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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 work-
• er, every worker trained so that a
• worker need not be ashamed. This
• we ask in Jesus' name.

THE FAITH OF RUTH

LESSON SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1; 4:13-22

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: RUTH 1:6-18, 22

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 1:6-18, 22 (NRSV)

Ruth 1:6-18

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."

11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my

womb that they may become your husbands?"

12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons,

13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me."

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 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.

17 Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she

said no more to her.

22

22 So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Kindly** – Considerately, caringly, attentively.
- **Security** – The state of being free from danger or threat.
- **Refrain** – To withhold; keep back.
- **Barley** – A cereal grain of Palestine that is made into bread.
- **Moab** – Pronounced: MO – ab.
- **Orpah** – Pronounced: OR – puh.
- **Elimelech** – Pronounced: ee – LIHM – eh – lehk.

INTRODUCTION

In the winter quarter, we are exploring a faith that pleases God. Any person seeking God must believe God exists and must know God rewards those who are seeking him. In this quarter we will learn additional information about faith that pleases God as we review the description of faith and observe faith in action. It is important to have faith that pleases God in our lifestyle of faith today. Unit 1, “Profiles in Faith,” has five lessons from the books of Ruth, 1 Samuel, and Matthew. These profiles in faith will enable us to see faith in action.

In life, we will encounter times of loss. The loss may be the death of a beloved pet or family member. Other forms of loss can be moving out of your house; a favorite teacher leaving; having to put a video game console in the trash; a close friend moving to

another state; going to college; enrolling in the military; etc. When we experience a loss of any type, it can cause us to feel sad and angry. These are natural emotions or responses to loss. When we encounter difficulties in life, it is always good to have genuine relationships with others who can support us.

In today's lesson, we discover Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth, who are supporting one another as they grieve the loss of their husbands.

Who do you turn to for support when facing life's difficulties? How can you support others?

BIBLE STORY

The book of Ruth reveals to us how people stayed strong in character and true to God during life's struggles. The time of its writing was sometime during the period of the Judges (1375 – 1050 B.C.). Much like people today, almost everybody in Israel lived to please themselves, not God (Judges 17:6, 21-25). However, this does not mean there was not a small fragment of people who honored God and lived by faith. Ruth and Naomi are profiles of faith in action.

The book of Ruth takes place when the people had been experiencing a famine in the land. Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, along with their two sons had to move from Bethlehem to Moab, which was located east of the Dead Sea. The famine had to be severe for the family to move to a pagan nation like Moab. The Moabites were considered the enemies of Israel for failing to allow them passage through their land during the exodus from Egypt (Deut. 23:3-4). The Moabites could not worship at the tabernacle as punishment for their actions.

Elimelech died, then ten years later Naomi's two sons died as well (v. 3). Naomi and her two daughters-in-law were widows. Widows had little resources to care for themselves. They depended on others to be compassionate towards them. The husband's nearest relative was required to care for the widows (Deut. 25:5-10). Naomi had no relatives in Moab; nonetheless, she had heard about the goodness of God, who provided food for his people in Judah (vs. 6-7, Exo. 4:31).

Naomi decided to return to Israel where she had family and the greatest probability for provisions which was an act of faith. Nevertheless, Naomi urged her daughters-in-law to return to their mothers in Moab and remarry (vs. 8-9). She had no other sons for them to marry. This action demonstrated Naomi's love for God and her daughters-in-law. Orpah went back to her family in Moab, but Ruth clung to her mother-in-law (v. 14).

Ruth decided to go with Naomi to Bethlehem (vs. 16-18). She made the decision to give up the possibility of remarrying, having a family, and financial security to care for Naomi. "Without faith, it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Heb. 11:6). Our faith in God will make us act courageously even during times of trials and suffering. Ruth's faith compelled her to act so Naomi would not suffer alone. It is so good to have someone who supports us through the difficulties of life. "Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin" (Prov. 18:24).

As a result, God blessed Ruth and Naomi. The day they reached Bethlehem was the start of the barley harvest (v. 22).

God had ended the famine and now there would be an abundant harvest. The widows were able to glean the fields and eat all that was left for them. Ruth's decision to worship God, as well as live and die amongst his people, is a testimony that it was planned so she could become a part of Jesus' lineage (Matt. 1:5-6).

What can we learn from Naomi and Ruth's relationship? How do we choose supportive, caring friends?

LIFE APPLICATION

When Ruth decided to follow Naomi, she was also making the decision to follow God. Whom do you ignore in school or your neighborhood? How does God want us to treat others? Why is it important to invite and include those who are considered outsiders to be a part of God's family?



1. How many miles are there between Moab and Bethlehem (research)?
2. How long would it take to walk from Moab to Bethlehem (estimate)?
3. What dangers do you imagine were present as Naomi and Ruth traveled to Bethlehem?

4. What steps can we take in preparation for trials that might come? How can we remain faithful during times of difficulties?

SUMMARY

As we live, there will be times of suffering and trials. When we find ourselves in these situations, it is comforting to have family members or friends to support us. Naomi and Ruth were both grieving over the death of their husbands. Their cultures, family backgrounds, and ages were quite different. Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law, yet they had a great affection for each other and a commitment to the God of Israel. Naomi's faith in God influenced Ruth's decision to accept the God of Israel.

When we face the hardships of life, we can look to the story of Ruth's courage and faith to encourage us to move forward trusting God.

Who do you draw strength from when life gets difficult? Can others depend on you to be supportive when they are troubled? How trustworthy are you?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: God, help me to be faithful to you and a trustworthy friend to all. Amen.

Song: "I Need You to Survive" by Hezekiah Walker (<https://youtu.be/-0IJ0HqYY3A>)

THE FAITH OF DAVID

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 17:1-58

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 1 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 uncircum-

cised 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.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Uncircumcised** – Not circumcised; spiritually unclean heathen.
- **Defy** – To openly resist or refuse to obey.
- **Wadi** – A ravine that is dry except during the rainy season.
- **Philistine** – Pronounced: fil – uh – steen.
- **Elah** – Pronounced: EH – laa.
- **Goliath** – Pronounced: guh–LAI–uhth.

INTRODUCTION

In our churches and communities, adults hold most leadership positions. They have the power to make decisions based on what they deem as “in the best interest of all.” When youth desire to implement changes, their ideas are often disregarded. It can be very discouraging when people ignore you believing that you are too young to have the knowledge and life experiences to address issues. Every voice has value and needs to be heard.

In today's lesson David, who is a shepherd boy, confronts Goliath and resolves the conflict with the Philistine. What role does faith have when you are facing “giant” problems?

BIBLE STORY

In 1 Samuel chapter seventeen, we find ourselves watching a battle between Israel and the Philistines in the Elah valley

(17:2). The Philistine giant, Goliath, was ten feet tall (six cubits and a span, v. 4), and was suited in full armor. Goliath taunted the Israelites' soldiers. Saul was the tallest Israelite soldier, so he could engage in battle with Goliath. However, much like the other Israelite soldiers, Saul felt afraid and intimidated.

The three eldest sons of Jesse, who were soldiers, received a food package from their father, who sent it with David. David inquired, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (v. 26) It was a bold, faith-driven question because David saw a mortal man defying almighty God. His older brother, Eliab, became enraged that David was there. On the other hand, when Saul heard David's words, he requested David's presence.

David's desire was to engage in battle with Goliath, but Saul only saw David as an inexperienced boy. We must be sensitive in how we treat others because God can use anybody. God does not consider age, race, sex, socioeconomic status, etc. David witnessed to Saul about the times when God gave him the power to overtake bears and lions. This demonstrated that David had a close relationship with God that enabled him to have great faith in his power to deliver. He had full confidence in victory over Goliath.

David used a slingshot and one stone to slay the giant. A sling was an offensive weapon of battle made of a leather thong that was wider in the middle than at the two ends. The stone was placed in the middle, and the sling was spun around the head. The stone was hurled at the intended target. In this situation, the target was Goliath who ended up being hit in the head and falling to the ground.

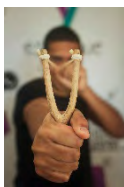
In addition, David cut Goliath's head off. Taking Goliath's head, while grisly, was not a matter of evidence but of having a trophy to prove to Israel that God's power was with them; in essence, this demonstrated a public proof of God's power on behalf of those who put their confidence in God (1 Samuel 17:47). The Philistines fled after Goliath fell because he was their champion.

What steps did David take to demonstrate his faith in God? How do you demonstrate your faith in God?

LIFE APPLICATION

Think about the “giants” (problems/struggles) in your life as well as those of your peers. On the sticky notes or index cards given to you, write down one or two words that describe the “giants.” When finished, attach them to the posterboard in front of the class. Compare and contrast the “giants” that were posted by the class. Share suggestions about how to deal with them.

When we reflect on our past struggles, we can sometimes see how God helped us overcome and/or work through them. Take one minute and share with one person how God faithfully delivered you during a time in the past. Every time we trust God to help us builds up our faith. Therefore, the next time trouble comes, we can rely on our faith in God and have confidence in his power.



There are social, political, and faith-based movements that

help enact change in society and the world. Are you interested in or passionate about any specific current issue? What groups advocate on behalf of those affected by this issue? What can you contribute?

The methods used to enact change vary. During biblical times, God in some circumstances would command his people to use violence against enemies. Do you feel violence is necessary today to enact change? Which is better, violence or peaceful protests? What does the Bible say about killing? What does it say about being peaceful?

SUMMARY

The conflict between the Philistines and Israel demonstrated the need to have faith in God to defeat our enemies. Saul was the best match to go against Goliath, but he feared defeat. Therefore, the Israelites sat in the valley of Elah for 40 days and listened to Goliath taunting them. David, however, saw a mortal man defying almighty God. He ignored the criticism and acted knowing God was present with him. When we are faced with insurmountable problems, we can be assured God is with us and we are not fighting alone.

What can you learn from the faith of David? How can we put our faith into action?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: God, we praise and honor your name. Thank you for being present with us. We trust in your power to help us overcome any battle. Amen.

Song: "Fight My Battles (Surrounded)" by Elevation Worship (https://youtu.be/PELFixXo_Dk)

THE FAMILY OF FAITH

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:1-17; Genesis 38; Joshua 2; 6:22-25; 2 Samuel 12:24; Ruth 4:13-22

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:1-16

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

Matthew 1:1-16 (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,

7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,

8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,

9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,

11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,

13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,

14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,

15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,

16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Genealogy** – A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor.
- **Aminadab** – Pronounced: ah – MIHN – uh – dab.
- **Nahshon** – Pronounced: NAY – shuhn.
- **Obed** – Pronounced: OH – bed.
- **Rehoboam** – Pronounced: ree – ho – BO – am.
- **Abijah** – Pronounced: uh – BAI – dhuh.
- **Jehoshaphat** – Pronounced: dzhee – HAHSH – uh – fat.
- **Manasseh** – Pronounced: man – AS – eh.
- **Jechoniah** – Pronounced: dzhehk – o – NAI – uh.
- **Salathiel** – Pronounced: SU – lay – the – al.
- **Zerubbabel** – Pronounced: zuh – RUH – buh – behl.
- **Eliakim** – Pronounced: ee – LAI – uh – kihm.
- **Eleazar** – Pronounced: ehl – ee – AY – zer.

INTRODUCTION

In a few days, we will be celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas. Often families travel great distances to be together for the holidays. It is usually a joy to see our relatives. There may be newborn babies and others that you meet for the first time. When you gather with family, do you ever wonder about your lineage? Sometimes the older members of the family share stories of those who have died and reflect on their lives. After listening to some of the stories, we can come to understand that not everyone had an easy life journey. We can learn a lot about our families by listening

to our elders.

In today's lesson, Matthew gives us the genealogy of Jesus to prove he is the descendant of both King David and Abraham, just as the Old Testament predicted.

Why is it important for us to know about our family's past? How does your family's past affect your life today?

BIBLE STORY

Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. He wrote to a Jewish audience who was waiting for the promised Messiah. Matthew desired to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, the eternal king. Matthew used Jesus' lineage to prove his position. This Gospel highlights surprising twists in Joseph's genealogy, by the nontraditional mention of Gentiles and women, and in so doing demonstrates God's faithfulness to and inclusion of all people. When we identify people in our family line, it gives us a blueprint to understand who we are.

Jesus' lineage is detailed in Matthew 1. It is an extensive look into Jesus' family from Joseph's ancestors. Time does not allow us to dive into each of their lives. However, we can highlight a few people of faith mentioned in Matthew 1.

First, we can look at Tamar's life in Genesis 38. Judah, one of Jacob's sons, married and had three sons. He gave a woman by the name of Tamar to be his firstborn son's wife. His son died because of his wicked behavior. So, Judah's second son was legally responsible for making sure Tamar had a son who could inherit her husband's inheritance and care for her. He refused to do it, so he died. Judah sent Tamar away until his youngest son grew up.

Nonetheless, he lied to Tamar and never permitted her to

marry his son. Later, due to lust, trickery, and deceit, Tamar and Judah had sex. Tamar conceived and gave birth to twin sons. Judah extended loyalty to her to fulfill his responsibility to her. Finally, this act fully incorporated Tamar into the Israelite clan. Hence, she became one of Jesus' ancestors.

Second, Rahab's story of faith played a part in the Israelites' conquering of the promised land (Joshua 2; 6:22-25). Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute whose inn was built within the city wall. It provided both lodgings and favors to travelers. God directed Joshua to send two spies to her inn so they could survey the land. The king of Jericho demanded Rahab turn them over to him. Rahab hid the men and then lied to the king to protect them, thereby risking everything for God. Rahab recognized the God of Israel as all-powerful because she had heard about his defeat of armies across the Jordan River. Rahab asked for and was granted protection for herself and her family. As a result, Joshua moved them to Israel.

Third, Ruth's story reflects the same theme as Tamar and Rahab. She was a Moabite woman from an undesirable background and a widow (Ruth 4:13-22). She joined the people of Israel and became one of God's people. She acted by faith in what she understood of God and God's ways. Finally, the last person's life we shall reflect on is Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11; 12:24). She was married to Uriah while having an affair with King David. King David had her husband killed, so he could have her. Bathsheba became pregnant and gave birth to a son. God chose Solomon, their son, to build God's temple (1 Kings 6), extending blessing and belonging to her.

In sum, God is unconcerned about our family and background. He is concerned about our faith and a person's response when faced with the reality of God. God desires for all people to hear the message of salvation and respond by faith in accepting his Son, Jesus.

Do you have sympathy for those who have difficult lives? How can you encourage them?

LIFE APPLICATION

Matthew chose to include the names of four women in the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born. Matthew had good reasons for specifically naming only four women. What reasons do you think Matthew had in mind when including them? Their faith and ingenuity functioned together in important ways to continue the lineage of Joseph. What is your opinion of the methods the women used? God forgave their sins and used them for a greater purpose. It is important to remember that no one is excluded from being a part of God's family if they have faith in him.



Sometimes personal challenges cause us to have difficulties in life. This does not mean that a person cannot change and positively impact others. However, people are often overly critical and look down on those who have had past difficulties.

What is your experience in dealing with those who constantly judge you based on past behaviors? How can we respond? When

we make bad choices, what does God desire from us?



God has given each person a unique DNA which is how we can be identified. Furthermore, when we investigate our family lineage, our DNA can be used to connect us to our ancestors (www.ancestry.com). Some companies and websites can help us research our lineage. This week take some time to research your family genealogy (tree). First, if possible, ask relatives about the history of your family. Then you can use that information to do additional research.

African American Genealogy: 10 Free Resources for Finding Your Ancestors

1. [Civil War African American Sailor Search](https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-sailors.htm) <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-sailors.htm>
2. [Freedman's Bureau Bank Records](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1417695?collectionNameFilter=false) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1417695?collectionNameFilter=false>
3. [African American Funeral Programs](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1880968?collectionNameFilter=false) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1880968?collectionNameFilter=false>
4. [Freedman's Bureau Hospital and Medical Records](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2432992?collectionNameFilter=false) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2432992?collectionNameFilter=false>
5. [Freedman's Bureau Marriages](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1414908?collectionNameFilter=false) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1414908?collectionNameFilter=false>
6. [National Archives African American Research Help Page](https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans) <https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans>
7. [Civil War Service Records of African American Union Troops](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1932431?collectionNameFilter=false) <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1932431?collectionNameFilter=false>
8. [Black Servicemen Revolutionary War Records](http://www.dp.la) www.dp.la

9. [Fugitive Slave Petition Books](https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=Fugitive%20Slave%20Petition%20Book&f.oldScope=online) <https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=Fugitive%20Slave%20Petition%20Book&f.oldScope=online>
10. [North American Slave Narratives](https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/) <https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/>

Resource: <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/10-free-resources-researching-african-american-ancestors/>

SUMMARY

Joseph's lineage reveals that he had Gentiles and women who were included as his ancestors. This proves that anyone who believes in God and puts their faith into action is welcomed into God's family. We must make every effort to share the Good News of salvation with everyone. Those whom the world overlooks and disregards are the same ones that God loves and accepts into his family. It does not matter what we have done in the past. God is concerned about us growing in our faith and our future life with him.

What can you learn from God's previous actions in your life and in the lives of others? How do you feel the actions of your ancestors impacted your present-day life? What can you do to make a difference in the lives of those in your community?

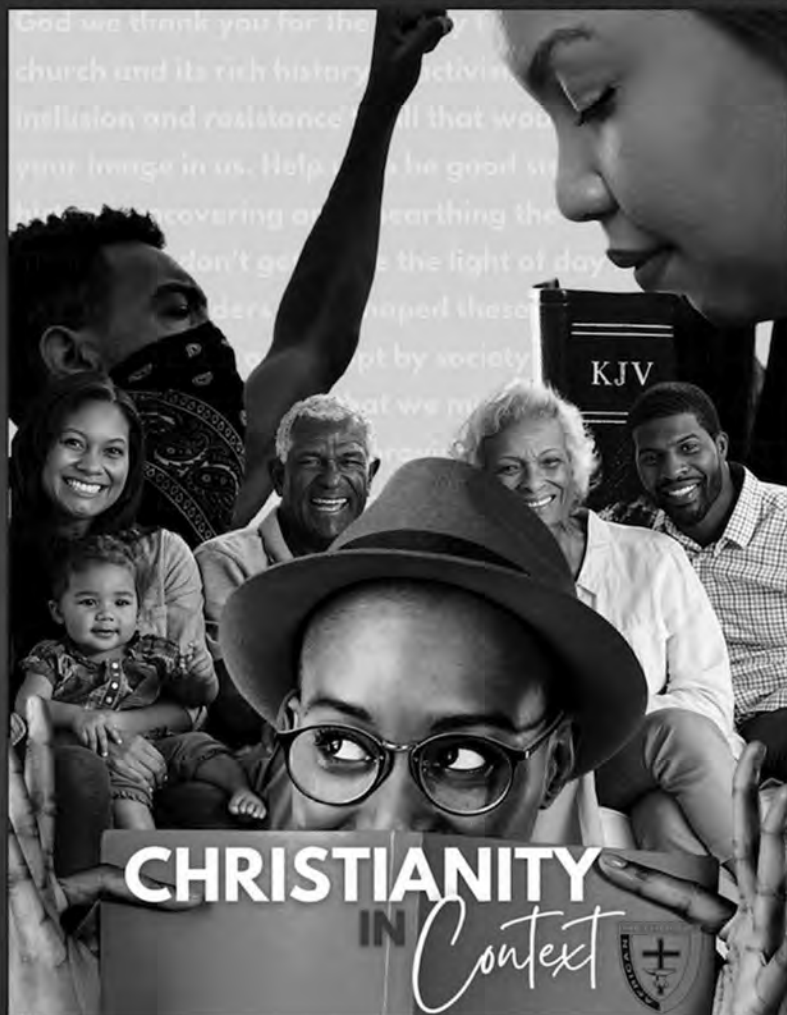
CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: God, I appreciate my spiritual and natural family. Help me to accept and love them as you do. Amen.

Song: "We Are One in the Spirit" (https://youtu.be/xGD_BFSf90c)

NOTES

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