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Sacred Altars  
and  
Holy Offerings

# JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 62  
Summer Quarter 2025

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

No. 3  
Price \$5.39

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

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**JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY — USPS 288 - 080**

Volume 62, No. 3, June, July, August 2025. An official quarterly of the African Methodist Episcopal Church prepared by the AMEC Sunday School Union. Published quarterly by the AMEC Sunday School Union, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright © 2025 by AMEC Sunday School Union.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Junior Scholar Sunday School Quarterly, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

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**Entered as Periodicals Postage Paid Matter, March 20, 1942, at the  
Post Office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 3, 1879.**

## 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

## EDITORIAL STAFF

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• **Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce**, Editor  
• **Rev. Dr. Monica C. Jones**, 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.

## TWO BROTHERS GIVE GIFTS TO GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:1-16

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:1-7

Key Verses: In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. Genesis 4:3-4a (NRSV UE)

### Genesis 4:1-7 (NRSV UE)

1 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord."

2 Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,

4 and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the

Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?"

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

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## WORD POWER!!!

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- **Cain (kāne)** – The brother of Abel did not honor God.
- **Abel (a'-bell)** – The brother who gave God the best of his flock.
- **Sacrifice** – Giving or offering something that goes beyond the ordinary; sharing something that is a hardship on the giver.

### GETTING READY!!!

**B**enjamin and Bobby were twin brothers planning to get presents for their mother's 40th birthday. The two were extremely excited and were preparing their presents for the party that evening. Benjamin had decided to draw a picture for his mother of the two brothers in the park and color it with his special crayons. Bobby asked for money and bought a bracelet for his mother. That evening, when the two of them gave their presents to their mother, she was delighted and hugged them both. As she opened each one, she thanked them; but, she was quite excited about the picture that Benjamin had drawn. "Oh, Benny! This is so beautiful! Did you draw this by yourself?" She grabbed Benjamin and gave him another hug. Bobby immediately became angry because of the attention that Benjamin was getting. He stomped off to his room. Later, his father spoke to him and warned him about being jealous.

"But she didn't say all of that about my bracelet, and it cost more money than that stupid picture," Bobby complained. "Yes," his father said, "but you purchased that with money that I gave you. Your brother took time to draw a picture and make it something special. Your mother loves her bracelet, but she was very touched by the fact that Benny gave something from his heart.

Learn to accept things and be careful not to let jealousy come between you.”

### **INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

**C**ain and Abel were two brothers who had completely different ways of behaving. Cain, like Bobby, was not as thoughtful or concerned about God's commands. He did not give God the respect that God was due. When it was time to offer gifts to God, Abel gave his best animal sacrifice. Cain, on the other hand, gave something acceptable (ordinary fruit and vegetables), but not sacrificial. When God did not praise Cain for his gift, he became angry and very jealous of Abel. This led to his murdering his brother.

### **Jealousy Is Not Godly**

Below, cross out the words that were not the way Bobby should have acted at the party.

**ANGRY    JEALOUS**  
**PLEASED    YELL    QUIET**

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### **USING GOD’S WORD!!!**

**D**o you remember a time when you gave a gift to a parent or someone else and they were incredibly happy about it? How did that make you feel? Also, how have you felt when someone else was able to give a gift that was better than yours or appeared to be more popular? The same goes for any kind of activity or relationship. When a friend or classmate is given a lot of praise or wins an award, be happy for that person and congratulate them. Your time will come, and it is always better to wish others well. Remember that putting effort into a gift can be more meaningful than simply going to a store and buying something. Even if you don't

have the money, give from your heart and the individual should be very appreciative and will enjoy your gift even more! Bobby's bracelet was nice, but he didn't think to prepare something that took more time and energy. That didn't mean that his mother did not appreciate his gift. In any event, he could have shared a happy moment with his family if he had reacted differently.

**A New Ending to the Story**

Below, write a new ending to the story about Bobby and Benjamin. What could Bobby have done instead of stomping off to his room?

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**REMIX!!!**

**R**emember, sacrifice means doing more than the ordinary. It should be something that is not comfortable or that you cannot do easily. When it comes to giving to God, think of ways you can do so sacrificially. The time spent on your device or playing games can be divided into time for Bible study at church, studying your Sunday school or church school lesson, or going to rehearsals for a ministry. Using your talent and time to serve God can

mean so much more than putting an offering in the offering plate. Money is a part of giving, too, but it takes much more effort to give up your time. Think of the story of Cain and Abel and give in the way that pleases God. What is a way that you can do something nice for God that is a real sacrifice?

### **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

Listen to the song or watch the “Jesus Loves the Little Children” video. Sing along!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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

Dear Lord, we want to be better Christians for you! Help us to learn how to give beyond what is comfortable; teach us to have a sacrificial faith. Amen.



NOAH THANKS GOD FOR DRY LAND

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 6:1-9:17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 8:20-22; 9:8-17

Key Verse: (God said,) "I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13  
(NRSV UE)

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:8-17 (NRSV UE)

**Genesis 8:20-22**

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humans, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

22 As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease."

**9:8-17**

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you

10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

15 I will remember my cov-

enant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember

the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

17 God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

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## WORD POWER!!!

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- **Covenant (cov'-â-nunt)** – A commitment or promise kept between two or more people.

### GETTING READY!!!

“I promise! Scout’s honor.” Jeremy and his friend Michael were at a junior scout camp and had made a deal regarding Jeremy’s video game. Michael did not have one and had made a bet with Jeremy that he could beat him in the swimming contest. “If I beat you, I get to play with your game all day today and tomorrow. Cool?” The two of them connected their pinky fingers to seal the deal. The next day when Michael won the swimming contest, Jeremy did not want to give up his game. But after remembering what he had learned in church school about being honest and keeping promises, he knew the right thing to do would be to keep his word to his friend.

### INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Noah was a godly man. Although he was teased and made fun of, he was obedient to God and built the ark. When the flood was over, God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky to let Noah know he was pleased with the covenant he had made with the Lord. Since then, the rainbow has served as a symbol of how God

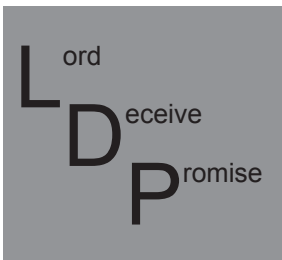
keeps God's word to us as his children.

Jeremy could have decided to change his mind and not let Michael have his video game. That would have been something Michael could not have controlled, but it also would have caused hurt feelings or disappointment between the two of them. Like Noah, Jeremy was obedient because he had learned in Sunday school about being honest and true.



### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

**W**hen was the last time you broke your promise to someone? If you never have, what caused you to keep your word and do whatever it was you had promised? Below, fill in the blanks with a word that completes the sentence and shows why it is important to be true to your word. Choose the word from the box that is provided.



1. When we keep our \_\_\_\_\_, we are being good Christians.
2. Just as Noah did, we should thank the \_\_\_\_\_ for his goodness.
3. When we are loyal friends, we do not \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

### REMIX!!!

**K**eeping our word is not always easy. Noah had to accept cruel jokes and criticism. God understands our challenges, but he expects us to try to keep our promises to him. These promises include loving our neighbors as ourselves and loving God most of all. Even when it's hard, always keep the promises you make. Be dependable; be honest; be true. God will have a rainbow just for you!

### PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Color your rainbows and hang them in your classroom! Let them be reminders of God's goodness in our lives.



### CLOSING PRAYER

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

Dear Lord, we want to be better Christians for you! Help us to learn how to give beyond what is comfortable; teach us to have a sacrificial faith. Amen.

## ABRAHAM TRUSTS GOD TO PROVIDE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 22:1-14

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 22:1-3, 6-14

Key Verse: Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Genesis 22:14 (NRSV UE)

### Genesis 22:1-3, 6-14 (NRSV UE)

#### Genesis 22:1-3

1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.”

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

#### 6-14

6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together.

7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”

8 Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them walked on together.

9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

12 He said, “Do not lay your

hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and

took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Abraham (Ã’-bra-ham)** – A godly man who obeyed the Lord and was the father of the people of Israel.
- **Trust** – A belief in the truth, ability, or strength of something or someone.

## GETTING READY!!!

“A godly parent loves his or her family and will do anything to protect a child. The love between parents and children is secure and eternal. In our story this week, Abraham had to sacrifice his son, Isaac; it must have been a terrifying moment.” Mr. Everett, the church school superintendent, discussed how difficult it can be to trust the Lord sometimes. He explained to the junior class the story of Abraham and his son Isaac. One of the students asked how God could ask a parent to kill a child. If God is a loving God, why would God do that? The answer to that question is a little complex, but to make it simpler, Mr. Everett told the class that it was a matter of trust. “God did not intend for Abraham to kill his son; what God intended was to teach Abraham the importance of trusting God in every situation.” It was a test, and Abraham passed it with flying colors!



### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**B**ecause Abraham trusted God entirely, even when it was necessary for him to prepare his son for death, he did not hesitate. And when his son asked, he assured him that God would provide. Sure enough, God did provide! Just in time, there was a ram nearby. The real reason that God asked Abraham to take his son's life was to test his faith. Abraham passed the test and God rewarded him! Is there something you can think of that has happened in your family or with you where things looked bad, but in the end God helped you and made everything all right? Write about it below:

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### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

**I**t is difficult to believe that your parents would ever be asked to hurt or harm you to prove that they trust God. Still, some situations can and will arise in your life as well as in the lives of your parents that test your faith. To demonstrate this lesson, plan a short skit where one person is Abraham, and the other is Isaac. Change to a modern-day situation that could occur. For example, the family does not have enough money for Isaac to go to college. Where will it come from or how will they find the money? Another example could be that the father has lost his job and is unsure how he will be able to pay the bills for the family. Isaac wants to play football and will need money to buy his uniform; what will they do? Your teacher will give you time to plan your skit. Be creative!

### REMIX!!!

**L**earning to trust God begins with trusting those around you who mean well and can take care of you. When you are given suggestions or advice by elders and others in your life, it is not necessarily going to be something you like. Yet, understand that most of what they are telling you is to help you and to make you a better person. Therefore, just as Abraham respected God and trusted God even to the point of being willing to take his own son's life, you should be willing to trust and obey those in your life who are there to protect and teach you. God gave you parents, pastors, and others, to guide you along the way. In your skit, you should have looked at the relationship between the father and his son as one where the father is honest about a situation and the son must trust that his father is doing the best that he can. Be sure that you remember to review the story of Abraham and Isaac as you plan the skit. Also, remember the point of how Abraham trusted God, and in turn, Isaac trusted his father.

### PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Present your skit to the class. Be sure to add music and props to make it as entertaining as possible. Enjoy!

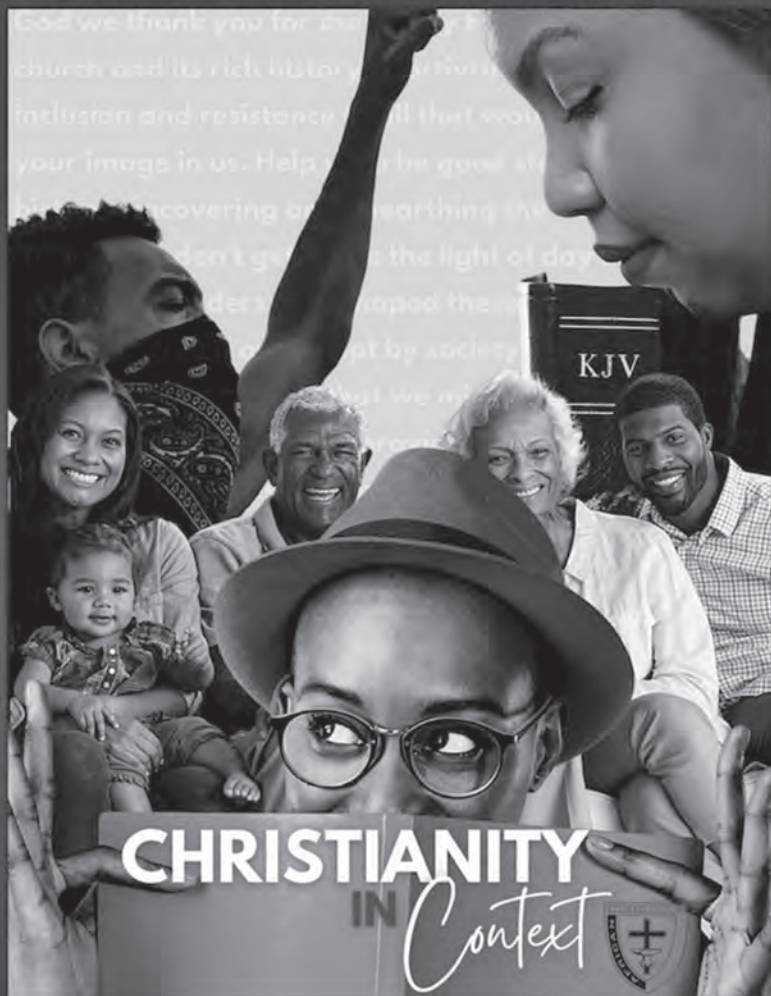
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