



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 WINTER 2024/25  
**Intermediate**  
 QUARTERLY  
 DEC-JAN-FEB  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

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# INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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**Roderick D. Belin**

*President/Publisher*

**Garland F. Pierce**

*Executive Director, Department of Christian Education*

**Tiffany Gregory**

*Chief of Operations*

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## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

## THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell — 5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell — silence

## THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

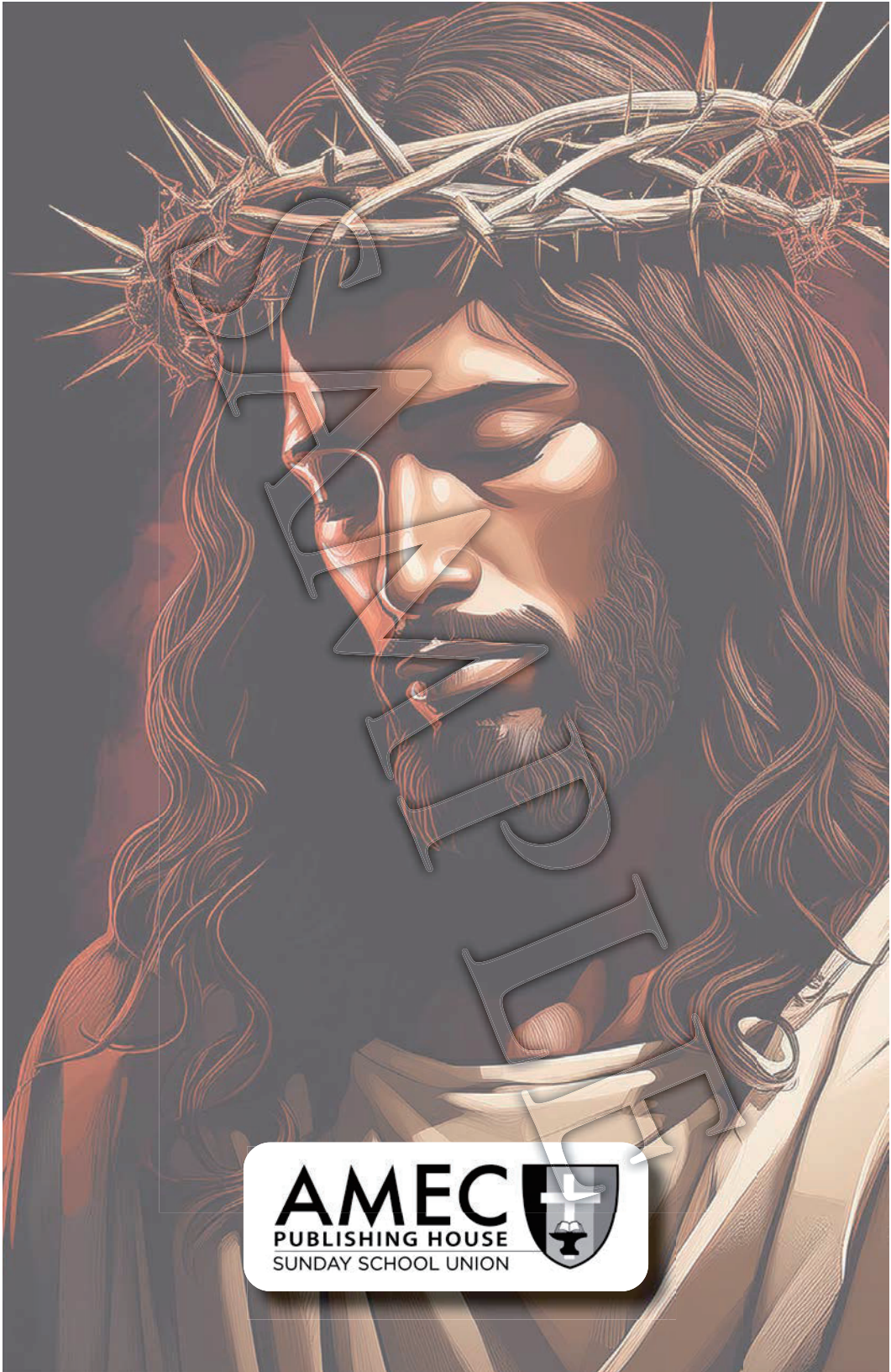
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

## THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my AME Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

*AME Discipline*

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**AMEC**  
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# The Ancestry of King David

Lesson Scripture: Ruth 1–4; Luke 3:23-38

Focus Scripture: Ruth 4:9-17; Luke 3:23, 31b-32

**KEY VERSE:** The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17

## VOCABULARY

**REDEEMER:** a person who has the responsibility to recover or retain family property.

**INHERITANCE:** property or land given by one person to the next generation.

**KINDRED:** a full male sibling with the same mother and father; a person of the same close clan family, uncle, aunt, or offspring of the same.

**ELDER:** oldest in the house; legal competence in a community; a social class.

*FOCUS SCRIPTURE: RUTH 4:9-17; LUKE 3:23, 31B-32*

- 9** Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.
- 10** I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.”
- 11** Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem;
- 12** and, through the children that the Lord will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”
- 13** So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son.
- 14** Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel!
- 15** He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.”
- 16** Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom and became his nurse.
- 17** The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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**23** Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli,...

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**31<sup>B</sup>**...son of Nathan, son of David,

**32** son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon,...

## INTRODUCTION

In a once-prosperous city now overshadowed by despair, people longed for a savior. One day, a man named Josh, claiming descent from the great leader Jonathan, arrived. Known for his acts of kindness, Josh healed the sick and spread hope.

News of Josh's miracles spread; and, crowds flocked to Josh. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and forgave the guilty. His actions reminded everyone of Jonathan's compassion, bringing light and hope back to the city.

Inspired by Josh, the citizens began helping each other, transforming their community. Josh showed that true healing comes from mercy and kindness, proving that everyone has the power to make a difference.

## BIBLE STORY

Boaz spoke to the elders of the community as they witnessed him acquire the estate of Elimelech, Naomi's husband, and Mahlon, Ruth's husband. Boaz shared that he would marry Ruth as he was the next kindred of Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon. It was through the marriage that Boaz could secure the family property for Ruth.

After their marriage, Ruth gave birth to a son and Naomi took him and they named him Obed, which means he was the son born to Naomi. By the custom of the land, as a son, he was the family of her husband Elimelech and thereby an heir of David. Obed would have a son Jesse and Jesse would have a son David.

The author of Luke explains the lineage of Jesus comes from David through Obed.

## LIFE APPLICATION

Each of our families is unique and our connections with family members are different. Ruth's family lineage led to the birth of Jesus Christ. What is the lineage that led to your birth? We invite you to spend time talking with your family to learn about your family tree. Listen to the story of your family, what they did to take care of their family, what type of professions they have, and where they live. After hearing the story of your family and creating your family tree, reflect

on how your ancestors shaped who you are today.

Ruth's story includes immigration, poverty, a mixed marriage, and redemptive love. How were these things viewed during the time of Ruth? How are they considered today? What does their inclusion in both the Bible and the lineage of Jesus say about God's perspective on them?

## SUMMARY

Families are necessary and they come in many forms. Ruth and Naomi became family through their marriages. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi after her husband died and Boaz made a choice to honor the family practice of the next of kin. Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi became family and collectively they led their family to the birth of Jesus Christ. Both Ruth and Naomi were widows; they did not have access to their husband's inheritance, and it was not until the marriage of Boaz that they could access their families' resources.

### Questions

- What do we learn about God through the telling of this story of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi? How does their story affect the understanding of the rest of the Bible?
- How can the lineage of David and Jesus help you enhance the Advent and Christmas celebrations considering current tensions regarding race and immigration?

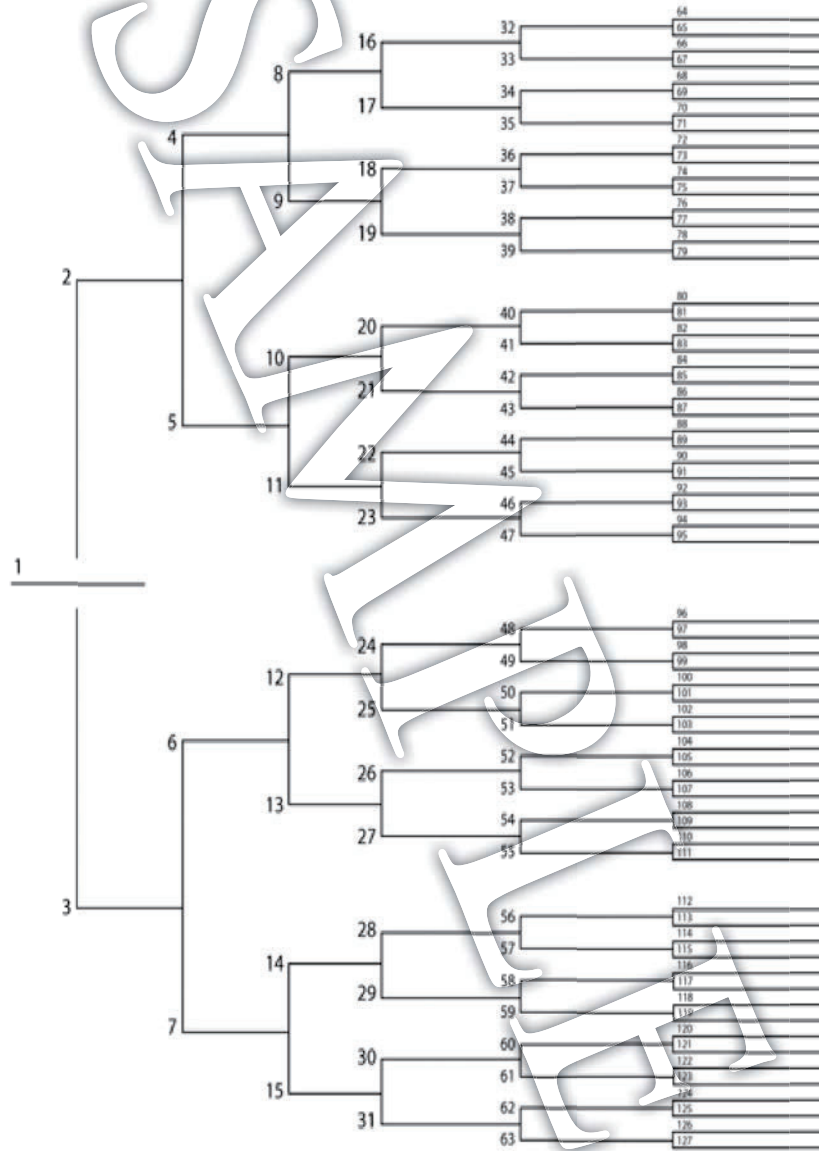
## CLOSING DEVOTIONS

*Lord, we are grateful for the lessons we've learned today about your mercy and compassion through Jesus, the "Son of David." Help us to carry this legacy forward, showing kindness and mercy to those in need. May we be instruments of your healing and love in our communities, reflecting the light that Jesus brought into the world. Strengthen our faith and guide our actions so that we may be effective, just as Jesus was. Let our lives be a testament to your enduring grace and the power of compassion. Amen.*



**APPENDICES 01 - YOU ARE FROM  
'S FAMILY**

7 Generation Family Tree



1. Your name
2. Mom's name – 4 and 5 Mom's parents – 8-11 Mom's grandparents – 16-23 Mom's great grands
3. Dad's name – 6 and 7 Dad's parents – 12-15 Dad's grandparents – 24-31 Dad's great grands

## FAMILY SEARCH

### Word Search

J H B H J S S I P D  
E A O E Z A P M E J  
S B A Z B L X I R A  
S R Z R X M D N E O  
E A I O R O A A Z N  
J H S N U N V H A A  
U A S O T M I S P O  
D M A B H R D H E M  
A J C E J A C O B I  
H Q U D L M J N O R

Nahshon  
Naomi  
Judah  
Jacob  
Obed

Abraham  
Hezron  
Perez  
Boaz

Salmon  
David  
Issac  
Jesse

Ruth  
Ram

# God's Promise to David

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Focus Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:4-17

**KEY VERSE:** "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."  
2 Samuel 7:16

## VOCABULARY

**HOUSE:** Dwelling, palace, temple, family, dynasty.

**PROPHET NATHAN:** Prophet in King David's time; delivers God's message to David.

**TABERNACLE:** A relatively large, portable dwelling, used as a central place of worship; made of cloth, leather, or animal hair, with poles and a superstructure for holding it up.

**KINGDOM:** Empire, the area or people ruled under a monarchy form of government.

**THRONE:** An ornate chair, the authority and rulership of a leader over a people; a place in a social arrangement marking a relatively high status.

*FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 SAMUEL 7:4-17*

- 4** But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,
- 5** “Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?”
- 6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
- 7** Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’
- 8** Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel,
- 9** and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
- 10** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
- 11** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
- 12** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 14** I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.
- 15** But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.
- 16** Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.”
- 17** In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

## INTRODUCTION

Imagine a thriving community where the mayor decides to build a brand-new city hall to honor the town's heritage. The mayor plans every detail meticulously, but before he can lay the foundation, a message arrives from the state governor. The governor, appreciating the mayor's dedication, says, "Instead of you building this hall, I will establish a legacy for your family. Your descendants will lead this town for generations, and they will oversee the construction of many halls, ensuring the prosperity of our community forever."

In this analogy, the mayor's initial desire to build something magnificent shifts to a greater promise of enduring leadership and a legacy for his family. Similarly, there was a significant moment in history when an important figure received an unexpected promise that extended beyond his immediate plans, shaping the future in profound ways.

## BIBLE STORY

King David, having established his reign and brought peace to Israel, wanted to honor God by building a permanent temple in Jerusalem. Up until this point, the Ark of the Covenant, symbolizing God's presence, has been housed in a tent or tabernacle. David feels it is inappropriate for him to live in a palace while the Ark remains in a temporary shelter.

Nathan is a prophet and trusted advisor to King David. He plays a crucial role as God's messenger, delivering divine revelations and guidance. Nathan initially supports David's plan to build the temple but later receives a message from God that alters the course of events. Nathan is like a mediator between God and David and David knows when Nathan speaks it is of God and not of Nathan's desire.

God's promises to David have long-lasting implications as the covenant God makes with David is a foundational element in the history of Israel. God promises that David's descendants will establish an everlasting dynasty, and his throne will be secure forever. This covenant lays the groundwork for the hope of a promised savior that is later fulfilled in Jesus.

## LIFE APPLICATION

God's promises are faithful. David received God's promise that his

## INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY

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descendants would reign forever. We read our Bible to learn of God's promises to believers, yet there are times when we hesitate to believe God will or can fulfill the promises.

As we enter the season of giving and receiving, consider the promises you've made to others; have you been faithful to your promises? Can others trust you to keep your promises? Have you written a list of gifts you plan to give on Christmas? If you have, review your list, and consider if the recipient of your gift would see your gift as something you just gave without thought or will see your gift as personal and intentional.

God's promises are intentional and personal. He framed David's promise for David and no one else. Commit to be intentional in your gift-giving and take a moment to reflect on God's amazing gift to you.

### SUMMARY

God promised David he would establish an everlasting family through David's lineage, which leads to Jesus Christ. God tells David that his kingdom will endure forever and that his children will have an everlasting dynasty.

As followers of Jesus, we are spiritually included in God's family. Our faith in Christ makes us part of that family, heirs of the promises and participants in God's plan. God always keeps his promises. We can celebrate and trust that God will follow through on his promises.

### Questions

- Imagine being part of God's family through Jesus Christ. What type of impact does that have on your identity in life and your daily actions?
- Can you think of a time when God has been faithful to you or someone you know? How does this help you trust that God will fulfill his promises in your own life?

### CLOSING DEVOTIONS

We were reminded of the importance of dedicating our futures to God, by seeking forgiveness, guidance, and mercy. We commit to creating sacred

spaces in our lives where we can connect with him daily through prayer and alignment with God’s will. We also pledge to extend forgiveness and mercy to others and to advocate for justice and righteousness in our communities.

**APPENDICES 02 - REFLECTIONS AND OFFERING**

What’s the best Christmas gift you have **ever given** someone?

Was it the physical gift that mattered most, or was it the thoughtfulness you showed to the person receiving the gift?

What is the best thing that you think you can offer God?

Read the passage again (2 Samuel 7:4-17).

How does God respond to David’s best offering?

How have you responded to God’s gift to you?

Reflecting on the Davidic Covenant as well as the Abrahamic Covenant and Sinai Covenant, which of God’s promises sticks out to you the most? Why?

Davidic Covenant <b>2 Samuel 7:13-16</b>	Abrahamic Covenant <b>Genesis 12:1-3</b>	Sinai Covenant <b>Exodus 19:3-8</b>
The promise made by Yahweh that he would establish for King David a “house” or a dynasty of kings who would perpetually reign over God’s people.	God’s promise to the first patriarch, Abraham, that he would be blessed, his descendants would be greater than the stars in the sky, and his name would be great which became the basis for Israel’s covenant with Yahweh.	The covenant that Moses mediated between God and Israel at Mount Sinai when Israel received the law (10 Commandments)

Which promise feels nearest to you—something you have experienced, perhaps?

## REFLECTIONS OF A PROMISE AND A LEGACY

### A Promise and a Legacy

Think about a time when someone made a significant promise to you or when you made a promise to someone else. Write a short paragraph describing this experience. What was the promise, and how did it make you feel? What was the outcome?

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Write a paragraph about what kind of legacy you would like to leave behind. This could be within your family, community, or even in a broader context. What values or actions do you want to be remembered for? How can you start building this legacy today?

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Consider how God's promise to David about his descendants and their future impacts your understanding of promises and legacy. Write a paragraph connecting David's story to your own experiences. How does knowing that God made such a significant promise to David change your perspective on the promises and legacy you are building in your own life?

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Create a short action plan (3-5 bullet points) on how you can start living out the values you want to be part of your legacy. Include specific actions you can take in your daily life that reflect these values.

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**Example: Action 1:** Stand up against bullying and support those who feel left out or ignored by others.

The word puzzle has a hidden message in it. First, find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other. Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message. There are 27 words in the puzzle.



*A House for God*

E D E L L I F L U F A T H E R  
M S R O T S E C N A Y O U R T  
A H R O R E V E R O F N E K S  
N S G N I R P S F F O H I H A  
L E A R S I L L B E E N O W E  
E L C A N R E B A T G U O N N  
T S A F D A E T S D S R H O O  
N A H T A N S J O E D T S S R  
E C N I R P U M A S B L I T H  
A C C O R D A N C E I S L N T  
H E D F G O B P E E H S B E R  
L E V E S E R U T S A P A T E  
R U S L E N E M I E S P T J Q  
H H A P P O I N T L P H S U C  
T K T S E R V A N T D U E H D

Accordance	Father	Kingdom	Saul	Tent
Ancestors	Forever	Name	Servant	Throne
Appoint	Fulfilled	Nathan	Sheep	Words
Build	House	Offsprings	Son	
Enemies	Israel	Pastures	Steadfast	
Establish	Judges	Prince	Tabernacle	

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# The Prophet Who Prepares the Way

Lesson Scripture: Luke 1:5-23, 57-80

Focus Scripture: Luke 1:67-80

**KEY VERSES:** And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.  
Luke 1:76-77

## VOCABULARY

**PROPHECY:** A message or revelation from God, often concerning future events.

**REPENTANCE:** A change of mind or heart, leading to a complete change in one's way of life; turning away from sin and turning towards God in obedience and devotion.

**SALVATION:** Deliverance from sin and its penalties, often associated with eternal life.

**OATH:** A solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future action or behavior.

**PREPARE:** To make ready or to put in a state of readiness.

*FOCUS SCRIPTURE: LUKE 1:67-80*

- 67** Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
- 68** “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
- 69** He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,
- 70** as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
- 71** that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
- 72** Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,
- 73** the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us
- 74** that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
- 75** in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.
- 76** And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
- 77** to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
- 78** Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
- 79** to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
- 80** The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Imagine a community eagerly awaiting a new leader who promises to bring positive change and hope. Before the new leader arrives, a trusted messenger comes to organize everyone. The messenger travels through the community, sharing news of the coming changes the new leader will bring to the community. He urges people to reflect on their lives, turn away from harmful habits, and open their hearts to the new beginning that is coming. His words fill the community with anticipation and readiness for the leader’s arrival.

Similarly, there was once a key figure whose mission was to prepare people for the arrival of a savior. This messenger's role was to guide people towards repentance and readiness for the transformative leader from a notable lineage, who would fulfill long-awaited promises and bring lasting peace.

### **BIBLE STORY**

Israel was expecting the promised Messiah as was written in the scriptures. The scriptures of old had indicated that there would be a person who would arrive before the Messiah to prepare everyone. Zechariah, filled with the Holy Spirit, prophesies about the coming salvation through the Messiah, describing the role of John the Baptist as the forerunner.

Israel had longed for deliverance from political oppression and spiritual redemption promised by the prophets. Zechariah speaks of God's redemption of his people, referring to the fulfillment of promises made to Abraham and the deliverance from enemies. It had been a long time since Israel had heard the word of a prophet.

Israel needed to be reminded of the promise. Zechariah's prophecies about John's mission to prepare the way for the Messiah would emphasize repentance, forgiveness of sins, and the knowledge of salvation. Israel needed to be prepared for John's arrival. John the Baptist's unique role as the herald and preparer of the way for Jesus involves knowledge of his birth, upbringing, and the cultural and religious expectations of his time regarding the coming of the Messiah.

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

Zechariah's prophecy highlights John's role in preparing the way for Jesus and God's plan of redemption. As believers, we can apply this to our lives by recognizing our role, living with purpose, reflecting the light, and sharing the good news.

Just as John was called to prepare the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare the way for God's work in our communities and our lives. We are to actively live out our faith and be open to God's leading. We should understand our purpose helps us to focus on what matters. By following Zechariah's example, we can dedicate ourselves to sharing the good news.

Zechariah spoke of a “rising sun” that will come to shine on those living in darkness. We too can reflect God’s light by offering hope, compassion, and support to those who are struggling. Use today’s lesson to show someone the way to God’s peace.

### **SUMMARY**

Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke about God’s plan of redemption and how his son John would prepare the way for the coming Messiah Jesus.

Once John was born, Zechariah was able to speak. He shared that his son John would be a prophet who would prepare the way for the promised Messiah. As followers of Jesus, we are also called to prepare the way for God’s plan.

### **Questions**

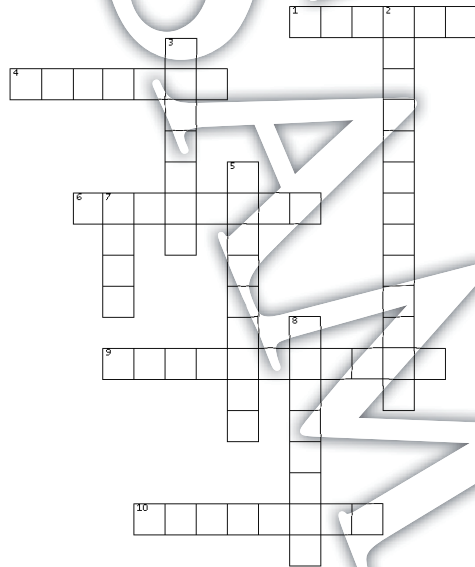
- How does Zechariah’s prophecy about John the Baptist highlight the importance of preparing the way for Jesus and God’s plan of redemption?
- In what ways can we, as modern believers, actively prepare the way for God’s work and share the message of Jesus in our daily lives?

### **CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

*Dear God, may we hold fast to the promise of your faithfulness. Prepare us, Lord, through repentance and readiness, just as John prepared the way for Christ. Help us await your promises with hope and expectation, trusting in your perfect timing. May we walk in faith, knowing you will fulfill your plans in our lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

### APPENDICES 03 - ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY

Read the definition and fill in the appropriate word based on the definition. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect. There are 10 words in the puzzle.



**ACROSS**

- 1. The third person of the Trinity, God's presence, and power in the world
- 4. to make ready or to put in a state of readiness
- 6. a solemn agreement between God and his people involving a mutual commitment
- 9. The act of pardoning someone for their offenses
- 10. the state of being consecrated to God

**DOWN**

- 2. a quality of being morally right or justifiable in the sight of God
- 3. a person chosen by God to speak his Word to the people
- 5. The deliverance from sin and its
- 7. a promise regarding a person's future action or behavior
- 8. The act of being delivered from sin and its consequences

*covenant, forgiveness, holiness, oath, prepare, prophet, righteousness, redeemed, salvation, spirit,*

### REFLECTION OF A PROPHECY

Write a paragraph reflecting on a time when you received guidance or insight that you believe came from God. How did this guidance impact your life?

In a short paragraph, explain what it means to you to prepare your heart for God's work in your life. How can this practice strengthen your faith journey?

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Conclude with a list of three practical steps you can take this week to apply the lessons from Zechariah's prophecy in Luke 1:67-80 to your daily life. These could include prayer, acts of kindness, or seeking reconciliation with others.

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**Example:** Action 1: Dedicate 10 minutes each morning to prayer and reflection before I start my day.

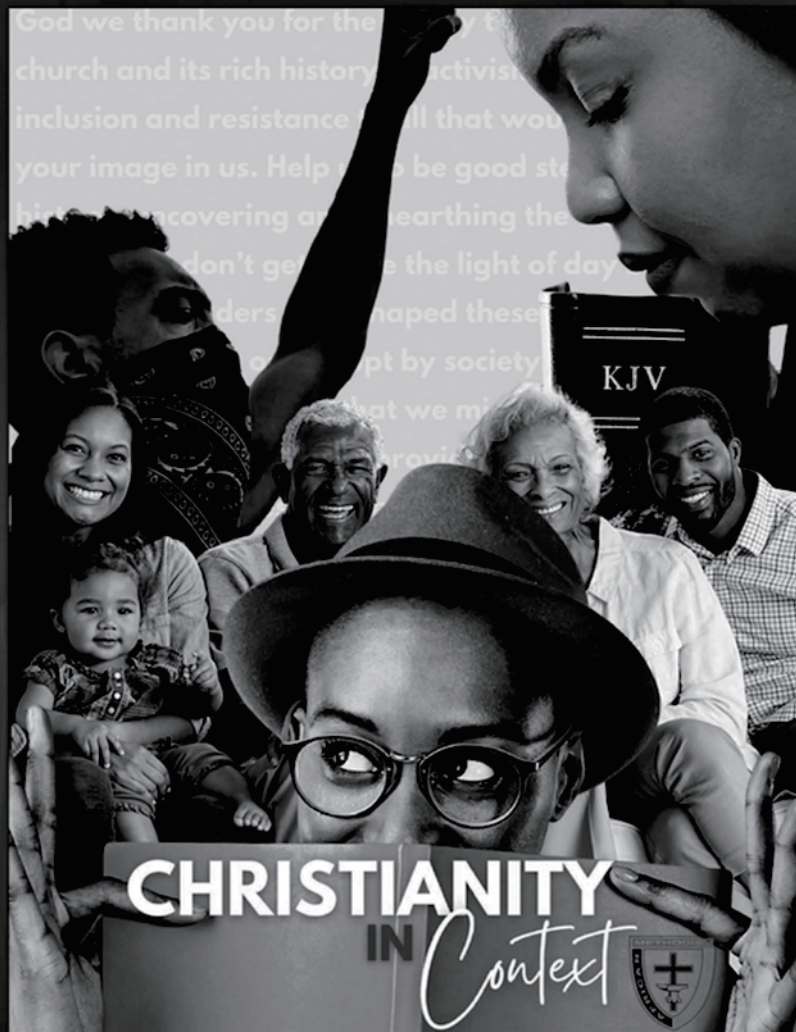
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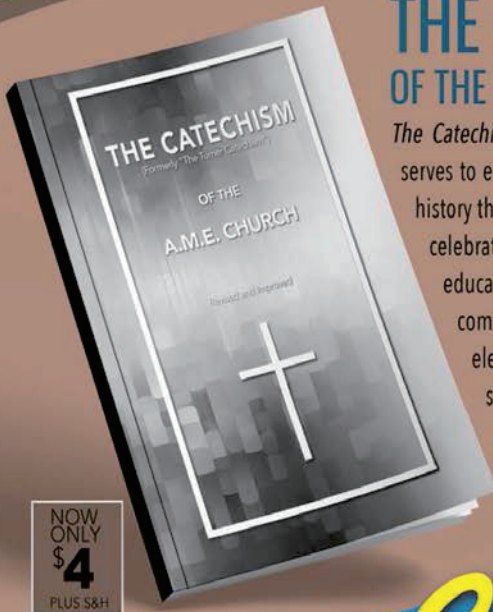
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developed by theologians over the course of Christian history.

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# WORSHIP ESSENTIALS



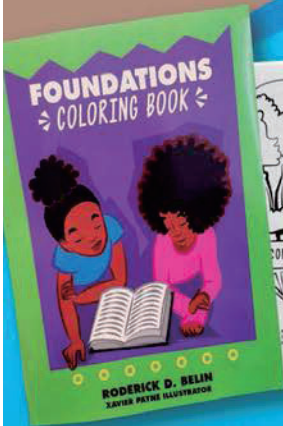
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