



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."

WORD POWER!!!

- **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!!!

Moses 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?



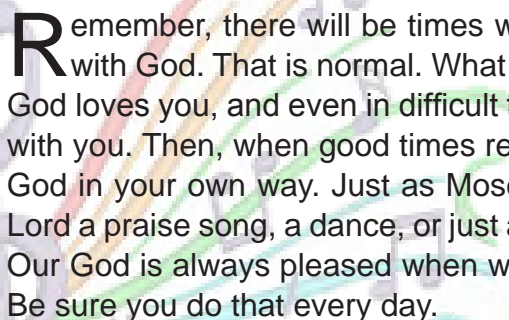
Draw the face of what Jesse will feel like without his mask, when he sees his friends again.

Using God's Word!!!

When 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!!!



Remember, 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?



David 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:

Remix!

Remember, 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.

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