



JESUS CALLS US

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----- **Ages 9-11 (GRADES 4-6)** -----

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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

EDITORIAL STAFF

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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.

THE PRODIGAL SON

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-32

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-24

Key Verse: *“(His father) ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20*

Luke 15:11-24 (NRSV)

11 Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread

enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’”

20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Squandered** – To waste in an unwise way.
- **Dissolute** – An unruly way.
- **Famine** – Lack or shortage of food.

GETTING READY!!!

Have you ever needed help? To whom did you reach out? One of the amazing things about God is that God is always ready to help each of us. Every day God provides us with things such as food, shelter, and clothes to help us in life. God also helps us by protecting us even when we do not recognize it.

Sometimes we get offered help even when we do not deserve it. Have you ever done something wrong, and someone forgave you? Their reaction to you was a gift of help and love. They were helping you to see that you can be forgiven when you do something wrong. Love, forgiveness, and grace, just to name a few, are all helpful gifts that we receive from God. When we are given these types of gifts, we should remember to share them with others. As you begin to get ready to read the lesson today, take a few moments and write the words **help**, **love**, and **forgiveness** on your paper. As you listen to the story when it is read, write down who/when someone in the story experiences one of those three key words: **help**, **love**, or **forgiveness**. If time permits at the end of the class, share your answers with your peers.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

What does it mean to you to apologize? When is the last time *you* apologized to someone? In today's parable, we learn of a son who made some wrong choices and eventually returned home and apologized to his father.

Jesus tells the story of a father who gave his younger son a generous sum of money. The younger son (whose name we do not know), went into the land and spent all his money in a reckless manner. While we do not know exactly what the son did with the money or what happened, he became broke with no more money left.

While all of this was occurring, a great famine came across the land. People did not have food, and some did not even have shelter. The son, becoming hungry, thought it was best to return home. He thought that his father would be disappointed with him spending all his money in a foolish way. The son was so sorrowful for what he had done towards his father that he was even willing to "pay off" his debt by working in his father's field. However, when he reached closer to his house, the father saw him and greeted him with compassion and love. He even threw a big party in his son's honor to welcome him back home. If you were the younger son in the story, how would you feel after being forgiven? Share with the class your thoughts.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Today's parable is filled with an amazing reminder of God's faithfulness; even when we do wrong, God is still faithful to

forgive us. Like the father in the story, God is a wonderful parent to all of us. God provides for all our needs, even when we mess up.

Think about a time when someone helped you in an unexpected way. How did it make you feel? What did you do to show your gratitude? Take a couple of moments and share your answers with a peer.

We can trust that God will come through for us. God can even use our mistakes to remind us that God is forever faithful and loves us even in difficult moments. God supplies all our needs even when we fail God. So, the next time you make a bad choice or do something you feel that can never be forgiven, remember we serve an ever-loving and everlastingly forgiving God. God is love. We are called to show and share that love and gift of help and forgiveness with others.

REMIX!!!

Let us take a moment and pretend we are in today's parable. **L**As the teacher re-reads the story, show with your facial expressions how the younger son was feeling. For example, if the younger son was hungry, show with your body movements and facial expressions how you feel when you are hungry. As you are acting out the story, look around and see if any of your peers are making the same faces or movements as you are during the story.

Life at times is not always easy, even as a kid. Sometimes we go through hard moments, feel like we are alone, or even feel like our choices are unforgivable. Amazingly, though life can be

a challenge at times, God cares for and forgives all of us! Take a moment and thank God for sending you people that care for and help you in your time of need.

QUESTIONS

1. How would you feel if you were the younger son in the parable?
2. What did the father do when he saw his younger son?
3. Share a time when you showed forgiveness to someone else.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Praise God that God cares for all of creation including us! God's love for us is so big and wide that there is nothing we can do that would separate us from God's care. However, this does not mean that challenges will not come our way. This just means that at those times, we can be reminded that even God forgives our biggest mistake. The next time that someone makes a bad choice or hurts your feelings, think about how you can express yourself to that person. Instead of getting angry, you can take a deep breath, pray a silent prayer, and forgive.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of hope, we give you thanks for all your love and forgiveness. Remind us when we worry or when we make bad choices that you still love us. Thank you for those who care for us here on earth and the places of shelter where we live. Help us to never forget that you love and care for us forever. Amen.

A CHILD IS GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18:1-9

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18:1-5

Key Verse: *“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:4*

Matthew 18:1-5 (NRSV)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

2 He called a child, whom he put among them,

3 and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like

children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Kingdom** – Associated with heaven.
- **Greatest** – Above average, best.
- **Welcome** – Friendly, kind greeting towards someone.

GETTING READY!!!

How old are you? Share your age with the class. If space permits, line up in a row according to age from oldest to youngest. After a couple of moments, switch places, and line up from youngest to oldest. Lastly, line up from shortest to tallest. Where were you in the line? When you were at the back of the line, how did it make you feel? When you were at the beginning of the line, how did your feelings change?

In today's lesson, Jesus answered a question from his disciples. "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" When do you feel the greatest? Did you feel great at any point during the "line up" game? As you think about these questions and how you felt when you lined up as a class, listen closely to Jesus' answer to the disciples.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" The key verse asks a remarkably interesting question. The disciples asked Jesus this question, and he responded not just with words, but with actions. Jesus showed and told them who was the greatest.

Jesus said that *unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*. He not only told it to

the disciples, but he also demonstrated his love and caring nature by bringing a child to him to serve as a visible example.

Jesus loves the little children which includes you! Jesus showed and told the disciples that the children should be loved and cared for. Just because you are young or physically smaller than adults does not mean you are not great! To be sure, you matter to God and to the world. It may surprise you, but your thoughts and actions matter, too!

In the story today, Jesus shows his love for children, and proclaims to all those listening among him, that to be welcomed into the kingdom, you must care for and welcome the most vulnerable on the earth, children.

It is amazing that no matter how young you are or how small in stature, that God not only remembers you and loves you, but sees you as highly valuable! Jesus reminds us in this lesson that we are to treat everyone kindly and fairly no matter what they look like or how old they may be. As you continue to grow in grace and in age, you, too, can learn more about how serving and doing things for others pleases God! Jesus' example in today's lesson gives us insight that helping others and trusting God is important. Our kindness and our actions toward other people are what makes us great. This week share one way you can put this practice into action.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Have you ever had Kellogg's *Frosted Flakes*? It is a cereal that Tony the Tiger says is "Grrrrreat!" When I was your age, I would watch cartoons and this commercial would come on often. Tony the Tiger was so excited about the cereal that it made me

want to grab a big bowl of it even before I ever tasted it.

When we show our love for God by serving and treating others kindly, we are giving people a “taste” of what it is to follow Christ. Being a Christian means not only loving God but putting your faith into action by showing others. We should try every day to show others that serving God is “grrrrreat!” When we serve God, listen, follow healthy examples of living, and treat people with kindness, we are showing our faith.

God cares about all his people. We, too, should care about all people. Sometimes in life people can be treated badly even if they did nothing wrong, and it is not their fault. Even as children, we can be an example to others by treating people fairly and with goodness. This is not only the right thing to do, but it is the “grrrreatest” gift that we can give at any age.

REMIX!!!

Imagine a new family moves into the neighborhood or a new student comes to your class. What are a couple of things that you can do to make that new family/person feel welcome? Share your thoughts with the class.

Now that you have come up with a plan to welcome the new family/new student, think about some behaviors that would make them feel unwelcome. Share them with the class. How can you share your faith in action by standing up for those who are being unwelcoming to new people?

We are all different, and we should respect all of humanity.

This week ask God to help you see ways that you can welcome others that are different from you by extending a kind word. Show the world that you are great, not just by what you say but by what you do!

QUESTIONS

1. Name three ways you can serve others.
2. If you could change one thing in the world to make it a better place, what would it be?
3. : To be great, you have to be an adult True or False

PRAISE GOD!!!

“I am great,” is a wonderful reminder to say in the morning when you wake up! Starting your day reminding yourself who you are can help you have a better day. When we talk to God in the morning, we can start our day with a positive attitude and ask God how we can share kindness with others.

Whatever is going on in our lives, God sees us and is concerned about us. We can be assured that God will never leave us or give us too much to handle on our own. We are great! God is with us! Even more important, we are loved and not forgotten! Let us thank God for all that he has placed in our lives to remind us of God’s love for us. Let us also be ready and willing to aid others who may need that reminder, too!

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all creation, we give you thanks for your handiwork. God, sometimes we look at ourselves and may think we are too small or young to change the world. Remind us in these moments that we are great! Remind us that you see us as the greatest because you love us. Forgive us, God, when we do not treat others with kindness. Help us to serve others the way you would want us to. Amen.

JESUS TALKS WITH A SAMARITAN WOMAN

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JOHN 4:1-42

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JOHN 4:7-26

Key Verse: *“Come and see.” John 4:29*

John 4:7-26 (NRSV)

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”

8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”

12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”

13 Jesus said to her, “Every-

one who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”

17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;

18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

19 The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that

the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true wor-

shippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

25 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

26 Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Samaritan** – A person from Samaria, a city in ancient Palestine
- **Ancestors** – People (may be related to you) who lived and have now passed away.
- **Proclaim** – To share news with others aloud with excitement.

GETTING READY!!!

God loves you, and you are called to love others. Have you ever been the “new” person at school, or moved to a new area? When you are new or different than others, sometimes it can be and feel lonely. You may not know anyone, and no one is willing to talk to you because you are new or maybe because you are different.

People can also be different from you, not just by their actions, but also by who they are or what they represent. Our world is a

big place with many people who are different colors, nationalities, religions, and more. Different is not bad, it is simply different! We are called to treat everyone with kindness and love even when we may not understand them. God loves each of us and all our differences. Imagine if we all looked the same, dressed the same, and did all the same things. That would be boring, right?! In today's lesson, Jesus encounters a woman from Samaria that is different from him. As you read or listen to the story, notice how he treats her. How is this an example of how we should treat others who may be different from us?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The story about the Samaritan woman today is one that focuses on kindness and acceptance. A woman from Samaria came to a well to get some water. Jesus asked her for a drink of water. Even though she looked different than him, or may have practiced a different faith tradition, he did not care. None of those differences mattered to Jesus; he talked to the woman anyway.

The woman understanding and knowing that she was different from Jesus asked him if he really wanted a drink of water from her. Instead of replying with a simple yes, Jesus confronted her doubt and let her know that indeed, yes, he wanted a drink of water from the well from her. This profound acceptance shown to the woman by Jesus shows us how we should treat others with kindness. Jesus not only spoke to the woman in love, but also offered her a gift that would ultimately change her life.

Jesus offered the woman an opportunity to “never thirst again.” The water that Jesus provides is everlasting and life giving. The woman, though confused at first by the offer, knew that Jesus was

indeed special. He was special because he treated her like no one else, acknowledged even her wrongdoing, but still treated her with respect and love.

The Samaritan woman's bravery and courage to not only talk with Jesus but also receive the everlasting water he was offering, changed her life and the lives of others. When she went back to tell others what happened in her encounter with Jesus, the scriptures tell us that others believed, too. The woman becomes a living testimony and witness of what it means to share good news with others despite what they may think or feel about her.

We are called to show Jesus' love to everyone. Though we are different, we are all the same. Everyone makes mistakes, likes different things, and looks different; however, we are all a part of God's beautiful creation. Every person on the earth has good qualities and should be treated with respect and kindness. Our uniqueness is special to God and to the world. Take a few moments and look at all the physical differences between you and the people around you. Remember that each difference is special and valued. You are valued and special just the way you are.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

No matter if you are young or old, your life matters to God. The Bible reminds us throughout all the parables and lessons, that we are loved and cared for no matter what we may look like, or even what we may do. We should take this lesson and live it in our actions by how we treat other people. We can invite others to experience God's love not just by what we say, but by what we do.

God's love is available to everyone! God's provision is for everyone! Take a couple of moments and think about what God has

done for you. Share one thing that God has provided for you with a friend. Share some ways you can tell others about Jesus and his love just like the woman from Samaria did.

REMIX!!!

Next month we will celebrate an incredibly special holiday. Do you know what holiday it is? It is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, **Easter**. When you think of Easter, what feelings come to mind? Name the people in your life that you celebrate this holiday with whether at home or church.

As we lead up to Easter, what are some ways that you can show Jesus' love towards others who are different than you? What are some ways that you can share how much Jesus loves each one of us? Take a few moments and share your ideas with the class. Remember to remind yourself that Jesus loves everyone!

QUESTIONS

1. Make a card for someone who needs to know that Jesus loves them.
2. How can you be a good friend to someone who is different than you?
3. What would you do if you saw someone being bullied at school?

PRAISE GOD!!!

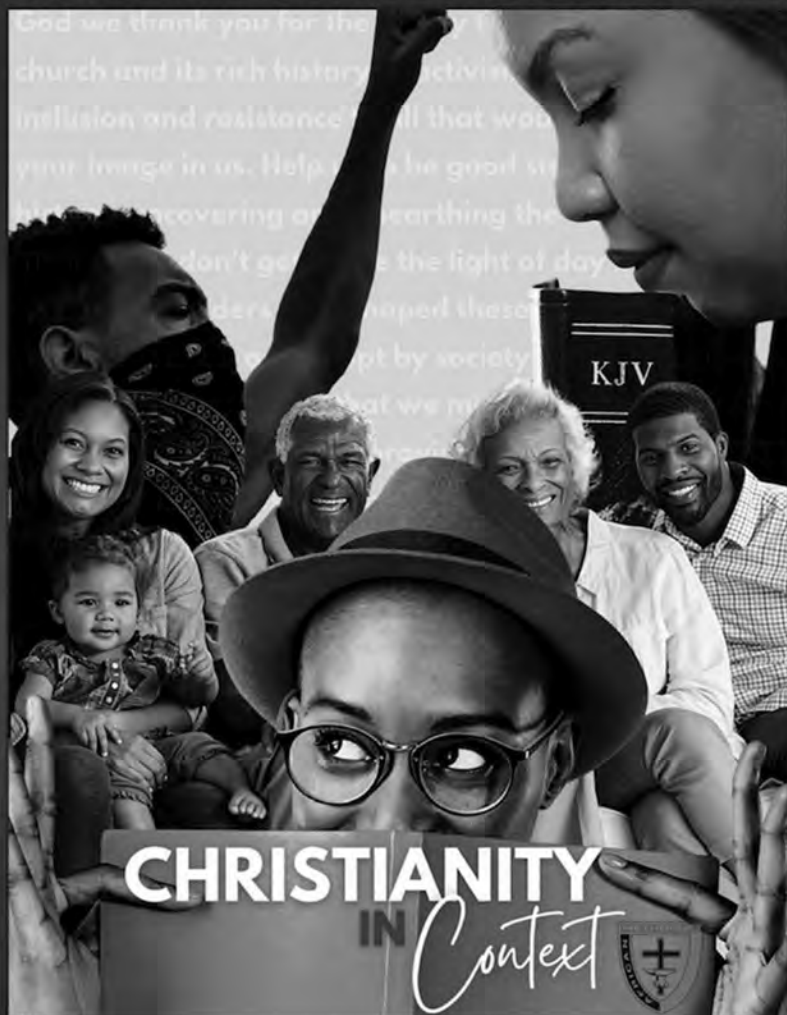
God gives us many opportunities to share the love of Jesus with others. Every day we see people and have choices to make, good or bad. Being kind, forgiving, and accepting are just

three qualities that Jesus wants us to show towards others. We show others this kind of love because Jesus shows it to us. As you start this upcoming week, remind yourself to not only treat yourself kindly, but others as well.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask a student to offer prayer to end the class session.

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