



Faith That
Pleases
GOD

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

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

THE LESSON

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

THE CLOSING

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

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

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



THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

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

RUTH TRUSTS NAOMI AND HER GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1:6-10, 14-16

Key Verse: Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16

Ruth 1:6-10, 14-16 (NRSV)

Ruth 1:6-10

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food.

7 So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah.

8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in

the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.

10 They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

14-16

14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

16 But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

WORD POWER!!!

- **Naomi (nay-o'-me)** – The mother-in-law of Ruth and a widow who lost each of her sons.

GETTING READY!!!

Karen looked around her room for the last time. In a few minutes, her new parents will be coming to pick her up. She remembered all the long weeks and months that she has spent in this home for girls after her parents were killed in a car accident. “I wonder if they will like me,” she thought. Last year, she had gone to a temporary foster home, and she stayed there only for three months. The only thing the foster parents wanted her to do was to work all day cleaning up the house and doing chores. As a result, Karen had run away.

As she sat on the bed and pulled her backpack, she remembered the little Bible that her mother had given her when she was baptized. She very seldom read it, but for some reason, she wanted to at this time. Finding the Bible, Karen turned to a book called Ruth because it was named after a female. In the first chapter, she read about how a woman and her daughter-in-law had become a new family after they had lost the men in their lives. Karen wondered if her new mother would be like Naomi. “Maybe I can be like Ruth!” she thought. Just then, there was a knock on her door; it was the director. “Karen, your new parents are here! Come on! It’s time to go!” Karen grabbed her backpack and her little Bible and left the room.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Ruth is one of two books in the Bible that are named after a woman. Because she was from a different culture, Ruth did not necessarily understand all the beliefs and religious practices

of her husband's family. After her husband and his brother died as well as her father-in-law, she, her sister-in-law, and Naomi had no way to support themselves. During biblical times, women were normally dependent on men to support them. Because Ruth was young, she could have found a new husband and left as did her sister-in-law, but she chose to stay with Naomi and make things work with her mother-in-law together. In many ways, Karen's story is like Ruth's. She had no idea what her new family would be like, but she began to see how possibly she could make her new life a better one by being more like Ruth, who was loyal and faithful. Regardless of what the future might hold, Karen had hope and, like Ruth, a new family to love.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Has there been a time when you were about to either meet someone new or go into a new school, situation, or meet new people? Were you like Karen, feeling as if things might not work? Whenever we are faced with new situations in our lives, it is quite easy to panic or give in to a sense of defeat. But the same God that blessed Ruth with another family did the same for Karen; she eventually married a new husband. In like manner,



God will bless you and keep you strong as you journey into unknown territories. Below or on a separate sheet of paper, write two or three ideas that you think would help Karen get to know her new parents and start a better life. There are three challenges that she might face or concerns that she may have. In the spaces after each statement, provide an idea that you believe will help Karen

get through them.

Karen's parents will not allow her to have friends over for the time being. _____

Karen would like her own cell phone. _____

She is grateful for her new clothes, but she really doesn't like them. _____

REMIX!!!

God is with us every day, and if we are prayerful and ask for God's help, there is no challenge that we cannot overcome. When you are about to face a new problem or enter a new relationship, try a simple prayer asking God to help you to say the right things, to listen well, and to be a respectful friend, family member, etc. Just like Ruth was rewarded with her faithfulness, you will also be rewarded as long as you remain faithful to the Lord!

PRAISE GOD!!!

A Song Game

How many songs from your choir or youth chorus talk about being faithful to God? Do you know any that have lyrics that talk about needing and supporting each other? (If not, find Hezekiah Walker's song, "I Need You to Survive.") After choosing the song that you like, your teacher will play it. See how many expressions or phrases in the song you think would be encouraging to someone like Karen. The first person to list ten expressions or phrases wins the game! Your teacher will let you know what the winner will receive.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Each quarter 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 them all?)

God, thank you so much for being my best friend. As I meet new people or start in a new situation, please help me each battle to win.

*Forever
Family*



DAVID'S FAITH IN GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: I SAMUEL 17:1-58

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: I SAMUEL 17:31-37, 45, 48-50

Key Verse: *David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:37a*

1 Samuel 17:31-37, 45, 48-50 (NRSV)

1 Samuel 17:31-37

31 When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul; and he sent for him.

32 David said to Saul, "Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

33 Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock,

35 I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it.

36 Your servant has killed

both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God."

37 David said, "The Lord, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the Lord be with you!"

45

45 But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

48-50

48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

49 David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and

struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David prevailed over

the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Philistine (fil'-lys-teen)** – A member of a warrior nation who were enemies of the people of Israel.

GETTING READY!!!

José really loved soccer. It was his favorite game! All year long he had been one of the top players on his team, and today was the championship game for his division. As he sat in the locker room listening to the coach, he wondered how well he would do. José had been assigned the position of goalkeeper this year, which meant his main job was to keep the other team from scoring. The team that they were playing was one of the most aggressive and powerful in the division. "I hope I can keep them from scoring," he thought. "I really do not want to screw up." Just then, he heard the coach say, "Do your best, that's all I expect." He remembered his mother saying not to ever worry about what might happen but to just say a prayer and leave it in God's hands. As the team gathered to pray, José whispered a few words of his own and asked the Lord to guide him and give him the strength he needed to do the job. As the team left to go on to the field, José felt a sense of relief and looked forward to the game.

José's Prayer

In the space on the next page, write a prayer that you think José could have said before he went out on the field:



INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

You may already be familiar with the story of David and Goliath and how David was able to slay the giant with a slingshot and rock. But one thing that is important to note is David's confidence in God to give him his victory (v. 37). He did not say he would do it himself, but he was quick to give glory to God. Even at his youthful age, for he was still a boy, he understood the importance of looking to God for direction and protection. No matter what you are involved in, even sports or games, when you are facing a challenge or opponent that seems too big or difficult for you, do your best. Do not worry about what may or may not happen. Do as José and remember what you have learned here and with your family regarding prayer. Just leave it in God's hands, do your best, and God will do the rest!

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

What did you write for José's prayer? Do you feel it is a prayer that you could say each time you are afraid or unsure of something? Share it with one of your classmates, or if your teacher prefers, read it to the class! Listen to the other prayers from classmates and learn what others feel is important to say to God. Are you willing to share your prayer with others who are in a group or on a team with you? If the opportunity comes, why not say your prayer with a friend and be like David? Speak up for God! Also, look at the Bible lesson once more (v. 37) and keep this kind of confidence in God each day. Color the picture of José the next page and write how he is feeling in the space provided.



REMIX!!!

Again, remember that even when you are anxious about anything, and keep in mind, it does not have to be sports or competition, feel confident that God is always there beside you. Sometimes, even adults may not want you to try something because they want to protect you (like Saul in this story). In the end, though, God always knows what is best for us. Never disobey your parents and trusted adults in your life; however, if you believe in your heart that God has given you something to do, sit and talk with the adults honestly about your feelings. God will work it all out for you and the Lord's glory.

PRAISE GOD!!!

No matter what I face today, God will make a way! I have faith; I understand. I know with God, I CAN!

CLOSING PRAYER

(Each quarter 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 them all?)

God, thank you so much for being my best friend. As I meet new people or start in a new situation, please help me each battle to win.

FAMILIES OF FAITH

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:1-17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:1-6

Key Verse: An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1

Matthew 1:1-6 (NRSV)

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,

4 and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,...

WORD POWER!!!

- **Genealogy (jean-nee-ol'-o-gee)** – A list of relatives and family members, beginning with the oldest to the youngest.
- **David** – King over Israel; ancestor of and member in the lineage of Jesus the Christ.

GETTING READY!!!

This is great!” Jamie said. For Christmas, his grandmother had given him a gift certificate for an ancestry app. Today, he and his family were planning to visit a new relative they had found. The person was a cousin on her mother’s side who was living just five or six miles away! Apparently, there had been a sister that his mother did not know about. They shared the same father but had a different mother. Once Jamie traced the information about her and found her address, she called her cousin and discovered that she had no idea she had cousins on her mother’s side. They talked for hours!

The newfound cousin’s name was Mary Anne. She and Jamie exchanged phone numbers and sent pictures to one another. It was amazing how much they favored each other. Jamie couldn’t wait to go to visit her newfound relative! She didn’t have a sister of her own, so this was going to be dope!

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Families may be one of the most important gifts that God has given us. Whether just two or 200, having family members that we can love and who love us back is such a blessing. Even though you may not always get along, “blood is thicker than water” (family comes first). Family is worth the unhappy moments.

The lineage of Jesus Christ shows that people who form families are not necessarily alike. People came from diverse back-

grounds and personalities. Some were very affluent while others were outcasts. Some were Jews and others were not. The one thing they had in common was that God chose them to be the ancestors of Jesus the Christ. How large is your family? If you found that you had a new cousin or other family member, would you have felt like Jamie? What do you think are some of the advantages of welcoming a new loved one that you had not known? What may be the disadvantages?

OUR FAMILY

Share pictures of your family members and loved ones and where possible, print them. Then put together a collage to place on the wall of your classroom or other space that your teacher approves. Another activity could be to simply take pictures of each other and make a collage of your church school family. Be creative!



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Matthew is one of only two Gospels (the other is Luke) that deals with the heritage of Jesus the Christ. It is important history that helps us to learn about the kind of people Jesus called his family.

Below, select one name from the lineage of Jesus that you read about today, and then find out something about them. The Bible, or a Bible dictionary, should help. You may not be able to

find a lot of information, but you should learn enough to help make you familiar with those persons whose names represent the heritage that led to the birth of Jesus Christ.

NAME of ancestor: _____

Information and background:

REMIX!!!

Always appreciate your family, no matter how big or small. At times, your family may be someone that you are not biologically related to, which is called an extended family. Jesus had disciples who were just as much his brothers and supportive women who were just as much his sisters as his biological family. This is the lesson that we all should learn. So, whatever the situation, love, protect, and defend those that God has given you to be a part of your circle of loved ones.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Use this time to display your new collage to your church members, parents, pastor, and friends! Record the event and then share on your favorite social media platform!

CLOSING PRAYER

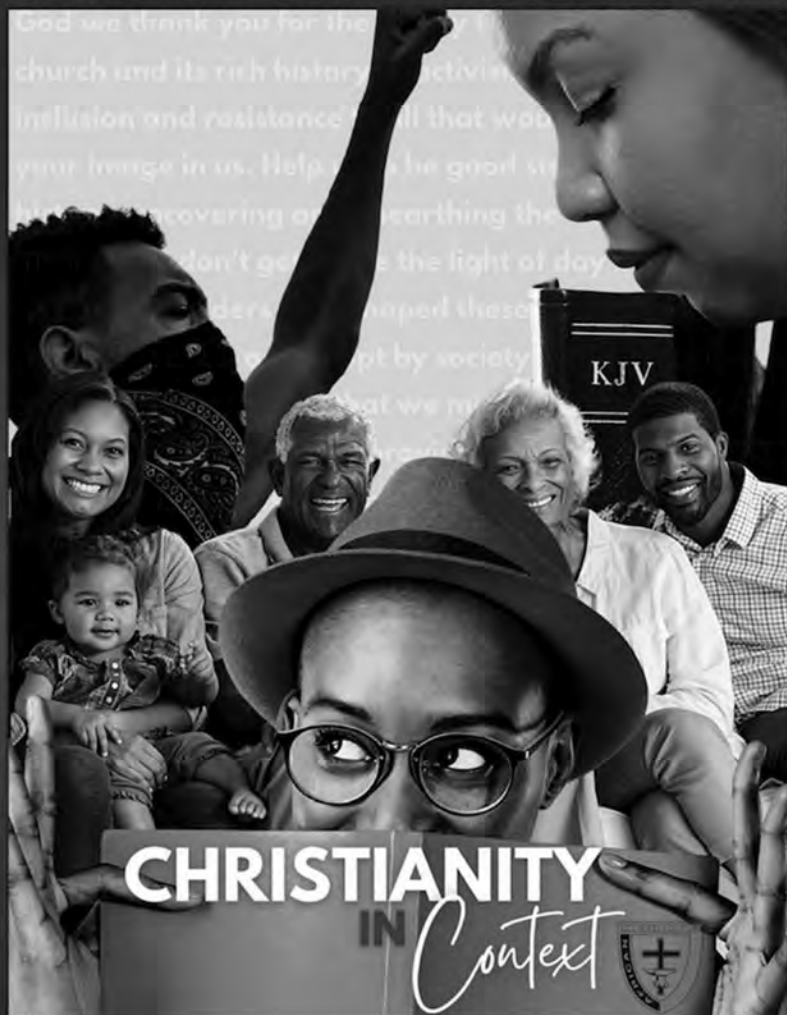
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