AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUMMER 2019
Teacher's Guide
QUARTERLY
JUN-JUL-AUG
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION
Covenant
in
GOD

The Combined Teacher's Guide

SUMMER QUARTER 2019

JUNE • JULY • AUGUST

Christian Education Department
Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director
Bishop David R. Daniels, Chair

AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union)
500 Eighth Avenue South • Nashville, TN 37203

BASIC SUPPLIES

Bible dictionary
Bible pictures and maps
CD players
chart paper
Christian music – books, sheets, recordings
Christian videos and DVDs
crayons
digital camera
digital camcorder
drawing paper
writing paper
DVD recorder/player
milk crates
paper – letter, drawing, pencils, pens, markers
poster boards
robes, scarves
old clothing
scissors, glue, paste
video player

The Teacher's Guide

Summer Quarter

June–August 2019

Prepared by Dr. Catherine S. Powell

Adult Lessons

Lesson 1 **June 2, 2019**

Jesus Institutes the New Covenant

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:12-31; Hebrews 8

Focus Scripture: Mark 14:17-24; Hebrews 8:6-7, 10-12

Key Verse: Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. Hebrews 8:6

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore Jesus' role as initiator of the New Covenant, which was predicted by the prophets, and to identify relevant symbolism in the Lord's Supper.

2. Encourage participants to understand the New Covenant's role in establishing personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

3. Stimulate greater reverence in personal approaches to the Lord's Supper and deeper appreciation for Jesus Christ as initiator and mediator of the New Covenant

Key Terms

- **Covenant** – A method chosen by God to convey his promises of blessings and protections to believers who obey him and surrender their lives to his supreme authority. Because covenant generally refers to mutual agreements between two or more parties, the term is commonly used interchangeably with the term "contract." However, since humans are not independent covenanting parties, equal to God, his covenants differ from contracts.

- **Feast of Unleavened Bread** – One of Israel's most important annual celebrations. It began immediately after Passover and lasted seven days.

- **Holy Communion/Holy Eucharist/The Lord's Supper** – "The Sacrament instituted by Christ when he celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples consisting of bread and wine, representing his body and blood as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin, and commonly observed on the first Sunday" (*The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016*, p. 29).

- **Passover** – An annual Jewish festival that commemorates the night God delivered his people from Egypt. Homes marked with the blood of a lamb, as God instructed, were "passed over" while the first-born sons in all unmarked homes were killed (Exodus 12).

Teaching Strategies

1. Ask for volunteers to respond to the questions in the participants' book.

2. Briefly discuss the setting for today's lesson by reviewing the events leading up to the Last Supper.

3. Ask participants to discuss new insights or information gleaned from the discussion as well as how they plan to apply either in the future.

Resources: Bibles, dictionaries, copies of *The Apostles' Creed* (from the *AME Doctrine and Discipline*), AME hymnals, and smart phones to explore additional reference materials; a large easel with markers.

Lesson 2 **June 9, 2019**

Jesus Seals the New Covenant

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:32-50; 15

Focus Scripture: Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

Key Verse: When the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" Mark 15:39

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Engage in a detailed analysis of Mark's accounting of Jesus' crucifixion.

2. Reflect on the incredible price Jesus paid to establish the New Covenant between God and humankind.

3. Encourage participants to pursue restoring relationships with God, in appreciation for the reconciliation Jesus provides.

Key Terms

- **Barabbas** – An incarcerated insurrectionist and murderer imprisoned by the Roman government and released by Pontius Pilate to please Jesus' accusers; the Greek interpretation of Barabbas' name is "son of the father."

- **Centurion** – A Roman officer, who commanded at least one hundred soldiers.

- **Seal** – To confirm or authenticate.

Teaching Strategies

1. Ask a participant to research and present a brief report on the subject of "crucifixion," its meaning, how it was applied in general, and more specifically in Jesus' case. Use Smart phones in class to research answers to follow-up questions.

2. Analyze and discuss identifiable illegalities in Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. How do these facts compare with today's expectations of "due process?"

3. Consult several Bible commentaries to explore and discuss Jesus' cry that Mark recorded in chapter 15, verse 34.

Resources: Bibles, Bible commentaries, Bible dictionaries, large easel with markers, and Smart phones/laptop with Internet access to conduct research during class time; words to song, "I Don't Know Why Jesus Loves Me" (Andra**é** Crouch).

Lesson 3 **June 16, 2019**

The New Covenant's Sacrifice

The Teacher's Guide

Summer Quarter: June - August 2019

Senior Lessons

Lesson 1 **June 2, 2019**

A Promise That Endures

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:12-31; Hebrews 8

Focus Scripture: Mark 14:17-24; Hebrews 8:6-7, 10-12

Key Verse: But now, Jesus has received a superior priestly service just as he arranged a better covenant that is enacted with better promises. Hebrews 8:6 (CEB)

Bible Background

- Even though context indicates that the meal Jesus shared with his disciples was a Passover meal, it lacks some of the typical elements included in such a meal.

- Although the Bible does not specifically state where Judas was seated, it is believed he sat at the place of honor, on Jesus' left side. They also shared a common bowl, which suggests hospitality and intimacy. However, Judas would soon betray that bond of intimacy.

- The writer of Hebrews compares Jesus to the priests of old. However, Jesus' ministry includes his atoning work on the cross and therefore provides access to a new covenant, including the forgiveness of sins. This covenant is written in the hearts of the people, not on stone.

- Hebrews 8:7-13 is a quote from a prophecy found in Jeremiah

31:31-34 and highlights the fact that while God's purposes have not changed, there is a discontinuity between the Mosaic covenant and covenant in Christ. These verses from Jeremiah reappear later in Hebrews 10:16-18.

- The Mosaic covenant, established by God with Moses (Exodus 24:7-8), stated moral laws, explained what was sinful, and set forth a pattern of sacrifice, priesthood, and promise of salvation.

Sign on the Dotted Line

As students arrive, allow them to partner up. If they are not able to access the legal documents on the Internet, give each pair a copy that you researched earlier (under "free contracts" on the Internet).

Ask each pair to read and study the documents together and answer the questions in the student book.

Lesson 2 **June 9, 2019**

When the Whole World's Against You

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:32-50; 15

Focus Scripture: Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

Key Verse: When the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "This man was certainly God's Son." Mark 15:39 (CEB)

Bible Background

- It is challenging to align this Bible lesson with the historical record. The Gospels are the only written accounts of freeing a prisoner (15:6) and, while the Jewish historian Josephus mentions many rebellions, Barabbas' release is never mentioned in his writings.

- Barabbas literally means "son of the father." He is chosen over Jesus, the Son of God, the Father.

- Pontius Pilate ruled as the Roman governor of Judea from AD 26–36. His main tasks were to collect taxes and command the army.

- Christians frequently assume the crowds who laid the palms before Jesus during his entry into Jerusalem were the same people who turned against him in Pilate's courtyard. However, this isn't necessarily true. History indicates that ordinary people would not have been allowed entry to Pilate's courtyard. Given the political climate and the size of the space, the "crowd" may have been only a few dozen supporters of the religious and political authorities. There are mixed opinions among theologians.

- The phrase "son of God" (or "God's Son," 15:39) is also a term used on coinage to refer to Tiberius Caesar. The centurion's statement is therefore both a religious and political confession.

The Wisdom of the Crowd

As students arrive, form teams. Let them discuss the questions. The answers are below:

1. Three.

2. Asia.

3. 500.

4. Nintendo Switch, New Nintendo 2DS XL, and Super NES Classic Edition.

5. Gamma.

6. Italian.

7. India.

8. There is none.

9. King's Cross Station; Platform 9¾.

10. John and James.

Closing Reflection

Examples are: care, joy, kind, Lord.

Lesson 3 **June 16, 2019**

The Gift of Second Chances

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-28

Focus Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-22

Key Verse: Almost everything is cleansed by blood, according to the Law's regulations, and there is no forgiveness without blood being shed. Hebrews 9:22 (CEB)

The Teacher's Guide
Intermediate Lessons
Summer Quarter: June - August 2019
Prepared by Dr. Karma Bowen-Johnson

Lesson 1 **June 2, 2019**

Jesus Institutes the New Covenant

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:12-31; Hebrews 8
Focus Scripture: Mark 14:17-24; Hebrews 8:6-7, 10-12

Key Verse: *But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. Hebrews 8:6*

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore the importance of the new covenant Jesus initiated.
2. Appreciate a new relationship with Christ.
3. Demonstrate commitment to God's new covenant by regular participation in Holy Communion.

Vocabulary

- **Betray** – To violate loyalty.
- **Son of Man –** Human being.
- **Mediator** – Someone who acts as a "go between" (a middleman or peacemaker).

- **Covenant** – A formal and binding agreement or contract.
- **Iniquities** – Wicked acts or sins.

Teaching Strategies

1. Play YouTube music from J.J. Hairston, "You Deserve It," as youth come in to class.

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxL1m0uG8x4

2. Have students use paper and pencil to write prayers to God as they wait for class to start.

3. **Activity #1: Committed to Friendship.**

   Everyone has experienced being let down by a friend. Think about and discus in groups a shareable experience of being let down. Role-play the scenario and then discuss ways that the situation could have been avoided. Finish with a role-play to reflect how to avoid letting someone down.

4. **Activity #2: Grateful!**

   After listening to the song, "Grateful," have students write a letter to Jesus expressing thanks for his death and resurrection.

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yE0W-kQyz6A

5. **Activity #3: What's Better, the Old or the New?** What is from the old covenant and what is from the new? Put the letter 'A' in the blank if this is Old Testament Law or 'B' if it is New Testament Law.

   1. Came by Moses: **A**
   2. Gives life: **B**
   3. Ended by Jesus: **A**
   10. Covers sin: **B**
   11. Makes us live by work: **A**
   12. For the Israelites: **A**

4. Made us slaves: **A**
5. Still in force: **B**
6. Established by Jesus: **B**
7. Leaves us imperfect: **A**
8. Exposes sin: **A**
9. Gives life: **B**
13. Makes us live by Faith: **B**
14. Was fulfilled: **A**
15. Demands work: **A**
16. Demands obedience: **B**
17. Is for everyone: **B**
18. Needs an offering for sin: **A**

6. Answer and discuss the questions that are in the *Life Application* section.
7. The closing prayer is to be said in unison.

Closing Devotion

Read this poem in unison:

Heavenly father, I am your humble servant,
I come before you today in need of hope.
There are times when I felt helpless,
There are times when I feel weak.
I pray for hope.
I need hope for a better future.
I need hope for a better life.
I need hope for love and kindness.
Some say that the sky is at its
darkest just before the light.
I pray that this is true, for all seems dark.
I need your light, Lord, in every way.
I pray to be filled with your light from
head to toe. To bask in your glory.
To know that all is right in the world,
as you have planned, and as you want

it to be.
Help me to walk in your light and live
my life in faith and glory.
In your name I pray. Amen.[1]

Resources: Paper, pencils, copies of the lyrics ("What a Wonderful World"), various packets of seeds, Mobile device with YouTube music: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3yCcXgbKrE – "What a Wonderful World," Louis Armstrong

Lesson 2 **June 9, 2019**

Jesus Seals the New Covenant

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:32-50; 15
Focus Scripture: Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

Key Verse: *Now when the centurion, who stood facing him [Jesus], saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's son!" Mark 15:39*

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Summarize Mark's account of the crucifixion of Jesus.
2. Reflect on the amazing price Jesus paid to establish a new covenant between God and humankind.
3. Pray for a restored relationship with God in light of the reconciliation Jesus provides.

1 https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-hope.html.

Vocabulary

- **Insurrection** – Revolting against civil authority.
- **Crucify** – Put to death by hanging on a cross.
- **Flogging** – Beating with a rod or whip.
- **Deride** – Insult, ridicule, or criticize.
- **Centurion** – Commander of one hundred men.

Teaching Strategies

1. Play YouTube music from J.J. Hairston, "You Deserve It," as youth come in to class – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxL1m0uG8x4.
2. Have students write prayers to God as they wait for class to start.
3. Answer and discuss the questions that are in the Life Application section.

Resources: Paper, pencils, copies of the lyrics to "What a Wonderful World"; various packets of seeds, picture of a cross, Mobile device with YouTube music:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3yCcXgbKrE

Lesson 3 **June 16, 2019**

The New Covenant's Sacrifice

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-28
Focus Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-22

Junior Lessons

Summer Quarter: June – August 2019

Prepared by Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

Lesson 1 **June 2, 2019**

Jesus Makes a New Promise

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:12-31; Hebrews 8

Focus Scripture: Mark 14:12-16, 22-24; Hebrews 8:6-7, 10-12

Key Verse: This is the covenant that I will make….I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Hebrews 8:10

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore how Jesus re-purposes the Festival of Unleavened Bread into a promise of never-ending connection between God and us.
2. Identify the connections between the Jewish Festival of Unleavened Bread and the Christian celebration of Holy Communion.
3. Discover ways to share the benefits of the promise Jesus introduces in today's lesson with other people.

Word Power!!!

- **Unleavened Bread** – A type of flat bread that does not rise because it does not contain yeast. There also is a seven-day festival named for this bread during which Jewish people celebrate their escape from Egypt.
- **Passover** – Special meal through which Jewish people

celebrate being delivered from slavery in Egypt. The special food that's eaten, and their re-telling the story of their rescue, helps Jewish people reconnect to God. It takes place during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

- **Covenant** – Agreement that ties two parties together by clarifying the nature of the new connection. Sometimes, it sets the rules that allow the two parties to stop fighting. Other times, it sets the rules that allow the two parties to come together.
- **Mediator** – Someone who helps two opposing parties stop fighting so that they can come together.
- **Iniquities** – Wickedness.
- **Repurpose** – Reuse for a different purpose.

Teaching Strategies

1. **Using God's Word!!!:** Show the pictures of the types of food present at a Passover meal, and then show the elements used during Holy Communion. Then share with the class how the early church shared an entire meal together whenever they celebrated Holy Communion.
2. Answers to **Activity #2:**

	Passover	Holy Communion	Both
1. God told people to celebrate it so they would remember God.			X

2. It reminds people of how God delivered the Israelites from Egypt.	X		
3. It includes food and drink.			X
4. It's a reminder of a covenant with God.			X
5. Jesus did the first celebration at the Last Supper.		X	

3. For **Activity #3:** Allow students to choose to re-purpose a t-shirt, a paper bag, or a piece of paper. For those choosing the t-shirt, play the YouTube video about re-purposing t-shirts into tote bags. Next, have them create their own tote bags using the t-shirts and fabric scissors. Finally, have students use the fabric paint to decorate the new tote bags with themes from today's lesson.

4. Have the class sing the closing prayer to the tune of "A Charge to Keep I Have" instead of having them recite it out loud together.

Resources: Old t-shirts without a lot of writing or decorations, fabric scissors, and fabric paint; mobile device with YouTube; the DIY "NO Sew T-Shirt Bag" (So Easy!!) YouTube video; paper bags; sheets of blank paper and art supplies; pictures of the type of food present at a Passover meal; pictures of the elements used during Holy Communion.

Lesson 2 **June 9, 2019**

Jesus Seals the New Promise

Lesson Scripture: Mark 14:32-50; 15

Focus Scripture: Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

Key Verse: "Truly this man [Jesus] was God's Son!" Mark 15:39

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore how Jesus turns his negative experiences into an opportunity to bring God and humanity back together.
2. Identify the different reactions to Jesus' crucifixion.
3. Discover why the new promise had to be sealed in order to be effective.

Word Power!!!

- **Pilate** – The Roman official responsible for resolving civil and criminal cases in Judea.
- **Centurion** – Roman military officer in charge of 100 soldiers.
- **Insurrection** – Uprising; rebellion; attempt to overthrow a ruler, group, or nation.
- **Crucify** – To execute by nailing or tying to a tree. The Romans did this to the worst criminals; especially if they tried to launch a rebellion.

Teaching Strategies

1. As an alternative to **Activity #1**, hand out certificate paper and the cross stickers. Then have students use them for the

activity. Have students share with the class what they have done.

2. Before reading the **Using God's Word!!!** section, show the "Moana: Moana talks to her grandmother" YouTube clip.
3. For **Activity #2**, share examples of people who have faced opposition while trying to do what God wanted them to do. (Some examples are Rosa Parks, who jump-started the Montgomery bus boycott, Jarena Lee who tried to get permission to preach in the early days of the AME Church.)

Resources: Certificate paper and stickers with crosses; mobile device with YouTube, the "Moana: Moana talks to her grandmother" clip; examples of AMEs who have had to face opposition to positively affect the world for Christ.

Lesson 3 **June 16, 2019**

The New Promise's Offering

Lesson Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-28

Focus Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-22

Key Verse: [Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant. Hebrews 9:15

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand why a blood offering needed to be made so that our sins would be paid for.
2. Discover how the Old Testament sacrifice system relates to the lesson.
3. Identify a way(s) to share the message that Jesus offered himself so that we could claim the promise of forgiveness.