

**ANTIOCH CHICAGO**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**  
**SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING**

**UNIT II THEME – CHRISTIANS AND SACRIFICE**

**LESSON TOPIC**

**THE ONE AND THE MANY**

**UNIFYING TOPIC**

Believers (the Church) as God's Temple

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE**

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

**LESSON PASSAGE**

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Building on Christ's Foundation – (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
- II. The Sanctity of God's Temple – (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
- III. The Folly of Worldly Wisdom – (1 Corinthians 3:18-23)

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

People yearn for a sense of belonging within a community with shared values. How do splinter groups threaten the community? Paul says disputes among believers are destructive and that unity emerges only when the church's foundation is built on Jesus Christ.

**LESSON AIM**

This lesson aims to rally upon Christ as the foundation for the church. People may wonder why going to church is necessary. The Bible gives many good reasons for being in church. This lesson points to unity. When Jesus prayed His last prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked God the Father for His disciples to be in unity. This lesson encourages students to fulfill Jesus' call for unity.

**LIFE AIM**

The life aim centers on transmitting one's understanding of the church from being a building to a person. Ephesians 5:23 alludes to the church being the body of Christ. This lesson further indicates that church members are the temple of God. Therefore, every believer must embrace the responsibilities of being the church. No longer can one check out of the duties and say, "This is your church." The success or setbacks of the church rest upon everyone involved.

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

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**LESSON TOPIC**

**HOW TO BE HAPPY**

**UNIFYING TOPIC**

Our Bodies Belong to God

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE**

Romans 12:1-21; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**LESSON PASSAGE**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Christian Freedom and Moral Responsibility – (1 Corinthians 6:12-13)
- II. The Resurrection and the Body's Purpose – (1 Corinthians 6:14-17)
- III. Glorifying God with the Body – (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19, NRSVue)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

We desire happy and satisfying lives that please both ourselves and others. By what standard do we measure a good life? In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul advocates a way of life governed by the conviction that our bodies belong to God.

**LESSON AIM**

Believers will often embrace being saved by Jesus Christ, but they struggle with being under the lordship of Christ. This lesson emphasizes Christ governing a Christian's body. On the surface, this reality sounds intrusive. Yet, it is very liberating when one surrenders their body to Christ. The aim of this lesson centers on allowing God to control the totality of one's life. God has the right to set boundaries for using the body because He made it. And He ordained it to be the home of the Holy Spirit.

**LIFE AIM**

The aim in life is to yield to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as a follower of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a dual life where one has a lifestyle in the church and something else outside spiritual settings. According to Paul in Colossians 3:4, Christ is our life. Therefore, the body belongs to the Lord and is to be used only for His purposes.

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**LESSON TOPIC**

**FINDING PEACE IN A CONFLICTED WORLD**

**UNIFYING TOPIC**

Jews and Gentiles Form One Temple

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE**

Ephesians 2:11-22

**LESSON PASSAGE**

Ephesians 2:11-22

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. The Gentiles' Former Condition – (Ephesians 2:11-12)
- II. Reconciliation and Peace Through Christ – (Ephesians 2:13-18)
- III. Citizens of God's Kingdom – (Ephesians 2:19-22)

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:21-22, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

Differing cultural and religious backgrounds can stir conflict. How do we find a sense of peace that will enable us to thrive in the world today? Ephesians declares that Jews and Gentiles, who were once alienated from each other, were brought together in Christ, who has broken down the dividing wall and made them one, joined together and growing into a dwelling place for God.

**LESSON AIM**

In the United States, Christians typically go to church in racially homogenous units. People attend churches that fit their social constructs. In ancient Ephesus, the common unit was based on ethnicity. This lesson focuses on breaking down divisions so that all believers see themselves as one in the Lord.

**LIFE AIM**

Christians must embrace diversity in the body of Christ. Saints must believe that just because others do not worship in the same manner does not make them less of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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**ALL WE NEED IS LOVE**

**UNIFYING TOPIC**

Sacrifices of Praise and Good Works

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE**

Hebrews 13:1-21

**LESSON PASSAGE**

Hebrews 13:9-21

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Warning Against False Teachings – (Hebrews 13:9-10)
- II. The Sacrifice of Christ – (Hebrews 13:11-16)
- III. Submission to Leaders – (Hebrews 13:17-21)

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of lips that confess his name. (Hebrews 13:15, NRSVue)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

We may sometimes struggle with loving others and doing good toward family, friends, and neighbors. What lasting examples do we have to guide our actions toward others? The writer of Hebrews urges Christians to look to Jesus, who suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through His blood and to continually offer sacrifices that please God by sharing with others through Him.

**LESSON AIM**

A person may wonder, “Now that I am a Christian, what am I to do next?” This lesson centers on giving praise and good works to the Lord. Christians must see themselves in fellowship with God and other believers. Therefore, it is essential to live a sacrificial life that glorifies God.

**LIFE AIM**

The life aim is to join in communion with Christ. He became the perfect sacrifice that reconciled humanity to God. As a result, Christians join Christ on the altar of service. The objective is to follow Jesus’ example in all aspects of life to fulfill God’s will.

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**BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP**

**UNIFYING TOPIC**

Living Stones in a Spiritual Temple

**BACKGROUND PASSAGE**

1 Peter 2:1-17

**LESSON PASSAGE**

1 Peter 2:1-12

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Putting Away Sin – (1 Peter 2:1-3)
- II. A Holy Priesthood – (1 Peter 2:4-8)
- III. Live As a Holy Nation – (1 Peter 2:9-12)

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

People desire a solid foundation on which to build their lives. What examples from history provide a pattern for such a foundation? First Peter reminds Christians that we, like living stones built on the spiritual foundation of Christ, are called to live sacrificially.

**LESSON AIM**

The lesson aims for Christians to see themselves as part of Jesus Christ. It describes Him as the chief cornerstone, and every believer must be connected to that stone. As saints join with Christ, they become examples to unbelievers of God's glory.

**LIFE AIM**

The life aim is always to be a good representative of Jesus Christ. Christians are not saved to live according to their will but are on assignment from Christ. They must take on the identity and work of the Lord and Savior. Disciples must stand like the holy Temple in ancient Jerusalem as a sign of God's continuous presence.

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