

# INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

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---- Ages 12-14 (Middle School) ------

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#### INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY - USPS 266 - 360

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## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- 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



LESSON 1

# Leaders Set Examples for Others Abraham Builds an Altar at Mamre

Lesson Scripture: Genesis 12-13 Focus Scripture: Genesis 13:8-18

**KEY VERSE:** So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord. Genesis 13:18

VOCABULARY

GENEROSITY – The spirit of sharing or giving. Example: Abram's willingness to let Lot choose the land he desires.

ABRAM – The central character of the passage, later known as Abraham, considered the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

LOT – Abram's nephew, who accompanies him to Canaan.

FAITH – An example: Abram's trust in God's promises, even in times of uncertainty.

CANAAN – The promised land given to Abram by God.

TENT – Symbolizing Abram's temporary dwelling and his nomadic lifestyle.

#### FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 13:8-18

- 8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me and between your herders and my herders, for we are kindred.
- **9** Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."
- **10** Lot looked about him and saw that the plain of the Jordan was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar; this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.
- **11** So Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward, and they separated from each other.
- 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.
- **13** Now the people of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.
- 14 The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,
- **15** for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.
- **16** I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.
- **17** Rise up, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."
- **18** So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

#### INTRODUCTION

The first altar recorded in the Bible was built by Noah after the great flood (Genesis 8:20). The purpose of the altar was to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Noah's first altar took every clean animal and made an offering on it. The tradition of building altars and making sacrifices to the Lord would continue through the time of Abraham.

Abraham built several altars to mark moments in his life and his journey

with God. The altars are captured in the scriptures in the biblical book of Genesis. The first altar was built after God's covenant with Abraham, promising that he would be blessed. All the families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-7), followed by the altar which was built as he passed through Shechem (Genesis 12:8-13), then an altar where God again promised to give him the land; Abraham built another altar at Mamre (Genesis 13:14-18) and the last, Abraham built an altar upon which to sacrifice his son in the land of Moriah, which Abraham called "the Lord Will Provide," Jehovah Jireh (22:9-14).

Even today, believers continue to go to these altars built by our foreparents. It is at these altars that our lives are changed. We come to the altar for our baptisms, conversions, marriages, and deaths. We kneel at the altar to pray and offer God our all. It is at the altar where we are transformed and return anew. We should never leave the altar the same way we came.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

The story of Abram captured in Genesis 13:8-18 gives us insight into the journey of Abraham, a man of great faith, and his relationship with God. The scriptures reveal God's promises, faithfulness, and blessings upon those who trust in God.

Abram and his nephew Lot faced a dispute due to their increasing wealth and the scarcity of land for their livestock. Resources were decreasing and production was increasing. Despite being in the right, Abram chose peace over conflict. He prioritized maintaining harmony and unity among family members.

His generosity shines through his proposal to Lot. He gives Lot the freedom to choose the land he desires, demonstrating selflessness and trust in God's provision. God reaffirms his covenant with Abram, promising him and his descendants the land as an everlasting inheritance despite the apparent loss of territory due to Lot's choice.

#### LIFE APPLICATION

Abram teaches us to prioritize peace, practice generosity, anchor our faith in God's promises, and respond with obedient action. By following

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these principles, we can embark on a journey of blessings and receive the eternal inheritance of God. Just as Abram did, we should choose peace over conflict, even in situations where we believe we are justified in being confrontational. We should practice generosity and be willing to sacrifice our gain for the well-being of others. We should also anchor our faith in God's promises, knowing that his blessings are everlasting. Our response to God should be one of obedience, which will provide us with opportunities to act on our faith and trust God for our needs.

Describe an example of family opposition. Discuss multiple methods for reconciliation.

Altars are a place where we can connect with God. Dedicate a portion of your space to worship God through prayer, song, and/or scripture reading.

#### SUMMARY

Today's lesson gives us Abraham's response to a dispute with his nephew Lot over land for their livestock. Rather than escalating the conflict, Abraham chooses peace, allowing Lot to choose his portion of the land. God then reaffirms his covenant with Abraham, promising him and his descendants the entire land as an everlasting inheritance. Abraham responds with obedience, exploring the land and settling in Hebron, where he builds an altar to worship the Lord.

Living a God-centered life involves prioritizing peace, practicing generosity, anchoring faith in God's promises, responding with obedience, and seeking God's presence in all aspects of life.

How can we apply Abraham's approach to resolving conflicts peacefully, as seen in Genesis 13:8-18, in our modern relationships, both online and offline?

How can we learn from Abram's trust in God and his obedience to have stronger faith and obedience in our own lives, especially in today's busy and distracting world?

#### **CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

"May we walk in trust and obedience like Abram, knowing God's promises endure. Let's journey forward with faith, embracing God's guiding light. Amen."

## APPENDICES 01 TRUST - OBEDIENCE - GOD'S PROMISES

#### TRUST – OBEDIENCE – GOD'S PROMISES

Reflect on the theme of trust, obedience, and God's promises in your life; and, brainstorm practical ways to apply them in everyday life.

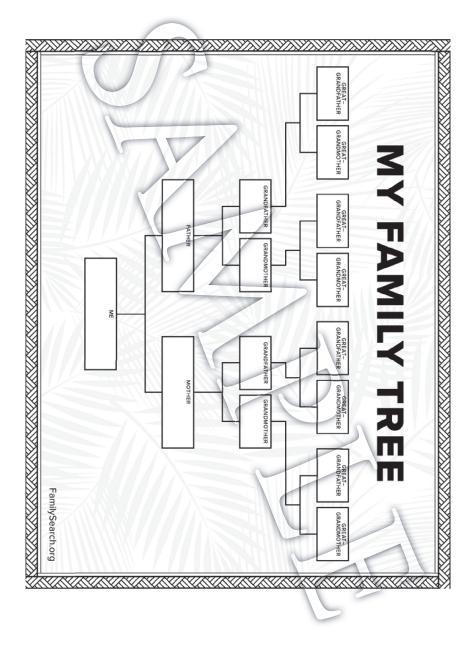
Consider:

- 1. What stood out to you the most in today's reading of Genesis 13:8-18?
- 2. How do you think Abram's actions demonstrated faith and obedience?
- 3. What challenges or distractions would Abram have experienced if his journey occurred in 2024?

Write down one practical way you can apply the principles of trust and obedience in your life as inspired by Abram.

#### **Family Ties**

Consider your current relationships. Complete the followinng family tree. After you complete your family tree, pray, and consider if any relationships need reconciling. Seek God's guidance for an opportunity to discuss reconciliation with family members using Abram's lesson with Lot as an example.



LESSON 2

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

# Dedicating Our Future Solomon Dedicates the Temple

Lesson Scripture: 1 Kings 8:22-53 Focus Scripture: 1 Kings 8:22-24, 37-39, 46, 48-50a

**KEY VERSES:** "Whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the sufferings of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; then hear in heaven your dwelling place." 1 Kings 8:38-39a

## VOCABULARY

SOLOMON – The king of Israel known for his wisdom and for building the first temple in Jerusalem.

TEMPLE – The sacred place where God's presence was believed to dwell among the Israelites.

DEDICATION – The act of consecrating something to divine service or purpose.

COVENANT – The solemn agreement between God and the Israelites, often involving promises and obligations.

FORGIVENESS – God's act of pardoning sins and granting reconciliation to those who repent.

MERCY – God's compassionate treatment of sinners who do not deserve it.

#### FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 1 KINGS 8:22-24, 37-39, 46, 48-50A (END WITH "COMMITTED AGAINST YOU")

- Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven.
- He said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart,
- the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand."

- "If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any of their cities; whatever suffering, whatever sickness there is;
- whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the suffering of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house;
- then hear in heaven your dwelling place, forgive, act, and render to all whose hearts you know according to all their ways, for only you know the human heart –..."

"If they sin against you – for there is no one who does not sin – and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near,..."

- "...if they repent with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive and pray to you toward their land that you gave to their ancestors, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name,
- then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, maintain their cause,
- and forgive your people who have sinned against you and all their transgressions that they have committed against you,..."

#### INTRODUCTION

Imagine you're standing with Solomon at the dedication of the coolest, most epic building ever—the temple in Jerusalem. The dedication of the temple isn't just any old ceremony. It's a moment charged with spiritual power and significance. As we dive into 1 Kings 8:22-53, we're not just peeking into history; we're exploring a timeless truth that speaks directly to us today. Solomon's prayer isn't about some ancient structure—it's about dedicating our lives, and our futures, just as Solomon dedicated that temple. Amid all the hype and excitement, Solomon shares some serious wisdom about our human tendencies to mess up and the absolute necessity of seeking God's forgiveness and guidance.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

Jerusalem was a place filled with history, culture, and excitement. King Solomon is the son of one of the greatest kings, King David. Solomon was known for his wisdom and wealth. Solomon was a man of deep faith and devotion to God. From an incredibly early age, God chose him to lead the Israelites and he takes his responsibility seriously.

Solomon is dedicating the temple he built for the Lord. The temple was a symbol of God's presence among the people. Solomon is standing before the gathered crowd and his presence is one of reverence and humility. Despite his wealth and power, he recognized that he was nothing without God. As he stands before the people, he prays, and his words resonate with the people with both wisdom and sincerity.

Solomon's prayer solicits seven petitions to God to hear the people when they pray toward the temple. Solomon begins by acknowledging how great and awesome God is. He exclaims, "God, you made heaven and earth, there's no one like you!" Then he gets real with God. He blurts out, "Look, we're your people, but we mess up a lot. We sin, we make mistakes. But here's the thing, God, when we mess up and we come to this temple, please hear us. Forgive us, show us mercy."

Solomon knows that God's people are going to mess up, but he also knows that God is merciful and forgiving. Solomon understands that seeking God's forgiveness and guidance is key to living a faithful life.

#### LIFE APPLICATION

Solomon's prayer teaches the importance of recognizing God and seeking his forgiveness, guidance, and mercy in all aspects of life. The prayers can guide us to humbly acknowledge our dependence on God, actively seek God's direction, and extend compassion and justice to others. By advocating for righteousness and standing up for what is right, we can dedicate our future to serving God and making a positive impact on the world around us. Just as Solomon demonstrated before Israel his deep sense of purpose, faithfulness, and commitment to living a life that honors God and reflects his love for others, so can each of us.

How can we incorporate Solomon's prayer for forgiveness and guidance into our daily life? What specific steps can be taken to seek God's forgiveness for our mistakes and to discern God's guidance in our decisions?

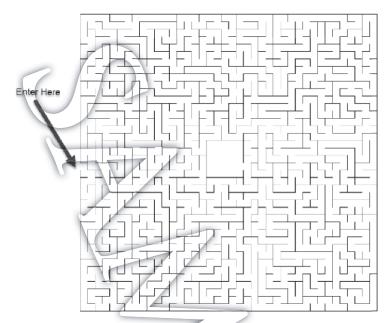
Considering Solomon's prayer for justice and mercy, how can you advocate for justice and show compassion towards others in school, the community, or online spaces? What actions can you take to stand up for what is right and extend grace to those in need?

#### Solomon Dedicates the Temple

Your goal is to find your way to the center of the maze while keeping in mind the patience and commitment required, in the same manner as Solomon's dedication to building the temple.

Starting at the entrance, navigate through the maze by following the path that leads towards the center. Along the way, reflect on the dedication and perseverance it took for Solomon to complete the temple, which serves as a reminder of the patience and commitment needed to reach our goals in life.

As you navigate through the following maze, consider how each twist and turn represents the challenges and obstacles we may encounter on our journey toward a dedicated future. Stay focused and determined, knowing that with patience and commitment, you can overcome any obstacle and reach your destination.



#### SUMMARY

Solomon's dedication of the temple stands as a profound testament to his deep faith and reverence for God. Despite his great wealth and power, Solomon humbly acknowledges his dependence on God's mercy and guidance. His prayer serves as a model for believers seeking to live faithfully. Solomon's petitions to God reflect the human condition—our tendency to sin and our need for forgiveness and mercy. Solomon teaches us the importance of recognizing God's greatness, seeking his forgiveness, and trusting in his mercy. He demonstrates that true dedication involves a humble acknowledgment of one's shortcomings and a sincere desire to seek God's guidance in all aspects of life.

#### QUESTIONS

• Just as Solomon dedicated the temple to God's glory, how can you dedicate your future to seeking forgiveness and guidance from God? What specific actions can you take to align your aspirations and goals with God's purposes for your life?

• Solomon's prayer highlights the significance of the temple as a place for encountering God's presence. In what ways do you think you can create sacred spaces or moments in your own life where you can connect with God as you dedicate your future? How might you prioritize these moments amidst the hustle and bustle of preparing for your future and pursuing your goals?

### **CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

In our lesson today, we were reminded of the importance of dedicating our futures to God, seeking forgiveness, guidance, and mercy. We commit to creating sacred spaces in our lives where we can connect with God 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 - PRAYER AND PLANS**

#### SEVEN PRAYER JOURNAL

Journal seven prayer requests and research Scripture regarding each prayer request. On every day of the week, read the scripture and present your prayer to God.

-	
PRAYER REQUEST	SCRIPTURE TO SUPPORT
Lord, bless my family's finances.	Mark 11:24 – Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, BELIEVE that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Solomon's Seven Petitions to God - 1 Kings 8:22-53

1. Curse vs. 31-32

- 5. Gentle worship vs. 41-43
- 2. Israel's defeat vs. 33-34
- 6. People go to war vs. 44-45
- 3. Heaven is shut vs. 35-36
- 4. Pests and disease prevail vs. 37-40
- 7. People in foreign captivity vs. 46-53

#### PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

What are three things you like to do?

1
2.
3.
What are three things at which you are good?
1
2
3.
What are three possible careers you would like to explore?
1.
3

What is one short-term academic goal you have for yourself?

What is the one short term personal goal you have for yourself?

We must make dec	cisions every day.	
Identify the decision	on you want to make:	
1		
2		
3.		
4.		
5.		

- \* Identify your options
- \* Prioritize your options, weigh them
- Make your choices

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

# Lay It Down Hezekiah's Prayer

Lesson Scripture: 2 Kings 19:1-34 Focus Scripture: 2 Kings 19:14-20, 29-31

**KEY VERSE:** "So now, O Lord our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone." 2 Kings 19:19

VOCABULARY

HEZEKIAH – The king of Judah who sought to reform and bring religious revival to his kingdom.

ASSYRIAN ARMY – The formidable military force threatening Jerusalem.

SENNACHERIB – The king of Assyria who reigned from about 720 BC to 683 BC.

DELIVERANCE – God's act of rescuing his people from danger or oppression.

TRUST – Reliance on God's strength and faithfulness.

SALVATION – Deliverance from harm or evil, often attributed to God.

PROPHECY – Divine revelation or prediction of future events, often delivered through prophets.

#### FOCUS SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 19:14-20, 29-31

- 14 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.
- **15** And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, "O Lord the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.
- **16** Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.
- **17** Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands
- 18 and have hurled their gods into the fire, though they were no gods but the work of human hands – wood and stone – and so they were destroyed.
- **19** So now, O Lord our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone."
- **20** Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I have heard your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria."

- **29** "And this shall be the sign for you: This year you shall eat what grows of itself and in the second year what springs from that; then in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.
- **30** The surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward,
- **31** for from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out and from Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

#### INTRODUCTION

In the bustling city of Metropolis, Mayor Lucas faced a crisis. An intimidating corporation, led by the ruthless CEO, was threatening to take over the city, bringing with it corruption and oppression. Instead of resorting to conventional tactics, Mayor Lucas retreated to his office tower and sought counsel from God.

With a heavy heart, Mayor Lucas laid out the corporation's threats before God, acknowledging the overwhelming power they held. But he also recognized the greater authority of the city's values and principles. In a prayerful plea, Mayor Lucas beseeched God for guidance and intervention, not just for the city's survival, but for the preservation of its integrity and soul.

Moved by Mayor Lucas' sincerity and faith, God assured him of divine assistance. The corporation experienced a series of unexpected events; the plans were prevented, and the city was saved from destruction. Mayor Lucas' prayerful realization of the city's foundational values became a beacon of hope, inspiring future generations to stand firm in their beliefs and trust in the ultimate sovereignty of truth and justice.

#### **BIBLE STORY**

Hezekiah was the son of King Ahaz and the 13th king of Judah. He ascended to the throne around 715 BCE and reigned for approximately 29 years. Hezekiah is remembered as one of the most righteous kings in the history of Judah, known for his devotion to God and his efforts to reform the nation.

Hezekiah faced significant struggles as a leader. His father, King Ahaz, had led Judah into idolatry and rebellion against God. The nation faced threats from powerful enemies, including the Assyrian Empire under King Sennacherib. Ahaz had made alliances with foreign powers to protect Judah, but these alliances brought disaster upon the nation.

Upon ascending the throne, Hezekiah immediately set out to reform Judah and restore its relationship with God. He initiated religious reforms, removing pagan altars and idols, and reinstating the worship of Yahweh in the temple. He also took steps to strengthen Judah's defenses, preparing the nation for potential attacks from its enemies.

#### LIFE APPLICATION

King Hezekiah faced the menacing Assyrian army, and he sought guidance and counsel from God. God's protection and promises provided victory over the Assyrians for Hezekiah. However, Hezekiah's response teaches us a valuable lesson in recognizing God's sovereignty during adversity.

When faced with threats and challenges, we must trust in God's power and sovereignty. Hezekiah's response was prayer. Hezekiah presenting the threatening letter before the Lord and praying fervently for deliverance teaches us to turn to God in times of trouble. By acknowledging God's sovereignty and seeking guidance through prayer, we demonstrate our faith and reliance on God.

Reflect on how you respond to challenges in your life. Do you trust in God's power to overcome obstacles, or do you rely solely on your strength?

Consider the times when God has intervened and delivered you from adversity. How can you deepen your trust in God's sovereignty and seek guidance in all circumstances?

#### SUMMARY

Hezekiah turns to three vital sources of support: his faith community, the promises of God, and prayer. Hezekiah relies on the prophets for guidance and counsel. He gathered his advisors; he sought the wisdom of the prophet Isaiah in the temple. He found hope in the promises of God. Hezekiah prayed fervently to God, exemplifying the power of seeking God in times of trouble.

By acknowledging threats, turning to God in prayer, trusting in his sovereignty, and experiencing his deliverance, we can navigate life's challenges with confidence and faith. Let us strive to emulate Hezekiah's unwavering trust in God, knowing that he is always faithful to his promises and his people.

#### QUESTIONS

- How can we apply Hezekiah's approach to seeking Christian support in our modern context?
- Hezekiah's prayer demonstrates the power of seeking God in times of trouble. How can we cultivate a consistent and fervent prayer life, both individually and corporately, to navigate challenges and experience God's peace and guidance in our lives today?

#### **CLOSING DEVOTIONS**

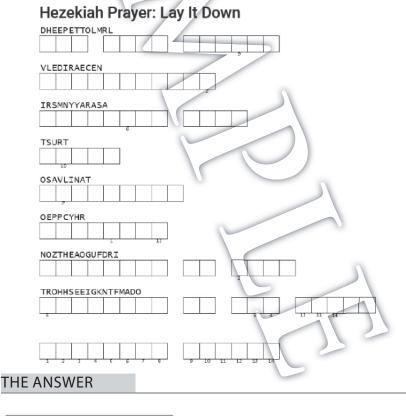
Let's draw inspiration from Hezekiah's prayerful response to adversity. Lord, in times of difficulties and trials, grant us unwavering faith and strength. Help us to lean on you, knowing that you are our refuge and strength. Guide us through the storms of life, and may your presence bring peace amidst the chaos. Amen.

#### **APPENDICES 03 - LAY IT DOWN**

#### LAY IT DOWN

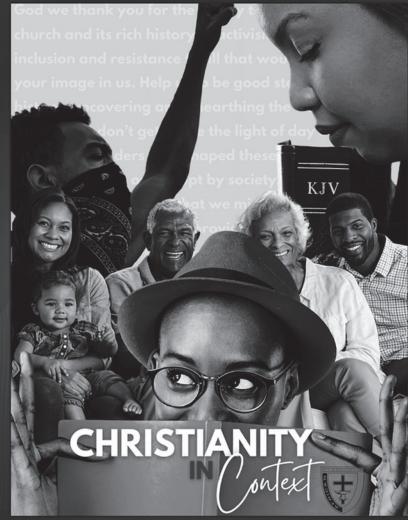
Solve the anagrams to reveal the letters for the final message. Solve the anagrams in the top part of the puzzle.

Use the numbered letters from the words in the top part to complete the final word or phrase at the bottom. Each numbered letter is used just once.



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