Lesson 10 for Week of December 3, 2023

ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training

Unit III Theme – Profiles in Faith

CHANGING IDENTITY

Background Passage: Ruth 1; 4:13-22

Lesson Passage: Ruth 1:6-18, 22

UNIFYING TOPIC:
The Faith of Ruth

LESSON TEXT
I. Naomi Plans to Leave Her Daughters-in-Law (Ruth 1:6-9)
II. Naomi Pleads for Her Daughters to Leave Her (Ruth 1:10-13)
III. The Loyalty of Ruth (Ruth 1:14-18, 22)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. (Ruth 1:16, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
It takes courage to face significant changes in life. When the odds are against us, where do we find this courage? Ruth found strength in her relationship with Naomi and in faith committed to Naomi’s God, family, and culture.

LESSON AIM
This lesson’s aim is to analyze the situation in which Ruth and Naomi find themselves. During a period when women had to depend on their husbands for survival, these women were in a tenuous situation. Ruth’s courage and faith in Yahweh will dominate the book, aptly named after her. However, it is initially Naomi that becomes the heroine, who leads Ruth to God.

LIFE AIM
One of the goals of the lesson is to imitate Ruth’s model of courage and faithfulness when facing the hardships of life. Death changes the familial dynamic; yet, those who walk with the Lord are blessed by the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION 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
Lesson 11 for Week of December 10, 2023

ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training

Unit III Theme – Profiles in Faith

FACING LIFE WITH CONFIDENCE

Background Passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-58
Lesson Passage: 1 Samuel 17:31-37, 45, 48-50

UNIFYING TOPIC:
The Faith of David

LESSON TEXT
I. David is Prepared to Fight Goliath
   (1 Samuel 17:31-37)
II. David Defeats Goliath (1 Samuel 17:45, 48-50)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee. (1 Samuel 17:37, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
We need confidence to face the challenges before us—especially when others doubt our abilities. What is the source of this confidence? David’s faith in God gave him the confidence he needed to defeat the giant Goliath in battle.

LESSON AIM
A goal of our lesson is to analyze David’s confidence in defeating Goliath. It may seem as if David was confident in his own abilities, and while true to a great extent, he never waivers in his trust that God will deliver him from defeat and grant him the victory. Without this confidence and trust, David could have never faced Goliath, nor would he have been anointed as the future king of Israel.

LIFE AIM
In our lives, Christians should aspire to have the confidence of David. Although this story is centered around a famous battle, it has inspired many comparisons throughout the centuries. Christians today must remain confident in the grace of God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION 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
Lesson 12 for Week of December 17, 2023

ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training

Unit III Theme – Profiles in Faith

GOD BRINGS “OUTSIDERS” IN

Background Passage: Matthew: 1:1-17; Genesis 38; Joshua 2; 6:22-25; 2 Samuel 12:24; Ruth 4:13-22
Lesson Passage: Matthew 1:1-16

UNIFYING TOPIC:
The Family of Faith

LESSON TEXT
I. The Genealogy of Jesus, Part One
   (Matthew 1:1-11)
II. The Genealogy of Jesus, Part Two
    (Matthew 1:12-16)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. (Matthew 1:1, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
People want to research their family of origin. How does knowing or understanding the genealogy of one’s family provide insight into who we are? The Gospel of Matthew highlights surprising twists in Joseph’s genealogy, by the nontraditional mention of Gentiles and women, and in so doing demonstrates God’s faithfulness to and inclusion of all people.

LESSON AIM
The genealogy of Jesus, the Messiah, is dominated by the men in the family line. However, Matthew includes the stories of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba that raise complex social issues. While it is difficult to tell the stories of all four women in a single lesson, the focus of this lesson is the provisions of the Lord, whether or not they are aware of Him, which leads to the fifth woman in the genealogy, Mary, the mother of Jesus.

LIFE AIM
Within the church, the family tree should reflect a timeline of one’s life (or congregational life) and identify significant moments of God’s provision or direction. Today, we must make an earnest effort to maintain the family-church relationship in our walk with God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION 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
Lesson 13 for Week of December 24, 2023

ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training

Unit III Theme – Profiles in Faith
SHARING HOPE AND COURAGE

Lesson Passage: Luke 1:36-45, 56

UNIFYING TOPIC:
The Faith of Elizabeth and Mary

LESSON TEXT
I. Gabriel Visits Mary (Luke 1:36-38)
II. Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45, 56)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. (Luke 1:41-42, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
We need people with whom we can share our joys and struggles in life. Who do we turn to when we need to process major life events? Just as Mary found a kindred spirit in her relationship with Elisabeth, so also can we find spiritual encouragement and support from those who share our faith in God.

LESSON AIM
One of the important themes in our lesson is to make connections between the lives of two women, Elisabeth and Mary, who faced extraordinary circumstances in God’s grand scheme of salvation. The grand scheme is God’s plan of redemption, that of providing a guide to eternal life.

LIFE AIM
Christian parents should look at the accounts of Mary and Elisabeth to know that God has a plan and design for our children and that, through faith, we will be successful.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION 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
Lesson 14 for Week of December 31, 2023

ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training

Unit III Theme – Profiles in Faith
TAKING RISKS AND REAPING REWARDS

Background Passage: Matthew 2:1-12
Lesson Passage: Matthew 2:1-12

UNIFYING TOPIC:
The Faith of the Wise Men

LESSON TEXT
I. The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-6)
II. Herod Sends the Magi to Search for the Child (Matthew 2:7-12)

THE MAIN THOUGHT
Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. (Matthew 2:2, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE
We may choose to pursue things that take us out of our comfort zones. What makes these pursuits worth the risk? The wise men in Matthew’s Gospel took the risk of following a star that led them to Christ.

LESSON AIM
The lesson evaluates the implications of the wise men in journeying afar to seek the king of the Jews. These kings were not afraid to seek a greater meaning of life. Moreover, their journey is one of faith in a God that they had to seek and find for their own personal satisfaction.

LIFE AIM
Christians should marvel at those who dare to move beyond boundaries to find Christ. We as Christians must continue to serve as witnesses that God is in control, uplifting those who seek Jesus, even in the midst of unnerving circumstances. Those who wish to move beyond obstacles to find Jesus will always have help from the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION 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