



*Examining  
Our Faith*

# JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 61  
Spring Quarter 2024

MARCH, APRIL, MAY

No. 2  
Price \$3.89

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

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**JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY — USPS 288 - 080**

Volume 61, No. 2, March, April, May 2024. An official quarterly of the African Methodist Episcopal Church prepared by the AMEC Sunday School Union. Published quarterly by the AMEC Sunday School Union, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee. Copyright © 2024 by AMEC Sunday School Union.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Junior Scholar Sunday School Quarterly, 900 13th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37212.

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**Entered as Periodicals postage paid Matter, March 20, 1942, at the  
Post Office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 3, 1879.**

## 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.

GOD WHO KEEPS US

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JUDE

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JUDE 17-25

*Key Verse: But you, beloved...keep yourselves in the love of God. Jude 20-21 (NRSV UE)*

Jude 17-25 (NRSV UE)

17 But you, beloved, must remember the words previously spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,

18 for they said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts.”

19 It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions.

20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

21 keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

22 And have mercy on some who are wavering;

23 save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,

25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

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## **WORD POWER!!!**

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- **Jude** – The brother of Jesus who wrote one of the shortest letters of the New Testament.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

**B**obbi was not very happy at her school. She was a member of Community Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church, and she had been taught to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. When her parents enrolled her into a Jewish private school, she was not prepared for the teasing and hostility that she sometimes faced. Some of her classmates said that she was weird because Christians drank blood. She tried to explain what Holy Communion meant, but they wouldn't listen. That night at dinner, she told her parents that she wanted to transfer to another school.

Her father asked, "Do you think that is the best decision, Bobbi? Remember what Pastor Jones said about how we must defend the Lord in the world? We don't want you to be unhappy, but we also know that it is important that you speak up for your faith. Let everyone know that you are not going to argue with them but you do want them to respect your beliefs just as you respect theirs."

Bobbi just shrugged her shoulders and continued to eat her dinner. Her mother suggested that she pray about it and read her lesson from church school about being brave for the Lord. "If you want," her mother added, "I will go to school with you tomorrow." The next day, Bobbi and her mom went to school and spoke with the principal. Later, the principal allowed Bobbi to speak at the school-wide assembly, so that she could express her feelings.

### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

**J**ude is one of the shortest books in the Bible. This brother and disciple of Jesus had the task of speaking to the church about

being strong in their faith and maintaining the assurance of God's love and protection. Christians during this time were mistreated and punished because of their beliefs. Jude had an encouraging word for them and wanted them to feel that they were important in God's eyes. Just as many of them may have had to defend themselves in a community where people did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, we as Christians may find ourselves needing to do so from time to time. In looking at the key Bible verse for today's lesson, what do you think are the most important words to remember when you feel alone or threatened by someone who does not believe as you do?

### **USING GOD'S WORD**

#### *Words God Gives Us To Say*

**B**elow, write some of the words that you identified in the section above and then write a sentence using those words to express your feelings to persons who are not respectful about your faith.

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Bobbi had a perfect opportunity to express herself without having a personal argument or conflict with anyone. That might not be an opportunity that you would have, but there are other ways to express your feelings and concerns when people are not respectful. The AME Church believes in love and forgiveness as it is taught in the Bible, and we also believe in self-worth and the uplifting of our people. This means that we should uphold our faith and our belief in Jesus Christ who lives within us. When God keeps us,

it means that God is with us every step of the way. Whether it is at school, at play, or in the middle of unrest or conflict, if you keep your faith and hope in God, you will find the strength to live your life with courage. When you feel fearful or anxious, do what Bobbi's mom suggested, and ask the Lord for direction. The words will come, and you will be even more confident the next time a challenge arises!



### REMIX!!!

**G**od is the same loving and protective Father to us every day, and if we are prayerful, there is no challenge that we cannot overcome. Jude called for his people to be faithful and strong. He

urged them to be in harmony with one another and to resist those who would doubt the faith. Also, he said, “Keep yourselves in the love of God.” This means that you remember and keep within your heart the love that God has for you. How do you think this will help you in your everyday life? Is it something that you believe would help if you found yourself in a situation like Bobbi’s? Do you think that it is important to pray each day for protection and help from God? Why or why not?

### **PRAISE GOD!!!**

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

**E**ach person should choose a letter above, and then call out that letter one after the other. After the last letter is called, the entire group will read the word). Because God keeps us, we have victory. God loves you, God loves me! Because of God’s love, we have the victory!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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

Dear Lord, help us to have faith in you so that when challenges come our way, we will meet them with strength and confidence. Amen!





MEETING THE TEST

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:1-11

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:5-11

*Key Verse: Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be, restored listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11*

2 Corinthians 13:5-11 (NRSV UE)

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test!

6 I hope you will find out that we have not failed.

7 But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.

8 For we cannot do anything against the truth but only for the truth.

9 For we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may be restored.

10 So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

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## **WORD POWER!!!**

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- **Examine** – To look at or to study; to think about how something or someone functions.
- **Paul** – An apostle of Jesus Christ who was converted to Christianity and who wrote most of the New Testament letters.

### **GETTING READY!!!**

The sign read: TESTS TODAY. At Allen Elementary School, all third-grade students were testing today in order to be promoted to the fourth grade. Because of the pandemic, this was their first group examination. Some of the students felt afraid and did not know what to expect. If they failed, they would have to repeat the third grade and would not be able to graduate with their class in two years. The year-end examination was going to be a big challenge for most of them.

### **INTO GOD'S WORD!!!**

Paul was an important apostle of Jesus Christ. He built churches and explained to the people how to live faithfully for the Lord and what to do in times of trouble. In this passage of 2nd Corinthians, he is explaining to them that they should pray for one another and be careful not to fall into traps that would cause them to fail. The most important advice that he gives is to test themselves to be sure that they do not fall into any traps. Also, he urges them to pray for one another that they will remain strong. The students at Allen Elementary may have felt afraid about their test. It is no surprise that the students felt fearful since they had not been in school for the first one or two years. What could they do to feel better about their examination? Think about the last time you were afraid and how you managed to feel better.

In this puzzle are three of the words that Paul talks about. There are two more that can help us to feel more confident when we are faced with failures or mistakes. Can you find them?

B Q S Y T C I P X I  
 U E A I I R C A J S  
 L R X I F C I R W D  
 P Y L A J W E E M X  
 S U N E M A A N C Y  
 U Y S Z R I C T T T  
 C U N S A C N S B O  
 S B E P E A C E Z B  
 V I Z D D T F R C J  
 B Q E S O X S Y H R

### USING GOD'S WORD!!!

**W**e all make mistakes, and from time to time, we face difficult situations that may cause us to fail. However, if we are about to take on a challenge or new situation that we are not sure about, the Bible explains to us what we can do. When we live in peace and pray for one another, it means that as a group we are stronger. It might be your family, a club that you are in, or a group at church. Either way, if there is something that you want to accomplish and you are not sure about whether you can succeed, approaching it from the way that Paul explains here is a perfect way to start. For example, why not have prayer before going to compete in a game? Each Sunday before your church school class begins, say a prayer that it will go well. Most of all,

when you do try and fail, do not let that failure become bigger than it should be. Pray that you will learn from your mistakes and do better the next time.

### REMIX!!!

All the members of the third-grade class at Allen Elementary School may not pass the test, but they all can quietly pray for each other that they will be able to do the best that they can. When was the last time that you prayed for someone or for yourself before taking on a challenging task?

There are three things from the lesson today that are important to remember. They are:

1. Live in harmony in peace with one another.
2. Pray for one another, especially in times of trial or trouble.
3. Every now and then, think about how you are living and ask yourself if it is pleasing to God.

Can you think of someone who may be feeling a little sad or afraid right now? Make a pretty card to give to them or send them a nice text to brighten their day.

### PRAISE GOD!!!

Play your favorite praise song! One suggestion is “Every Praise” by Hezekiah Walker.

### CLOSING PRAYER

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

Dear Lord, help us to have faith in you so that when challenges come our way, we will meet them with strength and confidence. Amen.

**SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD**

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3:8-17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3:8-9,13-17

*Key Verse: Have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 1 Peter 3:8*

**1 Peter 3:8-9, 13-17 (NRSV UE)**

**1 Peter 3:8-9**

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

9 Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

**13-17**

13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they

fear, and do not be intimidated,

15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you,

16 yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

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## WORD POWER!!!

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- **Sympathy** – A feeling of concern and love for someone who is hurting or sad.
- **Humble** – Being kind and modest; not boasting about accomplishments.
- **Peter** – A leading disciple of Jesus Christ who became an apostle and leader of Christian disciples.

### GETTING READY!!!

In news stories across the country, we can find examples of where Good Samaritans (persons who help others, at times at their own risk) are rewarded for their kind deeds. In other situations, however, someone meaning to do good may end up being punished or hurt. For example, a teacher attempting to break up a fight at a school was suspended for pulling a student away to keep them from hitting someone else. According to the story, although this teacher meant well, a rule that stated teachers should not forcefully touch students but rather get help from security, meant that this teacher had not followed the policy. Good intentions did not matter in this case, and the teacher was punished.



### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**P**eter is another apostle of Jesus Christ, but unlike Paul, he walked with Jesus while the Lord was on the earth. Jesus named him the most important disciple and gave him responsibility for carrying on with leading the new Christians. In his letter,

he talks about being humble and being in unity with one another. In our church, we talk about modesty and humility as well (found in our book of rules called *The Doctrine and Discipline*). This is particularly true when we describe the way we should lead and teach. We are to keep our messages simple, dress carefully, and refrain from attracting too much attention to ourselves. The attention should be on Jesus Christ and the Gospel. The teacher who tried to break up a fight was doing good. In this instance, things did not turn out well for that person; does that mean that they did not do the right thing? Sometimes we suffer even when we try to do good. It is the same thing that happened with Jesus who ended up on the cross. Although he loved everyone, and persons who followed him, such as Peter, who were sometimes beaten for preaching the Word, Jesus suffered. Still, we must remain faithful in doing good and never turn our backs on God.

In the exercise below, circle the number that you believe is the right way to respond to the terrible things people may do or say. Think about today's lesson before you answer.

When someone calls you a name:

1. Call them a name right back
2. Walk away or ignore them

When someone doesn't say "thank you" when you do something nice for them:

1. Decide that you will never do anything nice for them again
2. Ask them if what you did or offered was okay

When someone hurts your feelings:

1. Tell them how you felt about what they did and try to talk it over
2. Tell them that they are mean and stop being friends with them

### **USING GOD'S WORD!!!**

**W**hen we suffer for doing the right thing, it can be very discouraging. When Jesus was on the earth, he healed people, gave them hope, and offered them salvation. Yet, in the end, that same community sent Jesus to the cross to be crucified. In life, you may find that you are misunderstood when you're trying to do something nice for someone, or you may misunderstand something that someone does for you and take it the wrong way. In other situations, it may seem like people who do wrong get away with it, and people who do right are not rewarded. As you read today's lesson, think about what Peter said and decide how it relates to you. Think especially about how being humble will help.

### **REMIX!!!**

**I**t is important to be humble, to be loving, and to be united. This advice that Peter gives is just as important for us today as it was in biblical times. These lessons, so far, deal with groups of people that were living during the time of the apostles. Yet, they can apply to us as individuals from day to day. We must not seek vengeance against those who hurt us, we should love and be sympathetic toward each other. We should not seek attention or boast about ourselves but be humble in all that we do.

When people compliment you, what do you say to them? Can you give an example of how boasting or not caring about another person can hurt a relationship?



### **PRAISE GOD!!!**

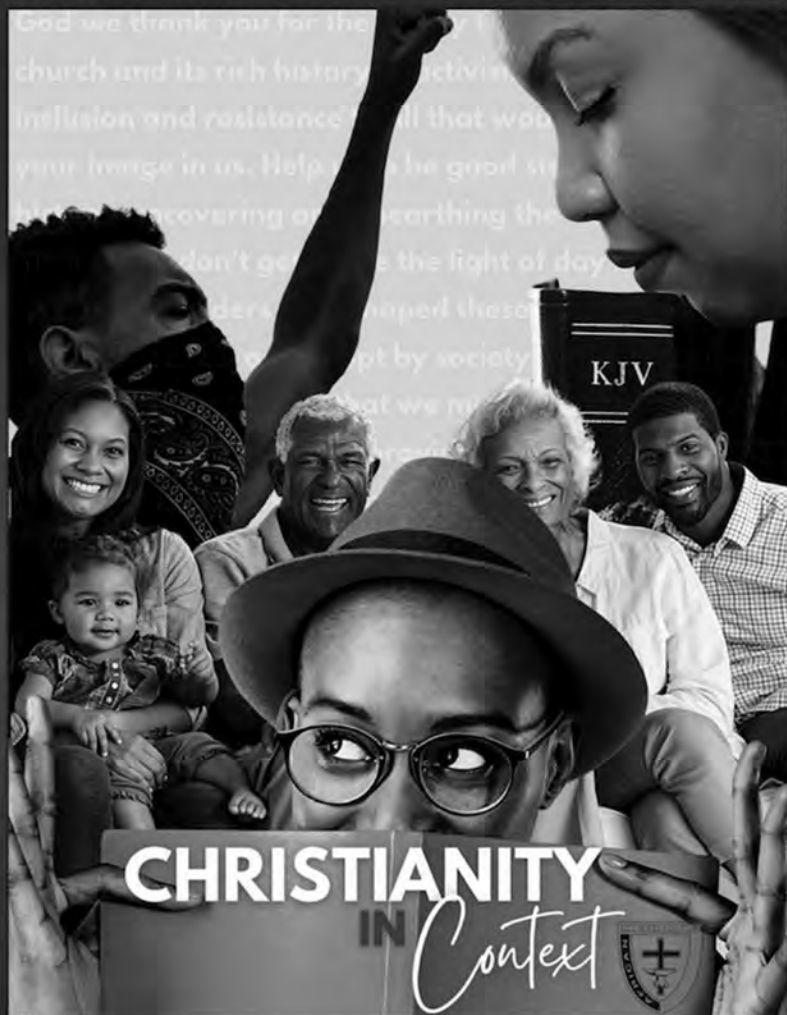
**L**isten to an old school song by Sister Sledge called, “We Are Family.” Get together in two groups and write your own poem or spoken word presentation for next week’s praise!

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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

Dear Lord, help us to have faith in you so that when challenges come our way, we will meet them with strength and confidence. Amen.

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