



**"BLEST TO BE A
BLESSING"**

Mission Emphasis Month



Sunday School Lessons
For
OCTOBER 2008

Lesson 1: First Sunday
Blest to be a Blessing by:
HONORING GOD, THE “BLESSER”

Aim: That learners will please God through faith with prompt obedience.
Scripture: Gen. 12: 1-6
Memory Verse: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Heb. 11:6
General Truth: Faith with prompt obedience pleases God, the “Blesser.”

Lesson 2: Second Sunday
Blest to be a Blessing by:
BRINGING THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Aim: That learners will go and present the good news to someone
Scripture: John 1:35-42
Memory Verse: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Rom. 10:14
General Truth: Every believer of Christ must go and present Jesus as the gift to someone.

Lesson 3: Third Sunday
Blest to be a Blessing by:
ESTABLISHING PASSION FOR PRAYER

Aim: That learners will passionately pray for the lord’s work particularly missions.
Scripture: Acts 12: 1-19
Memory Verse: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Eph. 6:18
General Truth: The gathered church when praying passionately for the Lord’s work bring will bring tremendous results.

Lesson 4: Fourth Sunday
Blest to be a Blessing by:
GIVING WHAT I HAVE

Aim: That learners will share/give generously for the Lord’s missionary work.
Scripture: Acts 16:11-15; Phil. 4:14-19
Memory Verse: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7
General Truth: Generosity and hospitality produce love and concern for missions work.

Lesson 1

Blest to be a blessing by:
HONORING GOD, THE “BLESSER”

Aim : That learners will please God through faith with prompt obedience.

Scripture : Genesis 12:1-4

Memory Verses: “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him”

Heb. 11:6

IN ADVANCE

1. Pray that God may bring you to a meaningful reflection of who He is as the giver of promise and blessing. Allow yourself to honor God.
2. Study the Scripture. As background of the account, read Genesis chapters 11 & 12 to help you understand with a profound appreciation of God’s dealing with Abram and his family.
3. Memorize and internalize the memory verse as reinforcement of the general truth this lesson is emphasizing.
4. As much as possible, arrange the chairs in circular seating arrangement before the class begins. Circle response method will be used all through out the different parts of the lesson.

CLASS SESSION

ENTRANCE

Circle Response Method. *A teacher raises question and learners will answer one after the other as they are seated in a circle.*

(Note: Start the class with a question to get everybody’s attention. Do the opening prayer at the Substance Portion when you begin to study God’s Word together.)

Ask: Describe in 1 or 2 words as to who God is in your real life situation.
(Attributes and names of God)

Possible answers and many more in accordance to how they relate to God:

- God is my Helper
- God is my Comforter
- God is my all-knowing and loving Father
- God is my Rock
- God is my Counselor

(Note: Affirm all answers and highlight the character of God. Instruct learners that this is the first Sunday School lesson to undertake on the month of October for Missions. Thus, SS lessons are designed with implications and insights to MISSIONS ministry in general).

Transition sentence: *Let's learn today of a man who truly pleased God through which he became a blessing to the peoples of the world.*

(Note: Introduce the title and the Scripture to be read by your learners who are seated in circle form. Each one will take turn to read. Lead in prayer for God's divine wisdom after the reading of the Scripture).

SUBSTANCE

Circle Response Method. (*Written questions will be distributed to each learner*)

1. In Gen. 12:1, What do you think is implied in the following words, "The Lord had said...?"

Answer:

The Lord had spoken (past tense). That he talked to Abram "while he was still in Mesopotamia before he lived in Haran" (Acts 7:2). It is probable that Abram had received 2 calls from God—the first one had happened in Ur of the Chaldeans in Mesopotamia (11:31, Acts 7:2-3), and the other call took place in Haran (Gen. 11:32; 12:1).

The first call of God was initiated by Terah, Abram's father (see 11:31 "Terah took his son...") Probably Abram pleaded with his father to move out of Ur which Terah approved. They lived long years in Haran where Abram's father died (11:31-32). The second call of God was in Haran where Abram now was compelled to obey God's call because his idolatrous father died and he can no longer excuse himself from God's call.

Just like Abram, some missionaries are hindered to fulfill in full the call of God for missions because of closed-knitted family relationships.

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commending the church for their generosity, undoubtedly, it has its trace of influence from Lydia's life.

Ask : **What general principle can we learn from this study?**

General Truth: *Generosity and hospitality produce love and concern for missions work.*

SIGNIFICANCE

Brainstorming: Why is it hard even for Christians to give to missions?

Possible Answers:

- Due to wrong motivation
- The heart is not challenged
- Poverty
- No deep understanding about missions
- The church has not fully emphasized the scope, the vision, the mission
- Etc.

What do you think, are these reasons true in our churches these days?
(Accept their opinionated answers)

If we have to personalize--how about you? Are you giving of sharing to missions generously?

Say: Let us go back to our memory verse and try to reflect on the phrase, 'Each man should give what he has decided in his heart...' Will you promise to God that from this time on, you will give what you have from the heart to the Lord and to missions through your talents and possessions?

PERFORMAMCE

Answer the question:

What can I give to God? Do a personal searching as to how far you have given what you have to the Lord's work.

- > Make a silent prayer. Get a missionary offering.
- > Lead in singing the song: Two Hands, one Heart, One Life
- > Closing Prayer

2. Enumerate 3 important relationships which God wanted Abram to leave behind? Verse 12:1b

Answer:

God told Abram to leave behind 3 relationships which he had established in Haran:

1. His country
2. His people
3. His father's household

(Note: Give a brief lecture as background information of his 3 relationships).

According to archaeology compiled records, Abram's past life associations were as follows:

His Country. Ur of the Chaldeans is a center of a great civilization with advanced ancient society that worshipped the sun, moon, and stars. Each family had its own god. But the moon-god was the principal religion in Ur.

His People. Their names at birth were named after common and favorite deities of their time. Names like Terah, Nahor, Abram, Sarai, etc. were found inscribed in stone tablets from Ur. Ruins and artifacts revealed that their cultural socio-political life were of high levels in Abram's time.

His Father's Household. Terah, Abram's father served other gods (see Joshua 24:2). This means Abram's family/relatives belong to an idolatrous household.

It was in this backdrop scenario when Abram was called by God to leave. The decision to leave his ancestral home, people, and country must have been difficult. The familiar surroundings, the closed-knitted family ties, the friends including probably the visits to the shopping malls, the fast food centers, the special holiday celebrations, etc. must have been disturbing their decision to leave.

Our very own missionaries who went outside the country to do missions work are not exempted with the difficult experiences like that of Abram. They have to leave and answer God's call to do evangelism and missions in other lands. Plus the fact that they have to learn the language, adjust to another culture and their food as well as to adjust to different weather conditions. Our missionaries are not super-humans for they also experience loneliness, sickness, discouragement, failures, criticism, and pressures, etc.

One thing that made them stand firm is the conviction that God called them and they have to obey and go.

3. In your own understanding of verse 1c, what do you think is the meaning of the phrase, “Leave...and go to the land I will show you?”

(Allow 2-3 learners or more to share their opinions following the circle response procedure)

Answer: It can mean several suggested ideas:

1. It is a direct command from someone with authority.
2. It implies urgency.
3. It means a hard decision to make for it is looking ahead to the future.
4. It means faith with action on the part of the “goer.”
5. It means going and pressing onward, not turning back

4. Enumerate the 7-fold detailed promise of God to Abram that accompanied the command to leave, verse 12:2-3

Answer:

(The NOTE is a supplementary help for you as SS teacher to use in case learners want to have more background information)

(1) “I will make you into a great nation” v. 2a

(Note: In the category of nations, Abram’s seed will be great. In Gen. 17:4, he became the father of many nations. In 17:6 God said, “I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you...”)

(2) “I will bless you” v. 2b

(Note: One is blessed when his endeavors succeed because they are in the will of God. Abram became blessed in spiritual, social, family life with deep sense of personal fulfillment including material prosperity. He received abundant blessings from his “Blessor” (God) as a result of his obedience demonstrated in active faith).

(3) “I will make your name great” v. 2c

(Note: Abram’s name was later changed to **Abraham**, 17:5. His name is highly revered by Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. In Gal. 3 and Rom. 4, he was called—“The father of those who believe.” The most significant element of his name & life was his great faith.

(4) “You will be a blessing” v. 2d

(Note: Abraham and his seed were to minister to others. His

Couple 4

1. In verse 16:15, what happened to the whole household of Lydia?

Answer:

The whole household of Lydia got converted and they were all baptized.

2. What outstanding behavior aside from bringing her household to Christ did Lydia display after her conversion? 16:15

Answer:

Aside from bringing the whole household to faith in Christ, Lydia offered her house to the missionaries for them to stay. Others commentaries say that probably, Lydia’s house became the meeting place of believers in Philippi.

Couple 5

1. In Philippians 4: 14-16, what did Paul wrote to Philippian believers?

Answer:

Paul was commending the Philippian believers for their non-stop and continuing generosity. They continued helping Paul even if he was no longer with them.

2. How will you describe the Philippian believers with what Paul wrote, “...not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you only”?

Possible answers:

- The Philippian church was outstanding in terms of giving.
- They exemplified excellent giving.
- They are generous and “cheerful” givers to the ministry of Paul!
- Etc.

(After the report ask a follow-up question for the whole group)

In the commendation of Paul to the Philippian believers, do you think there was a trace of influence from Lydia’s demonstration of generosity?

(Wait for their opinions)

Briefly Say: We should remember that the background of the letter of Paul to the church in Philippi could be traced back when Paul first stepped in the city of Philippi where he met Lydia. Her demonstration of hospitality and generosity from henceforth became a way of life. In the letter of Paul

Couple 2

1. When Sabbath day came, where did Paul and his companions gathered for prayer and preaching of the Word? (16:13)

Answer:

They gathered outside the city gate of Philippi. It was near a riverbank.

2. Who were usually gathering there before the coming of Paul and company? (16: 13-14)

Answer:

A group of women used to gather near the river. One of the names mentioned was Lydia, a business woman.

(Note: After the second couple's report, you may ask questions for discussion. Allow them to give their opinions)

Ask: Why do you think those women made the river bank their gathering place for worship and prayer?

Answer: (Give a brief lecture)

There was no Jewish synagogue in the city where they can gather together for worship. Unlike other places where Paul and company had gone, they usually worshipped in the synagogue of the Jews. The City of Philippi was a Roman colony, as such, there were no Jewish synagogues.

Couple 3

1. Describe Lydia according to verse 14. What does her being a “dealer in purple cloth suggest?

Answer:

Lydia was a dealer in purple cloth. She was from the city of Thyatira. She has been a worshipper of God. Probably, Lydia has the knowledge of the God of the Israelites and had her own way of praying to God. But God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ was unknown to her.

2. What significant incident did Lydia experience? (16: 14-15)

Answer:

God opened the heart of Lydia and she responded on what Paul had preached. It was then that she surrendered her life to Jesus by receiving the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

blessing came through obedience. The “Blesser” showed him the way how he will be a blessing to others. “By faith... he obeyed! This means he had complete confidence and dependence in God's trustworthiness.

(5) “I will bless those who bless you” v. 3a

(Note: This phrase presupposes that many will bless Abraham. God will do good to those who do good to Abraham. In our contemporary words, it is—“I will bless your “blessers.” To bless or curse was, in essence, to bless or curse God.

(6) “Whoever curses you I will curse” v. 3b

(Note: God presupposes that few will curse Abraham. Abraham will be so closely related to the work and purpose of God that to curse him will be the near equivalent of cursing God.)

(7) “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you” v. 3c

(Note: Through Abraham all the families of the earth shall be blessed. This is looking ahead to the coming of the promised Messiah and extending this blessing to the ends of the earth. Believers from Abraham until the coming of Christ as Savior of mankind will be recipients of this blessing. Missionaries and we, believers, have to leave, go and present this gift/blessing for people to accept it.

5. What attitude did Abraham show upon hearing the promise of God?

V.4

Answer:

He did not question. He did not doubt. He did not complain. He and his wife, Sarai and Lot, his nephew simply packed up their possessions and left Haran. He made a prompt obedience to God's call without delay. One writer said, “Delayed obedience is disobedience.” His was a complete obedience!

6. Is there a proof that Abraham had a strong conviction to leave and proceed on his journey with no exact place of destination? See Heb. 11:8.

Answer:

In Heb. 11:8 says, “By faith, Abraham obeyed and went”. This means He and his family went, not in blind faith, but in active and daring faith because they have complete confidence and dependence in God's Word and its trustworthiness.

Abraham knew that his faith had an object. That proper object of his genuine faith is GOD, the “Blesser,” who talked and prompted him to go to the land promised to him.

7. What did God do when Abraham & his family reached Canaan? v. 7

Answer:

Abraham received more directions from the Lord. The Lord appeared and talked to him again. In Haran God said, “Leave...” (v. 12: 1). Now in Canaan, He said, “This land will be yours! v. 7a. That means God followed Abraham till they reached the land of Canaan where God personally appeared and talked to him.

8. What was the reaction of Abraham when God appeared to him? v. 7b

Answer:

Abraham was so moved that he built an altar to the Lord. He worshipped and honored God. That was the most meaningful and significant worship he had made before the Lord, his “Blesser”.

(Note: God calls us to a life of pilgrimage. When we respond He does not lead us in circles or round and round, but to a destination. As we follow He renews assurances that we are on the right track and His leading/direction is always there.

General Truth: *Faith with prompt obedience pleases God, the “Blesser.”*

(Note: Introduce and explain the Memory verse)

SIGNIFICANCE

Circle Response Method. *(The expected respond from learners should be similar to the reactions at ENTRANCE procedure)*

(Note: On this first Sunday of the Missions Emphasis Month, try to focus the Significance Portion on implications and insights related to missions. The bottom line is to respond in faith with prompt obedience as exemplified by Abraham.)

1. Why do you think many Christians are hesitant to respond with prompt obedience to God’s call for missions?

Possible answers:

- Family ties are stronger than the call for missionary work.
- Christians do not fully understand missions work and the responsibility attach to it.
- Churches are more committed and concern with their own program.

1. *Christians do not give their money to God, because they have not given themselves to God.*
2. *You can’t give without loving, but you can love without giving.*
3. *Giving is only for those who have more than enough.*
4. *Inadequate giving is positive evidence that the spiritual life is at a low level.*
5. *Giving cannot be commanded by authority; it can only be commended on spiritual grounds.*

Say: Giving for the Lord’s work involves varied issues. There are instances that a church had to split because of overemphasis on giving and even having a misunderstanding of the principles of giving.

Transition sentence: *Let’s find out today of a woman’s exemplary generosity for the Lord’s work*

(Note: Introduce the title and the Scriptures to be read by two persons)

SUBSTANCE

Couple Buzzer method: (Two individuals have to work on the questions assigned within 3-4 minutes. One from the each couple will share to the whole class their answers).

Before the report say this: The account took place when Paul and his companions were on their second missionary journey

Couple 1

1. **What do verses 11-12 of Acts chapter 16 suggest about the activity of Paul and his companions?**

Answer:

They were sailing and traveling from one place to the other in their missionary itinerary journey.

2. **How did the writer of Acts describe the city of Philippi? (16:12)**

Answer:

Philippi was a Roman colony and a leading city in the district of Macedonia.

Lesson 4

Blest to be a Blessing by:
GIVING WHAT I HAVE

Aim That learners will share/give generously for the Lord's missionary work.

Scriptures: Acts 16: 11-15; Phil. 4:14-19

Memory Verse: II Cor. 9: 7 “ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

IN ADVANCE

1. In the preparation of the lesson, allow God to speak to you first. Pray for a heart willing to obey whatever God wants you to learn and do. For effective teaching, our lives and hearts must be worthy channel of God's blessings.
2. Study the Scripture. Know the background of the passages.
The story took place when Paul and his companions were on their second missionary journey. When they reached Philippi, there was no synagogue because it was a Roman colony or settlement.
Paul's letter to the Philippians includes his great appreciation with the generosity and concern manifested by the believers. Undoubtedly, Lydia's extra-ordinary hospitality and generosity may have greatly contributed to the influence of the giving ability of believers in Philippi.
3. Memorize and internalize the memory verse. It is of great value for excellent Christian living and devotion to God.
4. For ENTRANCE: Write the statements on the board before the class starts.

CLASS SESSION

ENTRANCE

Agree or Disagree: (Let learners comment on the statements below by agreeing or disagreeing. As much as possible they will support their view.

This is not a debate. Each is free to give his/her opinion.

- There is little mission exposure given to youth to confirm their calling.
- Insufficiency of resources on the part of the one called.
- No burden—just contented with being a Christian.
- There is lack in participation for local & global evangelism.
- Etc.

(**Note:** Remind learners that the goal of missions is not sending someone or to simply receive missions offering. The big goal of missions is REACHING PEOPLE. It is a simultaneous outreach ministry commanded by Christ—in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, “AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH” (Acts 1:8). This involves the right attitude of the heart and mind. It concerns calling, conviction, commitment, competence, and character of the one called.)

2. What are wonderful blessings we will receive when we obey God's command to go for either evangelism or missions?

Possible answers:

- a. Blest by God to be a blessing to others.
- b. Blest with the knowledge that the “Blessor” is honored by obedience.
- c. Blest with His abiding presence, “I am with you” (Matt. 28:20)
- d. Blest with the authority and power of God (Matt. 10:7-8)
- e. Blest with abundant provision, protection, well-being, etc.
- f. Blest with the gift of salvation
- g. Etc.

3. If we have received great blessings and become “blessers” to others, what are the expected end-results from each of us in order to please God?

Possible answers:

- Obey His commands
- Win people to Christ on purpose
- Integrate the saved souls into the church life
- Disciple them to become responsible citizens
- Engage them in varied ministries of the church
- Celebrate and rejoice through worship

4. Have you pleased God by being a blessing to people around you? Your friends, relatives, community, etc. By being a blessing to missionaries and evangelists when they are around?

PERFORMANCE

1. Have each one complete the sentence applying it to missions work—
“By faith, I want to please God by

2. Sing or read aloud the lyrics/words of the hymn, “Trust and Obey”
When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way.
While we do His good will, he abides with us still.
And with all who will trust and obey.
Chorus:
Trust and obey for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

3. Assignment:
To please God, find someone this week to share your blessing (a friend, a missionary, volunteer worker of the Lord, a church planter, etc.). Learners have to come back next Sunday school hour to report and testify what had been accomplished.

4. Lead in closing prayer.

NOTE:

Through the patient and close supervisory guidance of facilitators in lesson planning: Mrs Helen D. Malik & Ms. Clara Ugal, (MAABC Faculty members) during the Mindanao-Wide Sunday School Convention held in Camp Mariano, Sarabia, City of Koronadal on April 14-16, 2008, these 4 SS lesson series was produced. Mrs. Malik did careful reviewing, revising and re-writing the raw materials submitted by her convention group members.

With this material production accomplishment for the Division of Missions through Rev. James Quisquirin in coordination with NEM-DGTE & DCELC director, the National Head Office is indeed gratefully indebted to

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| 7. Fe Aujero | 14. Teresita Cargason. |

2. Why is there a need to support God’s ministry through the earnest prayers of Christians?

Possible Answers:

- Missions work is not easy
- The ministry does not belong to one person only
- The Bible is replete with examples of earnest praying
- Christians are commanded to pray
- Etc.

3. What benefits can Christians have from doing so?

Possible answers:

- Satisfying joy that fills the heart that money cannot buy
- God is honored and glorified
- Faith of believers are encouraged and strengthened
- Motivated to move on
- Etc.

4. Based on what we have learned, do you still believe that your earnest and passionate prayers for the Lord’s work bring results?

(Accept their opinions and ask for examples)

5. Shall we commit ourselves to continually pray passionately for our Missions work and those who are doing God’s ministry?

(**Note:** Repeat the memory verse that says, “...pray...on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... praying for all the saints.”)

PERFORMANCE

1. Prepare before hand prayer requests on Missions. Assign these to learners to pray for missionaries in particular.
2. Give each a list of names of our Filipino missionaries for them to remember in prayer during their family and personal devotions.
3. Closing Prayer:

dedicated people of God who made the SS 4-lesson series available for October 2008 missions material.

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Lesson 2

Blest to be a Blessing by:

BRINGING THE GIFT OF SALVATION

Aim: That learners will go and present the good news to someone.

Scripture: John 1:35-42

Memory Verse: Romans 10:14- “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone reaching to them?”

IN ADVANCE

1. Pray for God’s guidance and empowerment as you will be teaching the lesson.
As God will be speaking to you, allow Him to work through you as presenter of the gift of salvation to someone.
2. Study the Scripture and memorize the memory verses.
3. For ENTRANCE: Bring a gift wrapped beautifully.
4. For SUBSTANCE: Questions can be written in small pieces of paper.
Have it roll and put inside in an empty box or glass.
5. For SIGNIFICANCE: Prepare ¼ size bond paper.

CLASS SESSION

ENTRANCE

Object : Bring to class a beautifully wrapped gift that contains a written verse of John 3:16 ready to pull it out from the box when it is time to show it.

Ask : What do you usually feel every time you received a gift?
(Accept varied answers)

Ask: What did you feel when you give a gift to someone?
(Accept varied answers)

Ask: Which is easier: To receive a gift or to give a gift? Why?
(Let learners explain briefly their answer)

Say: (Show the written John 3:16 verse then request someone to recite it

4. What was Peter’s reflection after he experienced miraculous deliverance? (12:11)

Answer:

Peter was unaware that it was the angel of God saving him (12:9). When he awakened from sleep and realized where he was--he said, “ Now I know it without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish leaders were anticipating.”

5. How did the church know that God intervened or answered their earnest praying? (12: 12- 17)

Answer:

Peter, now fully awakened, had appeared to them in person. Rhoda, the servant girl, when she opened the door was overjoyed that she forgot to let Peter came in. The praying believers hardly believed that Peter was delivered from prison. But Peter in person testified to them how the Lord saved him.

General Truth: *The gathered church when praying passionately for the Lord’s work bring tremendous results.*

(Note: Introduce and explain the Memory verse)

SIGNIFICANCE

Method: Brainstorming

1. What are possible problems faced by believers despite their desire and passion to pray for the Lord’s work particularly Missions?

Possible Answers:

- Lack of information about what is going on in the mission field
- No church program or update
- No burden
- Etc.

(Note: Allow learners to identify with the feelings of the early church believers who were gathered in a prayer meeting. (Accept personal opinions and insights)

Group 2- THE RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

- 1. Upon knowing Peter’s imprisonment, how did the church respond to the existing situation?** (12:5 ; cf. 12:12b)

Answer:

The church prayed earnestly for Peter. It was an urgent prayer meeting of believers held at the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark

- 2. What does it mean, “the church was earnestly praying for Peter”?** (12:5)

Answer: (Facilitator in the group may allow personal opinions or] observations).

(Note: You may add ideas after each report. Synonyms for the word “*Earnestly*” are sincerely, seriously, solemnly, intently. You may give brief emphasis on how the church prayed).

- 3. Was it possible for the early believers to pray earnestly without passion Why?**

Answer:

(Note: Facilitate group discussion and record their opinions on the blackboard).

Group 3- GOD’S MIRACULOUS INTERVENTIONS

- 1. Describe God’s intervention demonstrated in Peter’s situation?** (12:7-10)

Answer:

God sent an angel to save Peter. When the angel appeared to Peter, the cell became bright with light. The angel struck Peter to awaken him and told him to quickly get up. Chains fell off from Peter’s wrists. He was told then to put on his clothes and sandals. Then Peter followed the angel until they were out on the street and the angel left him.

from memory). John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...” This means Jesus, the free gift, is given by God to the world.

Transition sentence: *Let us find out today what certain people did after they have received Jesus as God’s gift.*

(Note: Introduce the title of the lesson and Scripture text for study. Open the study in prayer after the reading of the Scripture)

SUBSTANCE

Method: Question and Answer

(Note: Written questions are put in a box or glass and learners are to get one question to answer)

- 1. Who was this John mentioned in this verse?** (1:35) (cf.1:6,19,29,32)

Answer:

This was John the Baptist. He was sent from God and was testifying of the coming of Jesus Christ. He announced to people the coming of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

- 2. Where was John the Baptist and his two disciples in this account?** (1:35) (cf.1:28)

Answer:

Verse 35 did not mention of the place but it declares that “the next day John was there again...” John 1: 28 shows that John the Baptist was at Bethany on the other side of Jordan--baptizing and testifying to people of who Jesus is.

- 3. What was the announcement of John the Baptist when Jesus was passing by?** (1:36)

Answer:

John the Baptist was announcing to people to look at the Lamb of God.

- 4. What does “Lamb of God” mean?** (1:36)

Answer:

“Lamb of God” is a term used typically of Christ as the Sin-bearer of the world. Jesus Christ is like a sacrificial lamb in relation to his death

on the cross. Jesus “innocently and patiently endured to expiate sin.”(Unger’s Bible Dictionary)

Specific
Intentional
Obedient
Noble

Yield
Edify
Restore

5. What happened to the two disciples who were with John the Baptist when they heard the announcement? (1:37)

Answer:

The two disciples followed Jesus without hesitation.

6. To what extent did the two disciples brought their steps of following Jesus? (1:36-39)

Answer:

The two disciples were invited to be with Jesus where he stayed and they spent the day with Him. They did not only follow Jesus but probably watched Him as he cared and ministered to people. They enjoyed their missions exposure with Jesus’ public ministry. Probably, they too had dinner with Jesus and had more time to listen to Jesus’ enriching instructions.

7. Andrew was one of the two disciples. What was his first concern when he had the mission exposure with Jesus? (1:40-42)

Answer:

His immediate reaction was to look for his brother named Simon Peter. Finding him, he shared, “We have found the Messiah.” Probably with excitement, Andrew who was overwhelmed with joy brought his brother Peter to Jesus.

8. What happened to his brother Peter when he was brought to Jesus? (1:42)

Answer:

Jesus looked at him and had given him a new name *Cephas* which means Peter. (**Note:** Remind learners of Abraham from the first SS lesson whose name was also changed by God for a purpose.)

General Truth: *Every believer of Christ must go and present Jesus as gift to someone.*

(**Note:** Introduce and explain the Memory verse as reinforcement of the G.T.)

(**Note:** The example given is not to be shown in class. It serves only as a guide for you. **Option:** You may let them write on the board their answers and make connecting ideas.

Example: pleading powerfully; relying sincerely, etc.)

Transition sentence: During this third Missions Sunday--we will learn how the early church exercised prayers with passion.

(**Note:** Introduce the title and Scripture to be read responsively)

SUBSTANCE

Buzz Group Method:

(**Note:** Divide the class into 3 groups. Let them choose their facilitator and a secretary. Announce 5-7 minutes group discussion. After the discussion, request representative to report to the whole class their answers).

Group 1- THE THREATENING SITUATIONS MET BY GOD’S SERVANTS

1. Describe the threatening situations that confronted God’s servants. (12: 1-8)

Answer:

- King Herod was persecuting those who belonged to the church.
- James was put to death with a sword
- Peter was seized and imprisoned.

2. In particular, how was Peter kept in prison? (12: 4-6)

Answer:

- Peter was handed to four squads of four soldiers
- Peter slept between two soldiers.
- He was bound in chains
- He was guarded by with tight security at the entrance

3. What do you think--How intense was the persecution met by God’s servants?

Answer:

Lesson 3

Blest to be a Blessing by:

ESTABLISHING PASSION FOR PRAYER

Aim: That learners will passionately pray for the Lord's work particularly Missions.

Scripture: Acts 12: 1-19

Memory verse: Ephesians 6:18 "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

IN ADVANCE:

1. Pray that God will reveal His will through you and His Word. Expect God to be performing wonders as His people will earnestly pray especially for our missionary work. There might be evangelists & missionaries who are in need of prayers offered for them as they face various ministry challenges and difficult situations.
2. Study, meditate and internalize the story and memorize the memory verse.
3. For ENTRANCE: Prepare two blank sheets of paper.
4. For SUBSTANCE: Provide written questions for Buzz group method.
5. For PERFORMANCE: Provide list of missionaries to be brought home.

CLASS SESSION

ENTRANCE

Method: Acronym-making

(**Note:** Divide the class members into two groups. Give two blank sheets of paper).

Say: Let us define two words. One group will define PASSION and the other group will define PRAYER. Define—PASSION, using adjectives and PRAYER, using action verbs.

Powerful
Appealing
Sincere

Plead
Rely
Adore

SIGNIFICANCE

Method: Brainstorming

1. Why do believers in Christ need to go and present the gift of salvation to someone who is lost?

Possible answers:

- It is God's command
- The people need it
- It is our solemn responsibility
- Etc.

2. Is obedience to the command of Christ of sharing his good news a problem to many Christians?

(**Note:** Value personal observations of your learners and try to assess their personal perceptions of expressed attitudes in churches and Christians these days. Be sensitive to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit)

3. Is bringing the gift of salvation still relevant for the conditions of people in this current trend of time? If Yes, why? If No, why?

(**Note:** The above questions are follow-up questions. These are intended to stir the mind to think for them to see the solemn responsibility of going, and sharing the gospel to others on purpose).

4. If, indeed, the good news of salvation is still relevant today, then, who are the people in your life who need the gift of salvation?

(**Note:** Give each of them a clean sheet of paper to write the name(s) of persons they want to go and to present/share the gospel message).

5. Today is the second Sunday of the Missions Emphasis month, will you commit yourself as an "Andrew" to find someone and lead him/her to Jesus?

(**Note:** If your church has a program on celebrating Missions Emphasis month then work closely with your Pastoral Team or Missions Committee in relations to Evangelism ministry. By cooperating with the church's

program you will be able to effectively channel the results—the new converts to church).

PERFORMANCE

Say: As believers of Christ regardless of place, status in life, career, or whatever situations we are in—have a responsibility to do, to go and to share the good news to someone.

It is not a responsibility confined merely to our evangelists and missionaries. Each one of us should be responsible to find someone and take that someone to Christ. Yes, we can pray for our evangelists & missionaries but Christ expects each of us to go and share the gospel to the “lost” on purpose.

It is not an option, not a gift or talent to sharpen it. It is a command, and an order, for each believer in Christ to obey—to bring a soul to Him!

(Note: Promote aggressively for each one to pray for name(s) they have written and go to each one to share the gospel during the week.

It might be good if, on purpose, your whole class could pray together and go out in different places in the community for friendship evangelism during this Missions Emphasis Month. Seek help from pastor or the PSALM Ministry for they are using evangelism tools to reach the lost.)

Sing or recite the chorus—

Lord, lay some souls upon my heart and win those souls for Thee
And may I nobly do my part to win those souls for Thee.

Lead in the closing prayer.

Lesson Planning Group Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Helen Rojo | 10. Maribel Maguan |
| 2. Samuel Colita | 11. Elma Sajonia |
| 3. Tita Javier | 12. Elizabeth Asperga |
| 4. Alma Jondi | 13. Remegio Felongco |
| 5. Benjie Tejad | 14. Glenn Calawigan |
| 6. Catalino de Arce | 15. Guilord Segapo |
| 7. Master Zeus Castillo | 16. Ramon Belaza |
| 8. Ernie Aman | 17. Yamin Kiyugan |
| 9. Dionisio Ramirez | |