

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

EDITORIAL STAFF

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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.

LOVE AND DEVOTION

LESSON SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9; MATTHEW 22:37-40

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9; MATTHEW 22:37-40

Key Verse: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 22:37-40 (NRSV)

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9

1 Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy,

2 so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long.

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

MATTHEW 22:37-40

37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

38 This is the greatest and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Statutes** – Rules.
- **Ordinances** – Laws.
- **Fear** – Respect.
- **Soul** – The inner most part of a person.

Getting Ready!!!

The Perez family has been saying grace before meals for generations. They say grace at home. They say grace at restaurants. Malinda's grandmother said she even said grace at school before eating her lunch. Grandma June says that's how members of the Perez family tell God they love and respect God. Now, Malinda says grace before eating her meals at school, too.

Into God's Word!!!

Moses takes time to set some important things straight before the Israelites are allowed to claim the land God promised them. Moses reminds them that the God who promised them that they could live in this land with good food deserves their love and respect. Moses says what he's going to remind the Israelites of is so important that they need to know and live by it. He also says their children and children's children need to know and live by it, too. That way each generation can show God how much they love and respect God.

Moses' message to the Israelites is also the message Jesus gives to a church leader who tried to test him. Moses and Jesus both say: put everything that you are into loving God. When you do, you let God know how much God means to you. You claim that God *is* your God and that you are God's child.

Activity #1 – I Will Love God with My Everything. Create three flash cards to remind you to love God with all your heart, soul, and might. When you are done, use your flash cards to come up with an example of how you can love God with your heart, soul, and might.

I will love God with all my
HEART by

I will love God with all my
SOUL by

I will love God with all my
MIGHT by



Using God’s Word!!!

It’s not always easy to remember to keep promises that you make. That’s why it’s important to remind yourself that you’ve made the promise AND the reasons why you made it! Moses starts off by giving the Israelites reasons why they need to love God. Then Moses ends by suggesting ways they can remember to love God with all that they are no matter where they are.

Activity #2 – The “Why” and the “How.” Look at the phrases below. If you think they are **one of the reasons Moses gives for keeping the commandment to love God**, write “W” next to it. If you think the phrase is **one of the ways that people can keep the commandment in their heart**, write “H” next to it.

1. Repeat them to your children.	
2. You’ll be able to respect God for as long as you live.	
3. Things will go well with you in your new home.	
4. Tie them on your hand.	
5. Write them on your gates.	
6. You’ll grow into a great nation.	

Remix!!!

Malinda and her family show God love and respect by saying grace before every meal. When they do this in public places, they show other people that you can love God wherever you are. Moses wanted the Israelites to know they could love God with all that they were wherever they were, too. Moses had them display reminders to love in places for them and for others to see. That way the message to love God wouldn’t end with them. It could be spread to future generations. What can you do to spread the word that loving God with all that you are is important? Use the space below for your answer.

Praise the Lord!!!

God, you are more than wonderful. You are the best there is. I want you to know I love you. I love you with my feelings. I love you with my thinking. I love you with my *how I treat others*. I love you with how I treat myself. I love you with all that I am because you deserve it. – AMEN.

CHOOSE TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 20:1-11; JOSHUA 24

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 24:1-3 (ENDING WITH “MANY”), 13-15, 21-24

Key Verse: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
Joshua 24:15b

Joshua 24:1-3 (ending with “many”), 13-15, 21-24 (NRSV)

JOSHUA 24:1-3 (ENDING WITH “MANY”)

1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.”

13-15

13 “I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

14 Now therefore revere the

Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

21-24

21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!”

22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.”

23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

24 The people said to Joshua, and him we will obey.”
“The Lord our God we will serve,

WORD POWER!!!

- **Shechem** (pronounced *Shek-um*) – The place where Joshua and the Israelites renewed their covenant to love and serve God when they first entered the Promised Land.
- **Revere** – Respect.
- **Incline** – Turn towards by leaning in close.
- **Covenant** – A binding agreement between two parties.
- **Amorites** – Group of people on the east side of the Jordan who worshipped other gods.

Getting Ready!!!

Danielle was baptized when she was three years old. Her mother taught her about what baptism meant. It was a special ceremony that allowed her to show God and the world that she loved and wanted to serve God. Back then, the choice to love and serve God was made for her. Now Danielle was ten years old and she wanted to renew that choice.

Pastor Gray helped Danielle do just that when he offered a special invitation on Decision Day. At that time, she invited people who wanted to renew their baptismal commitment to come forward. Then the pastor had everyone who came forward say that they were choosing to love and serve God again.

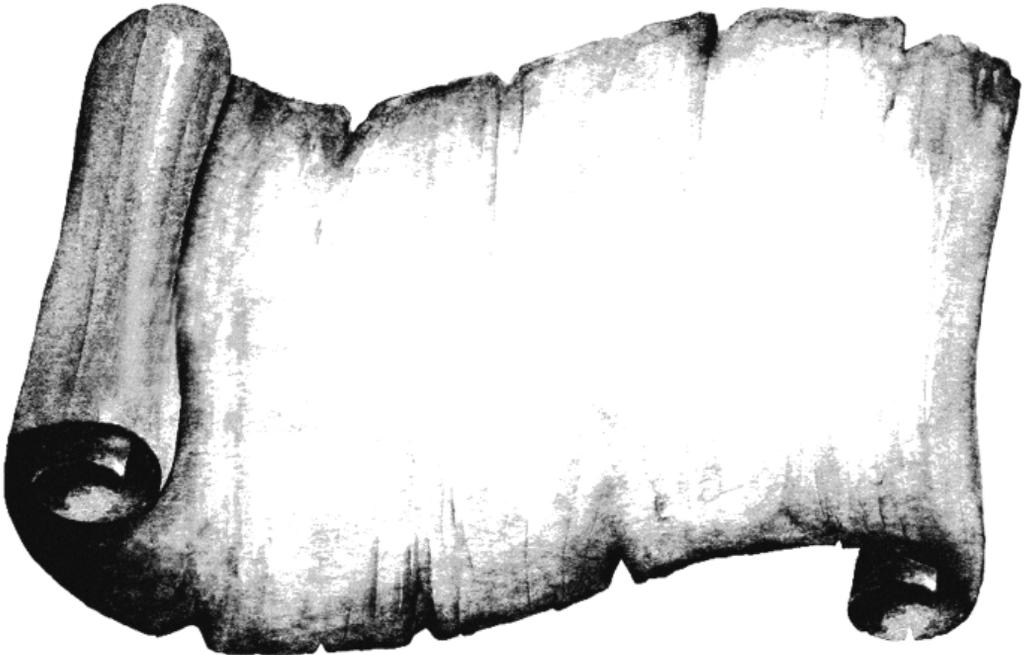
Into God's Word!!!

During last week's lesson, Moses encouraged the Israelites to remind themselves to love God with everything they had as they entered the Promised Land. Once the Israelites actually entered that Promised Land, Joshua led them in reaffirming

Mal has to face her fears that she doesn't have what it takes to love and be loved.

With the help of her friends, Mal does more than that. She's able to say "I love you" and mean the words she says. She also realizes that choosing love and Auradon wasn't just the right choice for her. By the end of the movie, Mal and her friends understand that even more kids from the Isle of the Lost deserve a chance to make the same choice.

Activity #2 – God's Got Stiff Competition. Use the space below to write what draws your attention away from loving and serving God. Then pick at least one item that you're willing to put away so that you can turn your heart to God.



Remix!!!

As things change, we often need to renew our commitment to past choices. Danielle did that when she turned ten years

old. The 12 tribes of Israel did that when they received their portions of the Promised Land. Mal does it when she went back to Auradon after trying life on the Isle of the Lost again.

These moments of renewal are very important to people of faith. They help us know that our choice to love God is a good and right choice. They also remind us that everyone deserves a chance to make the choice to love and serve God.

Praise the Lord!!!

God, thank you so much for all you've done for me. I'm not taking it for granted. I'm letting you know I'm still interested in a relationship with you. I still choose you, Lord. Keep being my God. I'll continue being your child. I won't keep the benefits of renewing my connection with you to myself. I'll invite others to join me. But even if they do not, I'll stick with you as long as I live. Amen.

LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: PSALM 103:1-17 (ENDING WITH “HIM”), 21-22

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PSALM 103:1-17 (ENDING WITH “HIM”), 21-22

Key Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Psalm 103:1

Psalm 103:1-17 (ending with “him”), 21-22 (NRSV)

PSALM 103:1-17 (ENDING WITH “HIM”)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits —

3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

6 The Lord works vindication and justice for all who oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

10 He does not deal with us

according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;

16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

17But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,...

21-22

21 Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

22 Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Bless** – Praise.
- **Iniquity** – Wrongdoing.
- **Pit** – Grave; land of the dead.
- **Works vindication** – Defends.
- **Transgressions** – Guilty actions, wrongdoing.
- **Hosts** – Heaven’s armies.

Getting Ready!!!

Lisa McCourt wrote a book called *I Love You, Stinky Face* about a boy and his mom. In the story, the boy and mom talk about different things that could mess up the love between them. Mom says she loves him. Next, the boy asks if she’ll still love him if does certain things. Then mom tells the boy what she’ll do to show that she still loves him. By the end of the story, the boy only has one thing left to say: “I love you, Mama.”

Into God’s Word!!!

The psalmist and the Israelites to whom he speaks find themselves in a similar position. They have made some bad choices. They haven’t always kept their end of the agreement to love God with all their heart from Lesson One. They’ve even broken the renewed agreement from Lesson Two. Sometimes, the Israelites have given other gods what God deserves, so they feel guilty. Yet, God keeps showing them that God still loves them. God keeps forgiving and offering them a chance to live as God’s people. That’s why the psalmist opens and ends today’s lesson by telling himself to praise God with all that God is.

Activity #1 – The Benefits of Being God’s. Use the psalm to fill in the blanks below to identify some of the benefits of belonging to God.

1. The Lord is _____ to anger and _____ in steadfast _____.
2. God doesn’t _____ us according to our _____.
3. God _____ our transgressions.
4. The Lord heals all your _____ and redeems your _____ from the pit.
5. The Lord has _____ on those who fear the Lord.

Using God’s Word!!!

In *Transformers: The Last Knight*, Optimus Prime is tricked into fighting for a bad guy so that he can save his home planet. Bumblebee helps him remember who he is and that stops Optimus from destroying everyone. Afterwards, Optimus feels so guilty that he believes he deserves to be destroyed. Another friend steps in and gives him another chance to help make things right. Optimus could’ve ignored the offer and allowed his guilt to keep him from being a hero again. Instead, he accepts the forgiveness and works with everyone else to make the world a safer and better place.

Activity #2 – Yucky Feelings vs. Warm and Fuzzy Feelings. Look at the actions below. Put an ‘X’ by the situations which might make believers feel guilty, and by the situations which might make them feel satisfied.

	<u>Guilty</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>
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Dion promised to pray with his mom before bed but played on his tablet instead.		
Michelle helped her little sister learn the words to a new praise song.		
Drake scribbled all over the pew with his crayons.		
Nyla walked up to the altar with her friends so the pastor could pray for the friend.		

Remix!!!

God knows that no one is perfect so God doesn't expect us to be perfect. God just expects us to do better once we've been forgiven. God wants to fill our life with good stuff. God wants us to know that our wrong choices do not end of our relationship with God. Sure, God will get angry but that anger won't last forever. We will get a chance to do things right again. We'll even get a chance to feel God's love again. And that's why we should praise God with all that we are.

Activity #3 – I Will Bless the Lord. Use the space below to write your own song, poem, or rap about why you praise God.



Praise the Lord!!!

I will praise you, O God, with all that I am and with all that I've got.

You make it possible for me to live with hope, joy, and peace.

I've done some wrong things and I feel guilty.

But doesn't change who and how you are to me.

You are the best that is, was, and will be.

That's why I'm praising you with all that I am and with all that I've got.