

A photograph of a young boy with dark, curly hair, looking down and to the side with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark shirt and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with a window.

SAMPLE

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

WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 19

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 19:1-14

Key Verses: "Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation." Exodus 19:5b-6a (NRSV UE)

Exodus 19:1-14 (NRSV UE)

1 On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai.

2 They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites:

4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

5 Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine,

6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

7 So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

8 The people all answered as one, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

9 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after." When Moses had told the words of the people to the Lord,

10 the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes

11 and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

12 You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Be

careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death.

13 No hand shall touch them, but they shall be stoned or shot with arrows; whether animal or human being, they shall not

live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they may go up on the mountain."

14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Rephidim (pronounced ref-uh-dem)** – The place where Moses made water come from a rock and where the Israelite army was able to win against the Amalekite (pronounced uh-mal-uh-kite) army as long as Moses held up his staff.
- **Consecrate** – Action that sets something or someone apart for godly service.
- **Covenant** – An agreement/contract that ties one individual/group to another.
- **Priest** – Clergy person who leads worship activities designed to connect others with God.

GETTING READY!!!

Axel was both nervous and excited. He was being baptized today; and, it would take place at the very altar he'd disrespected in the past. Last year, Axel didn't understand how special the altar was. He knew people prayed there and were given and took their Holy Communion there. But he hadn't understood that the altar had been set apart/consecrated for special things like that. So, he would play on it when no one was looking. After Axel asked to be baptized and took classes on baptism, he stopped playing on the altar.

During the classes, Axel learned that people needed to prepare to serve God by consecrating themselves. He also knew that the altar was a consecrated space where people came to prepare themselves to serve God. Once Axel was presented with this information, he asked God to forgive him for mistreating the altar. He didn't stop there, though. He also asked if he could help clean up the sanctuary the day before his baptism.

Would you give Axel an idea of how he changed his ways?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The Israelites in today's lesson share a few things in common with Axel. They're at the beginning of developing a covenant relationship with God as God's priestly kingdom and royal nation. They've disrespected God in the past at Rephidim. Nevertheless, they have also experienced God's hand in rescuing them at Rephidim. Now, they're in a new location that God uses to help them become God's people.

God uses Moses to set up some rules of conduct for approaching God. These rules included things the people needed to do and things they weren't supposed to do. The people agreed to become God's people AND to follow God's rules. They even allowed Moses to perform a special ceremony on them by consecrating them to God.

Activity #1: Covenant Conditions. Circle the sentences below that are some of the requirements that the Israelites agreed to in the lesson. Then fix the remaining sentences so they match one of the requirements.

1. Obey God's voice.
2. Go up on Mount Sinai whenever they want on the third day.
3. Touch the edge of the mountain when God comes down on the third day.
4. Wash their clothes.
5. Allow Moses to consecrate them over two days.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

People need limits, boundaries, and rules when they start new relationships. Those limits, boundaries, and rules help them know what is okay and what's not okay. In church communities, religious leaders like Moses help people learn about the limits, boundaries, and rules that God sets for believers. During a Baptism, clergy people pray for the person being baptized. They'll also guide them through saying words that allow the people to dedicate themselves to God.

That's not all they do, though. They also help people reconnect to God by leading them in celebrating Holy Communion, asking people to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior, and helping them understand things the Bible says. All these things are ways that clergy help others connect with and/or stay connected to God.

Activity #2: Actions That Get Us Ready to Connect With God.

Look at a few things people can do to help others get ready to connect with God. Circle the ones that you think only clergy can do. Underline the ones that you think any believer can do. Put

a box around the things you would like to do. Now, write those things you like to do on pieces of paper and place them in the God's Treasure Box that you've created. Next, add other things that you can do to help people connect with God to the treasure box as well.

- A. Saying something like "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" as a signal that worship's about to begin.
- B. Praying the prayer of consecration over the Communion elements.
- C. Talking through what being saved means and then asking if people want to accept the gift of salvation.
- D. Gathering worship participants together for prayer before worship starts.
- E. Coming to church early to adjust the temperature in the church before worship starts.
- F. Bringing a plastic bag to collect gum or candy from choir members before worship begins.
- G. Talking with and praying with people who respond to the Invitation after the sermon.

REMIX!!!

We become what God treasures most when we take our agreement to be God's people seriously. Sometimes, that

will mean following rules about how to treat the spaces and places where we respectfully connect with God. Other times, it will mean doing certain things to get ourselves and others ready to connect with God.

Don't worry if you're not sure how to keep your agreement with God all the time. God will send people into your life to help you. God may even send you to help someone else. When God directs you to someone, follow the advice they give you so you can live as God's treasured person.

Activity #3: My Covenant With God. Use the Kid's Contract paper your teacher provides to tell God a few things you'll do to connect with God.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Dear God,

I want to thank you for the people you use to help me connect with you.

Please forgive me whenever I disrespect something or someone.

You're using it to help me get close to you.

Show me how to change my ways when needed

And I will make it happen. ~ Amen.

GODLY SPACES

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 25-27

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 25:1-9; 26:1, 31-37

Key Verse: They shall make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them. (NRSV UE)

Exodus 25:1-9; 26:1, 31-37 (NRSV UE)

Exodus 25:1-9

25:1 The Lord said to Moses,

2 “Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.

3 This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze,

4 blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats’ hair,

5 tanned rams’ skins, fine leather, acacia wood,

6 oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

7 onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece.

8 And they shall make me a sanctuary so that I may dwell among them.

9 In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its

furniture, so you shall make it.”

Exodus 26:1

26:1 “The tabernacle itself you shall make with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue, purple, and crimson yarns; you shall make them with cherubim skillfully worked into them.”

31-37

31 “You shall make a curtain of blue, purple, and crimson yarns and of fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it.

32 You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, which have hooks of gold and rest on four bases of silver.

33 You shall hang the curtain under the clasps and bring the ark of the covenant in there, within the curtain, and the curtain shall separate for you the holy place from the most holy place.

34 You shall put the cover on

the ark of the covenant in the most holy place.

35 You shall set the table outside the curtain and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side.

36 You shall make a screen

for the entrance of the tent, of blue, purple, and crimson yarns and of fine twisted linen, embroidered with needlework.

37 You shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Sanctuary** – Space where people feel safe to connect with God’s presence, power, protection, and holiness.
- **Tabernacle** – The mobile sanctuary that contained reminders of Israel’s connection to God before they settled in the promised land and built the temple.
- **Ark of the Covenant** – A gold-covered wooden chest that contained the Ten Commandments, Aaron’s rod, and a jar of manna. It was placed in the tabernacle.
- **Most Holy Place** – This was also known as the “Holy of Holies” and contained the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Paraments** – The covering placed on the altar table and pulpit podium.

GETTING READY!!!

D'Leah liked the paraments that the stewardess used at her local church. She did notice that they were a little different than other churches she visited. Most of those church's altar and pulpit coverings looked the same. The paraments at God's Blessing AME Church were more unique.

When D'Leah asked Pastor Michaels about the difference, he reminded her of why they were so special. God's Blessing moved into their new building last year. In preparation for the new entry, the stewards and stewardesses decided they needed new paraments, but they didn't want to buy them. Instead, they wanted custom-made paraments. That's why they asked members to donate the fabric, matching thread, and sewing skills. The finished products became the new paraments that D'Leah liked so much.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The wandering Israelites had a similar experience. They were invited to freely offer certain supplies if they felt moved to do so. Remarkably, every item on the list of requested supplies were things the Israelites had been able to take out of Egypt when they fled. This means they were just giving God back things that God had made it possible for them to bring with them from Egypt. It also meant that those who gave those things were able to let go of things that still connected them to their old lives in Egypt.

Instead of reminding them of where they came from, the new space created with those items could remind them of their relationship with God. That's why God asked them to offer certain things. It's also why they were told to use those things in certain

ways. The result was a tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place that constantly reminded them of God’s presence, holiness, and power!

Activity #1: Godly Spaces That Make Me Think of God. Look at the pictures your teacher provides. Use the space below to list the things within the space that make you think of God. When you’re done, tell someone why those things make you think of God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

The godly space that was created using the requested items that people were moved to donate in today’s lesson was special. Likewise, the time the Israelites spent collecting and fashioning those items into the tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies was special. The entire process helped that group of God’s people connect with God in a way they hadn’t before. It also made it clear to them that God was present, holy, powerful, and protective.

Believers in God through Jesus Christ can do something similar as they prepare for Holy Week and Easter during the season of Lent. Instead of just giving up something for Lent this year, consider using your creativity, resources, and/or skills to fill your

local church with items that connect people to God. If you like to draw, draw something that will remind you and others that God is present, holy, powerful, and protective. If you sew, make pottery, dance, sing, or write, use those skills to create something special that can be used in worship, Sunday School, choir rehearsal, or worship. If you do, you'll discover that you'll feel better about the godly space where you come to worship God.

Activity #2: My Heartfelt Offering. Look at the pictures that your teacher showed you when you did **Activity #1**. Now create something that can be used in the church to remind others of God's presence, holiness, power, and/or protection. Then, if you fill moved to do so, ask if you can donate to the church during offering time.

REMIX!!!

You are invited to give God a heartfelt offering that can be used to connect with God. You can create it in any way that God moves you to do so. Why? God wants to use that experience to help you and others in the church community value the God spaces where you worship God more. That's what happened for D'Leah, and it just might happen to you too. So, try it.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Great and Wonderful God In Three

All we have, it comes from you

So, the best gift we can bring

Is our heartfelt offering.

God, we love you

God, we praise you

Please accept our offering

Please accept our offering. Amen.

(Original chant by Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn)

SERVING GOD THROUGH MINISTRY

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 29:1-37; LEVITICUS 8:1-36

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 29:1-9, 35-37

Key Verse: This is what you shall do to them to consecrate them to
serve me as priests.(NRSV UE)

Exodus 29:1-9, 35-37 (NRSV UE)

Exodus 29:1-9

1 “Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them to serve me as priests. Take one young bull and two rams without blemish,

2 and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil. You shall make them of choice wheat flour.

3 You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket and bring the bull and the two rams.

4 You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

5 Then you shall take the vestments and put on Aaron the tunic and the robe of the ephod and the ephod and the breastpiece and gird him with the decorated band of the ephod,

6 and you shall set the turban on his head and put the holy diadem on the turban.

7 You shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

8 Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them,

9 and you shall gird them, Aaron and his sons, with sashes and tie headdresses on them, and the priesthood shall be theirs by a perpetual ordinance. You shall then ordain Aaron and his sons.”

35-37

35 “Thus you shall do to Aaron and to his sons, just as I have commanded you; through seven days you shall ordain them.

36 Also every day you shall offer a bull as a purification offering for atonement. Also you shall offer a sin offering for the altar, when you make atonement for it, and

shall anoint it, to consecrate it.
37 Seven days you shall make
atonement for the altar and conse-

crate it, and the altar shall be most
holy; whatever touches the altar
shall become holy.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Vestments** – Special attire worn by clergy persons to clearly identify them as clergy.
- **Ephod** – Sleeveless covering that was only worn by the high priest when the priesthood was first established.
- **Diadem** – Headpiece decorated with jewels that’s similar to a crown.
- **Ordain** – To put a person through a special ceremony that affirms that a person has been authorized by God and the church to assume a leadership role.
- **Consecrate** – To put a person or thing through a special ceremony that blesses the person or thing so that the person or thing may bring his/her/its godly service.
- **Atonement** – Way to restore our relationship with God.

GETTING READY!!!

During the last church conference, the pastor and stewards suggested that the youth ushers, youth choir, junior stewards, junior trustees, and junior stewardesses who served on Youth Sundays should wear special attire. At first, Madison was

against the idea. She changed her mind after visiting another church where no one wore special attire or sat in places that clearly identified them as ushers, choir, or stewardesses. This meant she didn't know who or where to go when she needed worship guides, prayer, offering help, or questions answered. Now, she agrees that anyone serving as youth ushers, youth choir members, junior stewards, junior trustees, and junior stewardesses should wear special attire. She also believes new people serving in those ministries should go through some special ceremony that welcomes them into the ministry.



INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Two especially important things are happening in today's lesson. First, God is setting aside a particular family to serve as priests for the community of Israelites that God's forming into a people for God. Second, the entire community marks their special status among them with an ordination celebration and special attire.

The people took a whole week to prepare the sanctuary and the priestly class for their new role in the life for the community. Several special sacrifices were offered. A purification offering of a bull was given to restore the candidates' relationships with God. Also, another bull, two rams, flat bread, flat cakes mixed with oil, and flat wafers spread with oil were offered to consecrate Aaron and his sons. Next, the candidates for the priesthood were washed at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Then the special attire designating Aaron as high priest and his sons as priests were placed on them.

Activity #1: Celebrating the Creation of the Priesthood Ministry. Circle the words in the Word Search below that are connected to how the Israelites celebrated the creation of the priesthood ministry.

ANOINT

E M J Z Y S E V E N F

BAND

T W L H B L E P H O D

BREASTPIECE

A A H S S E R D A E H

BULL

R F B P N K H D N L G

CONSECRATE

C E G A Z A T O L D H

EPHOD

E R K V N N B U L T S

HEADRESS

S S G M I D B R U Y A

HOLY

N F Q O T F J N U P W

SEVEN

O P N B Q G I M L T L

TUNIC

B R E A S T P I E C E

TURBAN

WAFERS

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

Modern church communities still use special attire to show that people are part of certain ministries. They also still use special ceremonies to launch those people into ministry. People in the AME Church who wear special attire and/or who participate in

special ceremonies to mark that entrance into the ministry serve in various levels of the church.

Stewardesses usually wear white when it's their time to serve the local church while deaconesses wear gray when it's their time to do the same. Bishops wear purple robes and/or purple clergy shirts to show their status when serving Episcopal districts while presiding elders wear blue robes and/or blue clergy shirts to show their status when serving annual conferences. Members of the Judicial Council wear black robes with black panels while general officers wear black robes with red panels when serving the entire denomination.

During annual conferences, some ministers are ordained deacons to show their shift from lay to clergy and others are ordained as elders to show their shift from deacon to elder. Deaconesses are also capped and consecrated to launch them into that ministry during annual conferences. During the General Conference, newly elected general officers and Judicial Council members are installed while newly elected bishops are consecrated.

Activity #2: Dressed for Godly Service. Draw an arrow between ministries on the following page that wear special attire in the AME Church with the description of special attire that they usually wear.

<p>1. Person who may wear a robe or outfit with a collar when they preach or lead worship.</p>	<p>A. Bishop</p>
<p>2. People who usually wear all white when they're making sure the communion elements are supplied/collected, baptism water and towel(s) are available, or standing at the altar during the invitation.</p>	<p>B. Choir/Praise Team</p>
<p>3. Person who wears purple attire when doing their official duties as the senior leader in an Episcopal district.</p>	<p>C. Pastor/Preacher/Minister</p>
<p>4. People who usually wear a robe or a common color when they sing during the worship service.</p>	<p>D. Stewardess</p>

REMIX!!!

We recognize a need to be able to clearly identify people God has called to help us connect with God in meaningful ways. Otherwise, we don't know who we can go to for help. We also recognize that we know to celebrate their change of status within the community of faith. That's why people in certain ministries are ordained and then wear special attire. It's also why people in other ministries are consecrated and then wear special attire. There are many ways for God's people to make themselves ready to serve God and God's people.

PRAISE GOD!!!

God,

We thank and praise you for the ways you place people into ministry.

Remind us to celebrate their new status in your plan to connect us with you.

In Jesus' Name. ~ Amen.

PREPARING TO MEET GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: LEVITICUS 1:1-17; 6:8-13

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LEVITICUS 1:3-13

Key Verse: The priest shall turn the rest into smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord. Leviticus 1:9 (NRSV UE)

Leviticus 1:3-13 (NRSV UE)

3 “If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you shall offer a male without blemish; you shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, for acceptance on your behalf before the Lord.

4 You shall lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be acceptable on your behalf as atonement for you.

5 The bull shall be slaughtered before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall offer the blood, dashing the blood against all sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

6 The burnt offering shall be flayed and cut up into its parts.

7 The sons of the priest Aaron shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

8 Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the parts, with the head and the suet, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar,

9 but its entrails and its legs shall be washed with water. Then the priest shall turn the rest into smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord.

10 If your gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, your offering shall be a male without blemish.

11 It shall be slaughtered on the north side of the altar before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall dash its blood against all sides of the altar.

12 It shall be cut up into its parts, with its head and its suet, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar,

13 but the entrails and the legs shall be washed with water. Then the priest shall offer the rest and turn it into smoke on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Burnt Offering** – An offering that sets our relationship right with God and others by burning the edible parts of the animal being offered.
- **Without Blemish** – Having no defects like strange colors, injuries, or sickness.
- **Put Fire on the Altar** – Brings the flames of the fire on the altar that was never allowed to burn out up to a hot enough temperature to burn up what's offered.
- **Suet** – Hard animal fat often used in cooking.

GETTING READY!!!

Most of the time, Destiny didn't think much about how much money she gave in the offerings at her church. In the morning, one of her parents would give her some money and she'd put whatever they gave her into the offering plate. Everything changed for her when St. Matthew started planning for its 150th church anniversary.

Usually, the Anniversary Committee asked everyone to give the number of dollars that matched the anniversary year being celebrated. Since the YPD president was part of the committee this year, they did something different. The committee asked everyone to give an offering that matched the best combination of 150 that the person could afford. Some suggestions were \$150, \$15, and \$1.50.

On the day of the Church Anniversary, Destiny's parents offered to give her \$1.50 to put in the offering plate but she refused their offer. Instead, she told them that she had put aside enough of her own money to put \$15.00 in the offering plate. Her parents told her they were proud of her for choosing to give a sacred gift by using the money she had set aside to give.

Why do you think Destiny's parents said the gift she'd saved up to give was sacred?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Burnt offerings weren't an ordinary gift to God. They were offered as a sign that a person or group of people wanted to be made right with God. That's why people had to bring specific items based on what they were able to afford. It's also why the priest had to then take those items and offer them to God on behalf of the person(s) in a certain way. If the person didn't bring their best item, or the priest didn't offer it in the proper way, it wouldn't be an acceptable and sacred offering. That's why so much care was given to what was being offered and how it was offered.

Do you believe we take as much care when it comes to what we offer during offerings in modern times? Yes No If not, how could we show more care and concern in both what we offer and how we offer it? _____

If so, what are examples of us showing the same care and

concern? _____

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Offerings were a lot different in biblical times than they are now because people didn't use money to get what they needed. They would barter and/or trade for what they needed using animals, food, oil, perfume, jewelry, and other valuable things. That's why their offerings were of animals, food, oil, and perfume.

You might think that we only stopped using animals, food, and oil as offering items because we get what we need using money. You're partially right. Our offerings are of money because that's what our economy uses.

Yet, money isn't the only way we can show God our appreciation for who and how God is. We can also study the Bible before going to bed instead of playing a game on our technology. Or we can pray with a friend who's feeling sad instead of watching our favorite TV show. Each choice is a sacred, meaningful, and acceptable offering because we're giving up something valuable to us so that we can increase the godly good in the world.

Activity #1: A Valuable Sacrifice. Take three slips of paper that your teacher gives you and write something important to you that you'd be willing to give up that will show God how much you love and appreciate God. Then place the slips of paper in the small box or envelope that your teacher provides. Next, come up with some ideas of things you can do instead of what you chose to give up. Finally, try to do at least one of them during the week to come.

REMIX!!!

What we offer God during offering time should be meaningful. It should be something we value. It should also show our willingness to follow God's rules for worship. That means we need to show care and concern for what and how we're giving. So, let's make a commitment to always give God our best gift. That way our gifts can be a nice smelling offering to God like sweet smelling oil, lotion, or perfume. (Hint: this would be a wonderful time to ask your teacher to smell that oil or lotion they've brought to class.)

PRAISE GOD!!!

I am yours, Great God

And have felt your love

So, I want to be right with you.

Forgive now and show me how

We can be close again.

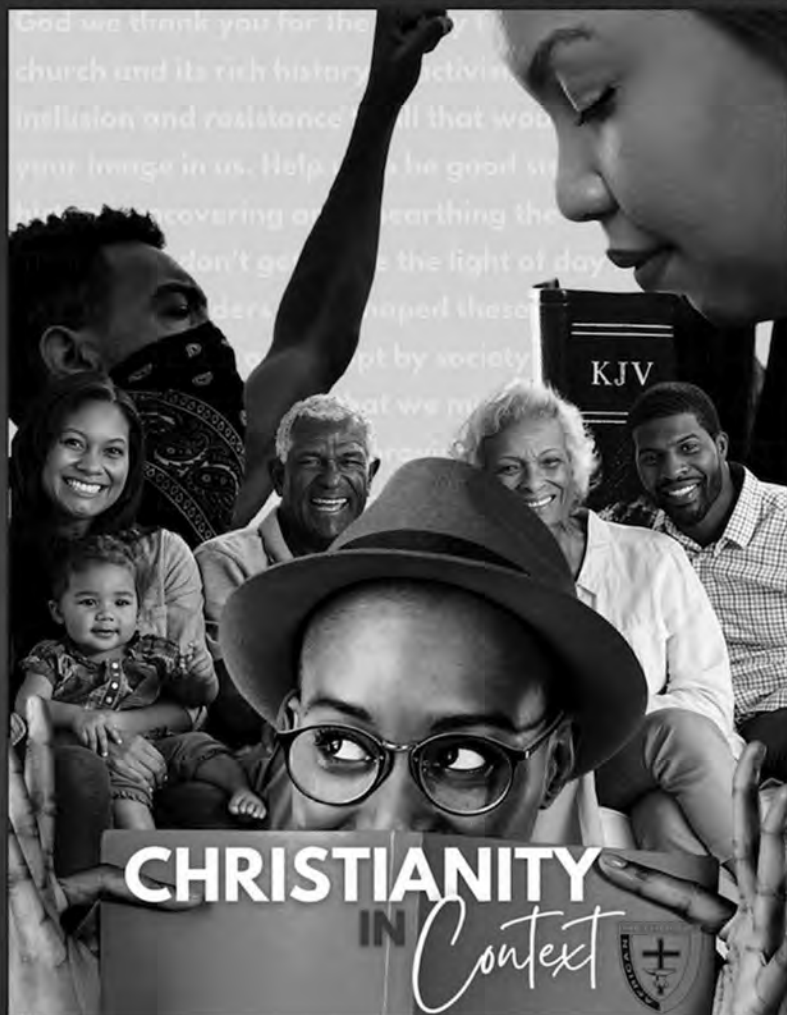
Because, Great God,

I long to be

Your treasured friend to the end.

(Sing to the tune of AMEC Hymn #283, "I Am Thine, O Lord")

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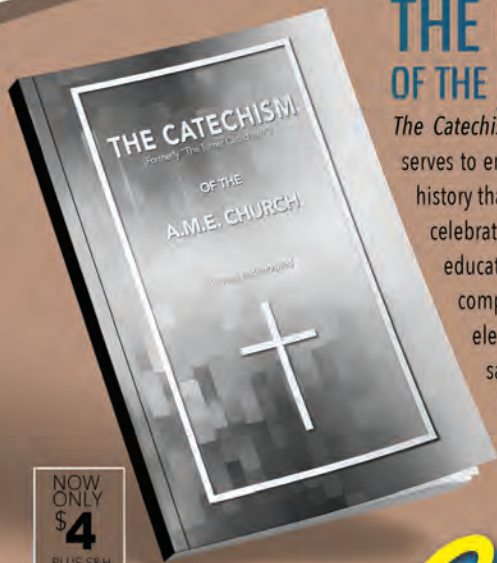
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