



# SACRED ALTARS AND HOLY OFFERINGS

# SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vol. 62  
Summer Quarter 2025

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

No. 3  
Price \$6.00

**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 ©  
2025 by AMEC Sunday School Union.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY TEACHER'S GUIDE

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 Sunday School Quarterly Teacher's Guide, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212.

Sunday School Quarterly Teacher's Guide, Volume 62, No. 3, June, July, August 2025 — Lessons based on The International Sunday School Lessons, The International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Copyrighted © 2025 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 © 2025, 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.

---

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

# THE COMBINED TEACHER'S GUIDE

**SUMMER QUARTER 2025**

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST

Christian Education Department  
Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director  
Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Chair

AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union)  
900 13th Avenue South • Nashville, TN 37212

## BASIC SUPPLIES

Bible dictionary	writing paper
Bible pictures and maps	DVD recorder/player
CD players	milk crates
chart paper	paper – letter, drawing
Christian music – books, sheets, recordings	pencils, pens, markers
Christian videos and DVDs	poster boards
crayons	robes, scarves
digital camera	old clothing
digital camcorder	scissors, glue, paste
drawing paper	video player

## The Teacher's Guide

### Liberating Faith Studies Lessons

Summer Quarter: June – August 2025

Prepared by Reverend Dr. D. Melynda Clarke

### Cain and Abel Offer Sacrifices

LFS: Lesson 1

June 1, 2025

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-25

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-16

**Key Verses:** The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?" Genesis 4:6-7a

### Key Terms

- **Countenance** – A person's facial expression.
- **Fugitive** – A person who has escaped from a place or is in hiding, especially to avoid arrest or persecution.
- **Vagabond** – A person who wanders from place to place without a home or job.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and reflect on God's choice of Abel's offering over Cain's.
2. Empathize with Cain's anger that his gift was rejected while acknowledging the consequences of jealousy and violence.
3. Build a healthy practice of giving that provides a connection with worship and a closer relationship with God.

## Teaching Strategies

For Lesson 1, consider the following:

1. Adults often expect that their gifts will be received with gratitude.
2. Adults routinely compare the value of gifts.
3. Given the story, ask learners to take the role of Cain as they listen. Consider whether there are other occasions of feeling less than other worshippers in the church, due to church size or levels of giving.

## Questions

1. How can the church help change and/or defy past statistics on incarceration rates or other social concerns?
2. How does the advancement of marginalized groups in your area help to benefit other people like yourself?
3. Discuss with others your feelings about accountability and holding people responsible for their crimes. How does this align with the Word of God?

## Resources:

The Holy Bible – New Revised Standard Version (NRSVUE) and a Bible commentary, *African American Heritage Hymnal*

## Noah Builds an Altar

LFS: Lesson 2

June 8, 2025

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 6:1–9:17

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 8:13-22: 9:11-13

**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

## Key Terms

- **Altar** – A table or flat-topped block used as the focus for a religious ritual, especially for making sacrifices or offerings to a deity.
- **Covenant** – An agreement; a legal contract.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Reflect on the covenant relationship believers have with God.
2. Emphasize the intersection between humanity and all of creation.
3. Identify how Noah's act of worship is a reminder of God's continued response and commitment of providence and mercy towards humanity.

## Teaching Strategies

This lesson is designed to encourage gratitude to God for being merciful in our lives. Sacrifice can be acknowledged through prayer, worship, and tangible offerings. Discuss the meaning of each and share perceptions of God's response to our actions. Take time to allow testimonies of real experiences in nature that illustrated the presence of God. Discuss the potential strengths of embracing diverse cultural beliefs of nature as well as alternative narratives that are similar to the biblical story of Noah's ark.

### Tips:

1. Incorporate videos to engage further discussions.
2. Show pictures of a rainbow, various species of animals, and diverse groups of people.
3. Share beliefs of whether the story should be reflected upon literally, historically, or figuratively.

\*Please note that today is Pentecost Sunday in the liturgical

calendar. Just as God's covenant was a promise to the people, the Holy Spirit was promised to the disciples. It descended on the day of Pentecost and the church was born.

### Questions

1. Should South Africans embrace the term of being a rainbow nation?
2. The United States was once called a melting pot. Is this term appropriate and what are the challenges this term poses to Americans today?

### Resources:

The Holy Bible – New Revised Standard Version (NRSVUE) and a Bible commentary, laptop with a projector and large screen, or large monitor with access to Internet; Post-It notes, flip chart, or whiteboard with erasable pens, *African American Heritage Hymnal*

## Abraham Makes an Offering

**LFS: Lesson 3**

**June 15, 2025**

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 22:1-19

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 22:1-14

**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

### Key Term

- **Jireh** – Hebrew word that means "to see," "to provide," or "to foresee." Jehovah Jireh, which is often translated as "the Lord will provide" and, when used as a name, "the Lord my provider."

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:



1. Examine the level of trust Abraham demonstrates in obeying God's call.
2. Value God's testing and trusting in our own lives.
3. Promise obedience to God in the midst of testing.

### **Teaching Strategies**

As an introduction to this lesson, review the covenant promise (Genesis 12:15) that Abraham's family would be a blessing to the world. Recognize the difficult issues that arise in this story and the concerns with the welfare of children today.

#### **Tips:**

1. Research infant sacrifice in the ancient Near East and the Old Testament's prohibitions of the practice.
2. Compare God's command to send Ishmael away (Genesis 21) with the command to sacrifice Isaac.

#### **Questions**

1. What are some of the distractions that prevent you from spending more time with God?
2. What steps will you take to strengthen your faith and be open to seeing miracles in your life and the lives of others?

#### **Resources:**

The Holy Bible – New Revised Standard Version (NRSVUE) and Bible commentary, laptop with projector or large screen, access to Internet and YouTube, whiteboard, flip chart, Post-It notes

**The Teacher's Guide**  
**Senior/Intermediate Lessons**  
**Summer Quarter: June 2025 – August 2025**  
**Prepared by Rev. Garland F. Pierce**

**Cain and Abel Offer Sacrifices**

**SR/INT: Lesson 1**

**June 1, 2025**

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-25

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 4:1-16

**Key Verses:** The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?" Genesis 4:6-7a

**Words to Know**

- **Countenance** – A person's facial expression.
- **Fugitive** – A person who has escaped from a place or is in hiding, especially to avoid arrest or persecution.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Compare the motivation behind Cain and Abel's offerings with the way in which God received their gifts.
2. Consider their own motivation in the gifts they bring to God.
3. Offer a unique gift as an expression of worship to God.

**Teaching Strategies**

1. Spend some time defining any terms in the biblical text and lesson that might be unfamiliar to the learner.
2. The lesson may be triggering for learners who have been exposed to violence in their lives.
3. To the best of your ability, be sensitive to the various fam-

ily dynamics of the learners and any potential tensions or unhealthy sibling rivalries.

4. To the best of your ability, be sensitive to learners who may be suffering from low self-esteem and who feel less than or inadequate.
5. The link to the hymn includes the soundtrack in case it is not familiar or if you wish to have accompaniment: <https://hymnary.org/media/fetch/182023>.
6. You may want to inform/remind the learners that next Sunday is Pentecost and that they may want to wear red or the other colors of fire to celebrate. Since Pentecost is the birthday of the church, you and other teachers may want to plan a birthday party for the church.
7. **For the Senior quarterly:** This quarter's **Sankofa** sessions will look at the AME Church's legacy of higher education ministry. This will be a wonderful time to help your learners learn about our AMEC-related schools and consider if any of them are an educational fit for the young people's further study. You may want to visit the school's website and encourage the learners to do the same. There might be alumni in the congregation who can speak about their *alma mater*. This is a good time to help the learners also think about calling and vocational discernment.

## Noah Builds an Altar

SR/INT: Lesson 2

June 8, 2025 (Pentecost)

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 6:1–9:17

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 8:13-22; 9:11-13

**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

## Words to Know

- **Altar** – A table or flat-topped block used as the focus for a religious ritual, especially for making sacrifices or offerings to a deity.
- **Covenant** – An agreement; a legal contract.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the difference between feeling obligated to worship God and worshipping of their own volition.
2. Connect their feelings of gratitude with their expressions of worshipping God.
3. Act out their gratitude to God through giving an offering of their choosing.

### Teaching Strategies

1. Spend some time defining any terms in the biblical text and lesson that might be unfamiliar to the learner.
2. You may want to inform/remind the learners in advance of Sunday that the Sunday of this lesson is Pentecost and that they may want to wear red or the other colors of fire to celebrate. Since Pentecost is the birthday of the church, you and other teachers may want to plan a birthday party for the church.
3. You may want to help the learners understand how John Wesley is connected to the AME Church. Wesley was the founder of Methodism of which the AME Church is a part.
4. **For the Senior quarterly:** This quarter's **Sankofa** sessions will look at the AME Church's legacy of higher education ministry. This will be a wonderful time to help your learners learn about our AMEC-related schools and consider if any of them are an educational fit for the young people's further study. You may want to visit the school's website and encourage the learners to do the same. There might be alumni in the congregation who can speak about

their *alma mater*. This is a good time to help the learners also think about calling and vocational discernment.

## Abraham Makes an Offering

SR/INT: Lesson 3

June 15, 2025

**Lesson Scripture:** Genesis 22:1-19

**Focus Scripture:** Genesis 22:1-14

**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

### Words to Know

- **Jireh** – Hebrew word that means “to see,” “to provide,” or “to foresee.” “Jehovah Jireh,” which is often translated as “the Lord will provide” and, when used as a name, “the Lord my provider.”
- **Trust** – To have confidence in; to feel that you can rely on or believe in.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand God’s test of Abraham in light of the biblical view that everyone’s life ultimately belongs to God.
2. Grow in their trust in God and admit where they struggle to do so.
3. Practice trusting God in their way of life.

### Teaching Strategies

1. Spend some time defining any terms in the biblical text and lesson that might be unfamiliar to the learner.
2. The lesson may be triggering for learners who have been exposed to violence in their lives.
3. Today is Trinity Sunday. Many people do not fully under-

stand the Holy Trinity and the learners will likely not be an exception. Videos that might be helpful: <https://youtu.be/0HMryr1ZlxQ?si=64EW6tLDWwl-yJpL>; <https://youtu.be/97aEQBwl-DI?si=S5bcao40FMEEeNszg>.

4. **For the Senior quarterly:** This quarter's **Sankofa** sessions will look at the AME Church's legacy of higher education ministry. This will be a wonderful time to help your learners learn about our AMEC-related schools and consider if any of them are an educational fit for the young people's further study. You may want to visit the school's website and encourage the learners to do the same. There might be alumni in the congregation who can speak about their *alma mater*. This is a good time to help the learners also think about calling and vocational discernment.

**The Teacher's Guide**  
**Junior Lessons**  
**Summer Quarter: June – August 2025**

Prepared by Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.

**Two Brothers Give Gifts to God**

**JR: Lesson 1**

**June 1, 2025**

**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

**Word Power!!!**

- **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.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. The meaning of sacrifice in giving.
2. How jealousy can be harmful and destructive.
3. The different ways to honor God.
4. The connection between the Bible narrative about Cain and Abel and the story regarding Benjamin and Bobby.

## Teaching Strategies

### Emphases

1. Stress the importance of not envying someone else's success or happiness.
2. Demonstrate the connection between Abel's sacrificial gift and Benjamin's, and their brothers' reactions.
3. Encourage contemplation on how students can give sacrificially.

### Questions

1. What did you think about the end of the story, and how do you believe it can have a better ending?
2. Can you think of other words that describe how Bobby should have acted at the party?

**Resources:** Bibles or Bible apps should be made available for each class, with the goal of fostering an interest in learning scripture; pencils and other writing tools; music or video app

## Noah Thanks God for Dry Land

**JR: Lesson 2**

**\*June 8, 2025**

**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

### Word Power!!!

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

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the need to keep commitments.



2. See God as one who keeps his promises.
3. Comprehend the parallels between Noah's commitment and Jeremy's as the same concept.

### Teaching Strategies

#### Emphases

1. Encourage learners to be honest about their past failures related to breaking promises.
2. Stress that God never misleads us nor fails us.
3. Compare Jeremy and Michael's story of Noah and his relationship to God.

#### Questions

1. Why do you think God put a rainbow in the sky?
2. What is a way for you to keep a promise to God each day? Think of a behavior.

**Resources:** Supplies – coloring tools, string, construction paper, etc.

\*Please note that today is Pentecost Sunday in the liturgical calendar. Just as God's covenant was a promise to the people, the Holy Spirit was promised to the disciples. It descended on the day of Pentecost and the church was born.

### Abraham Trusts God to Provide

JR: Lesson 3

June 15, 2025

**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

## Word Power!!!

- **Abraham (Ā'-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.

**Lesson Goals:** By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Develop a concept of what the word *trust* means in their daily lives as well as in the story of Abraham and Isaac.
2. Understand the connection between Isaac's trust in his father and the students' trust in their parents or elders.
3. Visualize the concept of trusting relationships enough to develop a skit or dramatic presentation.
4. See God as someone we can always trust.

## Teaching Strategies

### Emphases

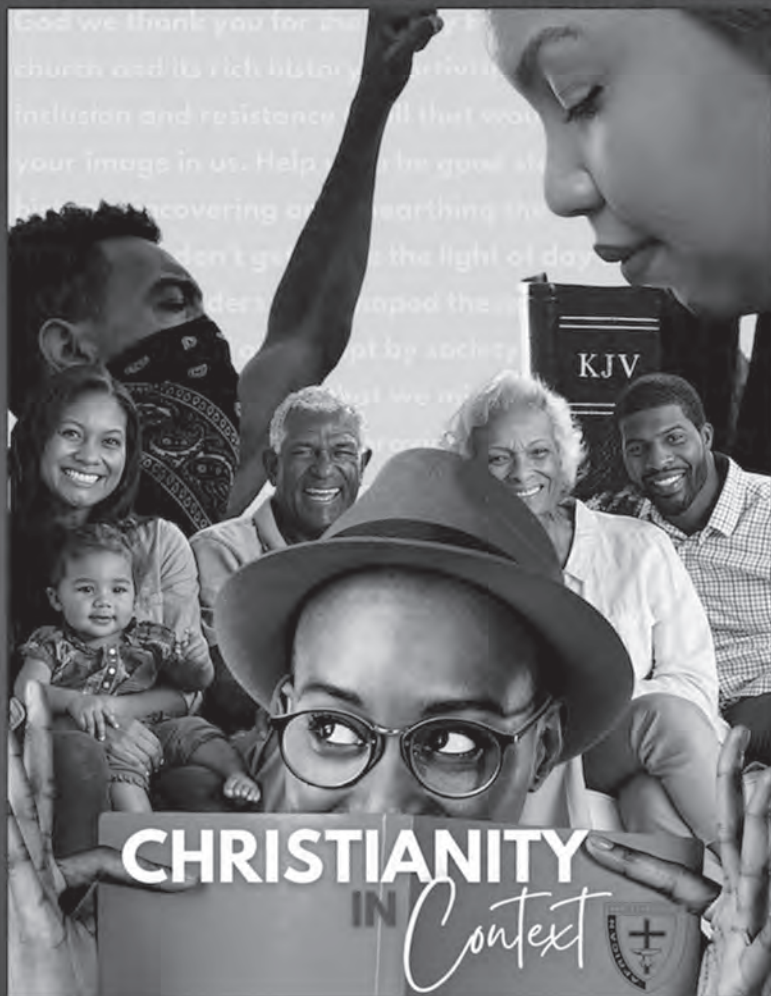
1. Stress the importance of learning to trust God in all circumstances.
2. Make the connection between the story of Abraham and Isaac and their relationship with their parents or elders.

### Questions

1. Who is one person in your life who you trust completely?
2. Do you understand why God asked Abraham to kill Isaac?
3. What do you think is an example of a situation where trusting God might be difficult?

**Resources:** Props for skit, video recorder, or other recording device

**INTRODUCING!!!  
A MULTIMEDIA  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM!**



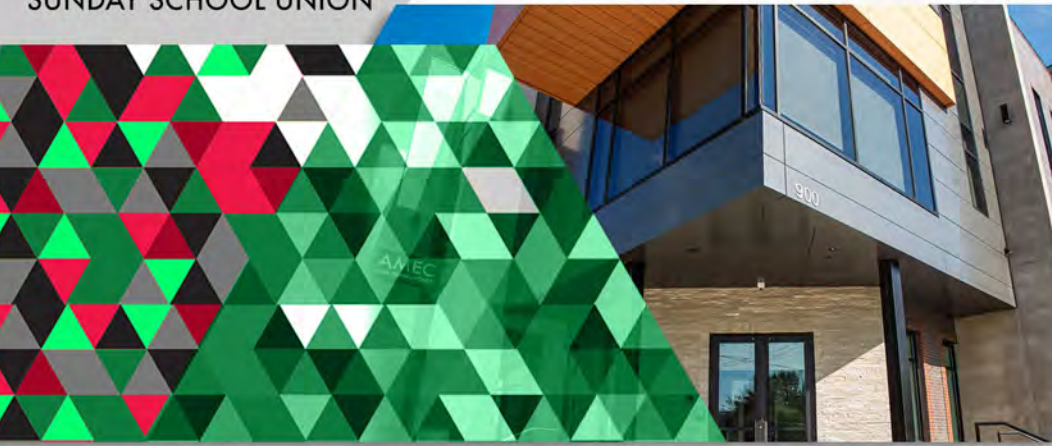
— **Christianity in Context** —

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/](http://www.iamame.org/christianityincontext/)

We would be thrilled to have you with us!



## LOCAL AME CHURCH LEADERSHIP SERIES



**Now Available**  
[AMECPUBLISHING.COM](http://AMECPUBLISHING.COM)  
**\$15.00 each**