

**ANTIOCH SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
*Spiritual Formation and Discipleship Training*

**Unit III Theme – Faith-Full vs. Faith-Less**

**SUSTAINING OUR FAITH**

**Background Passage: Jude**

**Lesson Passage: Jude 17-25**

**UNIFYING TOPIC:**

Build Yourselves Up

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Recognizing Divisive Persons (Jude 17-19)
- II. Keep Yourselves in the Love of God (Jude 20-23)
- III. The Benediction (Jude 24-25)



But you, BELOVED  
Building yourselves  
up on your most holy faith  
praying in the Holy Spirit  
keep yourselves in  
the Love of God

JUDE 1.20-21 NKJV

**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 20-21, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

A “shortcut to success” may persuade some people to compromise their standards. How do people remain true to their values in the face of enticing trends? Jude writes to the community of faith, assuring them of God’s promise to keep us from falling and to make us stand without blemish in God’s presence.

**LESSON AIM**

Christian adults grow in their determination to live faithful lives. As the believer matures through a series of trials, challenges, and triumphs, he or she is brought to the realization that it was the Lord who provided the grace and mercy needed to navigate these obstacles.

**LIFE AIM**

When those who have been saved exclaim, “I don’t go where I used to go or do what I used to do,” they are not speaking sanctimoniously. This is the declaration of the believer who is not torn by the temptations of sinful living while trying to live a life that is pleasing to 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*

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**TESTING OUR FAITH**

**Background Passage: 2 Corinthians 13:1-11**

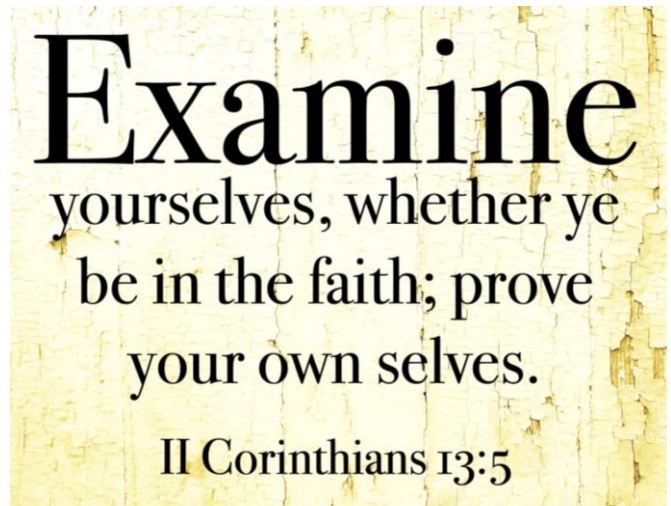
**Lesson Passage: 2 Corinthians 13:5-11**

**UNIFYING TOPIC:**

Examine Yourself

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. The Corinthians' Self-Test (2 Corinthians 13:5-6)
- II. Reasons to Address the Church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:7-11)



**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Corinthians 13:5, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

Everyone has principles they are challenged to uphold. How and where do we find the courage to live authentically, keeping true to our ideals? Paul challenges believers to examine themselves as they rely on the power of Christ in keeping the faith imparted to them.

**LESSON AIM**

Paul encourages believers to evaluate our concept of self-examination in the Christian faith. It is difficult for many adults to face the fact that we could be wrong in our opinions and attitudes within the scope of our duties in the church. Self-checking should not be seen as a negative action.

**LIFE AIM**

It is most important for believers to embrace critical self-reflection in the Christian faith. In every walk of life, there is some form of evaluation. It is left up to the sincerity of the believer to continually analyze whether he or she stands in accordance with their faith.

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**DEFENDING OUR FAITH**

**Background Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-17**

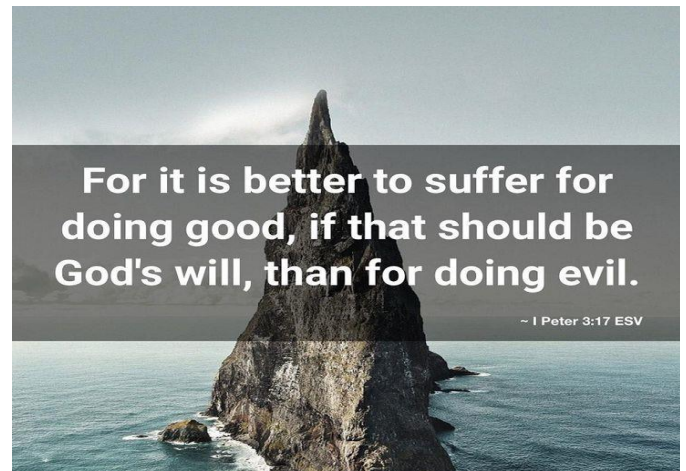
**Lesson Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-17**

**UNIFYING TOPIC:**

Righteous and Humble Actions

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Christian Living (1 Peter 3:8-12)
- II. The Anguish of a Committed Christian  
(1 Peter 3:13-17)



**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil doing.  
(1 Peter 3:17, KJV)

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

Adhering to dominant norms is a safe and convenient way to live. How do we voice objections to these norms without inviting conflict? In 1 Peter, Christians are encouraged to defend their faith through righteous and humble actions even at the risk of suffering.

**LESSON AIM**

Christian believers will suffer in some manner for the sake of the Gospel, but when suffering for Christ, we must be able to defend the faith. Additionally, believers who do the will of God will be rejected and mocked for our efforts. However, Christians must trust in the protection of the Lord and remain in position as staunch defenders of the faith, as we will never be alone.

**LIFE AIM**

Christian adults suffer in numerous ways, such as through poverty, hunger, unemployment, illness, rejection, or loss. To some degree, each of these ills will touch all of society, both the faithful and the faithless. Nonetheless, Peter declares that since we must suffer – finding ourselves criticized and misunderstood for the things that are right – we must undergo suffering unashamed of spreading the Gospel of love through Jesus Christ.

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**LIVING IN FAITH**

**Background Passage: Acts 6**

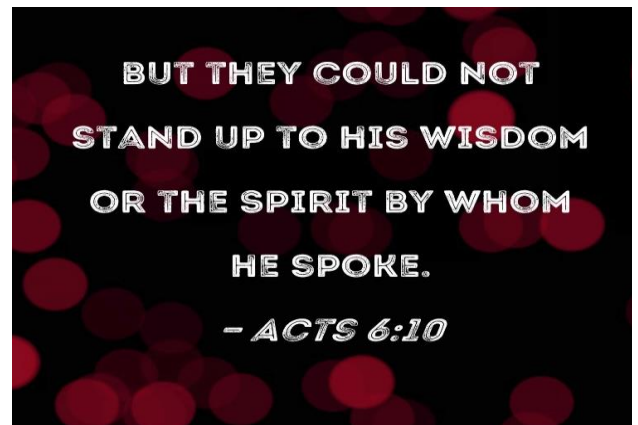
**Lesson Passage: Acts 6:7-15**

**UNIFYING TOPIC:**

When the World is Against Us

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. The Spreading of the Word (Acts 6:7-8)
- II. Stephen Faces Opposition and Arrest (Acts 6:9-12)
- III. Stephen Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:13-15)



**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

[Some] stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. (Acts 6:9-10, NSRV)

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

People who are falsely accused and persecuted often feel that the whole world is against them. What sustains us in the face of injustice and persecution? The testimony of Stephen encourages us to be obedient to the faith inspired by the grace, power, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

**LESSON AIM**

Christians are to consider the ways that Stephen was strengthened when faced with false accusations and persecutions. The account of Stephen reassures Christians that the Lord is with us, even in the face of unwarranted persecution.

**LIFE AIM**

Christians are to acknowledge ways that the love of Christ and the Holy Spirit encourage and strengthen our faith. As believers, we must not fail to trust in and be faithful to the Word, which guides our lives. Since Christians live according to the grace of God, we must not be in a state of silence in the manner by which the love of Jesus strengthens our walk in the faith.

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**THE RESURRECTION: KEY TO FAITH**

**Background Passage: Mark 16**

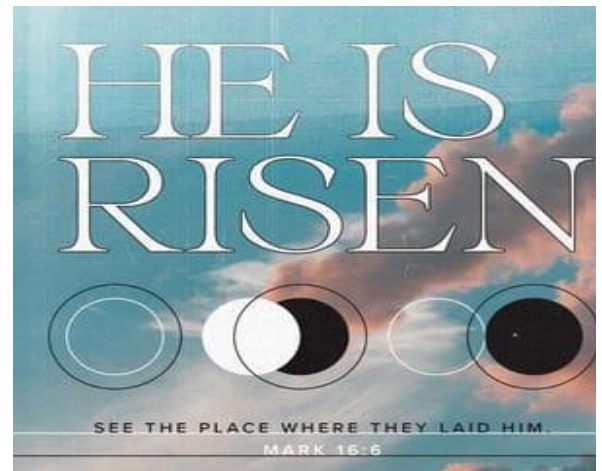
**Lesson Passage: Mark 16:1-8**

**UNIFYING TOPIC:**

Life Beyond Death

**LESSON TEXT**

- I. Who Will Roll Away the Stone? (Mark 16:1-4)
- II. He Has Risen! (Mark 16:5-6)
- III. The Message and the Empty Tomb (Mark 16:7-8)



**THE MAIN THOUGHT**

**And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. (Mark 16:6, KJV)**

**UNIFYING PRINCIPLE**

Feelings of dread and appreciation confront many people as they navigate life's uncertainties and tragedies. Where can we find a source of hope that can calm our fears and allay our apprehensions? The women who came to the tomb did not let their grief hinder them, and their faithfulness was rewarded with the good news of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

**LESSON AIM**

In this lesson, the significance is to reveal and validate how the women at the tomb pushed through their grief and fear to accomplish their task. Regardless of the strength of his or her faith, the contemporary Christian would probably also be frightened by the appearance of an angel. Nonetheless, we must avoid that fear, or else, we may miss a blessing.

**LIFE AIM**

Christian adults experience doubt, disappointment, and fear at various times in their lives. Having faith in the Lord bolsters our courage while allowing the sincere believer to be a witness to others who face similar issues.

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