



**PARTNERS
IN A
NEW CREATION**

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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 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.

GOD SEES EVERYTHING

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 47

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 47:10-15

Key Verse: You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me." Your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray. Isaiah 47:10a

Isaiah 47:10-15 (NRSV)

10 You felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me." Your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."

11 But evil shall come upon you, which you cannot charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, which you will not be able to ward off; and ruin shall come on you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

12 Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed, perhaps you may inspire terror.

13 You are wearied with your many consultations; let those who study the heavens stand up and save you, those who gaze at the stars, and at each new moon predict what shall befall you.

14 See, they are like stubble, the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before!

15 Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have trafficked with you from your youth; they all wander about in their own paths; there is no one to save you.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Babylon** – The nation that Isaiah said God would use to discipline Judah for worshipping other gods and unjust practices.
- **“I am, and there is no one besides me”** – The phrase God uses to describe God’s uniqueness.
- **Consultations** – Different “technologies” the Babylonians depended on to help direct their lives (e.g., sorcery, fortune-telling, and astrology).

GETTING READY!!!

Delancey had a gift with digital technology. Creating eye-popping images and videos came easily even though Delancey wasn’t even an adult. There was one problem. Delancey started trusting in her own creativity more than God. Delancey began to brag about being able to do anything with the images and videos she created without getting caught. Last Sunday, Delancey kept Zoom bombing the Sunday service Livestream with videos that caused Facebook to block viewers from watching the service. *Do you think this was a good use of Delancey’s gifts? Yes? ☐ No? ☐ Why do you feel this way?*

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Today’s lesson talks about a nation much like Delancey. The country was called Babylon, and the people were called Babylonians. God allowed them to become powerful enough to take over and discipline Judah for worshipping other gods and not treating everyone fairly. But Babylon took this ability too far. They started acting like they could get away with doing whatever they wanted, just like Judah had done.

Babylon even began making claims about themselves that were only true of God. That's why God stepped in to let us know they weren't really getting away with anything. God saw what they were doing, and God would act to let them know they needed to make a change.

Of course, the amazing thing was that Babylon wasn't even a nation yet when Isaiah shared this message. And, yet, years later, everything happened just like God had Isaiah tell Judah it would. That means the message is a warning to Babylon, Judah, **and** us. It is something God uses to let us know when things need to change around us. It also lets us know what will happen if we act like we don't answer to anyone and ignore God's warning.

Activity #1: Use the Senses God Gave You. Your teacher is going to do and/or show different things. As the things happen/are shown, write down/draw or call out the sense (sight, sound, taste, touch, Holy Spirit, etc.) that lets you know something needs to be addressed and/or changed.



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Knowing the best way to use technology can be like walking on a tightrope. Maybe that's why most U.S. schools make parents and students sign a "technology usage" document. They realize that kids need help identifying what's ok and what's not ok when it comes to the technology made available to us.

If we get too dependent on available technology, we'll run into all

kinds of trouble. We forget how to do things without technology. Today, people do internet searches to find out information about nearby places. Likewise, students use the internet to do research on school topics or learn what words mean. If your internet went down, how would you find that same information? Well, you could get a book or magazine from a library on the school topic. You could also open up a paper dictionary to learn what the words mean.

We can also mess up our relationships with God and others. We can spend so much time on our technology that we stop making meaningful connections with others. We might even start taking them for granted and miss the signs that they're hurting. That's why we need to pay attention when we learn that we're misusing our technology.

Activity #2: Good and Bad Use of Technology Board. Use the poster board to create a "Good and Bad Use of Technology" board. When you're done, share ways to make amends if you've misused your technology.

REMIX!!!

We have access to lots of things that make life easier, but we shouldn't trust those things more than we trust God. When we have special gifts and talents, we shouldn't let that go to our heads. And if either of these things happens, we should expect God to let us know when we need to change our ways. Then we should make the necessary changes so that our relationship with God and others isn't permanently damaged.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

All-Seeing God,

Thank you for reminding us that you alone deserve our unwavering trust.

Please keep reminding us that no one gets away with abusing their power.

Show us when we're trusting in our human "technology" more than you.

And we'll make the needed change to get right with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GOD WILL MAKE THINGS BETTER

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 49:1-17

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 49:1-11

*Key Verse: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation
I have helped you. Isaiah 49:8*

Isaiah 49:1-11 (NRSV)

1 Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God."

5 And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—

6 he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors

of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

7 Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

8 Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages;

9 saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;

10 they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he

who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

11 And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Shadow of His Hand** – Code words for “being safe and protected.”
- **Nations** – Groups of people who share a common history and/or belief system.
- **Prostrate** – Bowing low to the ground to honor someone.

GETTING READY!!!

“**T**his Little Light of Mine” was Evie’s favorite song. She loved the beat. She loved how easy it was to sing. And she loved the message. Her favorite verse was the one that says, “God gave me this light, so I’m gonna let it shine.” When asked why she liked it so much, Evie said it reminded her that God gave all believers something that God meant for them to share with others. God gave us hope so we could give hope. God gave us grace so we could offer grace. God gave us forgiveness so we could forgive. If you agree with Evie, make a list of some godly messages you can share with others while “This Little Light of Mine” plays in the background.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Today’s lesson reminds us that Evie’s right. God does have a message that God wants all of creation to hear. Everyone can have a tight relationship, but everyone doesn’t know it. Some people think they’ve made mistakes that ban them from being close with God. Others never knew God wanted to be close to them in the first place.

That's why today's lesson is filled with invitations, comforting images, and promises of something better. God's letting us know that God will give us whatever we need to finish what we start for God. God will protect us. God will strengthen us. God will even use us to make a godly difference in the world if we become one of God's servants. So, let's do our part as individuals and entire communities. Let's take God's message to the world. Let's be God's light to the nations, and let's do it in the ways that best fit each of us.

Activity #1 – Letting the Light Shine. Look at the lighthouse lights, ring L.E.D. lights, car headlights, birthday candles, and flashlights that you're shown. Use the space below to describe when each type of light is helpful. Now, think of a way that your church can make a godly difference in the world.

1. A lighthouse light helps when _____

2. A ring LED light helps when _____

3. A birthday candle helps when _____

4. Car headlights help when _____

5. A flashlight helps when _____

6. My church community can let the world know God's got something better for them by _____

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Marvel characters tend to be complicated. The s/heroes must often push through challenges before they can fully embrace their good guy/girl role. Some have family drama. Others do a bad job of balancing their wants with what the world needs. Usually, someone or something comes into the s/hero's life that helps them know there's a better way.

Being God's servant and messenger to the world can be like being a Marvel s/hero. Life can get in the way and keep us from finishing what we start for God. That's why God gives us people like the *Suffering Servant* in today's lesson. People like that are the voice that calls people to God. They are the voice that reminds folks that God doesn't give up on anybody. They are also the voice that encourages God's people to keep trusting in God when they get discouraged. In other words, they remind us that God chose us for a reason AND that God's not giving up on us. Therefore, we can't give up, either.

Activity #2: All for Me. Each of the messages below tell us something God does to help us finish what we start for God. Can you unscramble them?

1. WASOHD FO SIH ANDH _____
2. WRDERA SI WIHT GDO _____

3. DIH ME NI HSI UIEVQR _____
4. DENMA EM _____
5. LDECAL EM _____
6. DOEMFR EM _____
7. EPEKS EM _____
8. PHLES EM DLAE _____

REMIX!!!

God's given all of us a special message to share with others. God's also given all of us a way to share it. Some of us will sing about it. Some of us will talk about it. Some of us will dance about it. Some of us will write stories about it. Some of us will play music about it. Some of us will draw pictures about it. Some will do it alone. Some will do it in groups. Some will do it both ways. The question is: will you be one of those who let their light shine?

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

I've got your light
And I'm gonna let it shine bright.
Calling out to the world
Telling other boys and girls:
"God is gonna make things right
Keep us safe both day and night
Give us love and hope and peace
So come to God and get your release."

GOD GIVES A BETTER LIFE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 49:18-26

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ISAIAH 49:18-23

Key Verse: Thus says the Lord God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples. Isaiah 49:22a

Isaiah 49:18-23 (NRSV)

18 Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, says the Lord, you shall put all of them on like an ornament, and like a bride you shall bind them on.

19 Surely your waste and your desolate places and your devastated land—surely now you will be too crowded for your inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away.

20 The children born in the time of your bereavement will yet say in your hearing: “The place is too crowded for me; make room for me to settle.”

21 Then you will say in your heart, “Who has borne me these?

I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away—so who has reared these? I was left all alone—where then have these come from?”

22 Thus says the Lord God: I will soon lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.

23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Lift Up Your Eyes** – Look deeper.
- **Desolate Places** – Places left in ruins when the Israelites had to relocate to Babylon.
- **Time of Your Bereavement** – Time spent being disciplined by God.
- **Put to Shame** – Disappointed.

GETTING READY!!!

The youth ministry at Bethany's church used to include more than Y.P.D. and Sunday school when Bethany's grandparents and mom were young. Then the church started having problems attracting young people and leaders with a heart for youth ministry. Soon, only two ministries were left: the Y.P.D. and one kid's Sunday school class. That made Bethany sad, so she prayed for a change.

Now, God seemed to have answered her prayers. New ministries were starting, like game night and talk-back sessions. They made room for lots of new ministries, and new kids were getting involved. But Bethany had mixed feelings about the changes. She was happy for the new kids but felt like she was being ignored. She said something to a youth ministry leader, who helped her see she was included in the new changes. She even joined the praise dance ministry. Use the box on the following page to describe the feelings Bethany shared on the left side and how you think the team helped her on the right side. (*Hint: Use stickers, emojis, and art supplies or just make a list.*)

Bethany's Feelings	Helpful Response

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Would you be surprised to hear that the Israelites felt a little like Bethany? In the verses between last week's lesson and this week's lesson, they accuse God of forgetting about them. It's almost like they're afraid of being replaced by the nations that God is now attracting. That's why God reassures them that they're not being replaced, overlooked, or left out.

God lets them know that God's plan includes them *and* the other nations. God does some amazing things to prove they haven't been left behind, abandoned, or forgotten. God uses the very places that shouldn't be usable anymore to house family members from different age groups in the same space. God has people who are usually served by the Israelites act as caregivers. In other words, God does things that should be impossible so that the Israelites can accept that they're included in the better life God's promising.

Activity #1: Weird, Strange, and Wonderful Reversals. Look back at today's lesson. Fill each box on the following page with what the Israelites' experience before and after God flips the *Better Days Switch*.

Before the Flip

1. *Our homes are in ruins*

After the Flip

1. *Everybody gets their own home*



Better Days Switch

USING GOD'S WORD!!!



Sometimes we forget that even welcome changes can be hard to adjust to, especially if the good changes affect someone else before they affect us. That's what happened for Sheldon Cooper in an episode of *Young Sheldon*. His older brother had made a decision that led him to move out of the family home. Then his twin sister came up with the idea that would help the other brother move back in *and* give each child their own room. Each child having their own space sounds like a win-win at first. It means the family can live a better life together.

Sheldon realizes something after every sibling gets their own room. He's going to be alone for the first time in his life. The fear of that change keeps him from seeing all the good things about having his own space, so he acts out for a while. That's when his family steps in. They help him see that he and his twin will always be family. They even find ways for the two of them to stay connected while in separate rooms. Soon, Sheldon was able to enjoy the new changes.

God does stuff like that for us, too. God invites us to share with God when we're feeling left out. Then God takes action to show us there's more going on than we think. God helps us look deeper so we can appreciate the new changes. That way, we can enjoy our new freedom and restore relationships. *How will you show you're enjoying your freedom?*

REMIX!!!

God knows it's not always easy for us to adjust to answered prayers. That's why God steps in to help us so we can enjoy the benefits of our better life with God. So, don't worry too much if you have mixed feelings like Bethany and the Israelites did. Instead, look a little deeper at what God's showing you. Spend a little more time listening to what God's telling you. Then open yourself up to the better life God's gifting you. When you do, you won't be disappointed.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

God, we thank you for all you do for us.

We praise you for helping us look deeper.

We're grateful that you've made room for all of us.

We just love how so many age groups can call you "Lord" together.

Keep up the good work, O Lord,

So we'll know we're still important to you. Amen.