



LOVE
For One
ANOTHER

JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 57
Fall Quarter 2020

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

No. 4
Price \$3.89

----- **Ages 9-11 (GRADES 4-6)** -----

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JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY — USPS 288 - 080

Volume 57, No. 4, September, October, November 2020. An official quarterly of the African Methodist Episcopal Church prepared by the AMEC Sunday School Union. Published quarterly by the AMEC Sunday School Union, 1722 Scovel St., Nashville, TN 37208. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee 37203-4119. Copyright © 2020 by AMEC Sunday School Union.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Junior Scholar Sunday School Quarterly, 1722 Scovel St., Nashville, TN 37208.

Junior Scholar Sunday School Quarterly, Volume 57, No. 4, September, October, November 2020 — Lessons based on The International Sunday School Lessons, The International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Copyrighted © 2020 by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; AMEC Sunday School Union © 2020.

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**Entered as Periodicals Postage Paid Matter, March 20, 1942, at the
Post Office at Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 3, 1879.**

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.

FAMILY AT ODDS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37:2-11, 23-24A, 28

Key Verse: (Joseph's) brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Genesis 37:11

Genesis 37:2-11, 23-24a, 28 (NRSV)

Genesis 37:2-11

2 This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.

4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

5 Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed.

7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then

your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

9 He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, "Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?"

11 So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

23-24a

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of

his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore;

24a and they took him and threw him into a pit.

28

28 When some Midianite

traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Bilhah and Zilpah** (beel' huh, zil' pah) – Mothers of some of Joseph's brothers.
- **Joseph** – The youngest son of Jacob at the time of his capture.
- **Ishmaelites** (ish'mah-lites) – The people who bought Joseph from his brothers and carried him into Egypt to work.
- **Midianite** (mid'eeah-nite) – Of the region in the East where nomads (people who moved around) such as the Ishmaelites lived.

GETTING READY!!!

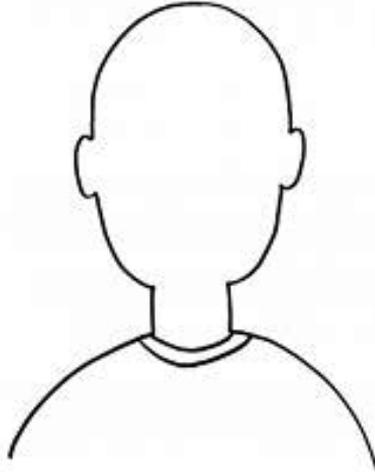
When our brothers, sisters, cousins, or other relatives are very popular in the family and seem to have everything they want, or maybe never seem to get punished for the bad things they do, it is easy to feel left out or upset. When we start to concentrate on these feelings, they can become stronger and cause us to feel jealous. Terri was the oldest in her family, and her baby sister Myah, who was five, was really becoming a pest. Often, Terri had to give up time with her friends to stay with Myah until their parents got home. Terri did not think it was fair. Why couldn't they get a baby-sitter? One evening, when she was in her bedroom texting her best friend, her little sister came running through the door that had been shut. "Terri, will you come play with me?" Terri yelled at Myah, "Don't you know how to

knock? Get out of my room!” Myah left the room, bursting into tears.

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Joseph was the youngest of many sons in his family, and like some parents who have a baby late in life, Jacob and Rachel paid extra attention to Joseph. One day, Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat that let him know that he was Jacob’s favorite son. This made his brothers angry, especially when Joseph began to boast about his coat. If you had a little sister or brother who got toys, cell phones, and other things that you didn’t get, think how you would feel. This led to problems between Joseph and his brothers.

The more Joseph boasted, the worse things got; and soon, his brothers became so jealous that they started to hate him. This hate grew to the point that one day, they decided to trap Joseph and sell him to travelers who were on their way to Egypt. In fact, they would have killed Joseph had not one brother stepped in to stop them.



Draw the face of what this boy might feel like if he thought his dad loved him less than his brother.

USING GOD’S WORD!!!

When you are feeling angry or left out, is there something that you can say or do? Can you avoid reacting like Myah? Yes! When we talk about “loving yourself” in our church, part of that means believing in ourselves enough to speak up when something is wrong. Parents make mistakes, too! By telling them how you feel, without being disrespectful, you are helping them see things from your point of view. How do you think things would have turned out if Joseph’s brothers had gone to their father quietly and spoken about their feelings? What might have happened if Myah had spoken to her parents? A family is at odds when it cannot get along. By talking things through, we can make things better.

When athletes in the U.S.A. decided to “take a knee” (kneel during the singing of the National Anthem) because of the country’s mistreatment of black people, they were speaking up for themselves without violence or anger. The same is true for the *Black Lives Matter* movement. Think carefully of what you can say to your parents when you are feeling hurt or sad. Below is a sample of words that help say how we feel. In the first column are words that are destructive. The second column has one example of positive words. Notice they begin with “I feel...” which says that this is about your view of how you have been treated. Can you write your own words in the rows after the sample words?

When I am feeling hurt or sad I will NOT say:	When I am feeling hurt or sad I WILL say:
I hate you!	I feel like you do not listen to me.
You make me sick!	
Forget you!	

REMIX!!!

When Joseph boasted about his coat, he was doing so because he was happy and probably did not realize how he was hurting his brothers' feelings. Joseph's dreams were from God; yet, what he said to his brothers made the situation worse. This lesson shows us that his father was actually the person who could have done better by including all his sons in his gift-giving and praise. If you are an older brother or sister, decide on what you can do when you begin to feel unhappy about something your parents are doing. What can you do to ease the hurt within yourself?

Wait, Pray, Speak

As Christians, the first step we should take before reacting to a challenge we face is to wait; do not rush into a response. Have you ever heard the saying, "Count to ten"? It works! Give yourself a moment to calm down. Then pray; ask God for the right words to say. Then, speak! Go to your loved ones and explain how you feel as God has inspired you to do. The Lord will give you the right words to say; just trust him! Remember, *Wait, Pray, Speak!*

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

(Sing to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know")

I am special; I am me!

Jesus died to set me free.

Even when things go wrong,

The Lord above will make me strong! Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for what we have learned today. Help us keep this lesson in our heart so that we will not go astray. This we pray. Amen.

MOVING UP WITH GOD’S LOVE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 41:14-57

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52

Key Verse: So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” Genesis 41:39-40

Genesis 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52 (NRSV)

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.

27 The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine.

28 It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.

30 After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land.

31 The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of

the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous.

32 And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

33 Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.”

37-40

37 The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

38 Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?”

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you.”

50-52

50 Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” he said, “God

has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.”

52 The second he named Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.”

WORD POWER!!!

- **Manasseh** (mah-na’suh) – First son of Joseph.
- **Ephraim** (ee’-fram) – The second son of Joseph.

GETTING READY!!!

“**D**on’t give up!” When someone says that to you, what does it really mean to you? Giving up is not just a mental action; it is a spiritual action. The Lord has made us all with a purpose in life, and although at times that purpose may not be clear, it is still there for us. Yolanda was a cheerleader at her school, and she really wanted to be captain. She went to every practice, was polite, and supported her teammates. Still, it looked as if the coach didn’t notice her. One Friday, the school closed early because of a teachers’ meeting. Many of the cheerleaders planned to go out to the skating rink and hang out for a while. When they got the word from the coach that there would still be cheerleading practice, most of them said they were not going. “We already got plans,” they said.

Yolanda started to go with them, but changed her mind at the last minute. When she arrived at the gym, the coach was there with a clipboard in her hand. She looked directly at Yolanda as she came in the door. “Where are your teammates?” she asked. “I’m not sure, coach” (that wasn’t true, but she didn’t want to snitch). “Well, I don’t think that is quite true, Yolanda, but I understand why you would want to protect them. I tell you what (she held a paper); this has the new captain’s name on it. I am going to tear it up, because I have changed

the name to yours. Congratulations.”

INTO GOD’S WORD!!!

Joseph had been mistreated by his brothers, but now he found himself in a much better position. The king began to trust him, and because Joseph was able to interpret dreams that helped the king, Joseph gained his trust. In the end, Joseph married and started his own family. This was a big change from the mistreatment that he had from his brothers. Now, Joseph was happy, and he had a new life! Yolanda could have gone out with her teammates, but she decided to stay and go to practice. Can you think of a time when you or someone else made the right decision, and because of that, something good happened? Or, is there something that you remember where, because a person gave up, they missed out on something they wanted? What do you think the coach thought about Yolanda when she came back to practice?

Draw the face of Yolanda who just received her wish!



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Joseph was really hurt by his brothers, but he did not let that stop him from taking advantage of his opportunities from God. Joseph continued to believe in God. Can you think of a time when you did not do well in a contest or some other activity and let that get you down? Has there been a time when something that happened kept you sad? What did you do, and do you think you could have done something better? Do you think the coach was something like the king in Joseph's story? Why or why not? When she came back to practice, what did Yolanda demonstrate about her attitude? What can you do when you feel discouraged about something? What is the best way to handle discouragement?

Did Joseph show how to wait before reacting to his brothers? How can you tell? Yolanda took a moment to think over her choices of not going to practice or attending the skating rink. She ended up making the right choice. Circle the best way you can wait before acting among the answers below.

When I am about to say something in anger:

1. Count to ten first, and take a deep breath.
2. Blink my eyes and fold my arms.
3. Stare them down.

When my friends ask me to skip school:

1. Think about the trouble it might cause.
2. Figure out who might catch us.
3. Tell them they are stupid.

REMIX!!!

Remember, following the crowd may seem like fun, but you are not always doing what is best when you do that. God may have plans for you! When you allow others to distract you or convince you to do something you should not, you are not listening to the Lord. Think before you say “yes” to something that does not feel like the right thing to do. Do your best to let God lead you, and don’t worry about what others may think or say.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart!

Please keep me close and do not let me fall.

Be there, Dear Lord, when I call!

I know that when I pray to you,

there is nothing I can’t do.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for what we have learned today. Help us keep this lesson in our heart so that we will not go astray. This we pray. Amen.