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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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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 AME 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.

AME Discipline

OVERVIEW

ENDURING BELIEFS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Unit 1

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Lesson 1: *December 7, 2025*
Title: *The Holy Scriptures*

Lesson 2: *December 14, 2025*
Title: *Our Heavenly Father*

Lesson 3: *December 21, 2025*
Title: *Christ the Savior*

Lesson 4: *December 28, 2025*
Title: *The Holy Spirit*

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Lesson 10: *February 8, 2026*
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Title: *Stewardship and Mission*

Unit I: Our Holy God and the Holy Scriptures

LESSON 1

DECEMBER 7, 2025
(SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

The Holy Scriptures

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Joshua 1:8–9; 2 Kings 22:8–20; Nehemiah 8:1–8; Psalm 19:7–14; Luke 24:25–32; Acts 17:10–12; 2 Timothy 3:14–17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:7–11; 2 Timothy 3:14–15

KEY VERSES: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

VOCABULARY

TORAH (TOHR-ah): Hebrew word for “law” or “instruction,” especially the first five books of the Bible.

PRECEPTS (PREE-septs): Commandments or principles intended as rules of conduct.

RIGHTEOUSNESS (RAHY-chuhs-nis): Living rightly according to God’s standards; justice.

INSPIRED (in-SPAHY-erd): God-breathed; something given by divine influence.

SCRIPTURE (SKRIP-cher): Sacred writings, especially those of the Bible.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PSALM 19:7-11; 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

PSALM 19:7-11

- 7** The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
- 8** the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- 9** the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11** Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

- 14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it
- 15** and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

Have you ever gotten lost, either on a road trip, at a new school, or just trying to figure out life? Today's world offers maps for everything. There are maps to help you navigate the streets and explore your family tree. Ancestry.com creates a map of many families and guides where they have traveled and migrated. It also provides information on where many families' origins began. But what if you had a spiritual map for your life?

God's Word offers clarity and direction. The Bible isn't just history—it's your *life map*.

Bible Story

Psalms 19:7—11 describes how God's Law, which is called the Torah, is "perfect," "sure," and "more desirable than gold." The passage reflects ancient Israel's understanding that divine instruction brings joy, enlightenment, and moral clarity. God's instruction transforms lives.

2 Timothy 3:14–15 is a deeply personal note from Paul to Timothy, urging Timothy to continue in what he has learned. Paul references Timothy's upbringing in the faith (see also 2 Tim. 1:5) and affirms that scripture is not just informative, it's formative, meaning it has the power to shape who we are. Paul says scripture is useful, not to impress others with knowledge, but to equip believers to live out their purpose.

In both passages, the written Word of God is treated as relational and alive, pointing the reader toward righteousness, justice, and spiritual maturity.

Life Application

The AME Church has long taught that scripture is a liberating force. For generations, communities found strength in the Word of God. Reading provided not only a guide but also served as a declaration of dignity, hope, and justice. Whether hidden in hush harbors or preached from pulpits, the Word was (and is) a lifeline.

Many of us are navigating pressures such as identity confusion, global injustice, and information overload. Amid it all, scripture remains a relevant and liberating force. God's Word offers wisdom when life feels uncertain, confidence when you're discovering your purpose, and courage to stand for what's right.

What scriptures do you hear or see most in your life, online, at church, in music, or art? How do those shape your view of God?

Summary

God's Word isn't just old text; it's alive and guiding. Psalm 19 and 2 Timothy show us that scripture is more than information; it's a foundation for transformation. The Bible helps us understand who God is and who we are called to be. It shapes our hearts, gives us wisdom, and builds a life of justice and purpose.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can scripture help shape your daily decisions or sense of purpose?

2. If someone asked why scripture matters to you, what would you say?
3. What's one verse or passage that has helped guide you through something difficult?
4. In what ways can scripture be a "life map"?

Closing Devotions

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving us your Word. Teach us to love it, live it, and use it to walk in your purpose. Amen.

APPENDIX

Applying God's Word to Life

Instructions: Look up the scripture references. Match the real-life situation with the most appropriate God's Word (scripture text).

REAL LIFE SITUATION	GOD'S WORD
When you need direction or feel lost	
When you're making a tough decision	
When you're trying to live right or learn the truth	
When you're questioning your purpose	
When someone hurts you or you're facing conflict	
When you're feeling anxious or overwhelmed	
When you feel discouraged or unnoticed	
When you're unsure how to respond to injustice	
When you're doubting your worth or purpose	

Referenced scriptures:

- Matthew 5:44:** *Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*
- Micah 6:8:** *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
- Proverbs 3:5–6:** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*
- Ephesians 2:10:** *For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works...*

5. **Galatians 6:9:** *Let us not grow weary in doing what is right...*

6. **Psalm 119:105:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

7. **2 Timothy 3:16–17:** *All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...*

8. **Jeremiah 29:11:** *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord...*

9. **Isaiah 41:10:** *Do not fear, for I am with you... I will strengthen you...of your minds...*

10. **Philippians 4:6–7:** *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication... the peace of God... will guard your hearts.*

Reflection Questions:

1. Which Scripture surprised you the most?
2. How might these verses help you during the week?
3. Were any verses difficult to apply? Why?

Our Heavenly Father

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Exodus 34:4-7; Psalm 103:1-5, 10-14; Isaiah 40:27-31; Matthew 6:24-34; John 3:3-6; 4:20-24; 8:40-47; Romans 2:2-11; 8:14-17; 1 John 4:7-16

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:24-34

KEY VERSE: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Matthew 6:34

VOCABULARY

MAMMON (MAM-uhn): Aramaic for “wealth” or “what is trusted in.” Used by Jesus to describe wealth as a rival master to God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS (RAHY-chuhs-nis): Living in right relationship with God, others, and self. Also refers to justice and equity.

PROVISION (pruh-VIZH-uhn): The act of supplying what is needed.

WORRY (WUR-ee): Persistent concern or anxiety about something uncertain or uncontrollable.

KINGDOM OF GOD: God’s reign of justice, peace, and love on earth and in heaven.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:24-34

SAMPLE

- 24** “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- 25** Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?
- 26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
- 27** And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?
- 28** And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,
- 29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.
- 30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?
- 31** Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’
- 32** For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- 33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- 34** So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Introduction

Have you ever worried so much about something that it was hard to sleep, focus, or even breathe? You’re not alone. Whether it’s grades, money, relationships, or the future, worry can feel like a constant companion.

Jesus gets that. In Matthew 6, he talks directly to people who live with real stress. He reminds them (and us) that God sees, knows, and provides. Letting go of worry doesn’t mean pretending problems don’t exist! It means trusting our Heavenly Father to walk with us through them.

The season of Advent, preparing for the coming of Christ, invites us to prepare by *releasing* what burdens us and *receiving* God's peace.

Bible Story

Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 6:24–34** is part of his famous *Sermon on the Mount*. He challenges the idea that we can trust both God and money, pointing out that *mammon*, which is wealth or possessions, can control us like a master. Jesus says we can't serve both.

Instead of obsessing over what we wear or eat or how we'll make it, Jesus invites us to notice how God takes care of the birds and the flowers. If God meets other parts of creation's needs, won't he care for us even more?

But Jesus goes deeper. He's not saying we don't need things. He's saying *God knows we do*. That's why Jesus says, "Seek (look) first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness." In other words, focus on living justly, loving faithfully, and trusting God. Everything else? God is controlling it.

Jesus' words lead us to let go of a mindset shaped by fear and survival and step into a mindset shaped by faith and purpose. That's not just spiritual, it's liberating.

Life Application

In the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we teach that faith is not just about belief; it's about how we live, serve, and show up for each other. From our earliest days, AMEs have trusted God's provision even when systems were stacked against our communities, families, and individuals. Whether in hush harbors or justice marches, our people knew that God was their source.

Today, worries may look different; for example, climate change, college debt, social media comparison; nevertheless, the answer is still rooted in faith. Trusting our Heavenly Father isn't passive. It means actively resisting a culture of fear, injustice, and hoarding. When we let go of worry, we're freed to live in joy, justice, and generosity.

What do you find yourself worrying about most? How do you think God

wants you to approach that worry?

Summary

Jesus reminded us that we don't have to live in fear about the future. God sees our needs and cares deeply about us. Instead of chasing after status or material things, Jesus calls us to seek God's kingdom—a life of trust, justice, and love. Living in God's care doesn't remove all problems, but it gives us courage and peace to face the uncertainties of life.

Reflection Questions:

1. What's the difference between being prepared and being worried?
2. How is seeking God's kingdom different from chasing success?
3. How can trusting God's provision help you release anxiety about the future?
4. In what ways can letting go of worry help you live more freely and serve others?

Closing Devotions

Prayer: Dear God, you know what we are worried about, even the things we don't say aloud. Help us release those worries and trust you more each day. Remind us that our trust is in you and not material things. Thank you, God, for being our provider. Amen.

APPENDIX

Our Heavenly Father's Got This

Think about last week. What are some things that made you worry or anxious? Write your thoughts below.

What would it look like to let go of those worries and trust God instead?

Needs vs. Wants: Brainstorm all the things you want and those things you need; start with the list of things you need. Write everything you believe you need; then write those things you want. *Sample: clean water, new phone, school supplies, loving friendships, daily meals.*

NEEDS	WANTS

Reflection: How has God met your needs? Remember, sometimes God meets our needs through others.

Christ the Savior

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:11, 30-32; 15:3-7; John 3:14-17; 10:9-11, 14-16, 27-28; Acts 3:1-18; Romans 5:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11; 2 Timothy 1:9-10

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-10

KEY VERSE: If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10

VOCABULARY

RECONCILE (*REK-uhn-sahyl*): To restore a relationship, make peace, or bring back together.

SHEPHERD (*SHEP-erd*): One who tends, protects, and leads sheep; also, a biblical image for a leader who lovingly guides and cares for people.

LAMB OF GOD: A title for Jesus that reflects his role as the ultimate sacrifice for sin.

JUSTIFY (*JUHS-tuh-fahy*): To be made right with God through faith and grace.

LOST: Spiritually disconnected, unsure of identity or belonging; not forgotten by God.

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:3-7; ROMANS 5:6-10

LUKE 15:3-7

- 3 So he told them this parable:
- 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?
- 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.
- 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’
- 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

ROMANS 5:6-10

- 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
- 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
- 9 Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
- 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Introduction

Have you ever felt invisible, like nobody saw you or knew what you were going through? Maybe you’ve felt like you were “wandering,” even in a crowd of people. If you’ve ever felt lost, you’re not the only one. Jesus told a story about a sheep who wandered off and a shepherd who left *everything* to search for it.

Jesus doesn’t ignore people who feel unseen. He runs toward them. That’s the message of Advent: God didn’t wait for us to get it all together. **God came for us.** In Luke and Romans, we see how deeply God desires to

bring us back, not just to forgive us, but to let us know we belong. That's what it means to be *safe* and *secure* in Christ.

Bible Story

Luke 15:3—7 is part of a set of parables Jesus told to religious leaders who were judging him for hanging out with “the wrong people.” But Jesus flips the script. He tells them about the meaning of *lost*. Jesus talks about a lost coin, a lost sheep, and a lost son. Jesus tells the religious leaders about the shepherd who leaves 99 sheep just to find one that wandered off. In that story, God isn't annoyed by the one who's lost; he rejoices when the sheep is found.

Romans 5:6–10 goes even deeper. Paul reminds us that God's love is revealed not just when we're doing well, but especially when we're not. “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” That means even when we were making bad choices, Jesus was already making a way to forgive us for our wrongful deeds.

The shepherd doesn't shame the sheep. He lifts, carries, and celebrates them. Furthermore, Jesus doesn't wait until we're perfect. He finds us, rescues us, and gives us a new life.

Life Application

From its beginnings, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has understood what it means to feel marginalized or cast aside, and what it means to be restored. We hear the Gospel of *reconciliation* because we know what it means to be lost in systems that weren't built for us. But God's love is greater. God sees us. God values us. And God rescues us not just spiritually, but socially and emotionally.

If you've ever felt like you didn't belong, Jesus says: *You do*. If you've ever felt overlooked, Romans remind us: *You are loved and justified*.

What does it mean to know that God would leave 99 to search for you?

Summary

God commands us to be generous, not just with leftovers, but with our hearts. The Bible calls us to open our hands, especially when it's inconvenient. Giving isn't just charity; it's a reflection of God's love and a sign that we trust in God's provision. Our faith comes alive when we serve others.

Reflection Questions:

1. What keeps people from helping others, even when they know it's the right thing to do?
2. Who around you might need to be reminded that they are loved and not alone?
3. Who in your community might need generosity, and how can you respond?

Closing Devotions

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for never giving up on me, even when I've wandered. Help me feel your love more deeply and show it to others who feel lost. Amen.

APPENDIX

God Sees Us

Instructions: Identify one group or a person you feel society forgets and then write one action you can take to reflect God's love toward them.

Person or group: _____

Action: _____

Person or groups you feel your church has forgotten: _____

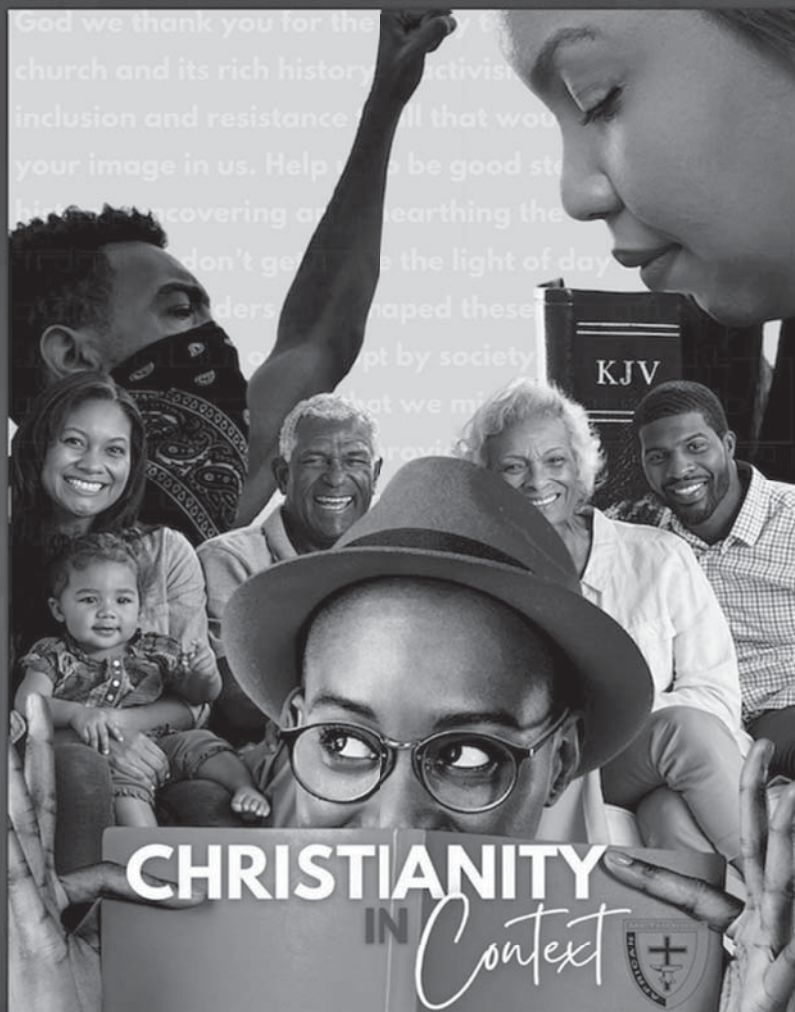
What action can the church take to make the person(s) feel welcome?

What action can you take to share your feelings with a church leader?

Based on the lesson: How will you advocate for the unnoticed, unseen, and the forgotten in society?

Be prepared to share next week: "How did it feel to reflect God's love by making others feel noticed, seen, or remembered?"

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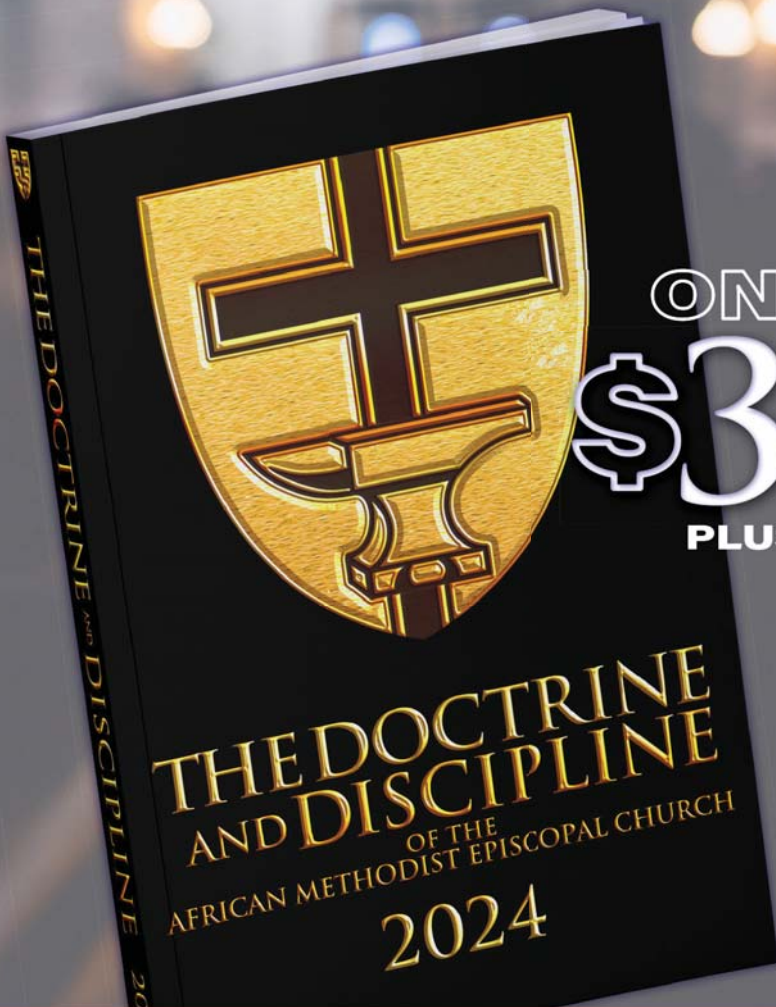
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