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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

**Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin**, Publisher  
**Rev. Dr. Garland F. Pierce**, Editor  
**Rev. Monica C. Jones, Ph.D.**, Lessons  
**A.L. Stanfield**, Copy Editor  
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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.





## LED BY GOD'S WORD

**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 Verse:** From childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15 (NRSV UE)

Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NRSV UE)

### 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.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Sacred** – Anything relating to our faith, religion, or our church experiences, holy.
- **Salvation** – God’s way of giving us eternal life, being safe and right with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

### GETTING READY!!!

“**A**dvent is a special time of year. It is a little different from Christmas because it is before we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Each of the four Sundays before Christmas is particularly important for us to understand,” Mrs. Browne said to her church school class. To help the class understand, Mrs. Browne gave each child a word to learn related to Advent. They included words such as hope, sacred, joy, love, faith, disciple, serve, peace, and neighbor. Each student was told to bring back an example of their word and the definition as they understood it. The example had to be something they did or participated in themselves. “Remember,” she said, “next week you will have to tell us exactly what you did and how you define the word you have been given.”

### INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

**W**e learned in the last quarter about brokenness, healing, and being changed into wholeness. Now, just as Timothy in our Bible lesson is being taught about salvation and faith from the Apostle Paul, each of you is learning from your teachers and pastor about how to be a better Christian! By understanding the Word of God while you are young, you will find that as you grow

older, it will be more familiar to you as you go through life from day to day. Here are a few of the words that Mrs. Browne's class will be working on. Choose one for yourself and by the end of class, be able to talk about what the word means! If you have a word of your own that you would like to use, let your teacher know!

**Hope**

**Joy**

**Peace**

**Love**

**Serve**

**Neighbor**



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

**E**ach of the words above has to do with something that we can do each day in one way or another. For example, we can have joy even when things don't go our way. When we are connected to the Lord through the Holy Spirit, we can be stronger when problems arise. Joy of the Lord means that we do not let things in our lives take away our sense of well-being. Our joy is not dependent upon the world. In addition, we do not let the problems in our lives affect our positive thinking.

### *A Helping Hand*

In the space below, assume that one of the sets of hands belongs to you. Give a name to the other and then write a short statement about how you are using one of the words previous page (if not the one you've chosen already) to help or serve the other person.

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### REMIX!!!

**Y**ou have learned how simple words that you know can become quite transforming and life-changing if you use them as God intends. To determine if you were on the right track with the words that you chose and the definitions that you gave, select two or three scriptural readings from the **Lesson Scripture** for today's lesson. Your teacher will help you select the biblical statements! Be ready to discuss why you think your scripture and your activity are a great match!

### PRAISE GOD!!!

*Books of the Bible Rap*



## **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each month of this quarter, there will be a closing prayer that will help improve your relationship with the Lord and others. Try your best to memorize it.)*

Lord, I want to learn more about you and your purpose for my life. Help me to study your holy Word and help me to understand more about being a better Christian as I read the Bible each day. Amen.

## THE LORD CARES FOR ALL

**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:** “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.” Matthew 6:25 (NRSV UE)

Matthew 6:24-34 (NRSV UE)

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."

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## WORD POWER!!!

- **Care** – Being concerned for something or someone; providing support for an individual in need.

### GETTING READY!!!

**T**he letter from the pastor to her congregation during Advent expressed the following: "Christmastime is about giving and receiving gifts for most families that we know. Some families are very blessed and can buy as many gifts as they wish and have more than enough in clothes, food, and money. So, how do we share this kind of wealth and plenty with others? Since we do not have to worry about our resources or what we will have for Christmas, we should show others that we care about them. We can be the ones who allow them to see that God will take care of them. For we all know that being generous with others is a wonderful way to demonstrate love for our neighbor." *What do you think about this pastor's letter? Does it express something that you believe you could do?*

### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

**O**ur **Key Verse** from Matthew today tells us that Jesus will supply our needs and that we should put our trust in him.

Jesus explained to the people who were listening, some of whom may have been in need themselves, not to worry about tomorrow. Jesus already knows what you need! So, rather than worrying about what we may receive for Christmas or what gifts we can have under the tree, why not make a list of those things that we could share with others?

## **Flash Fun!!!**

On a flash card that your teacher will give you, write down at least five items that you would like to have for Christmas. After everyone has completed their cards, put them in a box and allow one person to pull a flash card from the box and write the item on a board from the list. Continue making a list until you have enough items to give to the number of people you have chosen. You may choose a program for less privileged children or youth, or you may find members of your church who are in need! Be sure to list items that you really would have wanted for Christmas to share with someone else.

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

**S**haring with others and giving sacrificially is one way to honor God and to share the love that Jesus asks us to have for one another. When we read lessons in the Bible that reveal how God provides and gives instructions to those of us who can do for others, we should take those lessons with us and make them a part of our daily lives. Once your class has gotten the gifts that you would like to give, why not plan a special event at your church or a central location to celebrate? Ask your teacher to assist you in having a special celebration or other gift-giving party. Take the time to get to know those children in your community who desper-

ately need your help! If possible, make it an annual event!

### REMIX!!!

**S**haring with others, especially those who have less than we do, is pleasing to God. We know from our Bible lessons this week that demonstrating love to one another is what God intends. Because God is love, any love that we show to others is sharing God's message! Remember, we are not to worry about what clothes we will wear, devices we will receive, and what we may or may not get at Christmastime. We should trust God to supply whatever we need. Meanwhile, let's plan to share what we already have with others. That is truly the spirit of Christmas. That is love!



### PRAISE GOD!!!

**R**ecite this together: The Jesus in me loves the Jesus in you; caring and sharing is what we do!



### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*(Each month of this quarter, there will be a closing prayer that will help improve your relationship with the Lord and others. Try your best to memorize it.)*

Lord, I want to learn more about you and your purpose for my life. Help me to study your holy Word and help me to understand more about being a better Christian as I read the Bible each day. Amen.

## EMMANUEL MEANS, “GOD IS WITH US”

**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 2:11; 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-8

**Key Verse:** “To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:11 (NRSV UE)

Luke 2:11; 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-8 (NRSV UE)

### Luke 2:11

11 ...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

### 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 5:6-8

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.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Sheep** – Fragile and innocent animals cared for by a shepherd. In the Bible, sheep are used to explain how we should follow our shepherd, who is Jesus.
- **Emmanuel (ee-man'-u-ell)** – A word in the Old Testament of the Bible; it relates to how God protects us; it means “God is with us.”

### GETTING READY!!!

The Christmas bells were ringing, and all the neighborhood children were on their way to Mama Johnson's house for cookies and cocoa. Each year, Ms. Johnson, who had a large home, would invite the children and their parents over to exchange gifts and enjoy homemade cookies and hot chocolate. This year, Angie was looking forward to giving her friend Vicki the present she had picked out for her. It was a pink case for her cell phone that had her name engraved on the back! She couldn't wait to see Vicki's face when she opened her present. She put the gift in her backpack, grabbed her coat, and ran down to the car. Her mother would not be able to stay and was just dropping her off at the party. After that, she would be staying with Vicki overnight.

As they pulled up to the house, she looked in her backpack to take out the gift, but it wasn't there. “Oh no! Where is it?”

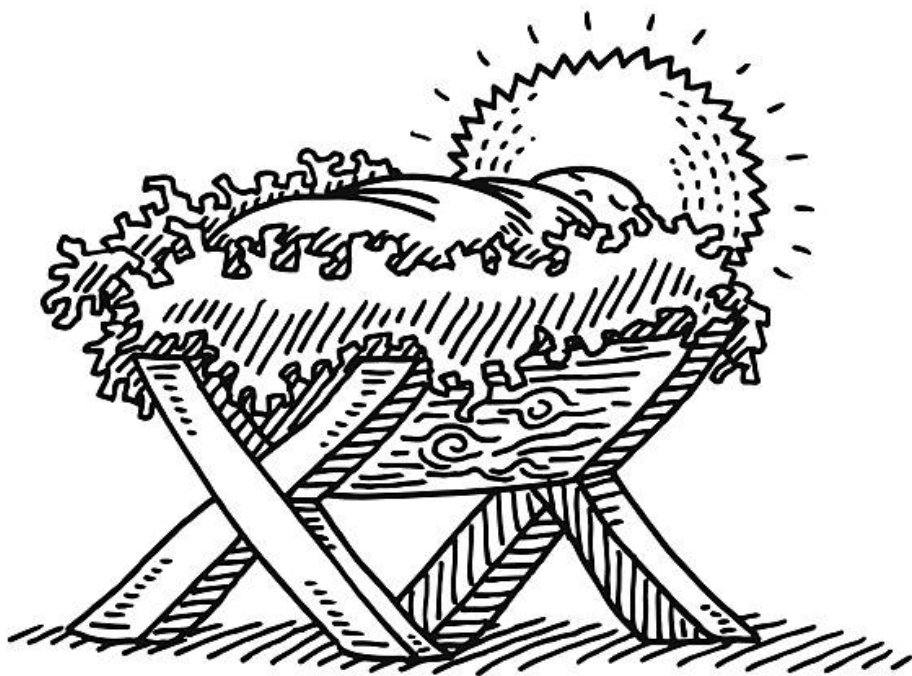
“What's wrong?” her mother asked.

“I can't find Angie's gift! I know I put it in my backpack when I left my bedroom.” Vicki began to panic and couldn't believe that she had misplaced the gift for her friend.



### INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

*(Color baby Jesus and make the cradle beautiful!)*



**W**hen Jesus was born, it was a gift from God to the world. Luke tells the story of how the Lord Jesus came as a baby to save the world. Yes, Jesus came for our salvation so that we would not be lost! How wonderful it would be if we, as human beings, could be so perfect that we never lose the things we collect in our lives. Yet, things like Vicki's cell phone cover for her friend are temporary. They can be replaced. It is far more important to be concerned about our salvation and to make sure we never lose it. It is no fun when things that we need or enjoy are gone, but in time, we will either find better things or move on and forget

them. Vicki was able to find her gift for her friend on the floor of the car. It had fallen out of her backpack, which she had left open. However, if she had not been able to find it, what are some of the things that she could have done to feel better about the loss?

If you could make a list of words to share with Vicki to make her feel better about the gift she may have lost, what would be on it? Choose from the list below and add a few words of your own. Put them on colorful cards and then place them in a gift box to be used later.



*HOPE, FAITH, CALM, THINK, REMEMBER*

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

#### *Gift Cards of Love®*

**N**ow that you have thought about words that could make Vicki feel better, use those same words to bless someone you know who may be feeling down and out or sad. Or you can use the words to make colorful Christmas cards of hope to give to someone this week! Take time to decide how you would like to use them, but before Christmas day, be sure that you give them to a person who needs a helping hand or an encouraging word. If you cannot think of anyone, ask your teacher or parents for suggestions. When you return to class next week, report what happened and how you felt when you gave your gift.

### REMIX!!!

**J**esus was born to save the lost. This means each of us, before we accept the Lord as our savior, are lost to sin and shame. When we pray the *Prayer of Salvation* and accept Jesus into our lives, we are no longer lost but found. We do not have to panic about what will happen to us when we die, because our home will be in heaven. Keep this promise in mind when you are disappointed about things you do not have or have lost along the way. The important lesson is that in Jesus, we are never lost; we are safe.

### PRAISE GOD!!!

**A**lthough it is not a traditional Christmas song, “Amazing Grace” is a very well-known hymn that people all over the world sing. Observe the video of the song, “Amazing Grace,” and see if you can recognize the words that relate to our lesson today.

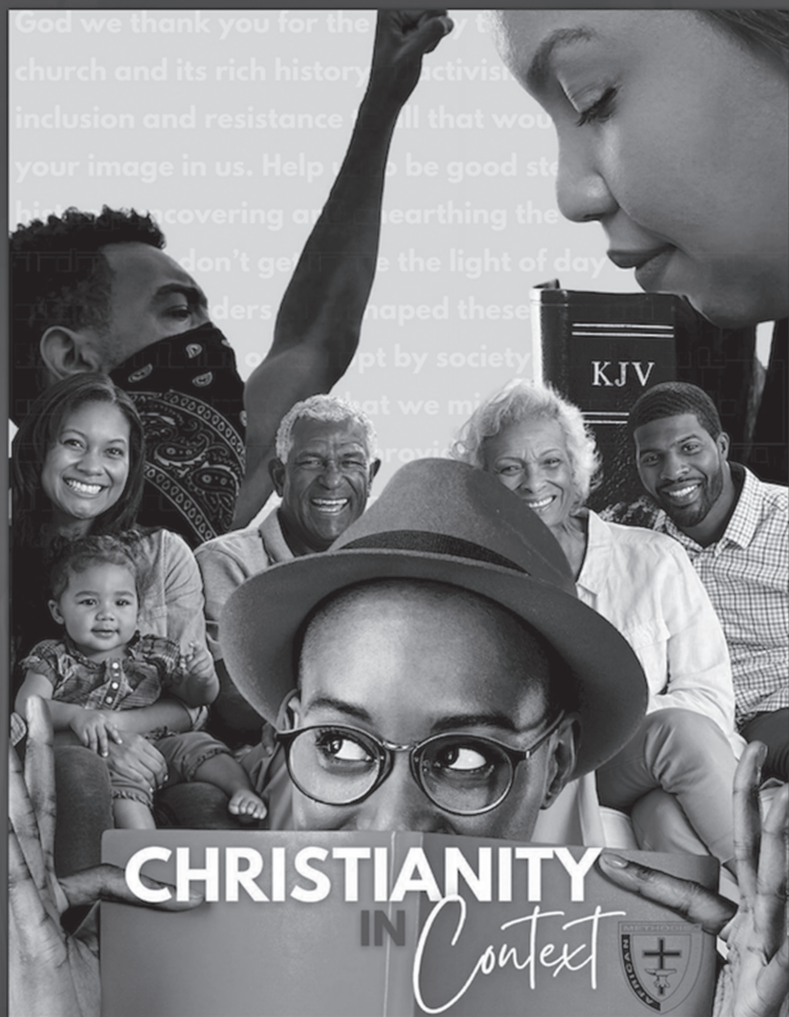
### CLOSING PRAYER

*(Each month of this quarter, there will be a closing prayer that will help improve your relationship with the Lord and others. Try your best to memorize it.)*

Dear Lord, you have made each of us special! You have given us all a gift. Help me to find mine and show me how I can use it to your glory! Amen.



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# NEW LOOK COMING SOON

