



**GOD'S LAW
IS LOVE**

JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher

Garland F. Pierce
Executive Director, Department of Christian Education

Tiffany Gregory
Chief of Operations

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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

- Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin**, Publisher
Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce, Editor
Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn, Lessons
A.L. Stanfield, Copy Editor
O. Dotson, Graphic Designer

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.

EATING WITH A PHARISEE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:37-44

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 11:37-41

Key Verse: *“Give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you.” Luke 11:41*

Luke 11:37-41 (NRSV)

37 While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table.

38 The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner.

39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the out-

side of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

40 You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

41 So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Pharisee** - A Jewish leader who makes sure Jewish people correctly followed the rules of the Jewish religion during New Testament times.
- **Alms** – Special offering to help people in need that Jewish people gave in addition to their tithes.
- **Clean** – A religious way for saying something is acceptable to God and ok to use or be around.

GETTING READY!!!

Daniel was the class monitor in charge at snack time. His job was to make sure people followed the snack-time rules. The rules included only eating the snack you brought and cleaning up your space after snack-time. Most of the students followed the rules without being reminded.

The new kid in class, Malcolm, was a preacher's son. That's why what Malcolm did on his second day in class surprised Daniel. Malcolm brought extra pre-packaged snacks to class and handed them out to kids who didn't bring a snack. When the kids ate the snack Malcolm offered them, they broke a rule. When Daniel told the teacher about it, she said it was "ok" for the kids to break the rule.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Pharisee: Hey, Jesus. Please come to my house later for a meal.

Jesus: Thank you so much for inviting me. I'll definitely be there.

When Jesus made it to the Pharisee’s house, he did something that surprised the Pharisee. Jesus sat down to eat without doing the special type of handwashing that was required of Pharisees. His surprise showed on his face and Jesus noticed. That’s when this happened...

Jesus: You Pharisees spend a lot of time making sure that people look religious. I’m more interested in living like God wants. Don’t get me wrong, because we should be acceptable to God. However, following rules that make us seem acceptable while treating people badly is wrong. Showing love and treating people right is a better sign that we’re on God’s side.

Activity #1 – Jesus’ Way or the Pharisee’s Way. Look at the list below. If you think it shows the person knows the rules and wants to treat others well, write “JW” for Jesus’ Way. If you think it just shows that the person knows the rules, write “PW” for Pharisee’s Way.

	1. Alice prays before she eats.
	2. Michelle tells her mom “sorry” for breaking a rule earlier. Then she and her mom get Communion together.
	3. Tyrone rushes to get Communion whenever it’s offered.
	4. Greg asks his guests if they need anything else before inviting them to enjoy their meal.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

In the middle of her song, "I Remember Mama," Shirley tells a story about playing church. She knew the rules of church but not the God of the church. Because she wasn't sincere about her worship, her mama would tell her to stop playing church. Nevertheless, Shirley kept playing church AND refusing to help at home.

That all changed when her church playing became real. On that day, Shirley's mama noticed the difference and helped her live differently. Now, Shirley Caesar is a gospel singer and a pastor who helps people connect with God in a truthful way.

Activity #2 – Loving Rules to Live By. Use the tools that your teacher provides to create some class rules that will help everyone treat each other in a loving and respectful way.

REMIX!!!

Some rules are meant to be followed all the time. Some other rules need to be adjusted so everyone can be included. If we're to be Christ-like people, we need to know the difference. We also need to make sure our worship is genuine. That means we can't just do things because we think that is what church people do. We must love God from the inside out.

Activity #3 – The Rule of Love. What does it look like to follow the rule of love in real life? (Hint: Act out your idea or use a separate piece of paper to draw your idea.)

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

God, keep us honest.

Let our worship be real and genuine.

Help us show love and respect to others.

May the rule of love

Guide all we say and do.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

HEALING A SICK MAN

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LUKE 14:1-6

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 14:1-6

Key Verse: *Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away.*
Luke 14:4b

Luke 14:1-6 (NRSV)

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

2 Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy.

3 And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?"

4 But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away.

5 Then he said to them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?"

6 And they could not reply to this.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Sabbath** – The day of the week where people of faith don't do any work so that they can get close to God. For Jewish people, it's celebrated on Saturday. For most Christians, it's celebrated on Sunday.
- **Edema/Dropsy** – Health condition where a body part swells with fluid. It's often a sign of a more serious health problem.
- **Watching Him Closely** – Looking for a reason to make Jesus look bad.

GETTING READY!!!

Mr. Michaels enjoyed making sure his students had the information needed to make good and right choices. That's why he reminded them that they wouldn't always get to choose between a good and bad choice. Sometimes, they would have to choose between two different good choices. Other times, they would have to find a way to choose them both.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Based on principles of the Bible, something is wrong in today's lesson. Pharisees were supposed to encourage people to make good and godly choices, yet they lost their way. How do we know? We recognize this because they aren't just being curious about Jesus anymore. Now, they're trying to trap him into doing something wrong.

The only problem is that they aren't even sure about the right action to take. They know keeping the Sabbath is a good and god-

ly thing. They also know helping someone who can't help themselves is also good and godly. Both ideas are found in the law that they hold dear so they can't deny that both are good. They just don't believe it's good for them to happen at the same time.

The Pharisees also know that Jesus has already healed people on the Sabbath, so they aren't surprised that he heals the man. They are surprised that Jesus points out their own uncertainty about the matter. That's why the Pharisees don't respond when Jesus points out that they aren't choosing between a godly and ungodly action. They're picking one godly action over another even though God never asked them to do so.

Activity #1 – Signs of a Problem. Unscramble the phrases below to discover signs that something isn't right in today's lesson. (Hint: The first letter in each word is in bold.)

1. **t**yeh **w**eer **g**whcnati **m**hi **c**olysle

2. **h**tye **e**rwe **t**sline

3. **t**eh **m**na **a**hd **e**eadm

4. **e**yth **u**cdol **n**to **p**ryle

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Most of us want to do the right thing, but sometimes doing the right thing isn't clear. Mal discovered that in the movie *Descendants 3*. She wanted the kids on the Isle of the Lost to have a

chance at a better life. She also wanted the people of Auradon to feel safe. Both were good choices. There was a problem, though. The barrier between the two places had to be down for the kids from the Isle to get to Auradon. Yet, a lowered barrier meant folks who didn't want a better life might threaten folks in Auradon.

Sounds like the two goals won't work together, right? That's what Mal thought at first, too. But then she found a way to make both work. And that's what God wants us to also do. God wants us to find a way to rest and get close to him while also loving others.

Activity #2 – To Keep the Sabbath, Love Others, or Do Both.

Look at the Fourth Command about keeping the Sabbath and the *Summary of the Decalogue* that your teacher provides. Now, use the space below to show a way to keep the Sabbath, a way to love and a way to do both.

<i>I can keep the Sabbath by...</i>	<i>I can love others by....</i>	<i>I can do both by....</i>

REMIX!!!

We need to think carefully about why we do what we do. Are we trying to impress someone? Are we trying to make someone look bad? Or are we trying to do right by God and others? If we're trying to do the last option, then we'll make the best choice. We'll find a way to get closer to God/keep the Sabbath and help others/love them like we should.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Open my senses so I can tell

Which good and godly choice is best.

I want to keep the rule about Sabbath rest

And the rule about loving others like I love me

So I can be the faith-filled person you saved me to be.

Amen.

TEACHING GOD'S WAY

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JOHN 7:14-24

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JOHN 7:14-18, 24

Key Verse: *“Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.” John 7:24*

John 7:14-18, 24 (NRSV)

John 7:14-18

14 About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach.

15 The Jews were astonished at it, saying, “How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?”

16 Then Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine but his who sent me.

17 Anyone who resolves to do

the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own.

18 Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.”

24

24 “Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Festival** – This is the Festival of Booths which was a week-long celebration that helped the Jewish people remember how God protected and guided them in the wilderness.
- **Moses** – The leader God used to deliver the Israelites from Egypt and make them into a nation tied to God through a binding agreement.
- **Circumcision** – Ceremony to remove the foreskin on the male genital organ. It's a faith statement that a person has become part of the community and will commit themselves to God.
- **The Patriarchs** – The male ancestors of the Jews named Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

GETTING READY!!!

Alex loved it when the season of Advent began for lots of reasons. Advent prepared believers for Christmas and reminded them that Jesus was coming back. It also lasted long enough for different people to celebrate God. At least, that's how it was when Alex was younger.

Now that Alex is older, things are changing. People seem to be more interested in doing things that make them look good rather than celebrating God. Alex didn't want them to get in trouble with God, so he tried to help them change their ways. Those people around him were surprised by what he shared because he wasn't a YPD officer.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

The Jews who were at the temple to celebrate the Festival of Booths were surprised by Jesus’ teaching. They knew he hadn’t been trained by a rabbi. They also knew he wasn’t a Pharisee who studied the laws of Judaism or a scribe who copied down the scriptures. In other words, he hadn’t studied with any of the groups that folks expected to create great teachers.

Jesus knew the Jews weren’t sure if his teaching could be trusted because he hadn’t been trained by any of those groups. That’s why he told them how they could tell if he was teaching his personal ideas or God’s ideas. People who choose to do what God tells them recognize that same trait in others. Those are the ones who enthusiastically witness for God instead of themselves. Since Jesus wasn’t doing what God told him instead of trying to make himself look good, he was a trustworthy teacher.

Activity #1 – Who’s Responsible for This? Draw a line between the person or group on the left that’s responsible for the item on the right.

1. The Jews	A. Said Jesus had a demon
2. Jesus	B. Were surprised at Jesus’ teaching
3. Moses	C. Where circumcision really came from
4. The Patriarchs	D. Gave the law to the Jews
5. The Crowd	E. Said his teaching wasn’t his but the one who sent him

USING GOD’S WORD!!!



In Lorraine Hansberry’s play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, Mama uses a special phrase to help her daughter see that she’s judging her brother unfairly. She tells her daughter that she needs to measure her brother right.

This doesn’t just mean she has to look beyond the surface of things. It also means that she needs to use the things to decide if her brother is worthy of supporting or not.



Guess what? We need to do the same thing when it comes to church leaders and teachers. How will they measure up? We need to look at more than their credentials or where they went to school. We also need to

look at how they live their lives. Are they drawing us to God or themselves? Are they helping everyone who wants to know God become believers?

Activity #2 – Measure Them Right. Make a list of what you look for in a godly leader on the left. Then print the name of someone you know with that quality on the right.

<i>I look for godly leaders to....</i>	<i>Someone who does this is...</i>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

REMIX!!!

There are many modern-day celebrations that mirror those in today's lesson. Some churches do weeklong celebrations for Holy Week like the people in our lesson did for the Festival of Booths. The way AME's welcome new members and extend the right hand of fellowship to people lets them know they're part of the community. In a way, this could be compared to circumcision, a religious rite which is the surgical removal of foreskin of the male genital organ. Circumcision was required of all of Abraham's descendants as a sign of the covenant made with God.

Some of these celebrations allow us to be seen and heard by others. Others just allow us to give God glory. Yet, we shouldn't make the ones where we're seen more important than the ones where we're not. We should consider each of these celebrations as the right choices because all of them are important to the life of faith.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

God, I don't have to be first or up front

I just need to be completely yours.

Help me choose well and right

So that our relationship is always tight.

Don't let me get mixed up by how things look

Especially when they don't match what's in your holy book!