



LIBERATING
FAITH STUDIES

CELEBRATING
GOD

LIBERATING FAITH STUDIES SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vol. 58
Fall Quarter 2021

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

No. 4
Price \$4.00

Ages 18-Up

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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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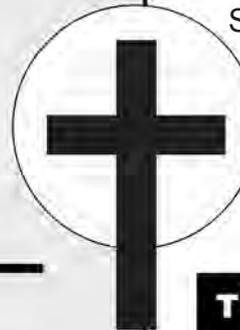
Editor • Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce

— Lessons —

Dr. Catherine S. Powell

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.

A.M.E. Discipline

Hello, AME Church School Member!

The Home Daily Bible Readings will continue to appear at the end of each Sunday's lesson but they will be the readings for the following week. We made this change in response to your requests. The readings for the first week are below.

Sunday, October 17, 2021 will be AME Church School Sunday. This Sunday will highlight the vital work of the Church School and recognize the excellent work of Church School students and leaders. Please visit our website- www.iamame.org- for ideas to observe AME Church School Sunday and to find other worship and study resources to empower you and enhance the life of the church.

For over a year we have used Zoom and Facebook to facilitate our weekly Connectional Church School with teachers (lay and clergy) from around the AME Connection. They generously share their knowledge, talents, and expertise with a weekly average of 500 participants viewing via Zoom and 1500 on Facebook.

This virtual AME Connectional Church School was birthed due to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The blessings from the teachings have been immeasurable. We will continue this Connectional Church School on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. EST. Join us! Zoom Meeting ID: 829 9325 1894.

Visit our website- www.iamame.org- to find worship and study resources to empower you and enhance the life of the church.

Like our Facebook page so you will be informed about programming and important announcements from the Publishing House and *The Christian Recorder*: www.facebook.com/amecpublishing.

Join our Facebook Group to continue conversations after Church School and share ideas, thoughts, and best practices with other AME Church School members and teachers: www.facebook.com/groups/amechurchschool.

Thank you for purchasing Liberating Faith Studies. We are working every day to fulfill our mission to provide high quality resources to empower us to spread Jesus Christ's liberating gospel, pursue justice, and enhance the social development of all people.

And, always remember, I am praying for you.

Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

August 30–September 5

Monday	Exodus 14:1-9 (God Hardens Pharaoh's Heart)
Tuesday	Exodus 14:10-20 (Don't Just Do Something; Stand There!)
Wednesday	Exodus 14:21-31 (Victory by the Sea)
Thursday	Luke 1:67-75 (Blessed Be God Our Savior)
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (Victory in Jesus)
Saturday	Exodus 15:1-10 (Moses Sings of God's Triumph)
Sunday	Exodus 15:11-21 (Moses and Miriam Praise God)

Celebrating with Song

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 14:1-15:21

Focus Scripture: Exodus 15:11-21

Key Verse: "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?" Exodus 15:11 (NRSV)

EXODUS 15:11-21 (NRSV)

11 "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

12 You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

14 The peoples heard, they trembled; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

15 Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed; trembling seized the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

16 Terror and dread fell upon them; by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone until your people, O Lord, passed by, until the people whom you acquired passed by.

17 You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O Lord, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

18 The Lord will reign forever and ever."

19 When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

20 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

21 And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

EXODUS 15:11-21 (KJV)

11 Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

18 The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

KEY TERMS

- **Anthropomorphism** (an-thro-po-mor-phism) – Derives from Greek terminology. It refers to the practice of using human terms to refer to God. God is spirit (John 4:24)! Human terminology enhances understandings of the scriptures.
- **Worship** – Expressions of reverence and adoration that celebrate our sovereign God, God's love, and faithfulness.

INTRODUCTION

What is your favorite worship song? Why is it your favorite? Everybody tends to have a favorite song or hymn! Answering the first question is usually easy and quick. Articulating reasons for favorite songs, however, usually takes more time and reflection because “favorites” derive from personal experiences. The “Song of Moses,” which is the first song recorded in the scriptures, originated in the same way. The song resulted from Moses’ recollections of Israel’s experiences with

God as God used him to lead Israel out of Egypt. Notably, Miriam, Moses’ sister, also worshipped in song (Exodus 15:20-21). This quarter’s thirteen lessons focus on worship. Singing is one of many forms of worship in which Christians engage. Others will be explored throughout this quarter’s lessons.

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

(The stanzas) highlight God’s incomparable powers as a warrior, motivated by love and compassion for God’s people.

Moses employs anthropomorphism (an-thro-po-mor-phism) throughout his song. There are actually five stanzas in the song (Exodus 15:1-18). The first stanza (vs. 1-5) focuses on God as a warrior. The second stanza (vs. 6-10) focuses on God, the triumphant warrior, over Egypt, the enemy of his

people. Today’s lesson is focused on the third, fourth, and fifth stanzas (vs. 11-21). They highlight God’s incomparable powers as a warrior, motivated by love and compassion for God’s people. God has just miraculously saved the Israelites by parting the Red Sea and letting them walk through on dry land. Simultaneously,

God has allowed Moses and the Israelites to witness their enemies' destruction. God used the same sea and its waters to drown Pharaoh and his armies as they went into the Red Sea, chasing the Israelites. Hence, "Moses' Song" was born.

God Is Incomparable (Exodus 15:11-13)

Although Egypt had many gods, none could compare to the God of Israel.

Considering the length of Israel's time in Egypt, some Israelites may have been impressed with Egypt's many gods. Moses includes many specific blessings in his song, including God's most recent victory for Israel, to emphasize incommensurable differences between

Yahweh and other gods. Having been eyewitnesses to God's powerful acts as they have journeyed this far toward the Promised Land, Israel needs to celebrate! Spontaneous worship was a natural response. "Moses' Song" embodies highest levels of praise and worship. Through his song,

Moses also invites the whole nation of Israel to praise God. This celebratory song transcends time into eternity. Revelation 15:3-4 notes that all of the redeemed sang "the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."

More Blessings and Deliverances

Await God's People (Exodus 15:14-18)

News of God's conquests was to go before Israel. Warriors carried their weapons in their *right hand*, from which victories derive. Therefore, God's right hand is joyfully extolled. Enemies, including inhabitants of Philistia, Edom, and Moab, would hear the news of

God's powerful protections of God's people and fear the Lord as well as God's people. Sorrow, dismay, trembling, fear, dread, and surrender are responses to expect as the Promised Land journey continues. We see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the Canaanites' fearful responses



Although Egypt had many gods, none could compare to the God of Israel.

(Joshua 2:10). The ultimate promise of victory to Israel is in verse 17, wherein God’s promise to bring them to their inheritance is fulfilled. Israel is high on praises and gratitude at this point, and they gladly proclaim God’s sovereignty and his rightful rule over their lives forever and ever (v. 18).

(NAACP) as the organization’s official song. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s brought greater prominence and appreciation to the song, as it became one of the most cherished songs of the movement.

SANKOFA

“Lift Every Voice and Sing,” or the “Negro National Anthem,” is a song of special significance for all people of the African diaspora. “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson to commemorate the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln and the actions he took to abolish slavery in the United States. It was set to music by his brother, Rosamond Johnson, in 1899. To celebrate President Lincoln’s birthday, on February 12, 1900, five hundred children performed this song in Jacksonville, Florida. It was later adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Like the “Song of Moses,” this song lives on in our hearts as it evokes memories of our heritage and history, inclusive of the pain, triumphs, challenges,

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson to commemorate the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln and the actions he took to abolish slavery in the United States.

and successes we have experienced. At the heart of this commemoration is an unbroken thread and theme that traces our history with almighty God. The song is celebratory and projects future victories as it evokes images of our being overcomers, with God as our leader.

CASE STUDY

Twenty-two-year-old Amanda Gorman achieved status as the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history on January 20, 2021. With exceptional excellence and passion, Ms. Gorman recited her poem, *The Hill We Climb*. She wrote the poem to commemorate the inauguration of President Joseph Biden and Vice

President Kamala Harris. *The Hill We Climb* immediately gained recognition as a “Best Seller.” Of course, Ms. Gorman has gained celebrity status that continues to grow.

Ms. Gorman and her poem deserve much more attention and serious study than permissible in this assigned space. Certainly, her talents will have long-lasting impacts on America’s history and culture.

She captured hearts as she spoke to the call for national unity amid unprecedented divisiveness and other challenges. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Ms. Gorman gave the following explanation: “In my poem, I’m not going to in any way gloss over what we’ve seen over the past few

weeks, and dare I say, the past few years. But what I really aspire to do in the poem is to be able to use my words to envision a way in which our country can still come together and heal. It’s doing that in a way that is not erasing or neglecting the harsh truths I think America needs to reconcile with.” Ms. Gorman’s performance at the

inauguration can be viewed at www.wsj.com.

LIFE APPLICATION

We know that the Israelites were the original audience for “Moses’ Song.” It captured their heritage and history with almighty God. Yet, we know that adoption by God positions us to also be God’s children. “Lift Every Voice and

Sing,” on the other hand, allows us to see and appreciate God and God’s actions from our own personal experiences. Let us reflect and remember:

Lift every voice and
sing

Till earth and heaven
ring

Ring with the harmonies
of Liberty

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the listening

skies

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has taught us

Facing the rising sun of our new day



Yet, we know that
adoption by God
positions us to also be
God’s children.

begun
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears
has been watered
We have come, treading our path through
the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star
is cast

God of our weary years
God of our silent tears

Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way
Thou who has by thy might Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray

QUESTIONS:

1. How has this lesson impacted your perspectives on worship?
2. How do you think this lesson can be used in evangelism?
3. How do “The Song of Moses” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing” motivate you to worship?

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Closing Song: “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Closing Prayer: Lord, we thank you for teaching us more about worship. Please bless us with commitments to worship you more, both individually and corporately. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS**September 6-September 12**

Monday	2 Samuel 6:1-5 (David Prepares to Transport the Ark)
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:1-7 (The Holiness of the Sanctuary)
Wednesday	2 Samuel 6:6-11 (Uzzah Disregards the Ark's Holiness)
Thursday	Psalms 122 (The House of the Lord!)
Friday	Psalms 132:1-12 (Go to God's Dwelling Place)
Saturday	Revelation 11:15-19 (The Ark in the Heavenly Temple)
Sunday	2 Samuel 6:12-19 (David Dances Before the Ark)

DAVID DANCES BEFORE THE ARK

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 6

Focus Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-5; 14-19

Key Verse: "David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals." 2

Samuel 6:5 (NRSV)

2 SAMUEL 6:1-5, 14-19 (NRSV)

2 Samuel 6:1-5

1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.

3 They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart

4 with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.

5 David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

14-19

14 David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17 They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord.

18 When David had finished offering

2 SAMUEL 6:1-5, 14-19 (KJV)

2 Samuel 6:1-5

1 Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the Lord of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

14-19

14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the

the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts,

19 and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Lord.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

KEY TERMS

- **Abinadab** (“my father is generous”) – Owner of the house that provided a twenty-year resting place for the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Ahio and Uzzah** – Sons of Abinadab, who attempted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem on a cart.
- **Ephod** – A garment, like a vest or tunic, worn by priests. Its length extended across the
- shoulders to at least the waist, front and back.

Although the trip would take less than a day’s journey, David’s celebration was delayed because God’s instructions for handling the Ark were disobeyed

true with homecoming parades, which are special, commemorative events.

Obviously, King David loved this kind of excitement. He took 30,000 “chosen men of Israel” (2 Sam. 6:1) with him to Baale-judah to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Although the trip would take less than a day’s journey, David’s celebration was delayed because God’s

instructions for handling the Ark were disobeyed. After a three-month delay, David made a second attempt to achieve his goal. This attempt was successful, and the long-awaited celebration, which is described in our **Key Verse**, began.

INTRODUCTION

Just thinking about a parade brings exciting visions. Joyful music, marching bands, dancing, and so forth tend to create instant bonds of exuberant fellowship among crowds of people. This is particularly

TELLING THE BIBLE STORY

King David, who was described by God as a man after his own heart

(Acts 13:22), openly expresses his love for God and his own desire to have the nation of Israel also love and honor God. The events occur after Judah and Israel have been reunited, with Jerusalem being designated as the capital city. David wants Jerusalem to be the center of worship and permanent home for the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant serves as tangible evidence of the immediate presence of God among his people (Ex. 25:8). The Ark had been confiscated and held by the Philistines for seven months. The Ark was subsequently recovered from the Philistines and left at the house of Abinadab for twenty years. King David decided to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

David's Failed Attempt (2 Samuel 6:1-5)

King David prepared himself and the military to recover the Ark. He chose 30,000 of Israel's best soldiers to accompany him. He was also well prepared to celebrate! After gaining possession of the Ark, David and his

King David, who was described by God as a man after his own heart (Acts 13:22), openly expresses his love for God and his own desire to have the nation of Israel also love and honor God.

army formed a parade, and they "were dancing before the Lord with all their might with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals" (v. 5). Despite their jubilation and perceived success, this effort failed because they failed to comply with God's instructions for transporting the Ark (2 Sam. 6:3; 1 Chronicles 13:5-

13). Later scriptures reveal how the actions angered God and resulted in death of Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:6-7).

David's Successful Attempt (2 Samuel 6:14-19)

Following Uzzah's death, King David was angry and afraid to take the Ark to the city of Jerusalem (Samuel 2:8-10). So, he left it

at the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months. Hearing how the Lord had blessed Obed-Edom "and all that belonged to him," King David made a second attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. This second attempt was successful, which indicates

King David had learned from the first attempt that God's instructions require total obedience.

With his mission accomplished, King David was overjoyed! He was exuberant and unconcerned about how he might appear to others. For example, he wore an ephod (a linen apron, or vestment for priest) instead

of his royal robes, and he allowed the public to see him dance with such fervor that he leapt into the air. Michal, his wife, "despised him in her heart" (v. 16). At this point, David ignored Michal and proceeded to set the Ark in place as planned (v. 17), offered

burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, blessed the people, and provided food before everyone departed for their homes (vs. 18-19). Later, Michal openly rebuked David for "un-kingly" behavior. David, however, rejected Michal's rebuke as he promised to become even more contemptible (2 Samuel 6). Michal is

severely punished for her behavior (2 Samuel 6:23).

SANKOFA

Clearly, no human event is comparable to David's recovery of the Ark and bringing it to Jerusalem for permanent residency. However, the meaningfulness of Nelson Mandela's release from prison

in South Africa gives a more contemporary glimpse of pure human joy and celebration of a homecoming. Mandela had been falsely convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment twenty-seven years earlier by the South African government. Actually, Mandela was arrested because of his dedicated work

and services to the people, the majority of whom were black, and especially his efforts to end apartheid in the country.

The end of apartheid did not come immediately upon Mandela's release, but he continued his quest until the "legalized" segregation and discriminatory practices were abolished. Although the government

With his mission accomplished, King David was overjoyed! He was exuberant and unconcerned about how he might appear to others.

had worked hard to end his leadership and power as a leader, Mandela maintained his resolve to help effect an end to three centuries of domination. “The Day Mandela Walked out of Prison,” which is a National Public Radio (NPR) report, gives a graphic accounting of the public’s reactions.

According to the report, “Black South Africa exploded with joy. A boisterous crowd of some 100,000 people squeezed into the Grand Parade Grounds outside Cape Town’s City Hall, infusing it with energy that might be expected at a rock concert. Mandela was to deliver his first speech there,

at what was almost certainly the largest black crowd ever to gather for an event in what was still formally a white city.” Detailed perusal of the report is recommended as it contains much more graphic information about the people’s responses. Suffice it to say, the people reveled in this event

and the accompanying parade as they signaled fulfillment of long-held hopes of freedom and liberty for the oppressed.

CASE STUDY

King David’s worship styles and habits created deeper understandings about the role of worship in Christian life as well as how to worship in ways

King David’s
worship styles and
habits created deeper
understandings about
the role of worship in
Christian life as well as
how to worship in ways
that please God.

that please God. First of all, David never presented himself as a perfect person. Like most of us, King David assumed many roles in life. His roles included being a shepherd, a poet, a giant-killer, and ultimately an ancestor of Jesus Christ. He sinned, like all of humankind, and although the scriptures are replete with

examples of David’s failures, God still referred to him as “a man after my own heart” (Acts 13:22).

As we explore biblical revelations about David, certain attributes, reflective of God’s character, emerge. For example, David steadfastly believed in God’s faithfulness and forgiving spirit. Hence,

confession and repentance were naturally forthcoming as David recognized his own sinful behavior. Psalm 51 exemplifies these characteristics. Along with the joys of forgiveness, David also accepted consequences. Again, there are many confirming biblical examples, including his response to the news that God was not going to save the life of the child that David had illegitimately conceived with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:1 to 15-17).

The vigor, spontaneity, and varieties of David's worship habits confirmed that he never restricted himself to any human standards for

appropriate worship. Neither Michal nor any other human could restrain him. David personifies the need to approach God with clean, forgiven hearts (Psalm 51:10), to be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to worship him "in truth and in spirit" (John 4:23-24).

LIFE APPLICATION

This lesson provides great incentives and information for strengthening our

worship practices. Perhaps the strongest message is that there are many ways to worship God. These include dance, poetry, songs, music, prayers, meditation, and so forth. The pivotal common thread governing them all is the fact that true worship focuses on God.

There is a tendency to see worship

Perhaps the strongest message is that there are many ways to worship God. These include dance, poetry, songs, music, prayers, meditation, and so forth.

as a corporate or congregational activity only; but, as true worshippers we don't need a crowd, and we don't need humankind's approval, including any *Michals*, in our lives. We can worship God anywhere – in our bedrooms, kitchens, any place where we can focus on God and his goodness, and where

we can allow the Holy Spirit to direct our responses. Amen! It makes us feel good, and it strengthens our faith as we are drawn into the very presence of God almighty. Psalm 22:3 tells us that "God inhabits the praises of his peoples."

QUESTIONS:

1. What impressed you most about David's dancing?

- 2. How can you use this lesson to strengthen your worship practices?
- 3. How could you use this lesson to enlighten critics who declare that “if people are worshipping a certain way, they can’t be saved or know Jesus?”

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank you for being the source of our strength and the strength of our lives. We know that it is in you that we live and move and have our beings. Please bless us to become more faithful, spontaneous worshippers. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Closing Song: “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

September 13-September 19

Monday	Isaiah 35:1-6 (end at “sing for joy”) (Blind Eyes Shall Be Opened)
Tuesday	Psalm 96 (Declare God’s Glory Among the Nations)
Wednesday	Psalm 115:1-3, 9-18 (Glory to God’s Name Alone)
Thursday	Mark 10:17-22 (Only God Is Good)
Friday	Mark 10:42-45 (Greatness through Servanthood)
Saturday	Psalm 146 (Praise the Lord, O My Soul!)
Sunday	Mark 10:46-52 (Praise God for Healing!)