we need. God did it for Daniel and his friends and God does it for people in modern times, too.

Did you know that Native American children in the U.S. were removed from their families and placed in boarding schools for almost 100 years? Like Daniel and his friends, they were often given new names and told things that should've made them want to abandon their native languages and culture. Yet, some of those same children used their native languages to create codes that the Germans couldn't break during World War II. There's even a Native American chef named Sean Sherman who is leading a non-profit to help promote Native American foodways.

In other words, God will make a way for us to both hold onto our faith and pass it on to others if we let God work in and through. We must do our part to make sure that nothing gets between us and God. That may look like singing the hymns our grandparents love, the Gospel our parents prefer, and the new school worship music that speaks to us. It can also mean studying the catechism and the *YPD Handbook*. It could also mean joining the usher board or feeding ministry.

Activity #2: Avoid the Bad and Get Full on the Good. Decorate the front of the body sketch you're given with activities that will help to stay close to God. Decorate the back of the body sketch with things

that you need to avoid if you want to stay close to God. When you're done, share one item from each side of your body sketch with the class.

REMIX!!!



It's a lot easier to defile ourselves than we think. If we pay too much attention to people who say God isn't real, we may start to act like they're right. If we spend more time with negative people than we spend with positive people, we may start to become negative, too. That's why we must resist anything and everything that tries to pull us away from God.



PRAISE GOD!!!

*Lord, help me discover what to let into my life
And what I need to keep out of my life
So that you and I can have a tight and right relationship
Guide me to people who will support my faith in you
And keep me from people who will try to pull me away
from you. ~ Amen.*





GIVING OUR ALL TO OTHERS

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

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

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:34-46



"(The Lord) will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'" Matthew 25:45

WORD POWER!!

- **The King** – The one who judges everyone who comes before him at the end of time.
- **Eternal Punishment** – The sentence given to the people who choose not to show love, care, and concern for people in need.
- **Eternal Life** – The sentence given to the people who choose to show love, care, and concern for people in need.





SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 25:34-46

- 34 "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,
- 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'
- 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
- 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?
- 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'
- 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of
- 41 mine, you did it to me.'
- 42 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,
- 43 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
- 44 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
- 45 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'
- 46 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
- 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

GETTING READY!!!

Melissa didn't believe in putting a lot of effort into helping others unless someone important was watching. She volunteered to make care packets for the homeless for an hour after school on Friday when she heard the pastor's daughter would be there. The next day she refused to help the

YPD complete their mission project of handing out the packets because no one important would be watching.

A month later, the church had to nominate someone to represent them at the conference YPD's "Youth Doing Great Things" gala. Melissa expected to be nominated because she had helped make the care packets. When she asked a few people why she wasn't nominated, she was surprised by their answer. They said they wanted to nominate someone who chose to help others because helping was a good, right, and godly thing to do.

Why do you help others? _____

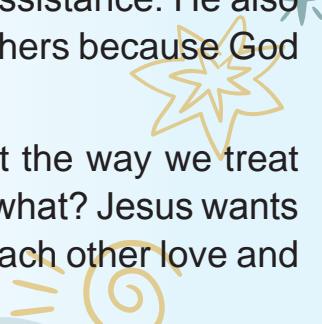




INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Today's lesson is part of Jesus' attempt to help his disciples understand the importance of treating everybody right. He had to do this because some people had decided that only certain people were worthy of assistance. He also had to do it to remind people that we show love and care to others because God shows love and care to us.

Most of all, Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that the way we treat others shows how much we love and appreciate God. Guess what? Jesus wants us to understand this lesson, too. Jesus expects us to show each other love and appreciation because that's what Jesus does for us.



Activity #1: Your Reasons Are Flawed. Look at the list below. Underline the sentences that sound like bad reasons for not helping someone. When you're done, share your reasons for your selections with the class.

1. They didn't pay back the loan last time.
2. They never told anyone that they needed help.
3. You found out that they were only pretending to be hurt.



4. They have money, a place to stay, and food to eat.
5. They told you they don't need any help.
6. They listen to people who make bad choices.
7. They dress and talk differently.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

The disciples listening to Jesus and the people within the story Jesus tells probably find it harsh. They shouldn't, though. He's just reminding them that they can't pick and choose who their neighbors are. They also can't treat their faith and commitment to God like it's only binding sometimes.

If people are going to be disciples of Jesus Christ, then they must treat others like Jesus would. Jesus treated everyone like they were worthy of care, concern, and attention. But he didn't stop there. He showed us how to meet the needs of people that others felt were unworthy of being seen, heard, and helped. That's why he says that the things we do for the "least of these" are done to him.

In other words, Jesus doesn't just want us to say that we are a kingdom kid. Jesus wants us to believe and act like everyone has the potential to be a kingdom kid. Why is that important? Because then we'll show like we're already living like citizens of God's kingdom.

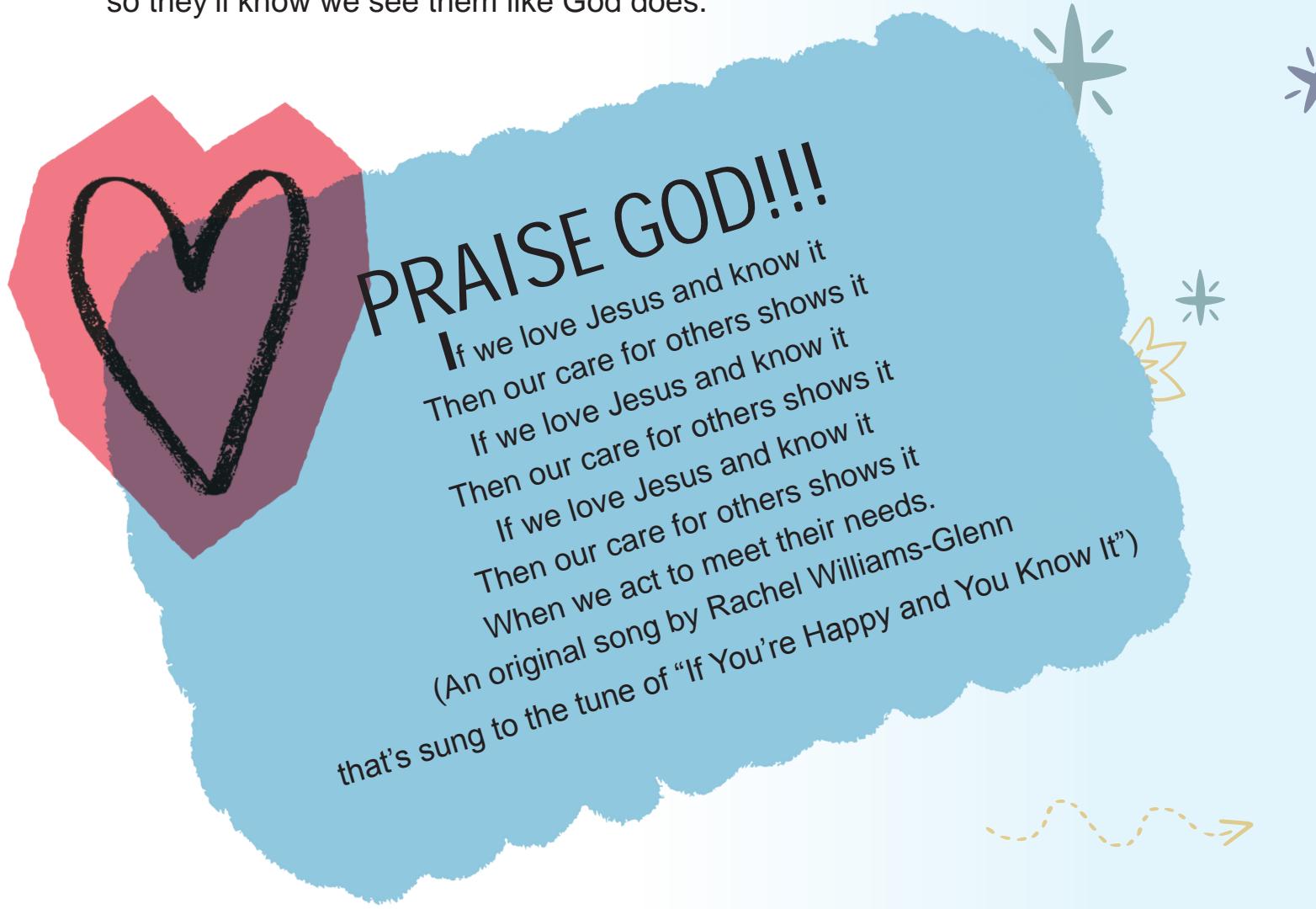
Activity #2: Treat Everyone Like a Potential Kingdom Kid. Your teacher is going to show you a clip from the "All Girls Are Princesses" scene from 1995 version of the *A Little Princess* movie. After watching it, look at the situations below and come up with one way that you could meet the need and show them that they're a potential kingdom kid.

- A. A kid who can't eat dairy products is invited to an ice cream social.
- B. The cafeteria at the local college campus closes on the weekends so the college students who attend your church don't have a place to eat on Sundays.
- C. A group of kids start teasing a hard of hearing kid whenever they try to speak to them.

- D. You notice the younger kids struggle to reach the water fountain when they want to re-fill their water bottles.

REMIX!!!

Today's lesson reminds us that God trusts us to follow Jesus' example of loving others no matter what their status is. It also builds on what the last two lessons showed us. We love God and we love others because God loves us and others. We resist anything that might keep us from being people who have committed themselves to God and God's way. That means doing what we can, whenever we can, to help people in need, so they'll know we see them like God does.

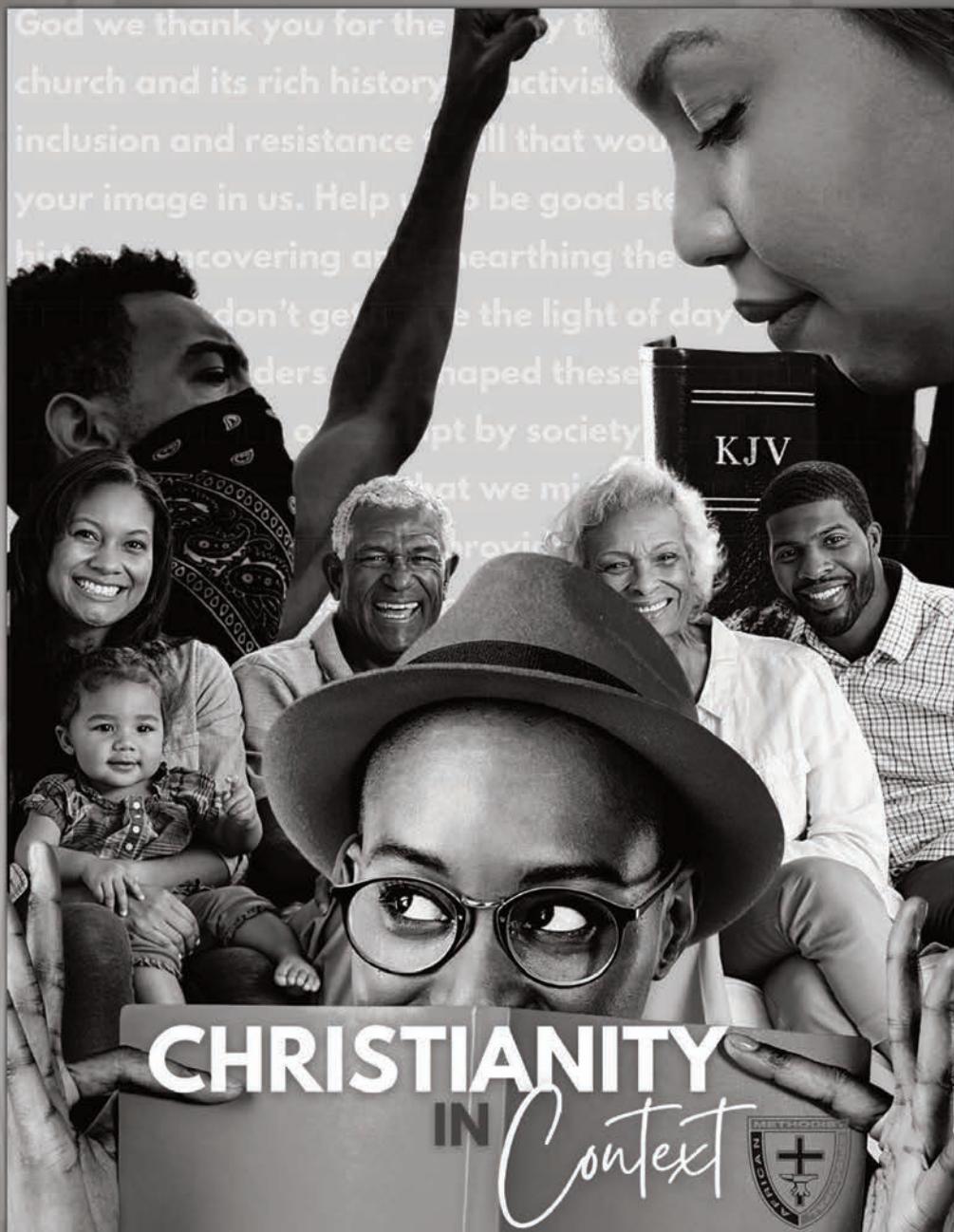




INTRODUCING!!!

A MULTIMEDIA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM!



— Christianity in Context —

Created to introduce you to theological ideas, or ideas about God, developed by theologians over the course of Christian history.

Join us at

www.iamame.org/christianityincontext/

We would be thrilled to have you with us!

PRIMARY
QUARTERLY



Bring your
lessons to life
with our brand new
**TEACHER'S
RESOURCES**
— now just a **scan away!**

PRIMARY QUARTERLY
and **BEG^{INNERS}' STORIES**

Each week, we've added fresh ways to make class meaningful and fun:

- **Icebreakers** that help kids connect
- **Suggested games** to get everyone involved
- **Guided prayers** to make faith real
- **Engaging videos** to spark conversation

Simply scan the QR code to access our full library of online resources, designed just for Primary and Beginner teachers. Whether you're looking for this week's game idea or a quick prayer, everything you need is at your fingertips — anytime, anywhere.

Let's make Sunday School joyful, connected, and easy to lead!

Scan. Explore. Celebrate faith together.