



# THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF GOD

# JUNIOR 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 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.

## GOD REIGNS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 52:7-12

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 52:7-12

Key Verse: *For the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. Isaiah 52:12b*

### Isaiah 52:7-12 (NRSV)

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord has bared his

holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord.

12 For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

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## WORD POWER

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- **Sentinels (sin'-ti-nells)** – Those persons who act as guards or soldiers to protect persons and property.

### GETTING READY!!!

Danny was coming home! This week, the Jackson family was preparing for their only son to return from Afghanistan. He had been gone for almost a year, and everyone was very excited to welcome him home. Kelsey, his young sister, was only four years old, but she remembered her big brother and all the candy he used to give her. Every few minutes, she kept running to the kitchen asking her mother, "Is Dan-Dan here yet?" Each time, her mother would tell her to be patient and that they were waiting for a phone call to let them know that he was on his way. Still, Kelsey would run to the door to look outside to see if she saw him coming. Back and forth, all day long, she would run from the kitchen to the front door. Finally, there was the sound of a car horn! She ran to the door and saw her father coming up the walk. She burst out the door screaming, "Where is Dan-Dan; where is Dan-Dan!" Her father picked her up and said, "Dan-Dan is going to be just a little late; but, he promises he will be here before you go to bed." Kelsey was so very disappointed and began to cry. Her dad held her in his lap trying to comfort her until she fell asleep. Suddenly, she felt a hand on her shoulder. "Hey, wake up, little K; it's me." Kelsey screeched and jumped into her brother's arms. He hugged her as tight as he could, covering her face with kisses.

### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Isaiah was a great prophet. He spoke to the people about their sins and how they should change their behavior so that they could follow God in the right way. In this story, Isaiah is talking about what happens when the people obey God and God rewards them. "God is most powerful and is the king who reigns over the earth," Isaiah says.

Kelsey was disappointed because her brother did not come home when she expected him to, but in time he did arrive, and she was very happy! In the same way, the people of God will be rewarded when they are obedient to God. Those who stand guard, watching and waiting at the door, can be joyful knowing that their reward will arrive, but in God's own time.

### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

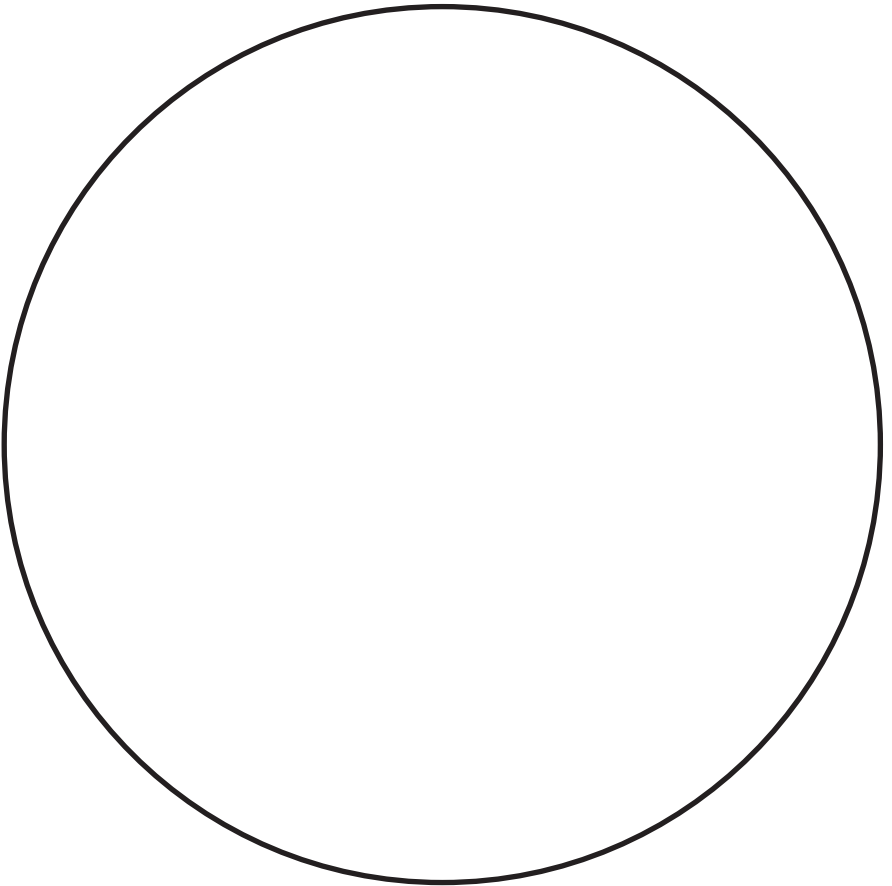
When you are expecting someone to return home or a special person in your life to visit, there is excitement. When that person is not able to follow through on their promise, it can be very disappointing. It is also difficult to wait for the person to arrive. Yet, we must believe that when God has made a promise to us and we have been faithful toward the Lord, he will hear our prayer. We, as believers, have faith that our hopes and dreams will come true! There are several qualities that we should have as we wait for something that we have prayed for and want to have in our lives. One is patience; we must be willing to wait for God's time. Another is trust; we must trust that the Lord knows what is best for us. Finally, acceptance; if the Lord does not choose to give us what we want at the time we expected, we must not give up and understand that God loves us. In the circle, write in and color the qualities that you should have when waiting for the Lord to answer your prayer:

**FAITH**

**PATIENCE**

**TRUST**

**(WRITE MORE OF YOUR OWN!)**





### REMIX!!!

**R**emember, just because you pray earnestly for something, does not mean you will get it exactly the way you expect it. Our prayers should be that God will answer us according to God's will. Yet, we can still be joyful in knowing that God loves us and will do what is best for us each time! Instead of being anxious, we can be at peace because the Lord God reigns and holds the world!

### PRAISE GOD!!!

**A** Group Praise: Divide into two groups. One group will say the first line; the next group will respond with the second line.

1. God knows what is best for me!
2. God gave me the victory.
3. I waited with patience and believed.
4. God gave me the victory!

### CLOSING PRAYER

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

Lord! You are king of my life; you are the reason I have joy. Thank you for all that you do; each day, I love you more and more! Amen.



## A NEW DAY IS COMING

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 65:17-25

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 65:17-25

Key Verse: *But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.*  
*Isaiah 65:18*

### Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSV)

17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant

vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

24 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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## WORD POWER

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- **Accursed (ah-kurst')** – To be victim of or to suffer under a supernatural event that can cause severe injury or harm.

### GETTING READY!!!

*I can only imagine.* The song was playing in the vacation Bible school classroom. Ms. Bronson was asking the class to listen to the lyrics as Tamela Mann sang, and then write a short prayer about how they would like to see the world change. “I would like you to imagine how the world could be better. What would it be like if there were no guns, racism, or hate?”

“I think this is kind of lame,” whispered Tony.

“What was that?” Ms. Bronson looked over at Tony and waited for him to respond.

“Nothing,” he murmured.

“No, I’m not angry, Tony, I just want you to tell us what you meant.”

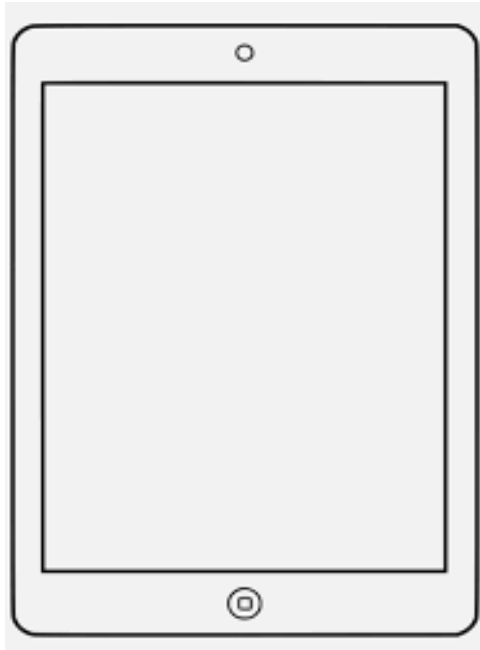
“Well, I think it’s kind of lame for us to write a prayer when we can’t do anything about it.”

In the back, Angela raised her hand. “Yes, Angela?”

“I think even if we can’t make it happen, God can.”

“Absolutely!” Ms. Bronson responded, “You never know,

God can make one of you the very voice to bring about the change that we need. It just takes courage and faith. That is the way that we earned the right to vote and elected the first black president. Years ago, people would have said those things could not have happened. This song is a way to express our faith and what the world could be like.” Although Tamela Mann is talking about heaven, we can still talk about heaven on earth, and we can certainly ask God to change it for us. Slowly, Tony picked up his tablet.



*Fill in the prayer that you think Tony may have written in the iPad above:*

### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**I**n our last lesson, we saw Isaiah talking about how God can redeem and save his people when we are obedient. In this lesson, God is talking about how a new world will be born. The things that used to be will no longer happen; instead, the opposite will occur. Instead of older people being thought of as cursed, they will be like youth. This is meant to explain how the God of creation can change the world for his people, destroying all old prejudices and ways of thinking. When Isaiah says that the Lord will bless the offspring (v. 23), he is talking about all of us! We are the offspring, the generations who will inherit the promise God made to the people of Israel.

### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

**J**ust as Ms. Bronson wanted the class and Tony to visualize a new world, Isaiah promises that this same new world will come to pass when God blesses his people with power and grace. We only have to imagine it and believe! Earlier, you wrote the prayer that you thought Tony may have written about a brand new world. Now, think of something in your own community or life that you would like to see changed. Then, write what you can do as an individual to help that change become reality.

**Example:** Make my school a safer place.

**What I Can Do:** Start a letter writing or email campaign to my school board member or other public official.

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### REMIX!!!

**A**lways keep in mind that through the power of God who created all creation, we can imagine and bring about a better world. It may not be something we can do immediately, but the first step is to try. Isaiah has taught us that things can change, and the same God that made that promise to him is the same God that we worship today. Is there something that you can do to change your world?

### PRAISE GOD!!!

Listen to “I Can Only Imagine”

### CLOSING PRAYER

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

Lord! You are king of my life; you are the reason I have joy. Thank you for all that you do; each day, I love you more and more! Amen.

## ONE NATION UNDER GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EZEKIEL 37:15-28

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: EZEKIEL 37:21-28

Key Verse: *My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. Ezekiel 37:24*

### Ezekiel 37:21-28 (NRSV)

21 ...then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land.

22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.

23 They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

24 My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all

have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes.

25 They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore.

27 My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28 Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

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## WORD POWER

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- **David** – The King of Israel; a royal symbol of Old Testament stories.

### GETTING READY!!!

“Do you understand what it means to keep a promise?” Little J’s father was explaining to his son why it was wrong for him to promise his friend, Andy, that he would take him to the movies and then change his mind without telling him. Little J, who was eight years old, had one good friend who had lived next door to him for the last three years. They had been very good friends throughout that time, and even when others were mean to Little J or tried to bully him, Andy always defended him. Last week, Andy had asked if he could go to the movies with his friend when he heard that Little J had gotten free tickets. Little J told him yes, but then changed his mind when one of the girls in his classroom asked if she could go. Now his father was explaining to him why that was wrong. Little J frowned and shrugged his shoulders. His father looked at him carefully and said, “It means that if you say something to someone and you make a commitment, you should keep it. It means the same as when I tell you that I will allow you to go out with your friends and play basketball if you do your homework. How would you feel if I told you ‘No’ after you had done what I asked you? You have hurt Andy’s feelings, and now it is time to go to him and apologize.” Little J looked at his dad and said, “I really don’t know what to say to him. He’s real mad.”

“Say exactly what your heart tells you to. Ask the Lord to help you, and it will be all right.”



### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**E**zekiel was another prophet who had a message for the people. Much of what he talked about had to do with how the nation would be punished if it did not do as God required. In this story, Ezekiel is talking about how God will combine or unify a nation that has been divided. He talks about King David and how the promise that God made to David will come to pass when the nation of Israel is brought together in unity. It also means that God is willing to forgive. God promises that children and their children will live in peace as he has promised because he is a God of his word. We should learn to do the same and be prepared to ask for forgiveness when we fall short. What do you think Little J should say to his friend Andy? Why is it important for him to apologize to his friend?

In the spaces provided below, write what you think Andy should say:

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### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

**E**zekiel teaches us about how God is a forgiving God, and just as he promised Israel that he would bless them and restore each generation, we, too, should learn to keep our promises and when we do not, be sure to ask for forgiveness. It is not always

easy to do, but it is the godly thing to do.

Think about the word *forgive* and what you might use for each letter in the word in order to explain what it means. Two are done for you. Can you complete the word? Be sure to write the word in a sentence as in the example.

**F = friends** - *true friends forgive each other*

**O =**

**R =**

**G =**

**I =**

**V = value** - *we should value others' feelings*

**E =**

(If you are having difficulty, here are some suggested terms, but try to use your own! *Others, grow, great, encourage, interesting, inner, real*)

### REMIX!!!

**F**orgiveness is not easy. Sometimes, people can hurt us so much that we want to hurt them back. Maybe we would just rather not talk to them anymore, but neither of these choices are what God asks of us. Likewise, when we know we have broken our promise or done something else wrong, we should be ready to say, "I'm sorry." Is there someone that you should apologize to

today? Think about it and ask God to help you find the right words to say.

**PRAISE GOD!!!**

Share your “FORGIVE” words with the class!

**CLOSING PRAYER**

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

Lord! You are king of my life; you are the reason I have joy.  
Thank you for all that you do; each day, I love you more and  
more! Amen.