



GOD'S LAW

IS LOVE

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----- **Ages 15-18 (High School and Young Adult)** -----

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THE COMBINED TEACHER'S GUIDE

FALL QUARTER 2023

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER

Christian Education Department
Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director
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BASIC SUPPLIES

Bible dictionary	writing paper
Bible pictures and maps	DVD recorder/player
CD players	milk crates
chart paper	paper – letter, drawing,
Christian music – books, sheets, recordings	pencils, pens, markers
Christian videos and DVDs	poster boards
crayons	robes, scarves
digital camera	old clothing
digital camcorder	scissors, glue, paste
drawing paper	video player

The Teacher's Guide

Liberating Faith Studies Lessons Fall Quarter: September – November 2023

Prepared by Rev. Dr. Linda E. Mouzon

Jesus Eats With a Pharisee

Lesson 1

September 3, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Focus Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Key Verse: The Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." Luke 11:39

Key Terms

- **Pharisee** – A Jewish religious leader that served on the Sanhedrin that believed in the resurrection of people after death, angels as messengers, and that Jewish law (Torah) consisted of written law (Moses' commands) and oral law (teaching of the prophets, Levites, and priests).
- **Torah** – Pentateuch; first five Bible books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy).
- **Katharizō** – (Greek) To free from defilement of sin and faults, to purify.
- **Harpagē** – (Greek) Plundering, robbery.

- **Aphrōn (Greek)** – Without reason or intelligence.
- **Ma'aser** – Giving one tenth.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand that religious ritual practices should show people God's love.
2. Recognize that following traditional practices should have a spiritual connection to the gospel (e.g., Communion should remind one of the gospel).
3. Understand that God's love seen in Jesus is available to everyone.
4. Recognize that inner belief in Jesus should be reflected in an outer loving display of others.

Teaching Strategies

1. Provide discussion questions that help participants see how their Christian beliefs are reflected in their social actions.
2. Have class share woes (warnings) they would give to Christian leaders about behavior that does not reflect Jesus' love.
3. Lead a discussion of hypocritical behaviors displayed by church members.
4. Ask class members to share how their biased behavior toward others has changed since they became a Christian.

Resources:

Bible:

1. Hand washing: Exodus 30:17-21; 40:30-32; Deuteronomy

21:6, Judges 19:21; Isaiah 1:16-20

2. Old Testament scriptures about justice: Proverbs 21:5, 24:24-25; Isaiah 30:18-19; Hosea 12:6; Amos 5:24.
3. Jesus talking about or to the Pharisees: Matthew 12:38-42; 23:15, 28; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 12:1.

Internet:

1. Galatia: https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/places/main-articles/galatia?_search=galatia
 2. 2000-year-old mugs found near Nazareth: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpUHvJ_J2yw
- <https://www.ninjabjournalist.com/science/ancient-cups-found-site-jesus/>

Is It Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?

Lesson 2

September 10, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Focus Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Key Verses: Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Luke 14:3-4

KEY TERMS

- **Melachah** – Certain type of work or labor that by Jewish law (Torah and oral traditions) are forbidden on *Shabbat*.

- **Rapha** – To heal is closely related to spiritual and physical wholeness.
- **S'mikhah** – A person in Jewish society who has the authority to make new interpretations of the Torah.
- **Dropsy** – Body stores water internally that leads to swelling.
- **Remez** – Used during Jesus' time, it is a discussion of a portion of scripture passage with those who have Bible knowledge that leads them to determine the fuller meaning of the teaching.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Recognize that church rules about proper Sabbath behavior should reflect God's love.
2. Understand that Jesus may heal even when no one asked.
3. Know that no one can answer all of Jesus' questions, but we should seek God's wisdom to learn the answer.
4. Recognize that rules and traditions that may hurt or exclude others should be changed.
5. Learn that people watch you to learn how and what Jesus would do.

Teaching Strategies

1. Provide questions for discussing what is and is not acceptable behavior on the Sabbath.
2. Consider why the lawyers and Pharisees could not/did not answer either of Jesus' questions (verses 3 and 6). Discuss what their silence teaches you about the inability to answer hard questions, e.g., why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

3. Invite participants to recall and describe so-called “Blue Laws” that were in effect in earlier generations. Discuss the impact that changing these laws had on society.
4. Discuss when Christians should follow the law completely and/or when to follow the law of God’s love.
5. Discuss the church’s role and the medical profession’s role in healing.

Resources:

Bible:

1. Jesus offers healing: John 5:16, Luke 7:11-17.
2. Jesus accused of Jewish Torah law breaking: Matthew 12:1-8, 9-14, Mark 7:31-37, Luke 23:2.
3. Pharisees unable to answer Jesus: Genesis 16:11, 17:19; Hosea 1:4; Isaiah 8:3, 49:1.

Internet:

1. Blue Laws by state: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/blue-laws-by-state>
2. Jewish types of work prohibited on the Sabbath: https://www.ou.org/holidays/the_thirty_nine_categories_of_sabbath_work_prohibited_by_law/

Jesus Gives God Glory

Lesson 3

September 17, 2023

Lesson Scripture: John 7:14-24

Focus Scripture: John 7:14-24

Key Verse: “Those who speak on their own seek their own glory;

but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.” John 7:18

Key Terms

- **Sukkot Feast of Tabernacles** – The third great annual Jewish pilgrimage festival where the Jews gathered together in Jerusalem for two reasons: To remember God's provision in the wilderness and to look toward the future promised Messianic age when all nations will go to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.
- **Daimonion** – Evil spirits commonly believed to be the devil's messengers and/or ministers.
- **Circumcision** – Hebrew verb is *peritemno*, “a cutting round, circumcision,” was a rite enjoined by God upon Abraham and his male descendants and dependents, as a sign of the covenant made with him, Gen. 17.
- **Catechism** – A summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the difference between adherence to laws and traditions and God's love.
2. Recognize that true wisdom comes from God.
3. Learn to develop their personal beliefs about Jesus' teachings and not follow negative crowd assessments.
4. Learn, hear, and listen for God's voice of instruction.

Teaching Strategies

1. Evaluate the educational background of Jesus. How did his lack

of formal training help him to communicate with the majority of Jews?

2. Consider that some people were trying to kill Jesus – how does that teaching apply to persecution of modern-day Christians?
3. Recall the giving of the law to the Jews through Moses. Then notice in verse 19 what Jesus said about the keeping of the law. Discuss motivations behind keeping or not keeping the law.
4. Share techniques and strategies Christians should use to instruct their children about Jesus.
5. Have class members share how they gain/learn godly wisdom.

Resources:

Bible:

1. Feast of Tabernacles: Exodus 23:16, 34:22; Leviticus 23:34-43; Numbers 29:12-40; Deuteronomy 16:13-15; Ezra 3:4; Nehemiah 8:13-18.
2. Jesus' wisdom: Matthew 7:24, 11:19, 12:42; Mark 6:2; John 5:20

Internet:

1. Feast of Tabernacles: <https://firmisrael.org/learn/how-is-feast-of-tabernacles-observed/>
2. Education in ancient Israel: <https://bibleresources.americanbible.org/resource/education-in-ancient-israel>
3. Catechism: <https://www.bethanyamectt.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/The-Catechism-of-the-African-Methodist-Episcopal-Church-1.pdf>

The Teacher's Guide
Senior Lessons
Fall Quarter: September – November 2023
Prepared by Rev. Faith Waters

Jesus Eats With a Pharisee

Lesson 1

September 3, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Focus Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Key Verse: "You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?" Luke 11:40

Words to Know

- **Amazed** – greatly surprised
- **Wickedness** – a profound evil committed knowingly and of free will
- **Alms** – acts and deeds of mercy, such as giving to the poor and widows
- **Woe** – an exclamation of misfortune on oneself because of sinning against God
- **Tithe** – giving of one-tenth of wages (or farmer's produce)
- **Justice** – to ensure all are treated equally and fairly
- **Synagogues** – Jewish houses of worship

- **Pharisees** – pronounced: FEHR – ih – seez

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the difference between godly attitudes and behaviors versus religious appearances.
2. Repent of ungodly attitudes and behavior.
3. Commit to promoting equality and justice for all people.

Teaching Strategies

1. Discuss the history of the AME Church and reflect on Bishop Richard Allen’s stance against racism and inequality.
2. In the AME Church, the bishops, pastors, and other leaders have specific places to sit in the sanctuary. Ask, “Does it make a difference where church leaders sit?”
3. Remind the class that the Ten Commandments are read as a part of the Decalogue in our worship services. Discuss the importance of obeying God’s Word.
4. Discuss the importance of practicing spiritual disciplines.
5. Examples of Christian podcasts: *The Bible Project*; *The Bible Recap*; *5 Minutes and Coffee*.

Is It Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?

Lesson 2

September 10, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Focus Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Key Verses: Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, “Is it lawful

to cure people on the sabbath, or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Luke 14:3-4

Words to Know

- **Sabbath** – According to Exodus 20:8 – 11, the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, on which the children of Israel were to rest in remembrance that God created the universe in six days and then “rested” on the seventh day; it is observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening
- **Dropsy** – the abnormal swelling of tissues in the body from a buildup of fluid
- **Lawful** – an act permitted by law
- **Pharisees** – pronounced: FEHR – ih – seez

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explore Jesus' act of compassion on the Sabbath and why the leaders thought that he violated the law.
2. Develop a loving and compassionate heart for others while avoiding legalistic behaviors.
3. Boldly defend your faith and beliefs.

Teaching Strategies

1. Be aware that some in the class may come from other faith communities that were legalistic.
2. Be aware that some in the class may be a part of a military family where strict obedience is enforced at home.
3. Discuss how the Ten Commandments promote love of others and respect of God.

4. Inform the class that there are Christians who risk their lives to share the gospel with everyone because they love God and others. For more information, do a Google search for *The Voice of the Martyrs*.
5. Ask the class to give examples of acts of compassion and love they have witnessed.

Jesus Gives God Glory

Lesson 3

September 17, 2023

Lesson Scripture: John 7:14-24

Focus Scripture: John 7:14-24

Key Verse: “Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.” John 7:18

Words to Know

- **Sabbath** – According to Exodus 20:8 – 11, the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, on which the children of Israel were to rest in remembrance that God created the universe in six days and then “rested” on the seventh day; it is observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening
- **Astonished** – greatly surprised or impressed
- **Resolves** – to decide firmly on a course of action
- **Glory** – great praise and honor
- **Judge** – form an opinion or conclusion about
- **Circumcision** – pronounced: sur – kuhm – sizh – uhn

- **Patriarchs** – pronounced: pah – tree – ARKS

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Examine Jesus' comments on discerning whether a teacher is self-serving or sent from God.
2. Develop an awareness of one's motivations behind words and deeds.
3. Seek to learn from leaders who are humble and exalt God.

Teaching Strategies

1. The festival of booths occurred in October, about six months after the Passover celebration mentioned in John 6:2 – 5. The festival commemorated the days when the Israelites wandered in the wilderness and lived in tents. For more information read Leviticus 23:33ff.
2. The requirement of circumcision was included in the laws of Moses but originated by Abraham (Ex. 12:44, 48; Lev. 12:3; Gen. 17:9 – 14).
3. Discuss the effects of having godly leadership and teachers in our churches.
4. If time does not permit for each student to share their favorite story and/or event in the Bible, make sure they can share next week.
5. Discuss television evangelists and their impact on the reputation of the church.
6. Before class, investigate Christian podcasts that the class can listen to for inspiration and encouragement. The class may have podcasts that others may enjoy as well.

7. Those who take legalistic stances are often blind to their own hypocrisy. This text not only critiques such hypocrisy but urges a preference for grace (exhibited through healing) over legalism.

The Teacher's Guide
Intermediate Lessons
Fall Quarter: September – November 2023
Prepared by Kabrina Bass

Jesus Eats With a Pharisee

Lesson 1

September 3, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Focus Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Key Verse: “You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?” Luke 11:40

Vocabulary

- **Pharisee** – A member of a Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written law.
- **Wash** – Dip, immerse, submerge for a religious purpose, baptize.
- **Foolish** – Without understanding, unwise, imprudent.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the basis of Jesus' challenge to the Pharisees about godly attitudes being more important than religious appearances.
2. Acknowledge hypocritical attitudes and the Pharisees need for repentance.
3. Exercise the spiritual disciplines of confession and justice.

Teaching Strategies

Welcome everyone to the new quarter. Share the unifying principle of today's lesson, "Rules and ceremony provide necessary parameters for everyone." **How do we avoid the hollow legalism that sometimes results?** Jesus demands heartfelt commitment to justice and love as demonstrations of true faith rather than mere outward adherence to the law. Explain the lessons for the quarter so students can see how God's law through Moses relates to our faith in Christ.

Introduction

Invite: Participants to share what they know about the Pharisees. **Discuss:** Who interprets the law in our community (varies depending on regions, could be judges, lawyers, magistrates, councils, etc.). **Explain:** There are some old laws on the books in many areas – in the United States there are several "BLUE LAWS" where things are illegal if done on Sunday. In some areas you can't order ice cream or desserts on a Sunday because it's against the law. **Introduce:** Today's lesson is about Jesus' invitation to visit with a Pharisee and the Pharisee questioning Jesus' etiquette. (*Explain how the Pharisees thought they were spiritually superior because they were so careful in keeping the minutiae of what they saw in God's law.*)

Bible Story

Ask: For two volunteers to read the parts of the narrative. One volunteer would read the words of Jesus (v. 39-41). **Instruct:** Everyone to listen to Jesus' response to the Pharisee. **Explain:** The hand washing to which this text refers has nothing to do with hygiene and everything to do with ritual purity. In the Pharisees' eyes, this boundary-marking rite symbolized who is "inside" and who is "outside" the covenant. Remind the students that Jesus develops this "inside/outside" theme by contrasting the outward cleanliness of the Pharisees' cups and platters with their internal corruption, implying that external ritual practice is no indicator of internal moral righteousness.

Life Application

Ask: What are some socially acceptable and unacceptable behaviors at the dinner table. List the items on a sheet of paper, or post them on an easel, or using a projector and computer, display the list on a screen. Then ask, why are the behaviors allowed or not allowed. (Capture the responses from the participants; allow five minutes for the exercise.) Repeat the responses to the participants.

Discuss: Which of these behaviors would preclude someone from being invited to your home? Explain.

Alternative: Discuss how we select friends and who we are following on social media. **Invite:** youth to share what they look for in the individuals they follow. Use the worksheet on social norms or biblical principles as a guide. **Reflection:** How much should biblical principles matter in our choices to follow or befriend others?

Summary

Invite: Youth to consider what is necessary for things to function properly. Pose a series of questions that illustrate the importance of using proper ingredients. For example: Does it matter what foods or chemicals I put in my body as long as I take long baths? Does it matter if I put water in the gas tank? Does it matter if I have a cell phone but don't have internet access nor do I load any apps?

Explain that objects, organs, etc., cannot operate properly if they are not given the right ingredients/materials that will allow them to function properly.

Alternative: Discuss how our biases can create blinders. Ask the youth to list five of their closest friends on a piece of paper. Ask that they list each person on a new line, so that the names are not side by side. Once students have listed their five friends, ask the following: Next to each person's name identify their gender (M/F/NB); level in school (grade); where they live (city, neighborhood); their favorite hobby (sports, creating, etc.); their native language; their family status (brother, sister, son, daughter, etc.); favorite

movie genre (drama, comedy, anime, etc.) and their favorite social platform (TikTok, snapchat, BeReal, YouTube, reels). Now, have them list their name under the last friend and answer the same questions – gender, schooling, city/neighborhood, hobby, language, family status, native language, etc. – Ask if they and their closest friends are alike or different. Most will discover that they are like their friends as we associate closely with people who are more like us. In many instances, people discard or ignore people who are not like them. **Discuss:** How does this relate to today's lesson?

Closing Devotions

Ask: Each participant to share one takeaway from the lesson.

Invite: Participants to share one word from today's lesson. Allow each person a word; they can duplicate another person's word. Ask for a volunteer to close the lesson with prayer.

Resources:

Woe to the Pharisees – <https://youtu.be/PYKYq4AqtgU>

Jesus With the Pharisees – https://youtu.be/0bMWI_dB_MQ?t=14

Overview of Luke 11 – <https://youtu.be/9UaomwvXrD0>

Sadducees and Pharisees – https://youtu.be/IFDa0cv__xM

Is It Lawful to Heal on the Sabbath?

Lesson 2

September 10, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Focus Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Key Verses: Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?" But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Luke 14:3-4

Vocabulary

- **Sabbath** – The seventh day of the Jewish week, a ceremonial day of rest.
- **Lawyer** – Interpreter of the Jewish law.
- **Lawful** – Permitted; it can occur; permissible.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand Jesus' challenge of Jewish law and what he hoped to gain in demonstrating compassion on the Sabbath.
2. Cultivate love and guard against a legalistic spirit.
3. Identify an effective response to any criticism the class might hear on account of standing up for what they believe.

Teaching Strategies

Welcome everyone to class. Share the unifying principle of today's lesson which reveals a time and place for everything. **Is it right to do a good deed at the wrong time?** Jesus demonstrates compassion for a sick man when he heals him at a Sabbath meal despite the critical eyes of the Pharisees. Explain the lessons for the quarter showcase how God's law through Moses relates to our faith in Christ.

Introduction

Invite: Participants to share what they know about the Sabbath. Share some of your experiences related to what you were taught about the Sabbath. **Ask:** What are some things you were told that should not be done on the Sabbath? (Do not be alarmed if the youth

do not have anything to share about the Sabbath, i.e., the purpose of today's lesson.) **Introduce:** In today's lesson, Jesus is again confronted by the Pharisee on what he's doing on the Sabbath.

Bible Story

Ask: A volunteer to read the scripture. **Discuss:** What did you find interesting in today's scripture? (Allow 1-2 minutes for participants to share.) Remind participants of last week's lesson about the Pharisees. Today, Jesus is invited to another Pharisee's house. What is different from last week's encounter? (Last week Jesus was accused of breaking the Sabbath by not washing his hands; now Jesus heals someone on the Sabbath.) **Explain:** Earlier in this gospel, Jesus identifies himself as "Lord of the sabbath" (Luke 6:5). He demonstrates himself as such as he heals the man with dropsy on the Sabbath. Jesus later asks a second question about an animal – There may be a reference here to Deuteronomy 22:4 – "You shall not see your neighbor's donkey or ox fallen on the road and ignore it; you shall help to lift it up" – which makes it apparent that the concern is not so much with proper treatment of animals but with how one properly loves his or her neighbor.

Life Application

Remind: Share with participants the importance of the Sabbath and how it was made for humankind to STOP, cease, and rest. We, as human beings, were never made for the Sabbath. In other words, we can't reverence the Sabbath so much that we mistreat or dishonor others. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath because the man needed healing. **Ask:** How have people used the Sabbath to cause harm to others? For example, expecting people who have to work on the Sabbath to demand the day off when it may cost them their livelihood. Another example may be not preparing in advance for the Sabbath and deciding to not cook for one's family so they would have something to eat.

Summary

Invite youth to honor the Sabbath. Use the activity sheet to identify ways they can practice the Sabbath. Encourage them to identify at least four-five things they can begin to do in honor of the Sabbath.

Ask: Is there anything on the list you can't do? If so, ask what makes that difficult?

Closing Devotions

Invite the participants to draw the word SABBATH on a sheet of paper and create a prayer art out of the word. Using of the word the inside of the letter or drawing lines from the word to state things they will do to support the Sabbath.

Resources: Puzzles, videos, Pinterest

Jesus Gives God Glory

Lesson 3

September 17, 2023

Lesson Scripture: John 7:14-24

Focus Scripture: John 7:14-24

Key Verse: "Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him." John 7:18

Vocabulary

- **Festival** – A feast of celebration of the holy city; major Jewish cultural and religious event.
- **Teaching** – Provide instruction; content which is taught.
- **Demon** – Evil spirit.

Lesson Goals: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Analyze Jesus' comments about judging whether a teacher is from God.
2. Deepen awareness of the motivations behind students' words and actions.
3. Find an example of a song, speech, or blog in which the author doesn't take credit but gives God glory.

Teaching Strategies

Welcome participants to the class. We expect our leaders to tell the truth, but sometimes they distort the facts. **How can we decide who is trustworthy?** Jesus told the crowds to judge the truth of his words by the fact that his teaching was not self-serving, but instead, directed all glory to God.

Introduction

Welcome participants to the class. **Ask:** What is your favorite day to celebrate? (Allow time for participants to share.) **Share** your favorite day to celebrate. After the discussion, share with the class the special festival days that are presented in the Bible. **Introduce:** Today's lesson focuses on the Sabbath.

Bible Story

Jesus argues that those who do the will of God will know the source of Jesus' teaching. According to this perspective, those who are already performing the will of God have demonstrated their receptivity to the voice of God.

In contrast, Jesus points out that his opponents, with their intentions of killing Jesus, have already violated the will of God as set out in the commandment, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). Their

hypocrisy is on display as they argue over the proper understanding of the law. Jesus makes the point that by allowing the practice of a rite on the Sabbath, his contemporaries were valuing one law above another (circumcision over Sabbath observance); similarly, by healing on the Sabbath, he is putting the value of restoring human life over the keeping of the Sabbath.

Life Application

Invite: Participants to take a moment and reflect on their actions during the reading of the scripture. (Pause and allow a moment to reflect.) **Ask:** How present were you during the moment when the scripture was read? Where was your mind and thoughts during that time? Remind them that not only do their words and actions matter but so do their thoughts. **Instruct:** Have participants print the names of two people they see on a regular basis but they do not know anything about those people. **Discuss:** If you see the people on a regular basis, why don’t you know them? (Listen and reflect on the lesson.) – then ask, what if one of those persons was Jesus? (Allow a moment to reflect.) Now ask, is it necessary to be intentional to speak to others and to extend words or actions of hospitality?

Summary

Explain: Teaching in the temple was done by rabbi and teachers; Jesus was known as a teacher; however, the people were not familiar with Jesus, and they were watching. **Ask:** What was significant about Jesus’ arrival? (Jesus arrived during the Festival of Booths; people would have noticed.) **Discuss:** Do we take credit for what God has blessed us to do? (play sports, singing, rapping, dancing, etc.)

Closing Devotions

Share: Bo Didley sang a song called, “You Can’t Judge a Book by the Cover” – Here are some of the words:

You can't judge an apple by looking at a tree

You can't judge honey by looking at the bee

You can't judge sugar by looking at the cane

You can't judge a fish by looking at the pond

You can't judge right from looking at wrong

You can't judge one by looking at the other

You can't judge a book by looking at the cover

Oh, can't you see, you misjudge me.

Let us pray.

Resources:

Ronald Reed – https://youtu.be/unxPj_U2CkQ

Sacrifice and Atonement – https://youtu.be/G_OIRWGLdnw

Sabbath – <https://youtu.be/PFTLvKB3JLM>

The Teacher's Guide
Junior Lessons
Fall Quarter: September – November 2023
Prepared by Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

Eating With a Pharisee

Lesson 1

September 3, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 11:37-44

Focus Scripture: Luke 11:37-41

Key Verse: "Give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you." Luke 11:41

Word Power!!!

- **Pharisee** – A Jewish leader who makes sure Jewish people correctly followed the rules of the Jewish religion during New Testament times.
- **Alms** – Special offering to help people in need that Jewish people gave in addition to their tithes.
- **Clean** – A religious way for saying something is acceptable to God and ok to use or be around.

Lesson Goals: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Decide if God is more pleased with us just following church rules or with living in a loving way.
2. Demonstrate ways that people can practice what they say they believe.

3. Understand why faithful people don't always meet the expectations of people who follow the rules no matter what.

Teaching Strategies

1. Use a whiteboard, chalkboard, flipchart, or other means to record at least five class rules the class decides will help them treat each other in a respectful and loving way.
2. Play the part of Pastor Shirley Caesar's "I Remember Mama" song where she talks about playing church before reading the **Using God's Word!!!** section

Activity #1 – Jesus' Way or the Pharisee's Way answers:

PW	1. Alice prays before she eats.
JW	2. Michelle tells her mom "sorry" for breaking a rule earlier. Then she and her mom get Communion together.
PW	3. Tyrone rushes Communion whenever it's offered.
JW	4. Greg asks his guests if they need anything else before inviting them to enjoy their meal.

Resources: Whiteboard, chalkboard or flip chart with the appropriate supplies, laptop/desktop or mobile device, speaker and music app like Spotify, Amazon Music, Pandora, YouTube.

Healing a Sick Man

Lesson 2

September 10, 2023

Lesson Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Focus Scripture: Luke 14:1-6

Key Verse: Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away.
Luke 14:4b

Word Power!!!

- **Sabbath** – The day of the week where people of faith don't do any work so that they can get close to God. For Jewish people, it's celebrated on Saturday. For most Christians, it's celebrated on Sunday.
- **Edema/Dropsy** – Health condition where a body part swells with fluid. It's often a sign of a more serious health problem.
- **Watching Him Closely** – Looking for a reason to make Jesus look bad.

Lesson Goals: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Discover how stubbornly refusing to see how the Sabbath can be kept and a sick person can be healed reveals a deeper problem with the Pharisees' faith.
2. Explore whether people can really keep the Sabbath and refuse to help someone in need.
3. Explore ways to obey the Fourth Commandment and show love to others.

Teaching Strategies

1. Encourage the class to read the Fourth Commandment and the Summary of the Decalogue. Ask the class why people in biblical days might have seen healing people and rescuing endangered animals or people as work but didn't see a priest offering sacrifices or prayers as work.
2. Perform a Google search of people with edemas and show

them to the class so they'll have a better idea of what the sick man in the lesson was experiencing (make sure you show some images of various body parts with edemas).

Activity #1 – Signs of a Problem answers: 1. They were watching him closely 2. They were silent 3. The man had edema 4. They could not reply

Resources: *AME Hymnals* or copies of pages xv and xvii from the *AME Hymnal*, images of people with an edema.

Teaching God's Way

Lesson 3

September 17, 2023

Lesson Scripture: John 7:14-24

Focus Scripture: John 7:14-18, 24

Key Verse: "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment." John 7:24

Word Power!!!

- **Festival** – This is the Festival of Booths which was a week-long celebration that helped the Jewish people remember how God protected and guided them in the wilderness.
- **Moses** – The leader God used to deliver the Israelites from Egypt and make them into a nation tied to God through a binding agreement.
- **Circumcision** – Ceremony to remove the foreskin on the male genital organ. It's a faith statement that a person has become part of the community and will commit themselves to God.
- **The Patriarchs** – The male ancestors of the Jews named Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Lesson Goals: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate students understanding of why choosing to prioritize following rules that make them look good over following rules that benefit everyone is wrong
2. Recognize the signs that a leader is about doing and teaching God’s way instead of their own way
3. Connect today’s lesson with modern day celebrations and experiences

Teaching Strategies

1. Compare some contemporary church practices to those that perform similar functions as those mentioned in the lesson. (Hint: Circumcision and baptism or receiving the right hand of fellowship; Festival of Booths and Advent lighting, etc.)
2. Play clip from the “Measure Him Right” scene of *A Raisin in the Sun*. YouTube has a four-minute video of three different actresses performing the scene that would be good to use called “Dramatic Interpretation Models- Mama from *A Raisin in the Sun*” by Glenn Krake. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVEslhOYvpg>.

Activity #1 – Who’s Responsible for This? answers:

1. The Jews	←	A. Said Jesus had a demon
2. Jesus	←	B. Were surprised at Jesus’ teaching
3. Moses	←	C. Where circumcision really originated
4. The Patriarchs	←	D. Gave the law to the Jews
5. The crowd	←	E. Said his teaching wasn’t his but the one who sent him

Resources: Advent Lighting liturgy or video of an Advent Lighting ceremony, “Order for Receiving Persons Into Full Membership” from *The AME Book of Worship* or video of someone receiving the right hand of fellowship; laptop or mobile device with YouTube and TV or projector and screen.