



**A KING FOREVER  
AND EVER**

# SENIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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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 AME 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.

*AME Discipline*

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UNIT 1

# JESUS

## THE HEIR OF DAVID





LESSON 1

DECEMBER 1, 2024  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# The Ancestry of King David

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

## WORDS TO KNOW

*INHERITANCE* – personal property or possessions inherited from a deceased person

*KINDRED* – the family to which one belongs

*RENOWNED* – known by many people; famous

*ELIMELECH* – pronounced: ee – LIHM – eh – lehk

*CHILION* – pronounced: KIHL – ee – ahn

*MAHLON* – pronounced: MAH – luhn

*EPHRATHAH* – pronounced: EHF – ruh – thuh

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

- 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.
- .....
- 23 Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli,...
- .....
- 31B...son of Nathan, son of David,
- 32 son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,...

## INTRODUCTION

In the Winter quarter, “A King Forever and Ever,” we explore the biblical teachings about God’s reign and relation to Jesus as the incarnation of the divine. Unit 1, “Jesus, the Heir of David,” prepares us for Christmas with five lessons from Ruth, 2 Samuel, and Luke.

We can sometimes wonder how the present will affect our future. Our lives are complicated and filled with drama. It is hard to discern how it has a purpose, especially when tomorrow seems no better than today.

How can we have hope? Who can help us make sense of our lives?

In today’s lesson from Ruth, we discuss the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. Their marriage was a part of God’s divine plan to redeem humanity.

## BIBLE STORY

Ruth was a Moabitess. The land of Moab (Jer. 48:24), called also the “country of Moab” (Ruth 1:2, 6; 2:6), was located on the east of Jordan and the Dead Sea, and south of the Arnon (Num. 21:13, 26). In a wider sense, it included the whole region that had been occupied by the Amorites. It bears the modern name of Kerak. In the Plains of Moab, opposite Jericho (Num. 22:1; 26:63; Josh. 13:32), the children of Israel had their last encampment before they entered the land of Canaan. It was at that time in the possession of the Amorites (Num. 21:22).

She married Mahlon, who was the son of Elimelech and Naomi, who emigrated to the land of Moab. When Naomi resolved to return to her own country, Bethlehem, after the death of her two sons, Ruth determined to accompany her despite her mother-in-law’s entreaty that she should return to her own people and god.

They arrived at Bethlehem just at the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth decided to go out and glean the fields to get support

for herself and Naomi. She just happened to meet Boaz, who was a farmer and kinsman of Naomi. Boaz later married Ruth according to the right of a kinsman redeemer. In the process of time, Ruth became the mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, and grandfather of David, an ancestor of Christ. God turned tragedy into triumphant joy.

*How can we explain the way God worked through the ordinary lives of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz? Do you feel God at work in your daily life? How?*

## **SANKOFA**

Lebron James is an American basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers. He has achieved many accolades during his career. Lebron has spent many years imparting his game knowledge to his son, Bronny. Bronny has played all levels of basketball, including college. He entered the NBA draft without any thought about playing for the Lakers. But the Lakers drafted Bronny because of his talent, not nepotism. Bronny knows aspects of the game taught by his father and his personal experiences on the court. All of it resulted in Bronny being drafted by the Lakers.

Read this article: <https://www.sportskeeda.com/basketball/news-we-gone-deep-bronny-james-recalls-lebron-james-guidance-post-lakers-draft>

*What influence does a father have on his children? What effect will Lebron's legacy have on coming generations?*

## **REAL TALK, FAITH WALK**

Watch: "The Book of Ruth" by The Bible Project (bibleproject.com) to summarize Ruth's life events and connection to David's family. Pay attention to the similarities and differences between Ruth and Naomi. Jot a few notes down. Think about how God intervened in their lives.



As a result of Boaz's action as the kinsman redeemer, he gave Ruth and Naomi hope and comfort. When we look at Luke 3:23 and 31b-32, we see Jesus' family tree. Jesus' family tree (Luke 3:23-38) establishes that he was a descendant of David (Luke 1:27, 32, 69) through his relationship with Joseph. Luke traces Jesus' line to Adam to demonstrate he was a part of humanity. Thus, Jesus' story includes Gentiles like Ruth (Matthew 1:5). We, as believers, are a part of God's family. How does this revelation make you feel? Create a family tree for Jesus' ancestors.



Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the nativity of Christ at Christmas, and the return of Christ at the second coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for the Christian faith. This week's theme is HOPE. Hope is one of the themes in the book of Ruth. What hopes do you have for your future? How will your faith journey and relationship with God impact your future? When you think about the legacy of faith passed from one generation to the other, what can be done to ensure it does not stop in your generation?

## SUMMARY

The book of Ruth is a beautiful story of grief, poverty, migration, mixed marriage (Gentile and Jew), and redemptive love. These themes are relevant for today. Immigrants are not always welcomed in every place in the country. Some people are living in poverty and hope for better days. Some people are grieving and without hope. When we are hurting, where can we find

compassion and hope? Jesus Christ, our redeemer! Jesus is our hope! God sent Jesus to earth in human form to save humanity. We now have hope for today and the future.

During the Advent season, if possible, take the time to journal and reflect on God's movement in your life. Every day God reveals Godself to us. We can learn to spiritually connect with God wherever we go through quietness, walks, prayer, and reading the Bible and Christian books or any other method that works for you.

## CLOSING DEVOTIONS

*Prayer: God, we appreciate the story of Ruth. She sets the example as one who has faith and trusts you. You honored her faithfulness and blessed many generations. We thank you for including us as a part of your family. Amen.*

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
(AMEC Hymnal #102)

LESSON 2

DECEMBER 8, 2024  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# God's Promise to David

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Focus Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:4-17

**KEY VERSE:** Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.  
2 Samuel 7:16

## WORDS TO KNOW

**APPOINT** – to set in office or position

**OFFSPRING** – a person's child or children

**ESTABLISH** – set up a kingdom on a firm or permanent basis

**THRONE** – a seat for the king, judge, or priest

**INIQUITY** – immoral or grossly unfair behavior; sin

**STEADFAST** – resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 7:4-17**

- 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.

## INTRODUCTION

When we make a promise to someone, we are giving our word that it will happen. But how often do we break our promises, unintentionally or intentionally? Those who do not keep their promises are viewed as not trustworthy. People will not believe anything you say. This can damage relationships. How do people view you?

In today's lesson, God promises David to build a house that will be a never-ending kingdom.

## BIBLE STORY

David was now king of all Israel. David is grateful to God for all that God has done. It prompts him to desire to build a house (temple) where the ark of God could reside (7:1 – 2). The prophet Nathan encouraged David to follow his heart and do it. It was important for kings to obey the prophets. However, God spoke to Nathan that night and gave him a message for David.

God did not desire David to build a temple for him (vs. 4 – 7). The reason is that David's job was to unify and lead Israel, which meant destroying Israel's enemies. David shed much blood as a warrior for God. God did not want a warrior to build the temple (1 Chron. 28:3). God had another plan for David's life (vs. 8 – 12). God promised to continue the house (dynasty) of David forever. God would do it through David's son, Solomon. So, David made the plans and collected the materials so his son Solomon could begin work on the temple as soon as he became king (1 Kgs. 5 – 7).

David's earthly dynasty ended four centuries later, but Jesus Christ, a direct descendant of David, ultimately fulfilled this promise (Acts 2:22 – 36). This opened a way for all believers in Christ to become a part of God's family. If we have faith in Jesus, we are adopted into the family of God. We must have a personal relationship with God.



*What does God promise to never take away from David's son, Solomon? How did God's covenant with David impact our lives as believers?*

## **SANKOFA**

Being a part of a family and community is important. How did you become a part of your family? Who are your ancestors? We need to know our past to understand our present. We are going to use the available resources to reach back and gather information on our past. I have listed some resources we can use to get started. Dig in and you will be surprised by what you discover.

Listed below are African American and general genealogy websites that may be useful for those seeking to research personal or family history.

African American Genealogy Resources:

- [African American Genealogy: 80 Top Resources for Finding Your African American Ancestors](#)
- [African American Family History Resources](#)
- African Ancestry
- African Heritage
- AfriGeneas Genealogy and History Forum
- African American Genealogy: An Online Interactive Guide for Beginners
- Afriquest
- [Family Search: African American Online Genealogy Records](#)
- [Finding Records of Your African American Ancestors, 1870 to the Present](#)
- [National Archives and Records Administration: African American Research](#)

- [Nomini Hall Slave Legacy Project](#)
- [Northwest African American Museum Genealogy Center](#)
- [Our Black Ancestry.com](#)
- [Reclaiming Kin: Taking Back What Was Once Lost](#)
- [RootsWeb.com](#)
- [The Digital Library on American Slavery](#)

For the full list go to: <https://www.blackpast.org/black-past-features/african-american-history-genealogy-2/>

## REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

There were three other covenants before the Davidic Covenant. Watch this video to get an understanding of the meaning and purpose of God's covenants in the Bible.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/covenants/>

*What promises has God fulfilled in your life? What promises are you waiting to be fulfilled? How can you demonstrate your gratitude to God and God's faithfulness?*

On the index cards provided or in your journal, write a thank you letter to God for the promises that have been fulfilled. When you feel discouraged, read this thank you letter or write a new one giving thanks to God for God's blessings. And God's peace will fill your hearts and spirits.

## SUMMARY

People can fail us. But God is always faithful. We can read the Word and see the fulfillment of all God's promises. God has not changed. God is faithful. The Davidic Covenant was fulfilled through the birth of Jesus. Jesus is a part of the Davidic line and reigns on the throne forever. What was the one condition of God's

covenant with David? We are a part of God's family and God cares about us. Do you give God your undivided attention? How can you know God's plans for your life? What happens if God changes the plan? No matter what happens, God is in control and knows what is best for us.

## **CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

*Prayer: God, we trust and believe in you. You are faithful to your promises. Thank you. Amen.*

*Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
(AMEC Hymnal #108)*

# The Prophet Who Prepares the Way

Lesson Scripture: Luke 1:5-23, 57-80b

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 the people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Luke 1:76-77

## WORDS TO KNOW

**PROPHECY** – message from God

**REDEEMED** – to be freed from the bondage of sin

**HOLINESS** – a setting apart for God's use

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** – the perfect holiness of Christ, which we can only receive

**MERCY** – the compassion of God to not condemn us

**ZECHARIAH** – pronounced: zeh – kuh – RAI – uh

*FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:67-80*

- 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.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Do you ever think about what will happen in the future? We can sit and imagine all types of scenarios. But we have no control over the future. What we can do is prepare ourselves by seeking a relationship with God. And set goals for the future as God inspires us to do through getting more education and training to be in a position for God to use us.



*What do you think God is leading you to do in the future? How are you preparing?*

In today's lesson, Zechariah shares a prophecy regarding his son John.

## **BIBLE STORY**

The gospel of Luke was written by the Gentile physician, Luke. Chapter 1 opens with the story of the priest Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth. They lived and honored God with their whole being. But they had no children because Elizabeth was old and barren (1:5 - 7). Zechariah was chosen as the priest to enter the sanctuary of the temple and offer incense. It was during this event that the angel Gabriel appeared and gave him the message that God heard his prayer for a child.

Elizabeth would conceive and give birth to a son they were to name John (v. 13). The angel gave further details about John's life. John was to be set apart for special service to God. The angel told Zechariah that he would be mute until his son was born because he doubted that he and Elizabeth could conceive in their old age.

Fast forward to John the Baptist being born. Zechariah could now speak again after writing his son's name on a tablet, so he praised God (vs. 63 - 64). Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied regarding John preparing the way for the coming savior who would redeem the people.

Verses 67 through 80 are often called the *Benedictus* after the first words in the Latin translation of this passage. The Old Testament prophecies were being fulfilled regarding the coming Messiah. God's promise to Abraham, to bless all nations through him, would be fulfilled through the Messiah, his descendant (Gen. 12:3). John also was a part of the redemption story as the one to prepare the way for the peaceful Messiah. God honors those who are faithful to him.

*Why did God make Zechariah mute? How did Zechariah describe the role of the savior? Why do you think John lived out in the wilderness?*

## SANKOFA

### Freedom Rides



Following the momentum of student-led sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee in early 1960, an interracial group of activists, led by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Executive Director James Farmer, decided to continue to challenge Jim Crow segregation in the South by organizing “freedom rides” through the region. They used as their model CORE’s 1946 “Journey of Reconciliation” where an interracial group rode interstate buses to test the enforcement of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Morgan v. the Commonwealth of Virginia* which outlawed segregation in interstate travel. White southern segregationists resisted CORE’s efforts. When most of the demonstrators were arrested in North Carolina, the police effectively aborted the “Journey of Reconciliation.”

Recalling that failed effort 15 years earlier, James Farmer organized a new generation of black and white activists to travel on interstate buses to test the 1960 United States Supreme Court decision in *Boynton v. Virginia* which reiterated the earlier ruling prohibiting racial segregation in interstate transportation.

For further information about the outcome of the Freedom Rides go to: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/freedom-rides-1961/>

Source: Mack, D. (2007, July 12). *Freedom Rides* (1961). BlackPast.org. <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/freedom-rides-1961/>

*How did the Freedom Riders seek to make a better future for blacks? What occurred because of their activism?*

## REAL TALK, FAITH WALK

We need to seek God's wisdom about our lives and future. Numerous youth activists are seeking to make the world a better place for us now and for those in the future.

Go to: <https://glopals.com/blogs/funactivities/black-history-month-4-young-activists-changing-the-world-right-now>

These four activists are leading the way for change in our society and world. Pay close attention to Aya Dillard's current work by going to her nonprofit: The Next Gen Come Up - <https://www.thenextgencu.com/meet-the-creator>

God is faithful and will use us to fulfill God's plans and purpose. What are God's plans for you? How can you know what to do? We can gain wisdom from the Word and prayer. The Word contains the wisdom we need to guide our lives. Prayer is the key way to communicate with God. If possible, go on a spiritual retreat to spend some alone time with God without the distractions of everyday life. If we discipline ourselves to read the Word and pray regularly, our lives are going to be transformed. Moreover, we are the ones God desires to use for his glory.

### SUMMARY

Zechariah doubted God's Word and was punished. After the fulfillment of the prophecy about John, Zechariah recognized God's faithfulness. He praised God and prophesied about the coming Messiah who would become our redeemer. And told the people about John being the forerunner to pave the way for Jesus. God fulfilled his promises to the Israelites and did the same for us. We can trust him.

This week, review the previous week's two scripture lessons (Ruth 4:9 – 17, Luke 3:23, 31b – 32 and 2 Samuel 7). Think about God's faithfulness. How do the previous lessons connect with today's lesson? What is God saying to you? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's will for your life. Read the Word and

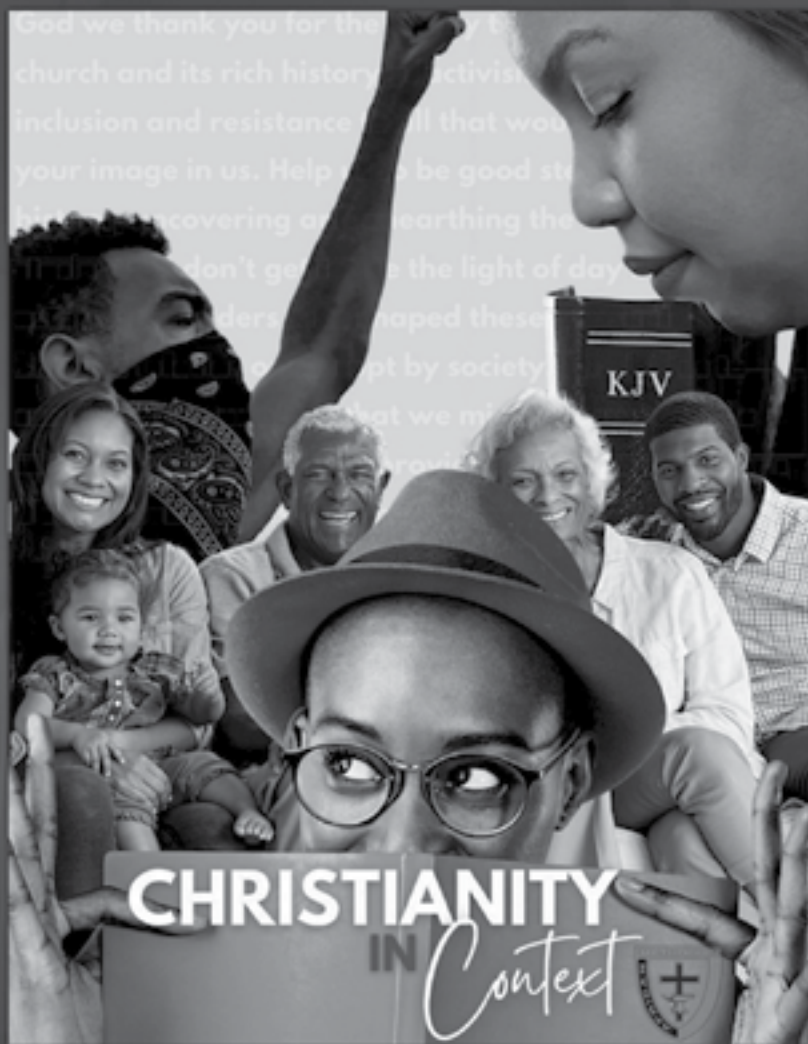
pray daily to grow in your relationship with God. Who can you influence to seek Jesus as their redeemer? Rejoice in knowing Jesus is our redeemer.

## CLOSING DEVOTIONS

*Prayer: God, we appreciate your sending John to prepare the way for Jesus' coming. We need the redeemer in our lives. Holy Spirit, we ask you to pierce our hearts so we can be the ones who tell others about our redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Hymn: "When Peace, Like a River"  
(AMEC Hymnal #448)

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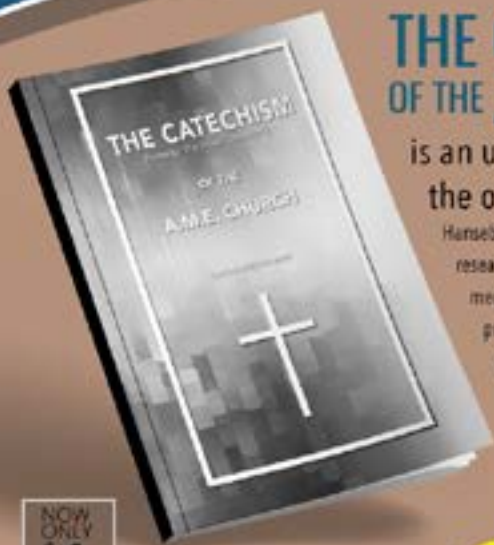
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