

HOPE IN THE LOPE

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SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vol. 61 Summer Quarter 2024

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

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SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY TEACHER'S GUIDE

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The Teacher's Guide Liberating Faith Studies Lessons Summer Quarter: June – August 2024

Prepared by

Dr. Catherine S. Powell

Glorious Riches

Lesson 1

June 2, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Colossians 1:19–2:5

Focus Scripture: Colossians 1:24–2:3

Key Verses: I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

Key Terms

- Epaphras (ep'-a-fras) A Christian preacher from Colossae, who is credited with having founded the Colossian church and for having informed Paul of heretical teachings that threatened the church's unity and spiritual growth.
- Gnosticism Stems from the Greek work "gnosis" or "knowledge." Gnostics rejected beliefs that Christ alone could be the way to salvation because they believed being accepted by God required having "special knowledge."
- Polytheism Believing in and/or worshipping more than one god.

 Syncretism – The combination or amalgamation of different religious beliefs; efforts to blend Christianity with other religions or human-inspired philosophies created problems for the church at Colossae.

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

- 1. Explore Paul's message to the Colossians about how hope in Jesus transforms lives.
- 2. Commit to developing a vibrant, transforming hope.
- 3. Express hope in Christ Jesus by sharing the Gospel with others in words and actions.

Teaching Strategies

- 1. Engage participants in discussing hope what does it mean, and how is suffering related to hope in Jesus Christ?
- Ask for a volunteer(s) to briefly share, from personal experience(s), a time when special lessons were learned from suffering.
- 3. Discuss the difference between developing hope in suffering vs. seeing oneself as a victim of suffering.

Resources: Seating arrangements to accommodate group discussion; a map (physical or virtual) that shows the geographical locations of Colossae and Laodicea as well as their distances from Rome where Paul was incarcerated; also a large easel with markers or a Smart Board, Bible dictionaries, and Bibles

Bold Ministers

Lesson 2

June 9, 2024

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Focus Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5-18

Key Verse: All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Key Terms

- **Bold** Derives from the word *boldness*, which describes the confidence with which Christians, because of the redeeming work of Christ, are empowered to approach God and his work.
- Corinth One of Ancient Greece's largest, wealthiest, and most prestigious cities. The proliferation of idolatry and extreme immorality are notable characteristics of the city.
- Credentials Records of previous achievements, training, and preparation used to validate qualifications for a particular role, assignment, or profession.

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

- 1. Create deeper understandings of differences between faith and boldness.
- 2. Explain the transformation that God provides.
- 3. Encourage lifestyles that model the freedom that results from transformation by Jesus Christ.

Teaching Strategies

- 1. Ask participants to discuss the differences between faith and boldness.
- 2. Ask for voluntary testimonies on experiencing transformed lives as Paul explained.
- 3. Brainstorm ways believers can positively impact their church and community with "transformed" living.

Resources: A relevant video clip; Bibles and Bible dictionaries; large easel with paper and markers, or a Smart board, and internet access for "on the spot" research; any instructional materials needed by teacher to effectively teach lessons, including but not limited to props, reference tools, chart paper, videos, charts, music, etc.

Empowered Servants

Lesson 3

June 16, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Focus Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Key Verses: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Roman 15:5-6

Key Terms

 Ambassador – Derives from the Hebrew word *tsir;* this term is commonly used to designate a high ranking official, who is chosen to represent a nation. As used by Apostle Paul, *ambassador* is a special designation for those appointed by God to declare his Word to all nations.

- Empowered Having power or authority to achieve something.
- Reconciliation The act of merging or resolving differences between two or more parties.

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

- 1. Compare the Christian concepts of "weak" and "strong" with secular concepts.
- 2. Discover value in the Old Testament as a vital resource for Christian hope.
- 3. Commit to service, empowered by hope and the Holy Spirit, despite obstacles to be overcome.

Teaching Strategies

- Assign participants to closely observe and make a list of major media use of the terms *weak* and *strong* in describing individual approaches to service; compare the list with Paul's use of the terms.
- 2. Examine participants' knowledge and valuation of the Old Testament as a resource for Christian hope.
- Use clips from a relevant YouTube video, newspaper, or other media platform to show at least one example or special presentation on a case or individual whose hope was sustained by the Spirit; discuss how and why a successful outcome resulted.

Resources: Technology, handouts, or other appropriate accommodations for audio-visual presentations; internet access for research and reference information; Bibles, dictionaries, chart paper with markers or a Smart board, etc.

The Teacher's Guide

Senior Lessons

Summer Quarter: June 2024 – August 2024

Prepared by Rev. Faith Waters

Glorious Riches

Lesson 1

June 2, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Colossians 1:19–2:5

Focus Scripture: Colossians 1:24–2:3

Key Verses: I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

Words to Know

- Reconcile to restore friendly relations between us and God
- Peace a state of harmony
- Estranged no longer close to God; alienated
- Irreproachable without fault and therefore impossible to criticize
- Commission when God chooses someone to do a special ministry
- Plausible statements that seem likely to be valid
- Laodicea pronounced: lay o dih SEE uh

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

- 1. Have faith in Christ as the basis of our hope.
- Expand our hope as we obey God's Word during challenging times.
- 3. Offer encouragement and hope to someone who is experiencing trials and suffering.

Teaching Strategies

- The Apostle Paul wrote Colossians in about A.D. 60 to the church in Colossae, a city in Asia Minor, and all believers. Paul wrote to combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Christ.
- Some young people may feel hopeless because they cannot see a positive outcome for their life situations. To encourage them, share scriptures and refer them to the ministerial staff for further counseling.
- 3. Be sensitive towards those who have family and/or friends imprisoned.
- Discuss the location of Laodicea and its distance from Rome. View Appendix A.
- 5. For Paul, suffering is never endured without hope. In this case, it is an element of his servanthood, through which Christ, "the hope of glory," is revealed in those to whom he ministers.
- 6. Paul's hope is universal. This is indicated in Colossians 1:28 where Paul uses the word *everyone* three times: "It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."
- 7. Paul's hope is also communal. Paul indicates that his sufferings

are "for the sake of his (Christ's) body, that is, the church" (v. 24) and he encourages those for whom he struggles to be "united in love" (2:2).

Bold Ministers

Lesson 2

June 9, 2024

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Focus Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5-18

Key Verse: All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Words to Know

- Competence the ability to do something successfully
- **Ministers** God's servants who share the Gospel
- New Covenant God's agreement that is designed for all people, not just for Israel; Christ is the mediator of the new covenant and the Holy Spirit is the administrator of it (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:6-13; 9:1; 12:24; John 7:39)
- Glory to honor, praise
- Condemnation one without faith in Christ is seen as one who is judged with disapproval by God
- Justification receiving mercy and forgiveness of sins by having faith in Christ with complete submission to the will of God
- Veil figuratively used to mean ignorance and hardness of

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heart

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

- 1. Serve God freely, without any restrictions based on human credentials.
- 2. Confidently rely on the help of God.
- 3. Act with boldness and conviction as witnesses of God's glory.

Teaching Strategies

- 1. Some youth may have experienced persecution for their faith and so are reluctant to witness. Encourage through the Word and prayer.
- 2. Review the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and discuss with the class how many they have violated. Demonstrate the need for the new covenant of grace.
- 3. Paul contrasts himself with those who would commend themselves and rather insists that he does not require a letter of recommendation because the Corinthians themselves are a "letter," one that is "written on our hearts" (3:2) and on "tablets of human hearts" (3:3). Paul not only states that the church itself is the letter but further tells them "you are a letter of Christ." Despite their failures, the Corinthians are thus identified as having their origin in Christ himself and are therefore of profound value, and Christ is thus the authority that authenticates Paul's ministry.
- 4. Paul tells the Colossians that the mysteries of God become known to them as their hope in Christ transforms their lives. In 2 Corinthians (Lesson 2), hope in Christ leads to an even greater boldness than was possible for Moses because believers can see the glory of God with "unveiled faces" (3:18).

Resources: Poster boards, glue, markers, magazines, newspapers

Empowered Servants

Lesson 3

June 16, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Focus Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Key Verses: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Words to Know

- **Steadfastness** the quality of being resolutely firm and unwavering in faith
- Hope to desire or have an expectation
- Harmony to be in agreement and one accord with others
- **Glorify** to honor, magnify
- **Patriarchs** heads of a family or tribe
- Mercy kindness; forgiveness shown by God towards us instead of punishment

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

- 1. Understand the importance of demonstrating mercy when the opportunity calls for it.
- 2. Appreciate the diverse gifts in the body of Christ.

3. Plan a community outreach project along with church members, family, and/or friends.

Teaching Strategies

- Be sensitive towards those youths who have been in certain social clubs via the parents' socioeconomic status. It is important not to make them ashamed of their privileged life, but to make them aware that God wants them to be loving and merciful towards all people.
- 2. When speaking of the "weak," Paul likely refers to those who feel compelled to observe prescribed rituals and dietary regulations, predominantly Jewish Christians; speaking of the "strong," he likely refers to those who, through faith, have recognized they are not bound to the regulations of the law, predominantly Gentile Christians.
- 3. Paul acknowledges that divergent views exist within the church, and rather than promoting judgment and exclusion, he encourages a model of service and encouragement despite these differences.
- 4. The promises quoted by Paul in verses 8 through 13 are taken from: Psalms 18:49 and 117:1; Moses in Deuteronomy 32:43; and the prophets in Isaiah 11:10. These promises guarantee worldwide Gentile conversions when the kingdom is restored to Israel. This will be fulfilled during the Second Advent.
- 5. Take five to ten minutes to strategize with the class about a community service project they desire to do. Seek the pastor's permission before proceeding with the project.
- 6. The Juneteenth celebration is observed this week in the U.S. Research its importance and connection to the Civil War.

The Teacher's Guide Intermediate Lessons Summer Quarter: June 2024 – August 2024 Prepared by Rev. Faith Waters

Glorious Riches

Lesson 1

June 2, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Colossians 1:19–2:5

Focus Scripture: Colossians 1:24–2:3

Key Verses: I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

Vocabulary

- Reconcile to restore friendly relations between us and God
- Peace a state of harmony
- Estranged no longer close to God; alienated
- Irreproachable without fault and therefore impossible to criticize
- Commission when God chooses someone to do a special ministry
- Plausible statements that seem likely to be valid
- Laodicea pronounced: lay o dih SEE uh

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

- 1. Increase believers' faith in Christ as the basis of our hope.
- 2. Expand our hope as we obey God's Word during challenging times.
- 3. Offer encouragement and hope to someone who is suffering.

Teaching Strategies

- Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul in about A.D. 60 to the church in Colossae, a city in Asia Minor, and all believers. Paul wrote to combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Christ.
- 2. Lessons draw on New Testament passages from Colossians, 2 Corinthians, Romans, Hebrews, and Acts
- 3. Some young people may feel hopeless because they cannot see a positive outcome for their life situations. To encourage them, share scriptures and refer them to the ministerial staff for further counseling.
- 4. Be sensitive towards those who have family and/or friends imprisoned.
- 5. Discuss the location of Laodicea and its distance from Rome. View **Appendix A**.
- 6. For Paul, suffering is never endured without hope. In this case, it is an element of his servanthood, through which Christ, "the hope of glory," is revealed in those to whom he ministers.
- 7. Paul's hope is universal and communal. This is indicated in Colossians 1:24, 28, and 2:2.

Bold Ministers

Lesson 2

June 9, 2024

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Focus Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:5-18

Key Verse: All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Vocabulary

- Competence the ability to do something successfully
- Ministers God's servants who share the Gospel
- New Covenant God's agreement that is designed for all people, not just for Israel; Christ is the mediator of the new covenant and the Holy Spirit is the administrator of it (Jer. 31:31; Heb. 8:6-13; 9:1; 12:24; John 7:39)
- Glory to honor, praise
- Condemnation one without faith in Christ is seen as one who is judged with disapproval by God
- Justification receiving mercy and forgiveness of sins by having faith in Christ with complete submission to the will of God
- Veil figuratively used to mean ignorance and hardness of heart

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

- 1. Serve God freely, without fear of lack of human credentials.
- 2. Confidently always rely upon God.

3. Act with boldness and conviction as witnesses of God's glory.

Teaching Strategies

- 1. Role-play witnessing for Christ.
- 2. Review the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and discuss with the class how many they have violated. This strategy will demonstrate the need for grace.
- 3. Paul contrasts himself with those who would commend themselves and rather insists that he does not require a letter of recommendation because the Corinthians themselves are a "letter," one that is "written on our hearts" (3:2) and on "tablets of human hearts" (3:3). Paul not only states that the church itself is the letter but further tells them, "You are a letter of Christ." Despite their failures, the Corinthians are thus identified as having their origin in Christ himself and are therefore of profound value, and Christ is thus the authority that authenticates Paul's ministry.
- 4. This letter was dated about A.D. 55-57, from Macedonia. This was an intensely personal and autobiographical letter. Paul had already written three letters to the Corinthians (two are now lost).

Resources: Poster boards, glue, markers, magazines, newspapers

Empowered Servants

Lesson 3

June 16, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Focus Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Key Verses: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6

Vocabulary

- **Steadfastness** the quality of being resolutely firm and unwavering in faith
- Hope to desire or have an expectation
- Harmony to be in agreement and one accord with others
- **Glorify** to honor, magnify
- Patriarchs heads of a family or tribe
- Mercy kindness; forgiveness shown by God towards us instead of punishment

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

- 1. Understand the importance of demonstrating mercy when the opportunity calls for it.
- 2. Appreciate the diverse gifts in the body of Christ.
- 3. Plan a Juneteenth community outreach project along with church members, family, and/or friends.

Teaching Strategies

Discuss

 Paul had finished his work in the east, and he planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain after first bringing a collection to Jerusalem for the poor Christians there. The Roman church was mostly Jewish but also contained a considerable number of Gentiles.

- Be sensitive towards those youth who have been in certain social clubs via their parents' socioeconomic status. It is important not to make them ashamed of their privileged life, but to make them aware that God wants them to be loving and merciful towards all people.
- 3. When speaking of the "weak," Paul likely refers to those who feel compelled to observe prescribed rituals and dietary regulations, predominantly Jewish Christians; speaking of the "strong," he likely refers to those who, through faith, have recognized they are not bound to the regulations of the law, predominantly Gentile Christians.
- 4. The promises quoted by Paul in verses 8 through 13 are taken from: Psalms 18:49 and 117:1; Moses in Deuteronomy 32:43; and the prophets in Isaiah 11:10. These promises guarantee worldwide Gentile conversions when the kingdom is restored to Israel. This will be fulfilled during the Second Advent.
- 5. Take five to ten minutes to strategize with the class about a community service project they desire to do that can be connected to Juneteenth. Seek the pastor's permission before proceeding with the project.

Resources: Index cards, sticky notes

The Teacher's Guide Junior Lessons Summer Quarter: June – August 2024 Prepared by Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

Suffering for Your Sake

Lesson 1

June 2, 2024

Lesson Scripture: Colossians 1:19–2:5

Focus Scripture: Colossians 1:24-26; 2:1-5

Key Verse: To them, God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27

Word Power!!!

- Colossae (pronounced ka-loss-uh) The city where the Colossian church presides.
- Laodicea (pronounced lay-oh-dye-see-ah) A city that was a few miles northwest of Colossae. The church in this city was probably started by someone Paul mentored.
- Gentiles People who are not Jewish.
- Mentor Someone who guides someone else, gives help or advice over time so they can be more confident about doing a task or job.

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

- 1. Discover how encouraging others can also encourage oneself.
- 2. Design something that can be given to people who need encouragement.
- 3. Practice ways to turn their tough times into good times.
- 4. Encourage others who are experiencing tough times.

Teaching Strategies

- Be sensitive to students who have incarcerated friends/family and/or parents/siblings away on military assignment by offering those options as recipients of the prayer/encouragement cards.
- 2. Play Donald Lawrence's "Encourage Yourself" or a song with a similar message while students work on the tower/wall activity.

Resources: Jenga/generic stacking tower game or building blocks and 1 $3/8 \times 1 7/8$ in or 1.5 x 2 sticky notes to build a tower/wall of hope; unlined index cards and art supplies to create prayer/ encouragement cards; shoebox, white packing paper, tape, scissors, and art supplies to create a hope box; music: "Encourage Yourself" by Donald Lawrence (YouTube or other source)

You Are Our Letter

Lesson 2

June 9, 2024

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

Focus Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 17-18

Key Verse: Not that we are qualified of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our qualification is from God. 2 Corinthians 3:5

Word Power!!!

- **Commend** To let someone else know that a person is worth listening to, following, and/or spending time with.
- Letter Written form of communication that allows someone to share important news or information with others.
- **Glory** Excellence and/or goodness.

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

- 1. Discover ways to interact with others in ways that tell them about Jesus.
- 2. Practice reflecting God's goodness and excellence.
- 3. Get more comfortable with how the Holy Spirit works through believers to remove the barriers between them and God.

Teaching Strategies

- Help the students with Activity #1 by giving an example of something people need to be freed from to experience God's excellent goodness. Hint: Thinking they must hold their hands the same way when they pray.
- Give students an example of what the letters in Activity #1 might look like. Hint: Dear_____, I can tell you and God are close because you _____.

Resources: Make-up mirror or mirror that can stand alone on a table covered by a scarf dark enough to block someone from seeing themselves in the mirror while it's covered; lined sticky notes or small lined stationary with double-sided tape

Power to Serve Christ

Lesson Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Focus Scripture: Romans 15:1-7, 13

Key Verse: Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. Romans 15:2

Word Power!!!

- **Neighbor** Anyone we come in contact with who is different or "other."
- **Steadfastness** Being able to stick to something no matter what.
- **Harmony** Being able to sing or play different notes that work together.
- **Unison** Playing or singing the same note.
- Juneteenth A federal holiday in the U.S. that celebrates June 19, 1865, when the last community of enslaved people in Galveston, TX learned that slavery had ended.

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

- 1. Discover how using one's strengths to help someone weaker helps everyone become strong.
- 2. Practice ways of helping one another instead of using each other's weaknesses against each other.
- 3. Provide a joint activity that helps different people serve God together.

Teaching Strategies

1. After playing a game of tug of war where the two teams must do what they need to do to make sure that neither team falls, ask

the class what they had to do differently to follow the new rules.

2. After sharing information about Juneteenth, ask the class to put themselves in the shoes of both the soldiers who shared the news and the people who received the news.

Resources: Kid-friendly Juneteenth videos or books (Gracie's Corner has a good YouTube video and the following books are good: *Juneteenth for Mazie* by Floyd Cooper and *Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free* by Alice Faye Duncan); rope for tug of war; YouTube video about the difference between harmony and unison

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