

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT I THEME – GRACE AND RECONCILIATION

LESSON TOPIC

THE WRONG PATH

UNIFYING TOPIC

Sin

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Genesis 3:1-24; 6:5-8; Mark 7:14-23;
Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18; 1 John 1:5—2:6

LESSON PASSAGE

1 John 1:5—2:6

LESSON TEXT

- I. Light vs. Darkness – (1 John 1:5-7)
- II. The Deception of Denial – (1 John 1:8—2:2)
- III. The Test of Obedience – (1 John 2:3-6)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Everyone needs an advocate to intercede for them when they do wrong, face trouble, or need help. Whom can they trust to intercede justly on their behalf? John reiterates the promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Advocate, that grace and forgiveness are gifts from God.

LESSON AIM

John writes to churches confused by false claims about the Christian life. His firsthand experience with Jesus confirmed what he shares with this group of Christians, who are wrestling with the choice between walking in the light and walking in darkness. Christians must avoid minimizing their sin and commit to repentant, obedient living to prove the genuineness of their walk with God.

LIFE AIM

Because God is light—perfectly holy and free from any darkness—Christians are called to walk in the light. Enjoying fellowship with God requires honest confession of sin, reliance on Jesus' atoning work, and a life of obedience that reflects His character.

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

A GENEROUS AND FORGIVING PARENT

UNIFYING TOPIC

Repentance and Faith

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Isaiah 1:10-21; Ezekiel 18:20-23, 27-32; Mark 2:1-12;
Luke 3:1-14; 15:11-24; Acts 2:32-39; Hebrews 11:1-10

LESSON PASSAGE

Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Rebellion and Brokenness – (Luke 15:11-16)
- II. The Turning Point – (Luke 15:17-20a)
- III. The Father's Lavish Forgiveness – (Luke 15:20b-24; Acts 2:38-39)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

"This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:24, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

People have problems apologizing or making amends for their wrongdoing. What is an appropriate way to admit our wrongful acts and restore healthy relationships? Luke and Acts confirm repentance from sin and turning to God in Christ as the only way to restore one's wholesome relationship with God and others.

LESSON AIM

Jesus' parable of the prodigal son demonstrates two extremes of the gospel narrative: the desperation brought on by sin and the lavish grace God showers on those who repent. The father in the parable runs to meet his son, not in judgment but with grace, as our Father runs to meet each sinner who repents.

LIFE AIM

Christians are called to practice the humble repentance of the son from the parable, and the type of repentance Peter calls believers to in his Pentecost sermon. However, they're also called to model the forgiving, generous heart of God toward those who've wronged them.

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LESSON TOPIC

A TIME TO BE BOLD; A TIME TO BE HUMBLE

UNIFYING TOPIC

Prayer

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Genesis 18:23-33; Exodus 32:31-32; Nehemiah 1:4-11;
Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 18:1-14; John 17:1-26;
1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14-15

LESSON PASSAGE

Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 5:14-15

LESSON TEXT

- I. Boldness in Intercession – (Genesis 18:25-27)
- II. Humility in Prayer – (Luke 18:9-14)
- III. Confidence in God's Will – (1 John 5:14-15)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 18:14, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Becoming complacent in society and comparing ourselves to others can lead to pride and devastation. How can we guard ourselves against self-righteousness and pride? The Scriptures encourage us to appeal to God with both the confidence of Abraham and the humility of the tax collector.

LESSON AIM

Abraham demonstrates boldness as he confronts God about his judgment over Sodom and Gomorrah. The tax collector demonstrates humility as he identifies as a sinner in need of mercy. John describes why bold, effective, and God-honoring prayer recognizes each of these responses.

LIFE AIM

Recognizing who God is establishes a foundation for our posture in prayer. While God is perfectly holy, all-powerful, and eternal, we can approach God in prayer with confidence, knowing that whatever we ask according to His will, He is eager to grant.

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LESSON TOPIC

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, YOU'RE PROBABLY HUMAN

UNIFYING TOPIC

Christian Growth

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Matthew 4:18-20; 16:15-18; Luke 2:40, 52; John 1:40-42;
21:15-19; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 1:6, 9-11; 3:12-16;
Colossians 1:9-11; Hebrews 6:1-3; 2 Peter 3:14-18

LESSON PASSAGE

Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18;
John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18

LESSON TEXT

- I. The Call to Follow – (Matthew 4:18-20)
- II. The Rock and the Stumble – (Matthew 16:16-18)
- III. Restored to Lead – (John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

[Jesus] said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Even those trying to emulate a trusted mentor may stumble. How does one learn and grow through mistakes? Peter's life as Christ's disciple is a model of perseverance for all who desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

LESSON AIM

Though Peter made profound confessions of faith, followed by equally profound misunderstandings of Jesus' mission (Matthew 16:16-23), Jesus never abandoned him and encouraged him at the end of his earthly ministry: Follow me.

LIFE AIM

It can be tempting to question our roles as disciples of Jesus, but God takes great joy in working through eager and ordinary people.

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