



**CELEBRATING**  
**GOD**

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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.

## MOSES AND MIRIAM PRAISE GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 14:1-15:21

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 15:11-21

*Key Verse: And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously..." Exodus 15:21a*

### Exodus 15:11-21 (NRSV)

11 "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them.

13 In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

14 The peoples heard, they trembled; pangs seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

15 Then the chiefs of Edom were dismayed; trembling seized the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

16 Terror and dread fell upon them; by the might of your arm, they became still as a stone until your people, O Lord, passed by, until the people whom you acquired passed by.

17 You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession, the place, O Lord, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

18 The Lord will reign forever and ever."

19 When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them; but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

20 Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

21 And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

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## WORD POWER!!!

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- **Sanctuary (sank' choo-ery)** – A place of safety; a space for worship.
- **Inhabitants (in-ha'-be-tance)** – Persons who live in a particular place or land.
- **Israelites (iz'rah-lites)** – The people of Israel who fled from Egypt to find the Promised Land.
- **Moses and Miriam (Mo'-zes, Meer'-e-um)** – God's chosen leaders; Moses led the people of Israel and taught them. Miriam was his sister and a worship leader.
- **Pharaoh (fare'-row)** – The leader (like a king or president) who ruled Egypt in the Old Testament.



### Getting Ready!!!

With the kind of problems that many families have had to face over the past year, especially being separated from friends and loved ones, it is a great celebration when those problems come to an end. Jesse had not seen some of his friends for months, because his mom registered him for virtual learning

at his school. When his mother decided that he could go back to school, Jesse was happier than he had ever been in his life! He called all of his friends to tell them the good news. Hey, he couldn't wait to see them again!

### **Into God's Word!!!**

**M**oses and Miriam were leaders of their people; God had called Moses to take the people of Israel to freedom, out of the land of Egypt. The evil Pharaoh had kept them in slavery and then chased them with his armies as they tried to flee. Just as slaves in America ran away so that they could be free, the Israelites wanted freedom from Pharaoh. In fact, many old songs and spirituals talk about the Israelites, comparing their experience to the slavery of black people ("Tell old Pharaoh, let my people go!"). Moses had a very difficult task. First, he had to gather the people and lead them to freedom. Then, and this is most important, he had to have enough faith in God to take them to safety. When God opened the Red Sea and guided them across, Moses and Miriam had a lot to celebrate! Moses wrote a beautiful song to the Lord, and Miriam worshiped with her tambourines and led a song of praise with the other women. They danced and sang before the Lord! Like Jesse, they had a lot to be happy about. How have you felt when you could not see your friends? Did you thank God when you were able to see them again? Why or why not?



*Draw the face of what Jesse will feel like without his mask, when he sees his friends again.*



## Using God's Word!!!

**W**hen you are happy about good news, it is easy to begin celebrating without thinking about who it is who made that celebration possible. Moses and Miriam did not forget to thank God with their songs, music, and dancing. What kind of music or song could you write to let the Lord know how much you appreciate the blessings you have? Read the "Song of Moses" again or the "Song of Miriam" – if you changed the words to fit how you feel about a recent positive event in your life, what would it be like? Some of the songs that your parents or grandparents may have sung that gave thanks include songs like "Trouble in My Way" or "How Great Thou Art." More recent songs include ones like, "Gratefulness" or "Stomp!" Listen to Hezekiah Walker's song, "Grateful" (or "Gratefulness") and Kirk Franklin's "Stomp." If possible, listen to older songs or hymns and spirituals. Do you hear anything similar between these songs and what Moses and Miriam wrote? In the chart below, write what you heard. Also, you may write something that you see in the way these artists today perform as compared to Miriam and the women, such as the instruments they played. One is done for you.

Moses / Miriam	"Grateful" - Walker
"You brought them in and planted them on the mountain..."	"I'm grateful for the victories we've won!"

### **Remix!!!**

**R**emember, there will be times when you may feel unhappy with God. That is normal. What is important, is to know that God loves you, and even in difficult times, the Lord is right there with you. Then, when good times return, do not forget to praise God in your own way. Just as Moses and Miriam did, give the Lord a praise song, a dance, or just a simple, "Thank you, Lord!" Our God is always pleased when we remember to say, thanks. Be sure you do that every day.



### **Praise the Lord!!!**

(If you like, use your own song or poem here)

OR

(say this together)

My Lord takes care of me!

He gives me all the things I need.

He has been with me from the start.

I thank you; I love you, Lord, deep in my heart!

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for all of your blessings!

Help us to keep the lessons you teach us in our hearts each day.

Amen.



## DAVID DANCES BEFORE THE ARK

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 6

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 6:1-5, 14-19

*Key Verse: David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might. 2 Samuel 6:5a*

### 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19 (NRSV)

#### 2 Samuel 6:1-5

1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.

3 They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart

4 with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.

5 David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

#### 14-19

14 David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house

of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

17 They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord.

18 When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts,

19 and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

## WORD POWER!!!

- **Ark** – Where the holy word of God stays.
- **Baale-judah (bay-el-joo'-dah)** – Where David left to move the Ark.
- **Abinadab (ah-been'a-dab)** – The person in whose home the Ark was kept.
- **Ahio (ah-i'o)** – A son of Abinadab.

## Getting Ready!!!

The church was preparing to have a parade to celebrate the grand opening of its new child center. All of the adults were so excited and talked about nothing else. The youth church class was trying to find a way to get out of the celebration. "I don't see why we can't just stay home," one girl said. The class complained to their teacher, Ms. Jones. It really wasn't that big of a deal – walking down the street singing was lame. Ms. Jones made everyone sit down and explained to them why it was a big deal. "When God blesses you with something, you should never say it is no big deal," she began. "We are happy, because we are now able to take care of our children and teach them while their parents are working. Also, it is going to be low cost, so our working families will be able to afford it. It is a true blessing and we want the world to know how God has blessed us. We celebrate when we win ball games; we will celebrate now, too."

## Into God's Word!!!

The ark was a very holy and special part of the temple. David had been unhappy with it being stored in someone's home. He was returning it to its rightful place in the city, and this made him jump for joy! Although others thought he was overdoing it or felt embarrassed by his behavior, David kept on praising God. Do you think accomplishments in your church are worth cel-

celebrating with music, dancing, and singing? Have you ever been embarrassed by the way someone else around you reacted to good news? Why or why not? Do you think Ms. Jones explained her feelings well to the class? If not, what would you have said? If you do not agree with what she said, can you explain why you agree with the class?



**D**avid didn't let anyone stop him from praising God the way he felt led to do. He was not ashamed. Michal seemed to be embarrassed as she watched him from the window. Why is David's behavior pleasing to God? If you had to add a few verses to this Bible story to write what David said to Michal about her reaction, what would those verses say? Write two or three sentences, pretending you are David. Share your answer with the class.

David's comments to Michal:

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### **Remix!**

**R**emember, God deserves our praise just as athletes, entertainers, and others who we celebrate here on earth do. When you see someone clapping their hands, shouting, or acting excited in church, even when others may not, be happy with them and for them. Never be ashamed to do the same for God – yourself as well. God is pleased with our praise, and we should always be willing to let the world know just how much we love our Lord and Savior. When God has done something for you or others, celebrate, and don't worry about what others may think or say.

### **Praise the Lord!!!**

I will not be ashamed to praise God today!

I will show my love in what I do and say.

Just like David, I will dance, dance, dance!

I will praise God whenever I have the chance!

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for all of your blessings!

Help us to keep the lessons you teach us in our hearts each day.

Amen.

## GLORIFYING GOD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MARK 10:46-52; LUKE 18:35-43

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MARK 10:46-52

*Key Verse: Immediately (Bartimaeus) regained his sight and followed (Jesus), glorifying God. Luke 18:43a*

### Mark 10:46-52 (NRSV)

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 Jesus stood still and said,

"Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."

52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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## WORD POWER!!!

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- **Bartimaeus of Timaeus (bar-te-may'-us of tee-may'us)**  
– A blind man that Jesus healed.

### Getting Ready!!!

When we come in first place or when we win an important contest, we like to celebrate. We praise one another. The basketball team at Howard High School had been having a losing streak. Tonight, they were going to play against the first-place team in their conference. Mike, the captain, had been taught by his mom to always pray before each game, then thank God, no matter what happened. She told him that even losing teaches us important lessons. When the team won the game in overtime, the players ran to each other, laughing and congratulating each other. They were so excited! When they got into the locker room, Mike was in his corner saying a prayer. Each of the players got quiet, and then they all knelt for silent prayer. When the coach came in, he smiled and whispered his own prayer of thanks.

### Into God's Word!!!

Bartimaeus was a man that the people around him either mistreated or ignored. Some may have cared about him, but like some of us do today, they pushed aside those who made them feel uncomfortable. This is especially true when someone important is near. We feel annoyed and, sometimes, embarrassed. The people around Bartimaeus did not want him to interrupt Jesus, but he did not allow them to discourage him. He called out to Jesus, and because of his faith he was healed. After the Lord healed him, he followed Jesus, letting others know who had healed him. Mike could have joined his team first in congratulating each other, but he remembered what his mom had taught him. Have there been times when you gave yourself

or someone else the glory before thanking God? How do you think you could have handled it differently? Write your answer here:

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### Using God's Word!!!

**B**artimaeus is a perfect example of how we should depend on Jesus to help us with our goals and concerns. Then, once we do, we should be prepared to glorify him with our praise, even when we are in public. Never be ashamed to ask the Lord for what you want, and never forget to say, "Thank you!" with all your heart. On a separate sheet of paper, write three ways to give the Lord glory.



### Remix!!!

**A**lways remember that praising God will not be something you will do only in church or around other Christians. As a true believer, you must be willing to say "thank you" to the Lord even when others do not or when they may discourage you. Are you willing to say grace at lunch when others just start eating? Are you willing to invite a friend to church who does not usually go to one? Think about this as you learn and grow in your faith.



### **Praise the Lord!!!**

**G**lorify, glorify, glorify the Lord we love, and raise holy hands. When we glorify the Lord, we do so with joy, and we are not ashamed! No, we are *not* ashamed!

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for all of your blessings!  
Help us to keep the lessons you teach us in our hearts each day.  
Amen.

**BELIEVERS PRAISE GOD**

LESSON SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:32-33, 37-47

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: ACTS 2:37-47

*Key Verses: Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. Acts 2:46-47a*

**Acts 2:37-47 (NRSV)**

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

42 They devoted themselves to

the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## WORD POWER!!!

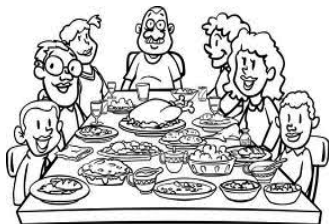
- **Peter** – The disciple who Jesus trusted with the church.

### Getting Ready!!!

When people get together to form a community store where people contribute their funds and go into business together, it is called a co-op. This means each individual cooperated together to offer a service to the community! Keesha and Terrance had just moved into the neighborhood. They didn't have a lot of money, and were trying very hard to save, preparing for their baby. When their neighbor stopped by to see if they wanted to donate to the food co-op in their neighborhood, Terrance said they would think about it. Keesha didn't agree, and after the neighbor left, she told her husband that they were not being good neighbors. "God would want us to do this," she said. "It's the right thing to do." Terrance thought some more, and then called their neighbor to say they would contribute.



### Into God's Word!!!



In this story about Peter and the new church, we see that he was preaching just as Jesus did about repenting and salvation. As a disciple, this was the most important task for him and others that Christ had sent into the world. Still, Peter did not forget the very important needs of the church – feeding the hungry and providing things such as

clothes, shelter, and other resources. The people shared what they had and even sold their belongings to help the church. We may not be able to sell all we have for the church, but we can find ways to help. Have you thought about sharing some of what you have for others who are in need? Have there been times when you could have shared with someone, but did not?

### **Using God's Word!!!**

**J**ust as Peter and the church worked together to help others, the church today must do the same. When people are hurting, we have the responsibility to help them. Keesha was thinking about what God would want her to do as a neighbor. Do you think she was right in what she said to her husband? Why or why not? Is there a need at your school or church to help people who are hungry? If so, who are in persons that you could go to for help in starting a food closet or ministry? Write at least two ideas and supporters below:

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_ Person who can help: \_\_\_\_\_

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_ Person who can help: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Remix!!!**

**H**elping others and using the things we have is part of the work we do as people who love Jesus. Remember that although we are not expected to sell everything we have and give all of it to the church, we are expected to sacrifice our time, money, and talent in order to help others. Think of how you and a few friends can do a special project or other activity to help people in your neighborhood or community. As Keesha said, it is the right thing to do.

### **Praise the Lord!!!**

**(to the tune of, "I've Got Joy, Joy, Joy!")**

**W**e've got love, love, love, love down in our hearts, down in our hearts, down in our hearts! We've got love, love, love, love down in our hearts, and we will spread it everywhere! (repeat)

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for all of your blessings!

Help us to keep the lessons you teach us in our hearts each day.

Amen.

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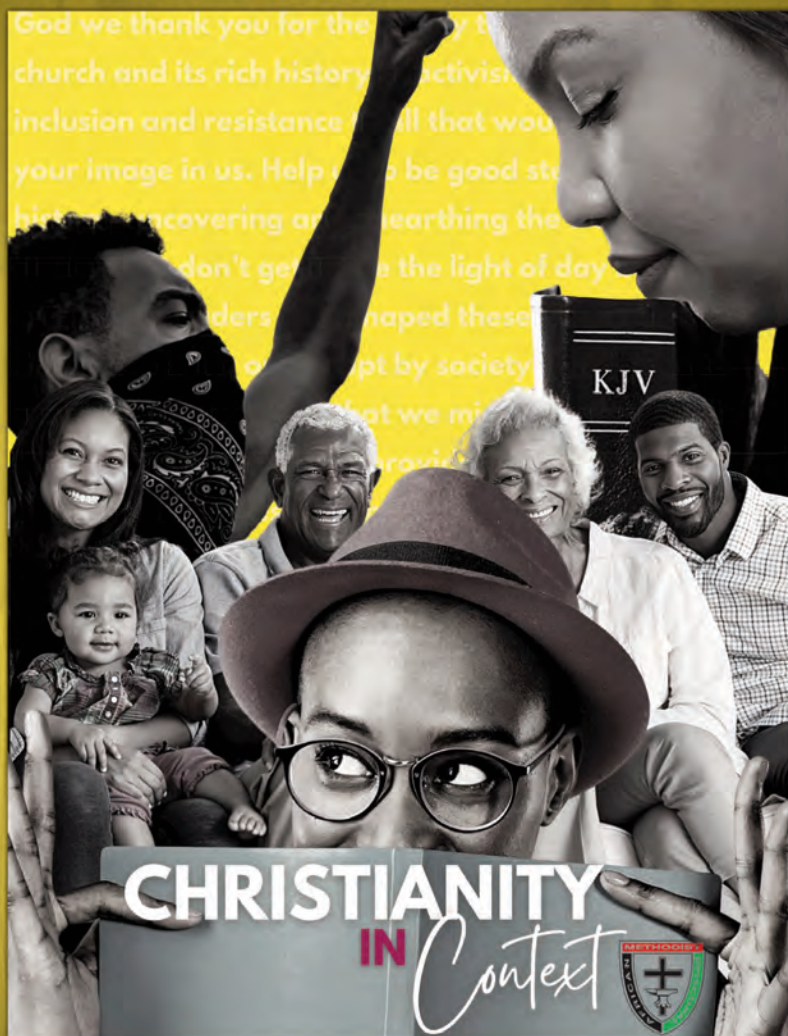
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