

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

For the year 2022, the Theme of the ESOCS Church is centered on 'The Sufficiency of God's grace'. You should be excited that in the Month of January and throughout the year, God will speak to us about His grace!

God has released His grace unto us. His grace is His unmerited favour. However, many of us are so distracted by the sinful life we live that we are not able to receive this grace. As a result, we struggle with our spiritual lives and with life in general, because God's grace is absent. Consequently, we have in the church today members who are chronic womanizers, drunkards, fraudsters and very wicked. In this year, God intends to change us by introducing us to His sufficient grace. A grace that every believer needs in order to be able to make it.

In this Month, we will dig deep, and we will discover the riches of God's sufficient grace. We will see how God has provided us with His grace so that we are able to live above sin and be successful as we sojourn here on earth. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to receive God's grace, retain it and enjoy all that it has to offer.

We enjoin you to ensure that you do not miss any Sunday school session this month because they promise to be sessions of divine revelation that will transform your life. You will grow in grace as you get revelational knowledge of Jesus Christ and this is the best thing that can ever happen to you!

In this month, we shall be learning about God's sufficient grace as we study the following topics:

- ❖ **Redeemed by God's Grace:** To redeem is to regain possession of something by paying the price for it. God has redeemed us by His grace. He did not just give us a grace that cost Him nothing. He gave us grace at the cost of His only begotten son Jesus Christ, who came and paid the price for our sins, so that we can be redeemed. God's grace is so powerful because Christ paid for it with His blood but gave it to us for free. The lesson for the day paints a picture of who we become when we are redeemed by God's grace.
- ❖ **Living a Life of Grace:** Every believer is expected to live a life of grace. To live a life of grace is to live a life of power. It is to demonstrate the beauty of having the grace of God operating in our lives. When we live a life of grace, we live above sin, sickness and all the projections of the forces of darkness. The lesson for the day throws more light on this.
- ❖ **Dangers of Rejecting God's Grace:** God paid a dear price for the grace that He is offering us for free. He paid the price with the blood of His only begotten son, for us to live a victorious life. This explains why God does not like it when we reject this grace but decide to continue to live in sin. It is dangerous to reject God's grace. If we ever decide to reject God's grace by living in sin, such decision will expose us to the dangers of God's wrath and anger. The teaching for the day encourages us to ensure that we do not reject the grace that God is offering everyone.
- ❖ **Quickened by the Spirit of Grace:** Without the Holy Spirit, we will find it difficult to accept the grace that God has freely offered to us. If we follow the flesh, we will not value what God is offering to us. Like Esau, we will prefer to please the flesh than to retain our first-born rights. However, when we receive the Holy Spirit, He quickens and strengthens us to believe God's Word and appreciate His grace.
- ❖ **The Sufficiency of God's Grace:** Have you ever wondered why we recite "the grace" at the end of every prayer? It's because God's grace is sufficient to meet every need, ranging from prayers for forgiveness of sins, to prayers for favour, breakthrough, deliverance, and other issues. Irrespective of what we are passing through in life, God's grace is all we need, and all will be well again. God's grace can empower us to overcome sin and live above sin. It can reposition us to come out of poverty and be able to overcome the evil works of Satan.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 2ND JANUARY 2022

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

TOPIC: REDEEMED BY GOD'S GRACE

TEXT: ISAIAH 62:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 62:12 *"And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

It's a new year, but we are still reminded of the threats of a global pandemic, pornography, seductions, the temptation to cut corners to make it in life, economic recessions, kidnapping, unrest, violence, and many more like it. However, God is assuring us that His grace is sufficient for us. Grace is the Hebrew word **chanan** or the Greek word **charis** meaning to show kindness or favour towards someone. It is unmerited favour and God's gift of salvation to the sinner. We are rest assured that His grace is capable to cause us to be victorious. We are led by the Holy Spirit to start this year with studying the grace of God and how believers are redeemed by God's grace. Our Bible text in Isaiah 62, paints a typical picture of who we become when we are redeemed by God's Grace. We see that Heaven has put in much effort and has paid the price for believers to become beneficiaries of God's grace. We hear God saying *"I will not hold my peace. I will not rest, until..."*. In fact, the Lord goes as far as *"swearing with His right Hand"*. God is poised to redeem us and fill our lives with His grace. His grace is available. The Bible says that God's grace has appeared to all men. The issue here is not the availability of God's grace but making our hearts receptive of His Word. We see from our text that God's grace may meet us as miserable sinners, paupers, and failures. Nevertheless, we will surely not remain in this level after we are redeemed.

STUDY OUTLINE

HOW BELIEVERS ARE REDEEMED BY GOD'S GRACE

1. **By Grace, we are Forgiven:** Through the riches of God's grace, and the blood that Jesus shed on the cross, we receive forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 1:7)
2. **By Grace, we are Redeemed from Wickedness:** We are purified from all iniquities and programmed to do good. (Titus 2:14)
3. **By Grace, we are Justified:** Sinners are freely justified by the redeeming power of God's grace (Rom 3:23-25)
4. **By Grace, we receive Power to live above Sin:** Sin can't have dominion over us anymore (Rom 6:14-15)
5. **By Grace, we are made Rich/Blessed:** By God's grace, we are able to come out of poverty (2 Cor 8:9, 2 Cor 9:8)
6. **By Grace, we are made Alive (quickened):** God's grace quickens and saves us (Eph 2:4-5)
7. **By Grace, we receive Eternal Life:** Grace brings eternal consolation and good hope (2 Thess. 2:16)

THE STATUS OF THE ISREALITES BEFORE GOD REDEEMED THEM IN ISAIAH 62

1. They were living in sin and had no salvation. God vowed not to rest until they begin to live in righteousness. (Is 62:1)
2. They were forsaken and desolate. (Isaiah 62:4)
3. They planted but others reaped. God vowed to change this. (Isaiah 62:8)

THE STATUS THEY WILL ATTAIN AFTER BEING REDEEMED BY GOD'S GRACE IN ISAIAH 62

God promised Israel that He will send Jesus to change their situation and redeem them by His grace. As a result:

1. They will shine in righteousness and receive salvation. (Isaiah 62:1)
2. They will be called by a new name. God Himself will give them a new name. (Isaiah 62:2)
3. Gentiles and Kings shall see their light (they will be a shining example to others). (Isaiah 62:2)
4. They will be a crown of glory in the hand of God. (Isaiah 62:3)
5. They will no more be desolate or forsaken. (Isaiah 62:4)
6. They will be established and will become a praise in the earth (success in life). (Isaiah 62:7)
7. Their corn will no more be food for their enemies. They will not plant while others get to eat it. (Isaiah 62:8-9)
8. People will clearly see that they are redeemed by God and will address them as Holy Redeemed people. (Isaiah 62:12)

CONCLUSION

We see that God's grace is sufficient to transform us into saints and make us to be glorious in this life. God has shown you the status you will attain in the year 2022, after you have been redeemed by His sufficient grace. This is God's promise to you for the year 2022, your year of God's sufficient grace. God will make it to come to pass.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, redeem me by your grace, transform me and make me a praise in the earth in this year and beyond, in Jesus' name , Amen!

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2022

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

TOPIC: LIVING A LIFE OF GRACE

TEXT: ISAIAH 42:1-25

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 42:7 *"To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

In the early parts of our text and in our memory verse, we see a typical illustration of what the life of a child of God looks like when he is living a life of grace. We see that when God upholds you, deposits His Spirit in you and holds your hands, you will begin to live in grace. You will become a light unto Gentiles and be able to perform miracles like healing the blind through the grace of God. God will use you to free people from spiritual prisons. He will delight in you. You will never fail and you will never be discouraged. You will be victorious over sin and Satan; you will be a shining example. It's a new Year, change your confession! Confess that God upholds you by His grace and you will see it manifest. God's sufficient grace is all you need to live a life of grace in this new year and experience a turn around. As you study God's Word today, God will show you how you can begin to live a life of grace.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT LIVING A LIFE OF GRACE MEANS

1. To live a life of grace is to depend on God to fulfill all your needs and desires. (Phil 4:19)
2. It means to live a life of righteousness that pleases God, ready for the second coming of Jesus. (Titus 2:11-13)
3. To live a life of grace is to be able to boldly approach God's throne of grace in times of need. (Heb 4:16)
4. To Live a life of grace is achieve great success in life as well as innumerable evangelical exploits/miracles through God's help. (1 Cor 15:10, Isaiah 42:6-7)
5. To live a life of grace is to live above sickness, demonic oppression, all works of Satan. (1 Pet 2:24, Isaiah 54:14-17)
6. To live a life of grace is to be an encouragement to others who are passing through difficult times (Eph 4:29)

HOW TO LIVE A LIFE OF GRACE.

1. Recognize that you are saved by grace and not by anything you did and live-in righteousness (Eph 2:8-9, Heb 12:28)
2. Answer God's call to live in righteousness and allow Him to lead you (Isaiah 42:6, Gal 5:16)
3. Allow God to uphold you. Never do things by your own power. Depend on Him (Isaiah 42:1)
4. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and be guided by Him (Gal 5:16)
5. Study the Word of God. Grow in grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18, 1 Peter 1:13, Col 3:16, Acts 20:32)
6. Continue in grace and never fall out of the grace of God by backsliding (Acts 13:43)
7. Use the grace God gave you by spiritual gifts and talents to preach Jesus and win souls (Acts 4:33, Eph 3:7-8)
8. Show love and be generous to brethren who are in need (Acts 4:34-35)
9. As an heir of the grace of life, treat your spouse well (1 Peter 3:7)
10. Be humble, respect your elders and superiors (1 Peter 5:5, James 4:6)
11. Do away with the law of sin and death like sacrificing animals to atone for sin (Hebrews 10:4)
12. Mind what you say. Season your words with salt, never engage in vulgar talks (Eph 4:29, Col 4:6)
13. Be careful to finish your spiritual race in grace (Acts 20:24)

THE EVIDENCE THAT ONE HAS FALLEN OUT OF GRACE.

1. Living in sin and being proud of our sin like sharing it on social media etc. (1 Cor 5:1-2)
2. Luring others out of the faith and turning the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 1:4)
3. When one's life is full of bitterness, making the person to be defiled (Heb 12:15)
4. When one is carried about with diverse strange doctrines (Heb 13:9, Gal 1:6)
5. Despising the Holy Spirit and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Heb 10:29)
6. Attempting to justify oneself by the law and not by God's grace (Gal 5:4)
7. One falls from grace and finds it difficult to return to the Lord (Hebrews 6:4-6)

SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF LIVING A LIFE OF GRACE.

1. Jesus was full of grace. He had no sin and demons were subject to Him. (Luke 2:40, John 1:14-17)
2. The Apostles returned with joy and testified that demons were subject unto them. (Luke 10:17)

3. The early Church had great grace. They catered for each other's needs, were united, preached Christ and the Church grew. (Acts 4:32-33)
4. Paul was made a minister by the grace God gave him. He lived a life of grace and preached Christ to the Gentiles. (1 Cor 3:10, Eph 3:7-8)
5. The Apostle Paul wrote to many churches by the grace God had given to him. (Rom 15:15)

CONCLUSION

While enjoying the liberty that we have in Christ by His grace, let us be careful so that we don't fall out of grace and become empty. We see what happened to Annanias and Saphira, after they lied to the Holy Spirit. Be pure in heart as you minister in God's presence because it is dangerous to fall out of grace. This can expose us to the threats of Satan and make us lose our salvation. It's our Year of God's sufficient grace. Let us stand firm and continue in this grace and it will always be well with us.

PRAYER

O Lord, help me to live a life of grace every day of my life in the mighty name of Jesus Christ - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2022

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

TOPIC: DANGERS OF REJECTING GOD'S GRACE

TEXT: AMOS 3:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: AMOS 3:2 *"You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities". (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Many of us don't value what we have until we lose it. Like Esau, we are more bothered about trivial matters. God has made His grace available to all of us. However, some of us are yet to embrace this grace. We are yet to make Jesus and His grace our choice. We are short-sighted. We want to enjoy our lives today by living carnal lives at the expense of retaining our birthright. We have chosen sin, fornication, cheating, cares of life, making money through fraud and their likes over retaining our birthright as God's first-born. In our text, God speaking through the Prophet Amos, informed the Israelites that because He has chosen them over all the nations of the world, but they refused to be chosen, He will punish them for their sins. He outlined the various ways He will punish them for their erroneous choice. We must never be at this level for any reason. The Bible says that it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of God.

STUDY OUTLINE

GOD'S GRACE IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL

1. God's grace that brings salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11)
2. Christ died for all, so that we all can live for Him (2 Cor 5:15)
3. Jesus Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)
4. God does not want anyone to perish. He wants everyone to be saved (1 Tim 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9)

HOW WE REJECT GOD'S GRACE

1. Refusing to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and personal savior. (John 1:11)
2. Pretending to live in righteousness when we are really living in sin that is hypocrisy (Luke 6:41-49, Jer 3:10, Gal 6:3)
3. We willfully sin after getting knowledge of Jesus and believe that God will understand. (Hebrews 10:26-27)
4. We work for God, but we don't know Him, and we don't live the life that pleases Him. (Matt 7:21-23)
5. We refuse to agree with God, follow His standards and walk with Him. (Amos 3:3)
6. We respond to God's goodness unto us by rejecting Him like the Israelites, whom God brought out of Egypt, but they still will not accept Him and live a life that pleases Him. (Amos 3:1-2)
7. We continue in sin, expecting grace to abound, because we are under grace and not under the law. (Rom 6:1-2,15)
8. We don't know how to do what is right. We are violent and we are robbers. (Amos 3:10)

DANGERS OF REJECTING GOD'S GRACE

1. Eternal damnation (Matt 7:21-23, Hebrews 10:26-27)
2. God will punish us for our sins and allow the enemy to afflict us (Judges 6:1, Amos 3:11,13-15)
3. We reject God's providence that comes by His sufficient grace (2 Cor 12:9, Phil 4:19)
4. We die without mercy (Heb 10:28)
5. We kick against the pricks and inflict pain on ourselves (Acts 9:3-5)
6. We may not receive divine revelation anymore (Ps 25:14, Amos 3:7, 1 Sam 28:5-6)
7. We position ourselves for sudden destruction (Proverbs 29:1)

SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF REJECTING GOD'S GRACE

1. Israel rejected Jesus and chose the robber Barnabas instead (John 18:39-40)
2. God stretched forth His hands all day long to Israel, but they remained disobedient (Romans 10:21)
3. Israel rejected God's grace, making Paul and Barnabas to share the gospel with the Gentiles (Acts 13:46)
4. The Jewish Sanhedrin were stiff necked and uncircumcised at heart (Acts 7:51-52)

CONCLUSION

Never lose focus of this: God is love, God is kind, God is gracious, but He is also a consuming fire! As such, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We must do whatever it takes to ensure that we do not reject the grace that He has fully offered us at the expense of the blood of His only begotten son Jesus Christ. Let us make hay while the sun shines and find the black goat while we still have daylight, so that we don't live in regret for eternity.

PRAYER

Gracious Father! help me to accept your grace and your salvation in Jesus Name - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2022

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE
TOPIC: QUICKENED BY THE SPIRIT OF GRACE
TEXT: JOHN 6:41-71

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 6:63 *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*

INTRODUCTION

In our text, the Israelites missed the point because they did not have the Holy Spirit. Jesus' teaching sounded so off-key to them that some disciples stopped following Jesus Christ. They found it difficult to accept that Jesus is the bread from heaven. Jesus explained to them that until they are quickened by the Spirit, they will never be able to accept His Words. Today, many of us may find it difficult to accept the grace of God because we lack the deep revelational knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is yet to interpret these things to us, so it sounds like an impossible feat. As we receive the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of grace, it will become easier for us to understand God's grace, be quickened/energized to receive it and be able to remain in it.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY MANY PEOPLE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

1. They are still in the flesh. The flesh profiteth nothing. (John 6:63)
2. They think that God's standards are too difficult, and His teachings do not make sense. (John 6:59-60)
3. They do not believe that the Word of God is true like the Israelites in our text. (John 6:64)
4. They feel that they are miserable sinners who are so evil that they don't deserve God's grace eg Judas (Matt 27:3-5)
5. They are yet to understand the extent of what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. (2 Cor. 4:3-4)

HOW THE FLESH STOPS US FROM RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE

1. The flesh will push us to do the wrong things. Nothing good dwells in it. (Rom 7:18)
2. The flesh makes us to go after carnal desires instead of God's grace. (Romans 8:5, 8:8)
3. What the flesh wants is opposite of what the Spirit wants. The flesh misleads us. (Gal 5:17)

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT QUICKENS US TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE

1. By convicting us of sin (John 16:8)
2. By teaching us things we don't know (John 14:26)
3. By quickening us, i.e., stimulate/give us the spiritual energy we need so that we can receive God's grace (John 6:63)
4. The Holy Spirit grants us salvation and gives us the ability to call God our Father (Romans 8:15)
5. The Holy Spirit leads us to live the life of righteousness that pleases God (Gal 5:16, John 16:13)
6. The Holy Spirit gives us deep revelational knowledge of Jesus Christ, His Word and His grace (1 Cor 2:10)
7. The Spirit of grace and supplication gives us grace and boosts our prayer life (Zech 12:10)
8. According to Zech 12:10-11, When God pours out His Spirit, Israel will receive a vision of the crucified one and there will be national repentance.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF GRACE

1. Believe that God will keep His promise and pour out His Holy Spirit as He has promised. (Isaiah 44:3, Joel 2:28)
2. Repent, give your life to Christ and be baptized (Acts 2:38)
3. At confirmation service by the laying of hands (Acts 19:6)
4. Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, study the Word of God. (Luke 11:13. John 6:63)
5. Maintain a peaceful environment. The Apostles were in one accord when the Holy Spirit came upon them. (Acts 2:1).

CONCLUSION

The Christian is not expected to live his spiritual life based on his personal efforts and strength. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to have a fruitful, overcoming, victorious Christian life without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Stop struggling by your power! Don't remain constrained by your human mode of thinking and doing things. Use the help of the Holy Spirit and you will be able to receive God's sufficient grace.

PRAYER

Oh Lord, May the Spirit of grace quicken me to receive the riches of your grace in Jesus Name - Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2022

THEME: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

TOPIC: THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S GRACE

TEXT: JOHN 8:1-11

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 8:11 *"She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Times without number, the scriptures show that God's grace is all we need. Irrespective of the situation we find ourselves, God's grace is sufficient to change our story. Here is a typical example. In our Bible text for today's study, we see a woman who was accused of adultery. The Law of Moses required that people like her be stoned to death, but grace said exactly the opposite. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ was sufficient to save her life. Grace gave her a second chance. In the end, grace changed her story. Have you ever wondered why every prayer ends with a recitation of "the grace"? Today you have your answer. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient to meet every need, ranging from prayers for forgiveness of sins, to prayers for favour, breakthrough, deliverance and other issues. Thus, we recite "the grace" at the end of every prayer to remind ourselves that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient to meet us at the point of every need. Today's study is an eye opener to convince you that irrespective of what you are passing through, God's grace is sufficient for you.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY DO WE NEED GOD'S GRACE?

1. Jesus said that without Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5)
2. When we are weak and helpless, the only way we can still succeed is by God's grace (2 Cor. 12:9)
3. We can never achieve anything unless we have help from God (1 Cor 15:10)
4. To live in sufficiency, we need God's grace. God is the source of all sufficiency (Phil 4:19)
5. It is better to rely on God's grace and not men. The Arm of flesh will fail you (Psalm 118:8)
6. There are situations that only God can resolve, nothing is impossible with Him (Matt 19:26)

WHERE TO FIND GOD'S SUFFICIENT GRACE AND HOW TO RETAIN IT

1. **In Christ:** We receive grace when we get revelational knowledge of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13; John 1:14)
2. **Prayer:** We need to come boldly to the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)
3. **Spiritual Growth:** Grow in grace and stand firm in it. (2 Peter 3:18)
4. **The Word of God:** Be filled with the Word of God (Acts 20:32; Colossians 3:16)
5. **Righteousness and Humility:** Live in righteousness; live a life of humility. (James 4:6; Proverbs 3:34; Psalm 84:11)

THE POWER OF GOD'S SUFFICIENT GRACE

1. Grace brings salvation and sets believers free from the bondage of sin (Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 15:11)
2. Grace brings believers out of poverty, blessing us with the exceeding riches of God's grace. (2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 2:7)
3. Grace makes believers to have rest and be carriers of God's presence (Ex 33:12-14)
4. When we find grace in God's eyes, He answers our prayers (Exodus 33:17)
5. Grace supplies all your needs and makes you to live in sufficiency, so that you become a blessing to others (2 Cor 9:8)
6. Grace is able to make you live above sin and overcome sin (Romans 6:14-15)
7. Grace attracts great and everlasting blessings (Psalm 45:2)
8. When the Lord gives you grace, you will not lack any good thing (Psalm 84:11)
9. By God's grace, you will receive spiritual gifts, be able to perform signs/wonders (Acts 14:3; Romans 12:6; Eph. 4:7)
10. Grace is able to save you from the consequence of sin provided you are ready to turn a new leaf (John 8:7-11)
11. God's grace is made perfect in your weakness and is able to make us to overcome our weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9)
12. We can only receive Eternal life through God's grace (Titus 3:7)

CONCLUSION

The Apostle Paul makes it clear that everything he achieved was as a result of God's grace. We can't move far unless we have God's grace. We need God's sufficient grace to overcome sin, so that we may live in sufficiency while we sojourn on planet earth. May we be repositioned and made successful by God's sufficient grace today.

PRAYER

Dear Father, grant us sufficient grace to finish the race for your kingdom; in Jesus' name - Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

THEME: REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT

The theme for this month is “Reflecting God’s Light”. Jesus said, “You are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). We believers are to be lights that shine in the world and dispel the darkness. However, like most of the things that are stated in the Bible, we understand them much better if we take them in the context of the whole scope of Scripture. Believers are lights, but it helps us keep that in proper perspective when we realize that our light is derivative; that is, we get it from God. We do not originate the light; we reflect the light. Christ is no longer physically present on earth, but we reflect His light to those in darkness as we bear the fruit of goodness, righteousness, truthfulness. There are various teachings that have been outlined for this month’s series. The topics are itemized and summarized below:

- ❖ **Becoming a Beacon of Light in a Dark World:** This teaching would highlight some deeds of Jesus as the light of the world. It would enumerate the requirements for becoming a beacon of light, emphasize the need to abstain from sin to continue to shine, and finally teach us how to shine in this dark world.
- ❖ **Loving our Enemies: A Divine Task:** The love of God is selfless love. This topic would show us who our enemies are. It would give reasons we should love our enemies and steps towards loving our enemies. Finally, it would also show us the blessings accrued to loving our enemies.
- ❖ **Justice for the Poor:** God pursues justice within a context of grace for those who are wronged and for those who are wrongdoers. This topic would show us how our Lord Jesus exemplified justice. It would also highlight ways to show justice for the poor, the benefits accrued to showing justice for the poor. Furthermore, it would enumerate the consequences of perverting justice.
- ❖ **Celebrate God’s Goodness:** God is the source of everything that is good. This teaching would highlight reasons why we should celebrate God’s goodness. It would also teach us steps towards celebrating God’s goodness and finally enumerate the consequences of not celebrating God’s goodness.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2022

THEME: REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT

TOPIC: BECOMING A BEACON OF LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD

TEXT: ISAIAH 49:1-13

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 49:6 *"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

We are living in what we could describe as a very dark time, filled with fear and uncertainty. People are scrambling as they try to make sense out of what is going on, wondering what new restrictions and regulations would take effect next and questioning how they would survive in the meantime. Watching the news, listening to the radio, or reading things on the internet can be rather scary right now – especially for those who do not have a place to put their hope and trust. But as Christians, we have a solid rock on which to stand, and that rock is Jesus – the One who speaks to the very storms that threaten to overtake us. Hence, it is a reminder to us as the church and as individuals, that we have a responsibility to be that beacon on the hill, that beacon of light that points the way to Jesus - the only true source of light in this dark world.

STUDY OUTLINE

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

1. **Jesus brought life to us:** This means He brought restoration to a world of brokenness (John 1:4; John 3:16).
2. **Jesus brought redemption:** Everyone who receives Jesus becomes a child of God (John 1:12-13).
3. **Jesus gives hope to hopeless situations:** He freed some from the prison of sickness, others from the loneliness of being an outcast or low class, and a few from the grips of death itself (Luke 4:18; Mark 5:25-34; John 11:38-45).
4. **Jesus preached good news to the ignorant:** By his teachings, Jesus also freed people from ignorance concerning God, His kingdom, the meaning of true obedience and the way of salvation (Luke 4:18; John 8:36; Matt. 5).
5. **Jesus brought forgiveness:** He also freed some from their sins by granting forgiveness. Most importantly, the life Jesus brings is rooted in his sacrificial act of offering himself on the cross to take away the guilt of sin (John 1:29; 8:11).
6. Finally, Jesus came to serve and not to be served (Mark 10:45).

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A BEACON OF LIGHT

Our effectiveness in becoming the beacon of hope will depend on our willingness to equip ourselves in the following areas:

1. **Studying the Word:** This starts with reading God's Word (The Holy Bible). The Word of God is alive and active, sharing truths that apply to our lives. God's Word is the truth that sets us free. It instructs us on how to live and love. You can't be effective if you are not actively pursuing knowledge and truth in the Word (Heb. 4:12; John 6:63; John 8:32).
2. **Communication with God:** It is important to not only communicate with Jesus in prayer but to listen to what He is saying. Sometimes we are called to go a step further and respond in action (James 4:3; Isaiah 30:21; John 10:27). This is made possible and much easier by proper meditation.
3. **Fellowship with Other Believers:** Being a part of a community of believers encourages and keeps us grounded in the faith. Fellow believers also pray for you and are there for you when you need help (Heb. 10:25; Col. 3:16; James 5:16).

WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM SHINING

Sin: It is easy to see the shine of a new diamond ring from across the room. But over time, that shine can dim as dust settles on it. In the same way, sin can dim our shine as lights for Jesus Christ. Our lives which once sparkled with the joy of Christ can become clouded with a love for things of this world. Before you can be a light to others, take a look at your own life. Has sin dulled the evidence of Christ in you? (Matt. 7:3; Isaiah 59:2; John 8:34-35).

HOW TO SHINE

In John 1:9 (ESV), Jesus is called *"the true light, which gives light to everyone."* Throughout the New Testament, the followers of Jesus are called to be lights in the darkness. So, what does it mean to shine?

14. **Be different:** We live in a dark world, full of lies, hate and confusion. While others are chasing after physical pleasures and selfish gains, we are commanded to live a different way—to put on the armor of light, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires (Romans 13:12-14; Prov. 1:15; Rom 12:2).
15. **Putting yourself out there:** Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others." Whether you're timid or outgoing, you are called to be a light to the people around you. That is only possible if you are taking time to interact with people and cultivating positive and healthy relationships (Matt. 5:16^a; Isaiah 60:1).

Always giving glory to the Light Source (God): Our goal should never be to bring recognition to ourselves, but to bring glory to God. There is a fine line between being a light and putting on a show to get attention. It's a matter of the heart (Matt. 5:16^b; Psalm 29:2; 10:31).

16. **Be careful with what you say:** The Bible calls the tongue a restless evil, full of deadly poison. Words are powerful and can be used for good or bad. We should only speak edifying words to one another (James 3:8; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6).
17. **Consider your choice of entertainment:** Would you go to those same places, watch the same things, or listen to the same music if Jesus were sitting next to you? Or would you be embarrassed? Asking yourself these questions is a good way to keep yourself in check, whether you are alone or with others (1Sam. 16:23; Eph. 5:19)
18. **Use the social media wisely:** People are watching what we post whether they interact with our posts or not. Whatever we post in form of articles, comments, photos, likes and so on should be edifying. (Prov. 4:7; Eccl. 10:10^b).
19. **Be insightful in your living:** Consider other people's needs and help meet them. Encourage, instead of criticizing. Be patient and finally, when you encounter a difficult person, remember that they are also made and are loved by God. Above all, treat others the same way you would want them to treat you (Luke 6:31; Matt. 15:32; 14:14).

CONCLUSION

In the Words of Jesus Christ, *"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* Jesus has always been and will always be the light of the world and no strain of coronavirus or any other pandemic will ever be able to dim the Light of the world. This is a time when we are being called to go back to basics, to return to what we know is good, right and true – that God is still in control – no matter what anyone else may try to tell us. And as Christ's followers, we are called to be a beacon of light so that others may be drawn to him as they see us walking in faith, not fear. This is truly a wake-up call for the church, for us to get back to being the church commissioned by our Lord

Jesus

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, let Your Spirit always guide and enable me, to continually be a beacon of light and hope to the weary, and thereby populating Your Kingdom, in Jesus' name, Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2022

THEME: REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT

TOPIC: LOVING OUR ENEMIES: A DIVINE TASK

TEXT: LUKE 6:27-38

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 6:27 *"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you" (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). The perfection that Jesus is calling for here relates to the perfect love of God that is merciful and gracious. The Love of God is selfless love. It is love characterized by 1 Corinthians 13 and this is the type of love that we are called to show.

As children of God that stand up for what is right and take our stand upon the Word of God and upon the gospel especially; we are bound to have enemies. Those enemies may at some point want to silence us. They may work to marginalize us. They could be hostile towards us in every way imaginable and Jesus tells us to surprise them with love. This command is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. Yes, it is love that will save our world and our civilization, love even for enemies. Hate for hate only intensifies the existence of hate and evil in the universe. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil and inject within the very structure of the universe that strong and powerful element of love.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHO ARE OUR ENEMIES?

5. **Those who persecute us:** The first interpretation of enemy was made by Jesus when he said *"But I tell you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you"*. So clearly by "enemy" he means people who oppose you and try to hurt you (Matt. 5:44).
6. **The evil and unrighteous:** These are groups of persons who defy the laws of God. They resist his will. They do not submit to his authority (Matt. 5:45).
7. **Those who do not love us and are not our Christian brothers:** The point here is that we should not stop loving because the person does things that offend or dishonor us (Matt. 5:46-47).

REASONS WE SHOULD LOVE OUR ENEMIES

1. **It is a command from God:** Jesus said in our text *"Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you"* (Luke 6:27; Prov. 25:21; 1 John 4:7).
2. **God loved us first:** It was when we were still God's enemies (by our inherited Adamic nature of sin) that He demonstrated His love for us. Through Jesus God's love brought salvation to us (Rom. 5:8,10; 1 John 4:10-11).
3. **Hate intensifies hate:** Hate for hate only increases the existence of hate and evil in the universe. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate and evil. There is no gain in hate (Luke 6:32-34).
4. **Hate distorts the personality of the hater:** Hate makes you do irrational things. You cannot see, think, walk or act straight when you hate. Your vision is distorted, so are your actions too (1 Sam 24:1-2; Gen 4:2-8).
5. **Love has a redemptive power:** Love has the power to pull men from the kingdom of darkness into the marvelous great light of God (Gal. 2:20; John 3:16; Rom 5:10).

WAYS TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES

The following are pointers that will steer us in the right direction towards loving our enemies:

1. **Greet them:** One step of loving our enemies is greeting them graciously when we see them. Some of us are quite adept at looking the other way, ducking into a room, crossing the street, or even using Caller ID to keep from greeting people we don't like. But if we only greet our friends, what benefit is that? Do not even sinners greet each other? (Matt. 5:46-47; Luke 6:32-35).
2. **Disarm them:** We disarm them by doing the very thing they least expect. We can do this by speaking well of them when no one expects it (Exo. 23:4-5; Matt. 5:44; Prov. 24:17).
3. **Show them kindness:** This means seeing beyond your pain and their meanness to their humanity. It also means seeing them as people made in the image of God first, and then understanding that there is something twisted inside that causes them to do what they do. This also promotes their healing (Matt. 5:44; Prov. 25:21; Luke 6:27).
4. **Refuse to Speak Evil of Them:** That is what Jesus meant when he said, *"Bless those who curse you"* It means you choose not to think evil thoughts, and you refuse to speak evil words against those who have wronged you, even when you're ordinarily supposed to (Luke 6:28; Rom 12:14).
5. **Thank God for them:** Because you believe in the sovereignty of God, you must believe that your enemies are sent to you with God's permission. Behind your enemies stands the hand of God. God will never permit it if he did not intend to bring something good out of it. Their negative comments can help you make a breakthrough. That your enemy could be a gift from God (Job 1:9-12; 2:1-7; Prov. 16:7; Gen. 50:20).
6. **Pray for them:** Jesus in His teachings says, *"Pray for them which despitefully use you"*. Praying for our enemies attracts blessings from God (Matt. 5:44; Job 42:10).

7. **Ask God to bless them:** The greater the hurt, the greater the potential blessing that will come when we forgive from the heart and by God's grace bless those who curse us (Luke 5:28; Rom. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:9).

REWARD FOR LOVING OUR ENEMIES

1. **The joy of their salvation:** There is no greater reward than to see anyone come to know Jesus but sometimes it is even sweeter when it was someone who had been your enemy. There is also joy in heaven over the repentance of any sinner (Luke 15:7,10; Col. 1:24).
2. **Forgiveness Breeds Freedom:** In loving our enemies, we will be set free from the burdens of hatred, malice and unforgiveness. God's grace softens our heart so forgiveness and healing can begin. Forgiveness eventually leads to total freedom, especially the one who forgave (Luke 6:37; Matt. 6:14-15).
3. **Peace and Prosperity:** Hatred fosters war and destruction but love promotes peace, unity and eventually prosperity (Jer. 29:7).
4. **Spiritual growth and strength:** Loving our enemies helps us grow and develop spiritually (Gal. 5:22).
5. **Good health:** A heart filled with love ensures healthy systems with an even pulse, good digestion and an ability to sleep soundly (Prov. 3:8; James 5:15; Psalm 4:8).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Jesus is calling us to imitate the love of the Father in how we interact with everyone, from family and friends, to fellow believers, and even to strangers and our enemies. He calls us to love, to do good, to lend with no strings attached. God is the standard of how we are to love others, and God's love is perfect. As beloved children of God we are called to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. There is not a time when we are more like our Heavenly Father than when we love our enemies unconditionally.

PRAYER

Lord, there are people who have hurt me in my life. Please help me to respond with your heart of forgiveness. Help me to pray for them and ask you to bless them as you command. You forgave me when I hurt you and when my sins put you on the cross. Please help me to do the same when others hurt me, in Jesus' name Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2022

THEME: REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT

TOPIC: JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

TEXT: AMOS 5:6-24

MEMORY VERSE: AMOS 5:12 *"For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts" (NIV).*

INTRODUCTION

The everyday use of justice usually reflects a couple of ideas. One has to do with fairness- justice consists of fair treatment for people. The other idea has to do with consequences – justice also means that people get what they deserve for their actions, whether good or bad. But the Biblical concept of justice goes beyond fairness and equal treatment. Justice biblically, is righteousness enacted. The righteous are those who are “right with God, and therefore committed to putting right all other relationships”. So, in the Bible, justice fundamentally has to do with right and good relationships. It describes conditions in which people flourish in right relationships with God and with each other. This means that God’s justice is not simply a matter of formal fairness or equality, Psalms 103 and 130, among others, demonstrate that to God justice is more flexible, personal, and compassionate than it would be if it were simply a set of rules and punishments. As those psalms indicate, God does not deal with us as our wrongdoing deserves. God pursues justice within a context of grace for those who are wronged and for those who are wrongdoers. In Jesus’s code, to love is to be just. To be just is to love. And when we claim to follow Jesus, we are disciples of justice. Jesus’ mission on earth in his time is our mission on earth in our time.

STUDY OUTLINE

JUSTICE EXEMPLIFIED BY JESUS

9. **Jesus advocated for the poor:** Jesus taught that it is more blessed to give to those who may not be able to repay than to the wealthy (Luke 14:12-14; Matthew 25:31-46).
10. **Jesus advocated for the privileged:** In His encounter with the rich ruler and Nicodemus, Jesus showed us that the greatest spiritual vulnerability for all people is self-sufficiency. Although they did not see it at the time, Jesus wanted to free them from the force (wealth and power) that oppressed them (Luke 18:18-27; John 3:1-16).
11. **Jesus released the oppressed:** On the cross, Jesus bore our responsibilities as perpetrator as well as our trauma as victim. On the cross, Jesus saved both perpetrator and victim; and in the resurrection both are given true life. (Isaiah 53: 4-5; Mark 1:21-26; Luke 4:16-21).
12. **Jesus showed justice for those who have offended:** On the cross, Jesus bore the judgment we deserved. The cross condemns who we are and what we do when we rebel against God and his good order for others and for ourselves. At the same time, the cross rescues us from despair and hopelessness. No wrongdoer is beyond God’s forgiveness and love (Col. 2:13-14; Matt.5:23-25).

WAYS TO SHOW JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

1. **Show compassion to the outcasts:** Jesus in His teachings illustrated the need for showing compassion to the outcasts when he healed the lepers and after His resurrection appeared to one who was once demon possessed (Luke 17:11-14; Mark 5:25-29; Matt. 8:1-3).
2. **Protest against gender discrimination:** Jesus included women in His life when other people of influence excluded them. This teaches us to bestow dignity on the female gender in a cultural context where women are repressed and assumed to be naturally inferior (Luke 10:38-42; John 20:11-18).
3. **Embrace the excluded:** God’s design for our humanity is graced with divine presence that makes us sacred and accessible for people everywhere. This is evident in the way Jesus treated children, lepers, and women etc. (Luke 18:15-17).
4. **Reject racism:** God’s vision for a just creation sees people in right relationships with each other. As people who are forgiven and loved, God enables us to live right and participate in making life right with others. (John 4:25-27).
5. **Dignify second-class citizens:** All people are chosen and loved by God. Jesus’ parable of the good Samaritan defeated the notion that God loves one race or class more than another (Luke 10:25-37).
6. **Be willing to put your acclaimed class aside:** Rather than distancing ourselves from sinners, we are called to recruit and welcome them into our presence. We should be cultural boundary breakers (Luke 19:1-10; Matt. 9:9-13; Luke 7:34-50).
7. **Confront the arrogant:** The ultimate expression of arrogance is self-righteousness. In our society where discrimination and oppression are prevalent, we are called to live to liberate just as Jesus did (Matt. 23:1-3; 23-28).
8. **Protect the sojourners:** This simply means that we ought to be gracious, hospitable and warm people to travelers because we also are sojourners that belong to the kingdom of heaven and not of this world (Exo. 22:21; 23:9).

9. **Defend the widows and orphans:** God says, “If you don’t care about widows, I’ll make your wife a widow. If you don’t care about the fatherless, I’ll make your children fatherless.” That’s how much God hears the cry of the wronged. He wants us to look for ways to love and help widows and orphans. (Exo. 22:22-24).

REWARD FOR SHOWING JUSTICE FOR THE POOR

1. **Abundance:** He who gives to the poor will lack nothing (Prov. 28:27^a).
2. **Deliverance and preservation:** Those that care for the poor, enjoy deliverance and preservation from God in times of trouble (Psa. 41:1-2).
3. **Healing and strength:** There is an assurance of strength and healing for those who consider the poor (Psa. 41:3).
4. **Eternal life and reward:** The Scriptures emphasizes the need to show kindness to the poor and needy, for although they may not be able to repay kindness shown to them, the reward will be received at the resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:14; Rom. 6:23^b).

CONSEQUENCES OF PERVERTING JUSTICE

9. **Separation from God:** Oppressing the poor, hinders answers to prayers and leads to total separation from God (Amos 5:21-23; Isa. 59:2).
10. **Weeping and gnashing of teeth:** Oppressing the poor attracts God’s anger and this results in hardship, unfruitfulness and subsequently wailing and gnashing of teeth (Amos 5:16).
11. **Famine and poverty:** “He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich both come to poverty” (Prov. 22:16; 28:3 NIV; Amos 5:17).
12. **Captivity:** Oppressing the poor results in captivity, exile and desolation (Amos 5:11).
13. **Generational curses:** Whatsoever a man sows that he shall reap (Gal.6:7-8; Deut. 27:18-19 &25).
14. **Death and eternal damnation:** Those who turn a blind eye to the sufferings of the poor are doomed to eternal damnation and death (Matt 26:52; Matt. 25:41-45; Rom. 6:23^a).

CONCLUSION

Justice is a quality of God’s divine nature. It is integral to who God is and what God does. God is just, so He acts justly in the world and in our lives. The immediate goal for the church in its response to wrongdoing may be to restore order and safety. This goal is good. Yet, the deeper, long-term goal for the church is to achieve justice and love for victims, offenders, and the church itself. For we can confidently say that the God who gave His only begotten Son on the cross to reconcile and restore all things in heaven and earth to Himself will be satisfied with nothing less than true justice such as only He gives.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me to show justice as you did and loved me even when I was in sin. Teach me to show justice with love, grace and compassion, in Jesus’ name Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2022

THEME: REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT

TOPIC: CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS

TEXT: LUKE 8:26-39

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 8:39 *"Return to thine own house and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The goodness of God is not only an attribute of God but a foundational truth every Christian should realize and also embrace. The goodness of God may be viewed as one facet of His glorious nature and character and also the overall summation of His nature and character. You cannot have goodness without God, just as you cannot have God without goodness. According to the Scriptures in Matthew 19:17 God alone is good. God is the source of everything that is good. When something good happens to you, what do you do? Most people tell someone. They might write a tweet, share something on Facebook, send a WhatsApp, no matter how you do it; you let other people know when something happens in your life. God built you that way. He made you to share and have relationships with other people. Many times, when it comes to something that God did in our lives, we often keep silent. We might be afraid that other people will think we are weird or just feel unsure of how to share what God does for us with others. We need to do more about sharing God's love with others. We need to step out in faith and testify all that God has done in our lives and what God can do for others. We need to be bold about God's kingdom. Let God speak through you to encourage others so that they can get to know God too. If God has done something really amazing in your life, do not keep it a secret. Step out of your comfort zone and share what God has done for you. You never know who might get encouraged because you were not afraid to tell someone.

STUDY OUTLINE

REASONS TO CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS

4. **It is God's will:** Jesus emphasized the need for sharing God's goodness with others when He instructed the demon possessed man to go and share with his brethren God's greatness towards him (1Thess. 5:16-18; Luke 8:39).
5. **It is the gift of life:** The fact that there is breath in us is reason enough to celebrate God's goodness. Remember, the dead cannot praise the Lord; so, let us, the living praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6; 63:4; Isa. 38:18-19).
6. **Answers to prayers:** When God answers our prayers, we are obliged to celebrate Him. This paves way for more answers to our prayers (Psalm 34:4 NIV).
7. We were created for God's glory, and celebrating His goodness returns all glory to Him (Isaiah 48:9-11; 43:7).
8. **The gift of righteousness:** God's goodness towards us is so great that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us and called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9; Psalm 35:28; 71:23-24).
9. **His love and mercy:** By the mercies of God that we are not consumed; they are new each morning (Lam. 22-23; Psalm 103:4; 63:3).
10. **His counsel and guidance:** It is God's goodness that ensures His guidance and counsel for us even when we stray. His counsel stands forever (Psalm 16:7-8; 33:11).

STEPS TOWARDS CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

1. **See and know that God is good:** This is evident in the fact that He created us, provides for and redeemed us (Psalm 34:8; 84:11; Eph.1:7).
2. **Remember His goodness to His people:** Since the beginning of time, God has masterfully worked everything out for us. He loved us so much that He sent Jesus so that we could have forgiveness for our sins and be reconciled to Him (John 3:16; Rom. 8:28).
3. **Sing praises of His goodness:** When we remember His goodness and it is constantly in our thoughts, we cannot help but burst out in praises to Him. We can sing praise in corporate worship, private moments or by writing down all the reasons God is good (Psalm 150; 34:1-3).
4. **Share His Goodness:** We can share God's goodness by telling others what He has done for us. We should not be afraid to share about how good God is and what He is doing in our lives. This may serve as encouragement to others in the same or similar situations (Heb.10:25; 1 Chron.16:8; Psalm 107:2).

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

1. **God's anger:** God is a jealous God. He cannot share His glory with anyone. The wrath of God is revealed on all unrighteousness (Isa. 42:8; Rom. 1:18; Exo. 34:14).
2. You will be given over to dishonorable passions (Rom 1:26).
3. You will be given over to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:28).
4. **Death and eternal damnation:** The wages of sin is death and eternity in the pit of hell (Rom. 6:23; Matt 25:46; Prov. 10:16).

CONCLUSION

God is good! That is as true a statement as God is love. It is one of His attributes. It is not the nature of God not to be good. He cannot change from being good. God never has a bad day when He withholds His goodness from His people. Even to those who are disobedient, He continues to show His goodness. Everything stems from God's goodness to us. The challenge to us today is to think about all the ways that God has been good to us. Write them down and treasure them in our hearts. Let our hearts sing praises for His goodness. We should also think how we can share God's goodness with others. Our goal should be striving towards glorifying God through our lives and sharing with as many people as we can about God's goodness.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank You so much for all You have done for me. Each day I have blessings from you, in my very breath, beautiful scenery, sun, moon, and the stars. Your goodness has led me to repentance, and I want the same for others. Help me to share this goodness with others and bring them to repentance in Jesus' name, Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

THEME: ACHIEVING EVERLASTING SUCCESS

Success means the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. As humans on earth, it is essential to have needs and goals that we wish to achieve. Most at times the minor needs that we can achieve as humans created by God, we bother God about them. Nevertheless, He has given us the power to make success through His words in the Bible. Let us not forget that achieving everlasting success starts from leaving a good heritage here on earth, while departing into the afterlife. Hence it is essential we study through the process of achieving everlasting success here on earth and partaking in the overall goal of Heaven. Below are few topics that elaborate the pathway to everlasting success.

- ❖ **Genuine Repentance:** Genuine repentance means a commitment to a personal change in thought and life. The basis of our study revolves on thinking deep on your previous acts, speeches, decisions, and figure out if you feel really sorry for the bad things you have done. Once you sincerely repent, you cut total ties with such act and make a final decision to focus only on the acts of good as God has directed. In understanding and achieving genuine repentance, we shall consider the following: Steps to true repentance; Attributes of a genuine repentance; Dangers of unrepentance; and the benefits of genuine repentance. In order to resume our pursuit towards everlasting success, we need to cleanse ourselves and make sincere peace with God. It is essential to confess all our sins to God and be made whole.
- ❖ **Strive for the Kingdom:** To strive means to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something. *“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able”* (Luke 13:24). We have to work, take it as a task, rehearse it and put our best into being partakers of the kingdom of God. He emphasized on how sad and horrible it would feel for us to see our fellows get in and find ourselves as castaways from the kingdom. God forbids. Below are the study outlines to understanding how to strive for the Kingdom: How can we enter the Kingdom of God; Qualities that disqualify entrance to the Kingdom of God; Benefits of attaining citizenship in the Kingdom of God. Affirming citizenship in the kingdom of God is guaranteed only through Jesus Christ His Son.
- ❖ **The Purpose of God’s call:** The word “call” is used most often to refer to God’s initiative to bring people to Christ and to participate in His redemptive works in the world. We must seek God’s face to enlighten and grant us wisdom and understanding in various sectors of our life which includes the intellectual, emotional and willingness to work. The study outline will help to understanding the purpose of God’s call: What is the Purpose of God’s calling; Various ways God calls us; Importance of answering God’s call; Dangers of refusing God’s call; Reasons why we reject God’s call. The teachings of Jesus state: *you must be born again to enter heaven*. The teachings of life state we must die to get to heaven. Since we have the tendency of going to our maker at any point in time, let us then focus more on God’s call.
- ❖ **The Godly Businessman:** There are many businesspeople who say they are Christian businessmen, but very often they only want to use their Christianity to their own advantage. In reality, when it comes to dollars and Naira and the bottom prices of goods and services, they revert to being businesspeople first. We want to be a company where we are Christians first, before we are businesspeople, where biblical values, godly principles and the church are non-negotiables. The question is, do the values in our businesses represent the Bible and Christian principles? We shall discuss further this topic under the following outlines: Principles That Distinguish Godly Businesses; Steps to Godly Business; Examples of Biblical Businessmen; Ways the Church Can Engage in Business. We don’t live in this world to solely fulfill our earthly desires, but also for eternity. It clearly means that whatever environment we interact in we have to handle ourselves as per the Christian principles, be it in business or not. The Christian lifestyle, therefore, comes about and intervene in business to control and even help us achieve our earthly living and Everlasting life.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 6TH MARCH 2022

THEME: ACHIEVING EVERLASTING SUCCESS

TOPIC: GENUINE REPENTANCE

TEXT: LUKE 10:7-24

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 10:20 *"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven"* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

Genuine repentance means a commitment to a personal change in thought and life. During genuine repentance, you ought to feel a deep sense of regret, sorry and guilt from a previous act. Most of the times we barely just utter the words of apology even when we are not sincerely sorry. The basis of our study revolves on thinking deep on your previous acts, speeches, decisions and figure out if you feel sorry for the bad things you have done. Once you sincerely repent, you cut total ties with such act and make a final decision to focus only on good behaviours as God demands.

STUDY OUTLINE

STEPS TO TRUE REPENTANCE

1. Fully acknowledge and confess your sin (Psalms 51:3-4; 2 Samuel 12:13^a).
2. You must have true remorse for the wrong committed and the pain caused (2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 15:18)
3. There must be commitment never to repeat the sinful act regardless of the temptations or situation (Philip. 3:8)
4. Make restitution as much as you can, or do what you can to apologize to those you offended (Luke 19:8)
5. Boldly claim the promises of Grace (Hebrews 4:16).
6. Invite other brethren as appropriate to help intercede on your behalf (James 5:16).

ATTRIBUTES OF GENUINE REPENTANCE

1. Real repentance is typically accompanied by transparent living (Luke 19:8-9; Matt. 3:8).
2. It provokes the zeal to win soul for Christ (John 4:28-30)
3. Once genuine repentance occurs, we notice and enjoy the fresh feeling of joy and forgiveness (1 Peter 1:8; Psalms 51:12).
4. There is deep desire to know God's will and keep His commandment (1 John 2:3-4; Psalm 1:1-2).
5. There should be expression of true love (1 John 4:8).

BENEFITS OF GENUINE REPENTANCE

1. True repentance makes you a beloved of God and gets you closer to His promises and blessings (3 John 2; Prov 28:10; Proverbs 2:21).
2. Repentance does not only remove the darkness of sins, but it also replaces the darkness with light (Eph. 5:8; John 1:4-5; 2 Cor. 4:6).
3. It guarantees security (Luke 10:19; Proverbs 18:10; Isaiah 54:17)
4. Absolute peace is assured (Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 29:11)
5. True repentance reinstates a new spark of joy and happiness (1 Peter 1:7-8; Luke 6:23).
6. You enjoy prosperity (3 John 2; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 9:8)

DANGERS OF UNREPENTANCE

1. Every sin will weaken the soul and deprive it of its comfort and peace (Romans 6:12; Proverb 10:29).
2. Unrepentance disconnects one from God (Proverbs 11:20; Isaiah 59:1-2)
3. A sinful heart grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).
4. Sin steals the time, attention, and affection that we need to maintain our communion with God (Jer. 5:25).
5. Unrepentance leads to eternal death (Romans 6:23).

CONCLUSION

Often times, we seek for mercy and pardon, but at rare occasions do we genuinely repent and turn from our sins. This is a major challenge in Christianity; everyone forgets that repentance comes from a sober and sorry heart. Let us reflect on our actions and plead for mercy. God is merciful enough to forgive us. This is truly the reflection of the Season.

PRAYER

Forgive me lord for I have sinned. Help me to get over the bondage of my sinful lusts in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 13TH MARCH 2022

THEME: ACHIEVING EVERLASTING SUCCESS

TOPIC: STRIVE FOR THE KINGDOM

TEXT: LUKE 13:18-END

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 13:24 *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

To strive means making great efforts to achieve or obtain something. In Luke chapter 13 verse 24, Jesus admonish that we should endeavor to task ourselves, rehearse it, and put our best into being partakers of the kingdom of God. He emphasized on how sad and horrible it would feel for us to see our fellows get in and find ourselves as castaways from the kingdom. God forbid! Our life is temporary; hence this should be our motivation to strive and do our best to partake in the heavenly induction and not to become castaways. To enter the kingdom of God is not just a walk over.

STUDY OUTLINE

HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. You must be born again (John 3:3)
2. Through Focusing on God: We do this by seeking intentionally, energetically and consistently to live under God's reign in every aspect of life (Matthew 6:33)
3. Pray for Grace to be saved through faith. It's not by might or physical strength (Eph 2:8-9)
4. Work to be diligent in God's service so you can find peace (2 Peter 3:14).
5. Render reasonable service to God (Romans 12:1-2)
6. Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

BEHAVIOURS THAT DISQUALIFY ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. Disobedience (1 Samuel 15:22; Revelations 3:16)
2. Lack of compassion and giving (Matthew 25:41-46)
3. Works of flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)
4. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31)
5. Reprobate mind (Romans 8:26-32; 2 Corinthians 13:5)

BENEFITS OF ATTAINING CITIZENSHIP INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD

For us to be citizens of the Lord's kingdom, we enjoy various benefits.

1. We receive eternal life (1 John 2:25)
2. Our sins are forgiven (Eph 4:32)
3. We become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10)
4. We receive divine healing and deliverance (1 Peter 2:24; Psalms 107:20)
5. The Holy Spirit empowers and fills us (Luke 11:13)
6. Prosperity (Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 3:21; Psalm 112:3)

CONCLUSION

Our earthly existence is limited and temporary, the major struggle is eternity. Affirming citizenship in the kingdom of God is guaranteed only through Jesus Christ his son. We have to emulate his life of peace and righteousness to be able to enjoy eternal rest with God.

PRAYER

**Help and guide me oh Lord, that at the end of my earthly sojourn I won't miss eternal life, in Jesus name.
Amen**

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 20TH MARCH 2022

THEME: ACHIEVING EVERLASTING SUCCESS

TOPIC: THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S CALL

TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:15-END

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 1:18 *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints"* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The word "call" is used most often to refer to God's initiative to bring people to Christ and to participate in his redemptive works in the world. God wants us to know the reason to his calling, the riches of the glory of his inheritance and the greatness of his might. In order for us to know these mysteries, we must seek God's enlightenment. In verse 7 of our text, it details that God would give us "a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the true knowledge of him". Knowing God's purpose for our lives, is not just a souvenir for believing in Jesus Christ his son. We must seek God's face to enlighten and grant us wisdom and understanding in various sectors of our life which includes the intellectual, emotional and willingness to work.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR GOD'S CALLING?

1. God has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1Peter 2:9).
2. God has a diverse means and purpose for calling every human being, but the overall reason is to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
3. God has called us unto his glory and with the purpose of us entering into the glory of his kingdom (2 Peters 1:3; Romans 8:30).
4. His purpose is not only to save us from sin, but also to regenerate, place us into Christ to enjoy his blessings and become God's vessel for testimony (2 Timothy 1:9-10).
5. God calls us to belong to Christ in every area of our lives (Colossians 3:17).
6. God has called us to win souls (2 Corinthians 5:18-19; John 15:16).

VARIOUS MEANS GOD CALLS US

1. Through the gospel of Jesus Christ, His goodness, astonishing death and sacrifice to rescue us from our sin and mortality (2 Thessalonians 2:14, Romans 10:13-15).
2. God has used the magnificent beauty of His creation here on earth to call us to Him (Romans 1:19-20).
3. God uses our circumstances to call us into His service, using our specific gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11).
4. God calls us through our talents and skills to make impart in the kingdom service (Exodus 35:30-35; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

IMPORTANCE OF ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

1. As we do not know when our lives will end, we need to answer God's call now (Isaiah 6:8; Romans 13:11).
2. Answering God's call enriches our coast and rewards us with multiple doors for blessings, healing and deliverance (Luke 5:4-7).

DANGERS OF REFUSING GOD'S CALL

1. It predisposes you to the wrath of God, bringing you calamity (Jonah 1:3-4).

2. Enemies will rise up against you and cause you to be hurt or defeated (Deuteronomy 28:25).
3. Your stubbornness would cause other people to suffer (Jonah 1:4-5).

REASONS WHY PEOPLE CAN REJECT GOD'S CALL

1. Fear of social reprisal, criticism, rejection and persecution (2 Tim 3:11; Matt 5:11; 44)
2. Fear of being unqualified (Jeremiah 1:6-7; Exodus 3:11)
3. The urge and love for sin (2 Timothy 4:10; Matthew 24:12)
4. Stubbornness (Hebrews 3:7-11; Jonah 1:1-3)
5. The pursuit and love for material possessions tends to push our attention from God's business because we always make excuses and claims for busy schedules (Luke 14:18-20; Mark 10:21-22).

CONCLUSION

If today we die and exit this earth, and we are called to appear in the presence of the Almighty God, are we going to have any excuses to give? Unraveled curiosity is what makes death so interesting because, although we yawn to sleep, death still finds a means to crawl in and take us by surprise. The teaching of Jesus states: you must be born again to enter heaven and the teachings of life states we must die to also get to heaven.

PRAYER

Help me Lord, to hear your call; give me the grace to follow up my calling; the understanding to know your purpose, and the grace to run from sin; In Jesus name. Amen

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 27TH MARCH 2022

THEME: ACHIEVING EVERLASTING SUCCESS

TOPIC: THE GODLY BUSINESSMAN

TEXT: EXODUS 2:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: EXODUS 2:9 *“And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child and nursed it.”* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

Business is any activity or enterprise entered into for profit making by producing, buying and selling products. Our text in Verse 7 shows how business-inclined Moses' sister was, when conversing with Pharaoh's daughter. She used the professional term nurse because she understood that it would result into bargain and financial benefits for the mother and also secure protection for the growth of her baby brother. In Verse 8-9 Pharaoh's daughter makes reference to paying up her wages as a nurse. These facets are the fundamental blocks that represent the business world today. Although we don't live in this world to solely fulfill our earthly desire but also for eternity. It clearly means that whatever environment we interact in we have to handle ourselves with the Christian principles be it in business or not. The business and church are very complementary. The business can help the church in many ways, while the godly values and principles learned and preached in church can be applied to the business.

STUDY OUTLINE

PRINCIPLES THAT DISTINGUISH GODLY BUSINESSES

1. **Integrity:** Integrity is about Christ-centered living. It is about doing what is right rather than what is expedient. The organization with integrity will make its business decisions based on the standards and principles of God's righteousness, truth, and honesty (Proverbs 10:9, Proverbs 11:1; Exodus 16:11).
2. **Commitment to Excellence:** An organization whose goal is to glorify God must always commit to excellence in its services and products (Titus 3:8).
3. **Love and Commitment to Customers and Coworkers:** A Christian business should provide fair compensation, performance recognition, and growth opportunities to all (Matthew 7:12).
4. **Focus on the Business and Policy:** The priority of a godly businessman is to stay focused on those policies and practices that reflect trust, respect and regard for what is right in God's sight (Psalm 112:1-2).
5. **Associate with Respect:** The godly should treat all customers with respect, especially those who are not of the same faith so that they would see God in your life (Romans 12:9-11).
6. **Detests Excess Profit:** The Word of God refutes those who practice usury, swindle their neighbors, or causes them harm. They are not among the redeemed but listed as the cursed (Ezekiel 18:8; Proverbs 28:8).

STEPS TO GODLY BUSINESS

1. **Be diligent and not lazy:** To be diligent entails having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties (Proverbs 10:4; Proverbs 31:27).

2. **Practice humility:** As Christians, we are instructed to be humble in our daily lives, and this includes our work (Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 11:2).

3. **Be a go-giver and not a go-getter:** Society teaches us to hustle and to care about ourselves and nuclear families alone leaving everyone around us to be their own responsibilities and business. God says we should be very generous and give to those around us (Proverbs 11:25; Luke 6:38).

4. **Make an honest living:** Do not cheat, lie to, or scam people out of their money (Proverbs 16:8; Proverbs 13:11).

5. **Work to be bold:** God wants us to be bold in our faith as well as our business dealings (Proverbs 28:1, Proverbs 22:29).

WAYS THE CHURCH CAN ENGAGE IN BUSINESS

There is no better way to mobilize the People of God for the works of their ministry than through their local church.

1. Organizing a market-place seminar and orientation program hosted by business professionals, for the members to always get enlightened on making smart business decisions (Proverbs 22:29, Exodus 35:35)

2. Partnering with or starting little business enterprises where the out of job members can gain employment and meet personal needs (Proverbs 16:8; James 2:14-16).

3. Educating the youths and elderly on the values of setting up an enterprise (Ecclesiastes 9:10; James 2:26).

4. The church can also lend out and borrow to entrepreneurs to support their business and sources of livelihood (Matthew 5:42, Psalms 112:5)

EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL BUSINESSMEN

Studying businessmen in the Bible can provide a source of insight and inspiration regarding how to conduct business and use your finances to glorify God.

1. **Abraham:** He was wealthy with livestock, gold, silver and trained men (Genesis 13:2; 24:34-35).

2. **King Solomon:** He desired wisdom from God and was blessed with much more (1Kings 10:23).

3. **Apostle Paul:** He was in the business of making and selling tents (Acts 18:3).

CONCLUSION

Church growth doesn't just mean a rise in tithing, attendance, or members' donations. Growth can be as simple as watching congregation members who engage in the church grow in their business, financial resources and in Christ. A church that ensures financial stability and growth for all its members would surely turn into a community that flows with milk and honey.

PRAYERS

Help me oh Lord to have the wisdom and understanding to make money and meet needs in Jesus' name Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

THEME: THE POWER OF FAITH

The desire to please the father is unarguably the major concern of any good son. In like manner, and as believers, our highest goal is to please God. This is why the Bible trajectory from Genesis down to Revelation is filled with stories of men who have walked to pleased God. This is meant to serve as a guide to this, and generations yet unborn on the ways of God. The Bible was very clear on the place of faith in man-God relationship. “*Without faith it is impossible to please God*”. The subject of faith, its dynamics, dangers of lack thereof, and other insights on how we can maximize our faith comes with priceless lessons. In order to drive the great lessons, this month’s study shall be subdivided into the following modules as detailed below:

- ❖ **LIVING ABOVE FEAR:** Basically, every man alive has one fear or the other. Fear can be negative or positive. This module shall consider strictly, the negative aspect of fear as a tool of the enemy to oppress and to keep men in perpetual bondage. We shall expose this wicked device of the enemy, trusting God to bring illumination to our spirit and cause liberation from this satanic force that tears down the walls of our belief. We live in a fear-ruled world, a world dominated by fear caused by the activities and the attacks of the devil. The same way God works with faith, the enemy works with fear. There are different kinds of fear: fear of death; fear of failure; fear of the unknown; fear of prevalence of negative predictions. Fear is a spirit from the devil. However, God through the help of the Holy Ghost has given us the spirit of boldness and of sound mind to call on God as our Father.
- ❖ **FAITH AT WORK:** The word of God made very clear, the place of work in our Christian faith: “*Faith without work is dead*”. Unfortunately, our generation believes that it takes only claiming of prophetic declarations and positive confessions to receive from God. While this is a dimension of work, it is definitely not the only requirement to access the full dividend of our faith. Many believers are yet to enter into God’s promises for their lives simply because their faith have not been put to work. This module examines the meaning of work of faith. It also explores the need, and guides believers on how to put their faith to work in order to achieve their desired result and receive their much-anticipated testimony.
- ❖ **CALLED TO BEAR WITNESS:** Faith in God is a journey. The moment we give our lives to Christ, we become a part of the family of the sons of God; we are then engrafted into the army of God. As we advance, we are expected to grow in ranks as we increase in faith. The peak of this journey is at the point when we begin to bear fruits for the kingdom by bearing witness to our faith and multiplying the kingdom of God. Jesus promised his disciples to make them fishers of men. This is the primary objective of our faith – that while we journey with God, we will get to the point where we begin to look like God. At this point, heaven desires to find expression through our lives. Then and only then, will our lives bear true witness to our faith.
- ❖ **DANGERS OF LACK OF FAITH:** Faith is an active trust in God and his power and a belief that what he says is the truth. It is that absolute confidence in the word of God irrespective of the circumstances before you. As believers, the enemy constantly throws fiery darts at us with the intent to destabilize our foundation of faith and cause us to lose faith in God. Also, many times, when we are passing through temptations, difficult trials, delays in answered prayers and life challenges, it is not because God is not able; it is rather because God wants us to be exposed to the devices of the enemy and that our faith be tested. The grave dangers of lack of faith and how to build our faith are exposed on this module with the hope to strengthen the faith of believers and encourage absolute dependence on God

It is our belief therefore that as you study this manual; the Holy Spirit will work with your spirit to increase our faith level till we come to the full and perfect image of the Father in Jesus mighty name. Amen

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 3RD APRIL 2022

THEME: THE POWER OF FAITH

TOPIC: LIVING ABOVE FEAR

TEXT: LUKE 12:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 12:4 *"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The Subject of Faith is the major preoccupation of the Bible. The journey from Genesis to Revelation is filled with stories of men and women that walked with God in different times and in different dimensions. The common fact one can easily deduce from the trajectory of these men's life, is their unwavering faith in God especially during difficult situations, temptations, trials and life-threatening adversities. There was a powerful force that made them dare the impossible, challenge principalities, and overcome the powers of the enemy (Hebrew 11: 33-34). This supernatural force is the power of faith. The study of the great danger and undue difficulties caused by their lack or loss of faith in God is worth engaging, so as to guide the present generation on the need to repose absolute faith in God.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT THEN IS FAITH?

Faith is the action you take based on the convictions you have about who God is and the integrity of His word. Faith is the force that propels you to act on what God says. The evidence of faith therefore is in what you do with what God says (Hebrews 11:6).

REASONS FOR DOUBT AND LACK OF FAITH

1. **Limited Knowledge of the Word of God:** Many believers still entertain doubts over the extent of the powers of God. Thomas doubted Jesus's resurrection because his knowledge about Jesus is very limited. (John 20:25)
2. **Lack of Encounter:** Encounter is the mother of conviction. Believers will always nurse some levels of doubt until there are specific encounters on those areas. Thomas doubted resurrection because he didn't encounter the resurrected Christ (John 20:24).
3. **Desire for evidence:** Faith is not evidence based but spirit based. Many Christians are limited in faith because they want to see before they believe (John 20:27; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Peter 1:8).
4. **Comparing God to man:** Many people compare the ways of God to the ways of men. Sarah doubted the angels because it is against the law of nature to conceive at her age (Genesis 18:12).
5. **The impossibility mentality:** Till tomorrow some persons still think some things are impossible with God (Matthew 19:26; 2 Kings 7:2).

DANGERS OF LACK OF FAITH

1. **You will Never Please God:** Righteousness through Christ Jesus is a subject of faith. Without faith, our righteousness at its best is a filthy rag (Hebrews 11:6).
2. **Seeking alternatives to God:** A man of faith will never consider any alternative from God in any aspect of life. Sarah resolved to an alternative to God's promise (Genesis 16:3; Exodus 32: 4).
3. **Limitation to God's Power:** Our faith is the propelling force for speedy delivery of our expectations from God Lack of faith therefore, limits God's power in our lives (Matthew 13:58)
4. **Lack of Faith Brings no Glory to God:** Without faith, we can never recognize the work of God. This will lead us to give glory to ourselves and to other things where our faith lies (Daniel 4:30-31)
5. **Leads to death:** To doubt God is to sign up for death. Lot's Wife did not live to see the end of escape from Sodom because she doubted God (Gen 19:26; 2 Kings 7:2).

HOW TO INCREASE FAITH AND GROW ABOVE DOUBT

1. **Hear the Word of God:** The Word of God is the starting point of faith. Make every effort to hear God (Rom.10:17).
2. **Hold God by his Word:** The Word of God is His bond. Understand that God doesn't say a thing without doing it. Has God said anything to you? Hold on to it till he proves it. (Matthew 24:35; 2 Cor 1: 20).
3. **Keep memory of the great works of God:** A good memory of the wonders of God will always help us to fight doubt (Exodus 17:7).
4. **Do not walk by sight:** Let not your faith hinge on what you can see. The physical circumstances might claim otherwise, but whatever God says is the reality. (2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 4:17).

5. **Always remember that nothing is impossible for God:** Stop placing limits on the capabilities of God. If your faith can carry the power in this truth, then all things will be possible. (Mark 9:23; Matthew 19:26).
6. **Exercise Your Faith:** To exercise faith means to put faith to use. We mature in faith over time by consistent use of the power of faith (Hebrews 5:14)

CONCLUSION

The dangers of faithlessness and doubting God can never be over emphasized. The consequences thereof are enormous. There are certain circumstances and events that attack our faith and make us to question the ability of God. Our responsibility is to watch against these satanic subtle devices and to constantly build our faith in God.

PRAYER

Father, help me never to doubt you again. Give me the unwavering faith to stand strong on your word even when all hope is lost, in Jesus' name. Amen

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 10TH APRIL 2022

THEME: THE POWER OF FAITH

TOPIC: FAITH AT WORK

TEXT: MATTHEW 21: 1-17

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 21:6 *"And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them"* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

A work-less faith is a worthless faith. Smith Wigglesworth of blessed memory said, "There is The Acts of The Apostles because the Apostles acted". Have you wondered what would have been the case if all the Apostles did was to have faith with no work to show? Every bit of God we are currently enjoying is because there were men who labored for the faith. It is not enough to profess and declare faith; there is great need to always attach work to faith so as to produce the desired result. Therefore, faith-based work is the proof of faith.

It is gross ignorance mixed with spiritual foolishness that makes men to declare and to claim declarations verbally but fail to work by faith. There is no victory for the lazy. It takes the work of faith to see faith at work.

STUDY OUTLINE

THE WORKS OF FAITH

1. They are real time actions required by faith to produce the manifestations of faith. They are efforts we are required to put in so as to see the effects of our faith (1 Samuel 17: 37-40).
2. The works of faith are the responsibilities placed on us by our faith in order to see the possibilities of God. To every possibility there is a responsibility (John 5:6-8).

HOW TO PUT FAITH TO WORK

1. **Search for the Word of Light:** Make concerted effort to gain deep insight into the Word of light. (Jeremiah 15: 16, Psalms 119:18; Ephesians 1:18).
2. **Live without Fear:** Do not fear or doubt God, rather live above anxiety, worries and unbelief (2 Corinth 10: 3-4).
3. **Practice Continuous Positive Declaration:** Irrespective of the prevailing circumstances speak positively (Numbers 13: 30, 14: 7).
4. **Practice Action by Faith:** To identify your role in God's agenda and make efforts to fulfill it, is the work of faith. (Mark 16: 20, Genesis 12: 1-4, Exodus 14: 21).
5. **Make effort to Keep Faith Alive:** There is a tendency to grow weak and weary especially when our desired outcome is stretched and delays. But in keeping our faith, we must not be weary. (Galatians 6: 9).
6. **Praise before Results:** Don't allow unbelief to make you to lose hope. You can put faith to work by giving thanks before the answered prayers (Rom 4: 20; John 11: 41-42).

KEY AREAS TO APPLY OUR FAITH TO WORK

1. **In our Personal life:** Our faith can be put to work to obtain financial expansion, academic excellence, career advancement, breakthroughs, peace, love, and anything we desire (2 Chronicles 20: 20^b).
2. **In our Relationship with God:** To have a deeper relationship with God, we need to follow God with faith and act on his instructions and directives (Genesis 12: 4).
3. **In our Service to God:** Serving God faithfully is more than verbal confession but requires huge personal sacrifice is required (2 Samuel 24: 24).
4. **In Difficult and Impossible Situations:** Tough situations require tough faith (Daniel 3: 16-18).

WHEN FAITH IS AT WORK

1. **Great Results are Achieved:** There is no limit to what can be achieved when we act on God's word by faith (Exodus 14: 21-23; John 21: 6).
2. **Testimony is Guaranteed:** Even the biggest mountain can be moved by the least measure of faith (Matt. 21: 21).
3. **The Word of God is Fulfilled:** Putting our faith at work goes a long way towards fulfilling God's words in our lives (Matthew 21: 6).
4. **Obedience is Complete:** Our obedience to God is incomplete until we put our faith to work (James 2:21-24).
5. **God is Glorified:** When we put faith to work, the resultant effect is glory to God (Daniel 6: 20-22).

SOME CONSEQUENCES OF FAITH WITHOUT WORK

1. **Difficulties and Challenges:** Many difficulties and challenges we pass through might be avoidable if we put our faith to work (Numbers 21: 5-6).
2. **Lack of Spiritual Growth:** The more we put our faith to work, the more we grow and mature in the spirit (Heb 5:14).
3. **Lack and Poverty:** Kingdom prosperity and abundance answers to work of faith and not just words of faith. (Matthew 25: 25).

SOME BIBLICAL INSTANCES OF FAITH AT WORK

1. **The Apostles:** Without asking questions, the Apostles launched into action many times to achieve outstanding result (Matthew 21:6, John 2: 7-8).
2. **Peter:** He listened to the instructions of Jesus and achieved great result (John 21: 6; Luke 5: 4-6).
3. **The Woman with Issue of Blood:** Her act confirmed her faith, and her faith made her whole (Matthew 9:20).

CONCLUSION

Faith without work is dead, useless, and ineffective. To see the effects of our faith and enjoy the result of our trust in God, real work is needed. The acts of God usually require the move of men. It takes the work of faith to see faith at work and what you don't work at will never work out. Don't sit down and wish heaven and earth, rise henceforth from thy dust of faithlessness, and begin to recreate your world by faith; *"for the Just shall live by faith"*.

PRAYER

Oh Lord, help my unbelief, help me to put my faith to work. Cast away spiritual laziness and give me the grace to act according to your word, in Jesus' name; Amen

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 17TH APRIL 2022

THEME: THE POWER OF FAITH

TOPIC: CALLED TO BEAR WITNESS

TEXT: MATTHEW 28: 1-15

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 28:10 *"Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Easter Sunday is a high point of Christian witnessing. The followers of Christ met an empty tomb a good report of the Saviour about His resurrection. Mary and other women went ahead to witness the message to the disciples. This testimony of the Lord's resurrection became the standard of the great commission. It is neither the healing, miracles nor deliverances we have received or commanded, but at the point where our lives and everything about us bear witness to what we believe. We are meant to journey on the paths of faith, following the course of Jesus until our lives become a testament of the reality of the power of God. The results from our faith are designed to stand as a memorial for generations and become a proof of the faithfulness of God both now and in time to come. Jesus did not conclude his assignment until he raised witnesses for himself, commanding them to preach the good news and bear witness to what they have heard and seen. Be a witness.

STUDY OUTLINE

CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE WITNESS

1. A True witness is Empowered by Personal Conviction (Acts 9: 4-6).
2. A True witness Stands on His Beliefs not Minding Popular Opinion (Matthew 28: 13).
3. In the face of intimidations, threats and oppressions, a true witness never changes his witness (Acts 3: 46).
4. A True witness does not witness for hope of personal gain or recommendations, but for the love of Christ and for eternal gain (1 Cor 9:29).
5. A True witness must Live According to His Message. A True witness is not hypocritical. He does not witness for one and live for the other (Luke 3:8; Matthew 3:8)

WHY WE MUST BEAR WITNESS

1. **Necessity is laid on us to witness:** As a believer, bearing witness to the truth of God's Word is not optional but mandatory. This obligation that requires serious attention (1 Cor. 9: 16; Acts 9:15; Romans 1:16).
2. **It is the proof of our faith:** Our identity in life is tied to the kingdom whose witness we bear. You can't tell if a person is for Christ until he or she bears witness to the truth (Acts 9: 20-22).
3. **For kingdom advancement:** Our witness is a catalyst for the advancement of God's agenda on the earth. It is also a tool that depopulates the kingdom of darkness and increases the kingdom of God (Matt. 24:14, Acts 2:41).
4. **For the fulfillment of purpose:** We are not fulfilling purpose yet, until everything about us mirrors Christ and our lives become a bold pointer that points men to the kingdom of God (Acts 26:16, Acts 22:15)
5. **For Our Eternal Crown:** When we intentionally give our lives to witnessing for the truth, we are securing our place in God's kingdom (2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Peter 5:4)
6. **Blessings:** There are numerous blessings for the true witness (Matthew 19:29; Proverbs 11:30)

HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS

1. **Accept Jesus and believe:** The power to genuinely bear witness is given to us when we believe (John 1:12; Acts 16:30-31).
2. **Feed on the Word:** Give yourself to continuous studying of the word of God that you may grow (Matt. 4:4; 2 Tim 2:15)
3. **Reach out to unbelievers:** We are called to extend the message of God's love to everyone through any means possible and available to us (Ephesians 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:2)
4. **Stand for Christ at all times:** There are lots of circumstances that bring discouragement or cause others to deviate from the truth. Efforts should be made to consistently stand for Christ and his kingdom (Ephesians 6:13-14, Philippians 1:27).
5. **Speak up against evil:** Sincere effort should be made to address the evils in the society (Rom 12:21)
6. **Pray for kingdom advancement:** Through prayer, we can dethrone the kingdom of the enemy and exalt the counsel of Christ. (Matthew 6:10; 2 Corinth. 10:5).

7. **Live an exemplary life:** As the light of the world, we are surrounded by a great crowd, we must live a life that corresponds to the witness we bear (Hebrews 12:1; Act 11:26)

SOME CHANNELS FOR BEARING WITNESS FOR CHRIST

1. Through healthy interpersonal relationship (Acts 8:29-31)
2. Leadership and Influence (2 Cor 3:2-3)
3. Mentorship and Discipleship (1 Timothy 1:1-2)
4. Social Media: The use of available modern technology should be adopted for a wider publicity (Luke 5:3)
5. Outreaches: The use of Tracts, hand bills, food items, clothing materials etc. (Matt. 25:35-36)
6. Miracles (Acts 3:8-9)
7. Music, Word ministrations, and Testimonies. Through these instrumentalities souls can be won (1 Sam. 2:1; Luke 8:3; Matt. 11:4-5).

CONCLUSION

From our memory verse, we saw that the first commandment Jesus gave when he resurrected was for them to bear witness. The matter is very important, and he had to address it first. Believing and having faith in the resurrected Christ and in the power of God is not enough. We must speak about it and bear witness. As believers, bearing witness to the light is not an option. The way we cannot do without food, same can be said of a believer and bearing witness. It is through witnessing that we bear fruit for the kingdom. When we don't bear witness, we are not useful.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to bear witness and bring souls to your kingdom with my life, my finances, my time, and my heart; in Jesus' name Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 24TH APRIL 2022

THEME: THE POWER OF FAITH

TOPIC: DANGERS OF LACK OF FAITH

TEXT: JOHN 6: 16-21

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 6:19 *"So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid."* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

Every time fear is allowed, invitation has been given to the devil to attack. Any area of a believer's life the devil wants to attack, that area he contaminates with fear first bring down the walls of faith. Fear is a distressing emotion aroused by impending danger, evil or pain which might be real or imagined. Fear is one of the greatest weapons of the enemy. It is not just a feeling but a spirit from the devil that attacks the faith and boldness of believers. The spirit of fear has kept many believers in a place for a very long time. (Hebrew 2:15). It is practically impossible to live and fulfill purpose under the influence of the spirit of fear. Fear is the direct opposite of faith. Fear is a sin that every believer should guard against. After the death of Jesus, great fear ceased the Apostles that they found it impossible to carry on with their assignment.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY MEN FEAR

1. **Sharing Fearful Experiences:** Sharing fearful experiences sometimes induces fear in people (Num. 13:33, 14:1)
2. **Evil News:** What people hear, such as the prevailing news can cause fear and panic. The same way faith comes by hearing, fears also come by hearing (1 Samuel 7:7).
3. **Fear-provoking sights:** Not all scenes are worth watching, as they induce fear and demote the faith of believers (2 Kings 6:15; John 6:19).
4. **Love of life and the world:** Nobody wants to die. The fear of death is predicated on the love of life and the things of the world (Job 3:25; Matthew 19:21-22)
5. **Lack of faith:** The presence of fear depicts the lack of faith. It takes strong faith to live above fear (Matt. 14:30)
6. **Limited knowledge of God:** The knowledge of God and His power builds faith and destroys fear (Mark 4:39-40)
7. **Evil Attack:** Many fears are satanic attack designed to limit people (Job 3:25; Hebrew 2:15)
8. **Satanic Threats:** The devil sometimes raises dreams, people, and events to threaten believers and put them in fear (Nehemiah 6:7-8)

HOW TO DEFEAT FEAR

1. **Be Mindful of your Thoughts:** We must cast down evil imaginations and thoughts that are against the will of God (2 Corinthians 10:5).
2. **Be encouraged by God's Word:** Find the word of God over your circumstance and let it communicate faith and hope (Joshua 1:5-8; Exodus 14:13-14; 1 Samuel 30:6).
3. **By Being Prayerful:** Jesus showed us that prayer has the capacity to ward off fear and anxiety (Luke 18:1; Acts 4:29-31)
4. **Love genuinely:** True love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)
5. **Be constantly reminded of God's ability:** Know that God is able, never allow your thoughts to wander and question the ability of God (Matthew 6: 25; Jeremiah 32:27)
6. **Reply to your fear with words of faith:** To fight fears, raise your voice and speak against it with the Word of God. (Psalm 29:11)

CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING IN FEAR

1. Fear brings limitation and stagnation (Romans 8:15^a)
2. Fear leads to eternal death (Revelations 21:8)
3. **Fear diminishes love:** But there are no fears in love and perfect love casts out fears. (1 John 4:18)
4. **Fear brings about hopelessness:** Whenever fear sets in, it attacks our ability to provide solutions (Mark 4:40)
5. **Fear discourages prayer:** Anyone under the influence of fear can never pray effectively. It is by the spirit of faith that we cry Abba Father (Rom 8:15)
6. **The Fear of death subject people to lifetime bondage:** Jesus came to deliver those who for fear of death were subject to lifetime bondage (Hebrew 2:15; Judges 7:3)

CONCLUSION

Fear is not ordinary; it is a terrible attack from the devil. Fear is false evidence that appears to be real. Many people have been held captive by reasons of false rumors flying around without proofs. The Lord has empowered us above all manifestations of fear and has given us the grace to be victorious by the exercising of our faith in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

Father! help me to live by faith above fears. Help me and deliver me from all forms of fears in my life. Today I decree by faith that I am free from all forms of fears in Jesus might name. Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD

The Theme for this month is “Leaning on the Lord”. As Christians, we know that we cannot survive without God. Acts Chapter 17 verse 28 says, “**For in him we live, and move, and have our being....**”. Don’t forget that without Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). To lean on the Lord means to absolutely rely on Him in all things. There are several patriarchs of the Bible that relied on God and He never failed them. This month we shall be studying on how we can lean on the Lord. Hence, the underlisted points are various topics that shall be taught in this month’s series of Sunday School.

- ❖ **Obtaining your covenant blessings:** Covenant blessings are divine heritage of God’s children. It is only available and accessible to those who are faithful and obedient to God’s Words and Commandments. To harness our covenant blessings, there are several requirements that are important as shall be elaborated in the main teaching. Under this teaching, we shall be making observations on what God said concerning covenant blessings. Also, we shall look critically into various covenant blessings from God’s Word as well as how we can activate the blessings of God.
- ❖ **Kindness begets kindness:** As a matter of principle, life has a way of reproducing good deeds to people. Likewise, evil deeds reproduce itself back to people. But the funny thing about this principle is that both the good and bad ones sometimes come back to people in a multiplied form. This teaching shall be exposing to us a Bible character called Barzillai whose kindness to David was not taken for granted. Barzillai became a blessing to David by providing him food when he was being pursued by his son Absalom. In this teaching, we shall be studying Barzillai’s justified excuses why he could have avoided helping David. We shall be learning Barzillai’s acts of kindness and his rewards for his good deeds of kindness.
- ❖ **Created for every good works:** The Lord created us to be an instrument of good works. Unfortunately, some Christians are yet to understand this fact. Thus, it has caused their relationship with God. This teaching is crafted to help us understand what it takes to do good works. During this study, we examine God’s checklist for assessing good works. We shall equally learn on what it takes to do good works. Finally, we shall understand what we are expected to do, to walk in good works. It only when we yield to these principles, that we can be considered to lean on the Lord.
- ❖ **Growing Exceedingly:** When you get to see that the Children of Israel were fruitful and grew exceedingly Mighty in Exodus 1:7, you might think that it happened just like that. However, this was not the case. When they found themselves in a strange land, they made it a point of duty to continue to lean on the God of their Father Abraham, Isaac and Israel. As a result, the good Lord, whom they leaned on made them to grow, be fruitful and become exceedingly mighty. Leaning on the Lord is one sure secret to fruitfulness, multiplication and growing to become exceedingly mighty. It works all the time. As you lean on the Lord, you are positioning yourself to grow mighty, increase and multiply because the one you are leaning on will cause you to be mighty through His Almighty power
- ❖ **Fear not:** Fear is defined by one scholar as, “false evidence appearing to be real.” Fear is never real. Some of the things we fear never existed. Rather, it is just a mirage that appears to be real. We need to recall that God called us to be bold, courageous and to possess soundness of mind. The word ‘Fear’ appears in the Bible for about three hundred and sixty times. This means that each of our life, God is saying, fear not. This teaching is designed to help us understand some common mistakes that can cause fear. It is meant to detail to us reasons why we should never be afraid. Finally, it will enumerate various steps required to overcome fear in our Christian walk with God.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY 1ST MAY, 2022

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD

TOPIC: OBTAINING YOUR COVENANT BLESSINGS

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14

MEMORY VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 28:13 *"And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Covenant is a mutual agreement between two persons which is binding on both individuals. In this context, a covenant is an agreement between God and man. It is predicated on certain conditions that must be fulfilled to make it valid. As God's children, we have been assured of numerous covenant blessings from today's Bible passage. God promised us so much if we remain obedient to His Words. In today's teaching, the Lord has given a firm assurance that if we obey His Words and keep His Commandments, that He will make us to be blessed above all nations of the earth. Therefore, it is our right and heritage to covet these blessings. We are created to be above and not beneath; we are created to be big and not small; we are created to be rich and not to be poor. Above all, we are created to lend unto nations and not to borrow. Let's go through the study outline below and see clearly these covenant blessings and how to harness them.

STUDY OUTLINE

THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE COVENANT BLESSINGS

1. God is the Author and Source of the blessing (Gen. 1:28; Rev. 7:12)
2. God created man with a decree of the blessing (Gen. 1:28; 9:1-2)
3. God established conditions for the activation of the blessing (Deut. 28:1-2; Gen. 12:2-3)
4. Many are not able to access the blessings of God because they can't subscribe to the required conditions (Deut. 28:1-2; Isa. 51:1-2; Luke 15:15-17)

SOME OF THE COVENANT BLESSINGS FROM THE BIBLE PASSAGE

1. You will be blessed in the city (Deut. 28:3).
2. The fruit of your womb, your crops and livestock shall be blessed (Deut 28:4)
3. Your going out and coming in shall be blessed (Deut. 28:6; Psalms 121:8).
4. Your enemies shall be defeated (Deut. 28:7; Exodus 23:22; Deut. 20:1)
5. There shall be rainfall on your land (Deut. 11:14; Deut. 28:12).
6. Everything you put your hands shall be blessed (Deut 28:12).
7. You will lend to nations (Deut. 15:6).
8. You shall be the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13).

HOW TO ACTIVATE THE COVENANT BLESSINGS

1. **Obedience to God's Word:** God has made countless promises if we obey and keep His Commandments (Deut. 28:1-2; Deut. 11:27).
2. **Delight yourself in the Lord:** For your blessing to manifest, you really need to develop unquenching interest in pleasing God and doing his will (Psalm 34:7).
3. **Humility:** This is the ability to remain calm and avoid the temptation of lifting yourself above others. Remember that there are certain covenant blessings that God cannot give to a proud person (James 4:6-7; Proverbs 29:23; Luke 1:52).
4. **Prayer:** If we ask anything from God, it will be given to us if we are not asking for the wrong reasons. Prayer is a secret to receiving our heart desires from above. If we persistently pray unto our creator from a sincere heart, the answers will eventually come (Genesis 32:26; Isaiah 62:7).
5. **Knowledge:** It is your insight into the truth that determines the extent of the release of his blessings upon your life. You are still the way you are because you lack the knowledge to activate the covenant blessings of God (Proverbs 24:3-4; Psalms 118:18).
6. **Be actively involved in the things of God:** When we joyfully engage ourselves in the house of God, doing one thing or the other, he takes delight in us and opens the windows of heaven to pour us riches from above (Psalms 92:13-15; Psalms 84:10-12; Genesis 17:1-2; Exodus 23:25).

CONCLUSION

It is God's desire to prosper His children. But He expects us to keep to His Word and commandment to attract these blessings. I urge you today for you to align yourself to God's demands and enjoy ending covenant blessings of God.

PRAYER

Father, I come before You today, let Your Blessing be real in my life and give me the grace to be positioned for the covenant Blessing in Jesus Name, Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 8TH MAY, 2022

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD

TOPIC: KINDNESS BEGETS KINDNESS

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 19:31-END

MEMORY VERSE: 2 SAMUEL 19:33 *“And the king said unto Barzillai, Come thou over with me, and I will feed thee with me in Jerusalem” (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The first three verses of our Bible passage talk about King David and Barzillai. The Bible recorded that that Barzillai was a wealthy man. He was the one that sustained David at Mahanaim while he was being persecuted by his son Absalom. Himself, Shobi and Machir remained loyal and hosted David and his men during the trying time, which was risky and expensive (2 Samuel 17:27-28). As soon as Absalom died, and the rebellion ended, leaving David ready to head back and take his place back as the rightful king in Jerusalem. Amongst the three, Barzillai came down from Regelim to escort David to Jordan. Right there, David made an offer of better life to him in appreciation of his kindness. Barzillai was already content with where he was, and all he wanted was to return home to his land and his family and rest in peace. However, he didn't just decline the invitation and move on. Rather, he decided to use his influence to elevate another, his buddy Chimham, and made a move that changed Chimham's life forever. He asked David to allow Chimham to take his place, to receive the place of honor David had offered to Barzillai. In a way, Barzillai became a sponsor for Chimham's career, opening doors that he never could have opened without Barzillai using his influence on his behalf.

STUDY OUTLINE

BARZILLAI'S JUSTIFIED EXCUSES THAT COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM FROM HELPING DAVID

1. He is not David's relative but hails from Gilead (2 Sam 17:27).
2. David was in danger as his son Absalom was chasing him for destruction. It was very clear to Barzillai that Absalom would not spare anyone that is loyal to David (2 Sam 15:13-14).
3. He was not in any way indebted to David

BAZILLAI'S ACTS OF KINDNESS TO DAVID

1. He was very loyal and submissive to the reigning king
2. Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he *was* a very rich man (2 Sam 19:32).
3. Barzillai was never part of David's army but he provided what he had, and what he had was material support which mattered so much to David (2 Sam 17: 28)
4. Barzillai helped David because he loved God and believed in Israel and David
5. He was very courageous even when he had reasons to be afraid (2 Sam 17:26-27).

HIS REWARDS FOR KINDNESS

1. He was given an offer to relocate to Judah for a better life in king's palace (2 Sam 19:31).
2. After the death of Barzillai, David still passed instruction to Solomon to ensure that Barzillai's children are shown kindness (1 Kings 2:7; Psalms 112: 2,6).
3. Barzillai's request for Chimham to his place for a better life in king's palace was granted (2 Sam 19:38^a; Jer. 41:17)
4. David was willing to show any favour whatsoever to Chimham as may be requested by Barzillai (2 Sam 19: 38^b).
5. Barzillai is brought up to Solomon by David at his death- remembered in (Ezra 2:61; Neh 7:63).
6. He was still remembered after so many years of his death as his son Chimham was given an inheritance in Bethlehem (Jer. 41:17).

CONCLUSION

The story of Barzillai provides a fine example, and we would do well to meditate on it. He was loyal, courageous, generous, and modest. Above all, Barzillai was determined to put God's interests ahead of his own (Matthew 6:33). Hence, as Christians, we must show kindness and love to others irrespective of their circumstance. By so doing, we attract kindness to our lives. The kindness of Barzillai mattered greatly and David didn't forget. Whatever you are doing for the Lord matters and has an impact on the kingdom of God.

PRAYER: O Lord, grant me the grace to constantly show kindness to people so that I can reap my reward in Jesus Name; Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 15TH MAY 2022

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD
TOPIC: CREATED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK
TEXT: EPHESIANS 2:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible passage above reminds us that we are made for a purpose. We are made to serve God by serving people. We don't exist for ourselves. Just like a potter makes a clay pot to hold water, and a wood crafter works with wood and nails to make a chair for sitting, we are God's workmanship made for the purpose of serving Him. We are not simply made to stand and watch the game of life, we are made to be players and contribute to God's work. If we are made to do good works, it means we are made to become blessings to others. In other words, God has given us some people that we can serve; as well as lead them to Christ.

STUDY OUTLINE

GOD'S CHECKLIST FOR GOOD WORKS

1. God Himself defines the good works that we are to do (Heb. 13:21; 2 Tim. 3:17).
2. He prepared these good works before He saved us (Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:4).
3. He desires perfection of the good works (Heb 13:21^a)
4. The good works must be well pleasing to God (Heb 13:21^a)
5. Good works are visible to God and men (1 Tim. 5:25; Matt. 5:16).
6. Your good works are observable (1 Tim. 5:25; 1 Peter 2:11-12).
7. Good works are never in vain (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 14:13).

WHAT ARE THESE GOOD WORKS?

1. **Service to people:** Every time you serve someone, you are doing good works and fulfilling God's plan for your life (Matt 20:28).
2. **Sacrifice and rendering assistance:** Anytime you are meeting someone's need, you are engaging in good works (Matt. 24:45-46; Luke 10:25-37)
3. **Peace making:** Making peace among brethren and living peaceably with all men is a way of exhibiting good works (Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18).
4. **Defending the rights of the vulnerable:** Pleading justice for the poor and vulnerable is good works expected of Christians (Isa. 1:17; Jer. 22:16).
5. **Being compassionate:** We are supposed to be compassionate and merciful to people especially to the less privileged (Micah 6:8; Prov. 14:31, Prov. 19:17).
6. **Soul winning:** This is one of the basic assignments of Christian. To engage in it passionately is good works to the Lord (Matt. 28:19-20; Titus 1:5).
7. **Church growth and development:** Investing in capital projects of the church is part of the good works expected from us (Haggai 1:8; Ezra 1:3-5; Prov. 3:9).
8. **Love to man:** We are created to love one another as this is the fulfilment of the whole commandment (Mark 12:31).

WE MUST EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING TO SHOW GOOD WORKS

1. To become pattern of good works and a reference points for others to follow (Titus 2:7; Philip. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).
2. To be zealous and desirous of good works (Titus 2:14; Heb. 10:24).
3. To be ready and to use every available opportunity for good works (Titus 3:1).
4. To be willing and faithful to do good works (Matt. 24:42-46; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
5. Ability to sustain and maintain the good works without drifting (Titus 3:8; Acts 9:36).
6. By increasing in our knowledgebase on good works (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 2:15).
7. To stir up the good works that are inherent in other people (Heb. 10:24).

CONCLUSION

Brethren in Christ, God created us and Has prepared us for good works in Christ Jesus. It is pertinent to note that, only those that involve themselves in good works are pleasing to Him. Every good works has rewards, likewise bad works. Anyone who is saved by the Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is created for good works. Our responsibility is to key into this lifestyle in fulfilling God's purpose here on earth. God's Word provides assurance that, as we engage in this noble task, we shall be fully rewarded.

PRAYER

Gracious Father; help me to be a partaker and enjoy the benefits of good works in Jesus Name - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 22ND MAY 2022

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD

TOPIC: GROWING EXCEEDINGLY MIGHTY

TEXT: EXODUS 1:1-END

MEMORY VERSE: EXODUS 1:7 *"But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

When you get to see that the Children of Israel were fruitful and grew exceedingly mighty, you might think that it happened just like that. However, this was not the case. When they found themselves in a strange land, they made it a point of duty to continue to lean on the God of their Father Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. As a result, the Good Lord, whom they leaned on made them to grow, become fruitful and exceedingly mighty. Leaning on the Lord is one sure secret to fruitfulness, multiplication and growing to become exceedingly mighty. It works all the time. This teaching will expose you to the characters who became exceedingly mighty by their total dependance on God.

STUDY OUTLINE

HOW TO INCREASE AND GROW EXCEEDINGLY MIGHTY

1. **Worship God in Spirit and in Truth:** Love God, Fear Him, be born again. Do not live-in sin. (John 4:24; Matt 12:37).
2. **Study the Word:** You will discover God's promises, stand on them and be successful. (Joshua 1:8; 2 Tim 2:15).
3. **Be Prayerful:** Isaac prayed for his barren wife and she conceived (Gen 25:21, James 1:5-6).
4. **Seek Spiritual Direction:** Isaac obeyed God, stayed in the land despite the famine (Gen 26:12-16).
5. **Receive the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ:** God's grace brings increase and prosperity (2 Cor 8:9; 1 Cor 15:10).
6. **Learn from Past Errors:** Don't give up when you fail but learn from your errors and improve (Proverbs 26:11-12).
7. **Help others to grow:** Like the Egyptian midwives, when you help others to grow; God will make you to grow as well (Exodus 1:20-21).
8. **Be a Giver:** When you give, God will make you to grow and multiply (2 Cor 9:6-8, Luke 6:38).
9. **Understand the Times:** See the vacuum areas in society that you can turn into business opportunities. Understand the times like the Men of Issachar and always know the right things to do (1 Chron 12:32).

WHY YOU MUST LEAN ON GOD FOR EXCEEDING GROWTH

1. Without Him you can do nothing. Vain is the help of man. The arm of flesh will fail you. Only God can make you to be fruitful and to grow mighty (John 15:5, Psalm 60:11).
2. The things that are impossible with men will be possible for you with God's help (Matt. 19:26).
3. God will make difficult things to be easy for you. For example, God made the Hebrew women to deliver faster than the Egyptian women, so that they filled the whole place with children (Exodus 1:20-21).
4. At the right time, you will become mightier than others who are considered mighty (Gen 26:14-16).
5. You will bear fruits that will last (John 15:16).
6. God is faithful and is full of compassion. Depend on Him and you will be sure that you will not fail (Lam 3:22-23).
7. God's favor and not necessarily your personal struggle will bring your blessing (Psalm 44:3).

SOME EXAMPLES OF GROWING EXCEEDINGLY MIGHTY

1. **Isaac:** Although there was a famine, Isaac obeyed the Lord, stayed in the land and God blessed Him (Gen 26:12-16).
2. **Jacob:** God took away Laban's cattle and gave it to Jacob, so that he grew exceedingly mighty and multiplied (Gen 30:43, 31:8).
3. **David:** He waxed stronger and stronger because God was with Him (1 Chronicles 11:9).
4. **Solomon:** God magnified Him and gave him royal majesty in the sight of His subjects (1 Chronicles 29:25).
5. **Uzziah:** He prospered when he sought the lord in the days of Zechariah (2 Chronicles 26:5).
6. **Jesus Christ:** He grew and waxed strong in Spirit because God's grace was upon Him (Luke 2:40)

CONCLUSION

God has blessed us with the inherent ability to multiply and replenish the earth. However, we can only achieve this when we lean on God and depend solely on Him for guidance and help. Many of us who are trying to multiply and grow mightily through fraudulent means like money rituals, prostitution, armed robbery, yahoo-yahoo (obtaining by deceit) etc., are

obviously on the path towards destruction. God is asking you to lean on Him today and He will make you grow exceedingly mighty.

PRAYER: Father Lord, I ask you to increase me and make me to grow exceedingly mighty as I lean on you - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 29TH MAY 2022

THEME: LEANING ON THE LORD

TOPIC: FEAR NOT

TEXT: ISAIAH 43:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: ISAIAH 43:1 *"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine" (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

One of the things that characterize the age in which we live is fear. There has perhaps never been an age as fearful as this one. It seems that every man, woman, and child is afraid of something. Some have said that the 21st century may go down in history as "The Age of Fear." According to Merriam Webster dictionary fear is an unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger. Sometimes fear may be justified. If the external circumstances are perceived correctly, fear can be an appropriate reaction. But another possibility is that fear may not be justified at all. According to recent research in the United States, 20 to 30 million people suffer from some form of fear. God knew this, and that is why "Fear Not" is in the Bible 365 times. We need to understand that God is not forbidding us to ever experience fear but tells us not to allow ourselves to be paralyzed by fear, cowered by it, or allow it to prevent us from accomplishing our mission.

STUDY OUTLINE

SOME COMMON CAUSES OF FEAR

1. **God may fail:** This is a needless fear. God has never failed to keep a single promise in the past and He will continue to keep His promises (Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 55:11; 2 Corinthians 1:20).
2. **Criticism:** We should not fear criticism for the simple reason it is inevitable. People will find fault with us no matter what we do, even Christ was criticized (Matthew 9:11; Luke 6:26).
3. **Loss of Possessions:** This fear is also needless because the worst financial ruin is for life only. The important thing is to have wealth in heaven, not on earth (Matthew 6:19-20).
4. **Persecution:** People are afraid they will be scorned, harmed, put in prison, or lose their lives (Mark 14:66-71).
5. **Death:** Christians should have great confidence towards death, for through Christ we will be victorious over death (Philippians 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

REASONS WE SHOULD NOT FEAR

1. **It is a command:** "Fear not" is a command, accompanied by promises (Isaiah 41:10; Matthew 10:28; Joel 2:21).
2. **God is our creator:** This is a simple reminder to not fear because God formed us so clearly, he knows what thoughts we have in our minds (Isaiah 43:1; Psalm 8:3-5).
3. **God is our protector:** God is always with us even in the toughest circumstances (Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 91:15-16; Psalm 46:1-3).
4. **God is powerful:** God's power is infinitely greater than any power. It is so great that no one can do better than Him or reverse what He has done (Isaiah 43:13; 1 Chronicles 29:11).
5. **God has redeemed us:** God sent Jesus to redeem us all from our bondage to sin and its fearful, lonely consequences (John 3:16; Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7).

STEPS TOWARDS OVERCOMING FEAR

1. **Admit them:** We should name and acknowledge anything that causes us to fear in an unhealthy way ()
2. **Commit them to God:** This entails verbally declaring ourselves to God's care in prayers (Psalm 34:4; Psalm 56:3).
3. **Release them to God:** This involves unburdening ourselves of every weight of fear and laying them at Christ's feet (Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 11:28).
4. **Refuse to retreat:** Refuse to submit again to the fear that has been released to God (Psalm 56:4; Psalm 91:5-8).
5. **Continually study and meditate on the Word of God:** This will enrich our spirits with boldness and constantly remind us of God's promises to us (Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:130; 1 Peter 2:2).

CONCLUSION

Fear is the spirit Satan uses to try to keep God's people from coming under the leadership of the true Master, Jesus Christ. The only acceptable attitude and confession that a Christian can have toward fear is this: "It is not from God, and I will not put up with it or let it control my life! I will confront fear, for it is a spirit sent out from hell to torment me."

PRAYER

O Lord, help me to "fear not" but to go in and possess all You desire for me to have. in Jesus Name, Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

THEME: STANDING OUT

Our theme for this month is “Standing Out”. To stand out is to be unique. It is a quality that every believer must strive to maintain. We live in a world of compromise and so many adopt the conformity to the world’s standard. The challenge with this is that it makes them be in enmity with God. When you desire to follow the crowd, you shut yourself out from the relationship with God. Satan sets in to rule your mind and actions with sin. The consequences are grievous. Standing out means standing for God and learning to walk with Him. If there is a time to stand out in our Christian walk, it is now. There are various teachings that have been outlined for this month’s series. The topics are itemized and summarized below:

1. **Pentecost Celebration, Focusing on Soul winning:** This teaching would reveal to us, the essence of celebrating Pentecost, which is soul winning. It is an avenue to populate God’s kingdom. Soul winning brings joy to heaven, making the death of Jesus Christ worthwhile. The teaching explains why you need to win souls. It highlights the strategies for soul winning for the church and individuals. The blessings of soul winning are also listed; this gives you an opportunity to know what to anticipate as you launch out for the task. Some biblical examples of soul winning activities are highlighted for learning.” *The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise*” (Proverbs 11:30). Make this Pentecost celebration count. Bring someone to Christ.
2. **Overcome your world by faith:** To overcome is one of the expectations from man after he was created. God in creation, charged man to dominate and rule his world. When sin entered through Satan, man lost the power to overcome until the redemption process was fulfilled. Faith is necessary to overcome in life. The choice of believing towards salvation is the main demonstration of faith in God through Jesus Christ. The teaching expresses facts about faith. It lists the ways to develop faith to overcome the world. The blessings of having faith are enumerated to stimulate your growth in faith. The biblical examples of persons who overcame by faith are listed to encourage you. “*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith*” (Romans 1:17).
7. **Becoming like Our Heavenly Father:** Fathers are special in every sense. They are givers and take responsibilities of loving, providing and protecting the family. Our heavenly father is the perfect model for anyone who needs to play the father figure. He created man in his image and expects you to learn from His pattern. The teaching explains clearly who the heavenly father is. The roles of the heavenly father are highlighted. You shall learn the expectations from fathers. The challenges in meeting expectations by fathers are pointed out. Interestingly, there are blessings of exceeding expectations as fathers, and some are listed. “*Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*” (Matthew 5:48).
3. **How to live eternally:** Eternal life is obtained at the point of salvation. It is a free gift from God. The choice for eternal life is left in the hands of man. Living eternally continues after the physical death for anyone who received salvation through Jesus Christ while still alive. This topic explains what eternal life is, the steps to receiving eternal life and the benefits of eternal life. We shall also see the painful consequences of refusing the gift of eternal life. What are you waiting for? Receive Jesus to obtain inestimable treasure. “*Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life*” (1 Timothy 6:19).

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 5TH JUNE 2022

THEME: STANDING OUT

TOPIC: PENTECOST CELEBRATION: FOCUSING ON SOUL WINNING

TEXT: ACTS 2:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth". (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Today is Pentecost Sunday. It is a Christian festival to celebrate the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit by the early church. It is the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Before this event, Jews celebrated the feast of first fruits. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus Christ's promise to his disciples of the power that will enable them work effectively. Essentially, the giving of the Holy Spirit was to win souls into the kingdom like the farmers' harvest of produce.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY YOU NEED TO WIN SOULS

13. Soul winning is not an option rather a clear unavoidable command of God to every believer (Matt. 28:18-19; Mark 16:15)
14. Soul winning is an opportunity to make the world know that there is hell prepared for nations and people without Christ (Psalms 9:17; Revelation 21:8)
15. Soul winning is also an opportunity to make people know that there is a beautifully prepared place called Heaven, prepared for the redeemed, to live eternally with Christ (Revelation 21:1-3, 11-27; John 14:2-3)
16. Soul winning is a timeless principle to make people know God and those who are wise engage in it (Proverbs 11:30)
17. Soul winning is a venture that make believers bear many fruits and become fishers of men (John 15:8)
18. Let us tolerate each other and work in harmony as one body of Christ just as the spirit, the water, and the blood are always in one agreement (1 John 5:8)
19. Let the oneness that bonded the Father and the Son together be our guiding principle (John 17:22; John 10:30)

STRATEGIES FOR SOUL WINNING

1. Soul winning by visitation: This can be achieved by visiting, praying and encouragement. It is important that during this visit that the gospel is shared and whosoever believes/accept salvation is led to Christ. (Matthew 25:34-36; Luke 19:8)
2. Soul winning by invitation: Invitation shared to unbelievers to attend services and church program is a key to winning someone to God. Interestingly, six of Jesus Christ's disciples were won simply by invitation (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 2:14; John 1:43-46)
3. Soul winning by living a holy life: Your holy life of love, forgiveness, patience, kindness, meekness, modesty etc. is the light through which unbelievers could acknowledge the existence of God and believe in Jesus as Savior. (Matthew 5:16; Mark 14:55-56; Luke 23:39-42)
4. Soul winning by preaching the word of God: As Christians, preach/teach the word of God through any channel available; the unbeliever stands the chance of believing towards salvation. (Luke 4: 31-32; John 4:42; Romans 10: 14,17)
5. Soul winning by ministering with spiritual gifts: Spiritual gifts enhance the believer to do wonders, making people believe and accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Many can only believe when they see signs/wonders. These spiritual gifts can be prophecy, miracles, etc. (Matthew 9:31; Luke 7:17; John 11:45)

BLESSINGS OF SOULWINNING

- A. The soul winner is the best Christian (Proverbs 11:30)
- B. The soul winner has special nearness and fellowship with Christ (Matthew 28: 20).
- C. The soul winner is advantaged to have the Holy Spirit in full measure (Acts 2:4, 11:24; Romans 8:9).
- D. The soul winner receives commendation from God (Matthew 25:21)
- E. You shall be happier to see the one you won for Christ when believers meet in heaven (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF SOUL WINNING

1. John the Baptist led 2 of his disciples to Jesus Christ (John 1:35-39)
2. Peter's preaching on the first Pentecost won 3000 converts (Acts 2: 14-41)
3. Paul and Silas won their jailer and his household (Acts 16:25-34)
4. Philip won the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)
5. Andrew won Simon Peter for Christ (John 1:40-42)

CONCLUSION

The process of leading an unbeliever to gain salvation in Jesus Christ is soul winning. The focus of this activity is Jesus Christ. Every day is an opportunity to witness and win someone. This brings joy in Heaven among the Angels. There is also increase in the kingdom of God making the work of redemption not in vain. Jesus described the world as a ripe harvest field and desire we join as harvesters to bring souls to God. Remember, whosoever wins a soul is wise.

PRAYER

Lord, endow me with the power of the Holy Spirit in full measure that I may win souls in Jesus' name Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 12TH JUNE 2022

THEME: STANDING OUT

TOPIC: OVERCOME YOUR WORLD BY FAITH

TEXT: 1 JOHN 5:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:4 *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world that is full of challenges. Everyone faces it and tries to surmount them with strategies known and available. Believers are made and meant to be overcomers. One great tool to overcoming our world is the power of faith. It is the conviction of truth without tangible proof. To have faith is to believe God's word before it comes to pass. Faith is described here with this acronym: Forsaking All, I Trust Him. It is an essential virtue to develop as you decide to follow God in the journey of life. It is also necessary to work on your faith level always, strive towards increasing it to make you stand out. This is uncommon faith. Every nation whose citizens have faith in God will continue to experience progress and prosperity as citizens and as a nation.

STUDY OUTLINE

FACTS ABOUT FAITH

5. It is the full surrender and obedience to all known truth of God's word (Romans 5:1, 16:26; Hebrews 11:6).
6. It is trust wholly and unreservedly in the faithfulness of God (1 Timothy 4:11; 1 Tim. 6:17; 1 Corinthians 10:13).
7. It is absolute dependence and reliance in the word of God and in Christ (Romans 10:17; Matthew 8:8-10).
8. It is the substance or conviction of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 4:17, 8:24).
9. It is giving oneself over to a new way of life (2 Corinthians 10:4-7; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 John 3:8-10).

WAYS TO DEVELOP FAITH TO OVERCOME YOUR WORLD

4. Receive Jesus Christ as the developer of your faith. Look away from all distractions and focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).
5. Make the word of God final authority. Take the scriptural stand and refuse to move (Proverbs 4:20-22).
6. Continually feed on the word. It is the faith food for your spirit ((Matthew 4:4).
7. Meditate on the word by spending time thinking about it and applying it to the situation (Joshua 1:8)
8. Act on the word. Faith grows when God's word becomes a vital part of your daily speech (James 1:22; Luke 10:19)
9. Pray in the Spirit. This is praying from your heart where faith is produced, and God shall meet you there (Ephesians 6:18; Proverbs 20:27)
10. Continually praise God. You thank God that it is done for you even before you see it (Philippians 4:6)

BLESSINGS OF OVERCOMING BY FAITH

20. He who overcomes by faith shall walk with God in white (purity) (Revelation 3:4)
21. They that overcome shall be clothed in heavenly garments (white) (Revelations 19:8,14)
22. The names of overcomers shall not be blotted out of the book of life (Revelation 22:18-19; Exodus 32:32-33)
23. Jesus shall confess their names before God and the angels (Revelation 3:12)
24. They shall have a new name from God (Revelation 3:12).

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PERSONS WHO OVERCAME THEIR WORLD BY FAITH

1. Abraham moved out of his father's land to an unknown land and later became father of faith - (Gen 12:1-4)
2. Moses overcame the oppositions with powerful forces in and out of Egypt (Hebrews 11:27)
3. Elijah, by faith, called down fire on a trench filled with water and made God's name glorified (1Kings 18:30-39)
4. The woman with the issue of blood demonstrated great faith and overcame her disease (Mark 5:25-34).
5. Gideon obtained deliverance for Israel from the fearful and dreaded Midianites (Hebrews 11:32; Judges 6 & 7).
6. A Canaanite woman received healing for her daughter even when she wasn't qualified for it (Matthew 15:22-29).

CONCLUSION

Faith is a basic requirement for anyone to desire to accept salvation in Christ Jesus. It is also a necessary tool for navigate life and become an overcomer. Faith comes by hearing and it is a continuous exercise. Your faith level depends on your relationship with God through His word. Believers must strive to increase their faith to be able to overcome life's challenges. Every great exploit gives you the required spiritual strength and experience to overcome future challenges putting up testimony to make you win sinners to God. Put your faith to work and you shall overcome.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I make an open declaration now to receive uncommon faith in Jesus Christ name - Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 19TH JUNE 2022

THEME: STANDING OUT

TOPIC: BECOMING LIKE OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:13-29

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 2:29 *"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The ESOCS church joined other Christian denominations to celebrate International Father's Day by the approval of the Prelate. Christians refer to God as their father. He is the creator of all things. Fathers are unique figures and occupy the place of deep interest in life. There are those who may not be fathers biologically but play father figure roles in life. The scriptures abound with illustrations like the lesson of the day where God continues his unique fatherly characters of mighty miraculous provision for his children. The Father's Day celebration is an opportunity to take stock in addressing and learning to become like our heavenly father.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHO IS THE HEAVENLY FATHER?

1. He is creator that made heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6).
2. He is attributed with the fatherly role of a protector (Isaiah 63:16).
3. He is the Holy God who disciplines us for our profit to partake of his holiness (Hebrew 12:5-10).
4. He is our God who supplies all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Matt 6:7-8; Phil 4:19).
5. He is the loving God who knows desires that we might come to know His love (John 17:25-26; Ps 23:1).

ROLES OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

8. Our heavenly father sets standards like holiness and perfection desiring we follow/maintain it (Matthew 5:48).
9. Our heavenly father is a giver and rewarder of good/works (Matthew 6:6, 7:11).
10. The heavenly father knows our needs and provides for all (Matthew 6:8, 26, 32).
11. The heavenly father is merciful and forgives our transgressions (Matthew 6:14-15).
12. The heavenly father protects his children (Matthew 10:29).
13. Our heavenly father instructs his children on what to say or do, and how (Matthew 10:20; 11:25).

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FROM FATHERS?

1. A godly father has a responsibility to teach and instruct the people to walk in a manner worthy of God (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Proverbs 4:1)
2. A godly father lives an exemplary lifestyle worth following (1Pet 1:16, Titus 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 4:12)
3. A godly father disciplines his children (Proverbs 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:17)
4. A godly father loves his children despite all, and therefore desires the best for them (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Matthew 7:9-11; Proverbs 23:24)
5. A godly father serves as a priest and always prays for his children (Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18).

CHALLENGES IN MEETING EXPECTATIONS AS FATHERS

15. Looking elsewhere instead towards God when faced with issues of life (Hebrews 12:2-3).
16. There are the problems of cares of life and besetting sins which weighs many down and far from Christ (Hebrews 12:2).
17. The spirit of fear is a limiting factor to many that desire to achieve greater feats in life (2 Timothy 1:7).
18. There are the struggles of living in conformity with the world's standard (Romans 12:2).
19. The misery of having hope only here on earth denies of a goodly heritage of eternity (1 Corinthians 15:19).
20. Living a life not worth emulating by your children thereby, becoming wrong role models

BLESSINGS OF EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS AS FATHERS

1. Fathers who follow God's standards of teaching their children the ways of God like Abraham are blessed and become blessings to generations (Genesis 18:17-19)
2. Fathers who support sons in their endeavors draw prosperity and exploits. Prophet Zechariah was the father figure to King Uzziah during his reign (2 Chronicles 26:1-15)
3. It is certain that a good father will beget son(s) that will become profitable to God like Paul did towards Onesimus (Philemon 1:10-11).
4. Good fathers see the future and encourage their wards to hope in expectation of the brighter days ahead. Joseph saw the redemption of Israel from Egyptian bondage and charged them to take his remains on the day of their exodus (Gen. 50:24-25).
5. Godly fathers stand in the gap and intercede on behalf on their people just as Moses pleaded for Israel when God was angry with them (Exodus 32:30-32).

CONCLUSION

We can only succeed as fathers when we align our principles and patterns with the standards of God, our heavenly father. No wonder Jesus never ceased from talking and doing things that would please his father. Let's follow his model to become wonderful fathers. The best gift to receive today is to be truly appreciated as a godly father. Become one now. Happy Father's Day!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, fill me with wisdom to become like our heavenly father always in Jesus' name - Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 26th JUNE 2022

THEME: STANDING OUT

TOPIC: HOW TO LIVE ETERNALLY

TEXT: JOHN 8: 48-END

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 8: 51 *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death"* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

Eternal life is a new quality of life. It is God's kind of life which the believer has now as a present possession and will have it forever. Eternal life is the life of God in the believer because it is a living relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Those who believe in Jesus, share in his life. It is the quality of life a believer has when God rules his life. Salvation is synonymous to eternal life. Jesus died to make it possible for us to receive eternal life. Again, his resurrection gave everyone who believes eternal life.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE

1. Eternal life is a free gift (unmerited grace) from God to believers in Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:23; John 10:27-28)
2. For every believer, eternal life begins here immediately you accept Jesus as Savior and continues by faith into the future (John 3:16, 5:24, 6:47).
3. For every believer, eternal life continues with God after our physical death (John 11:25-26, 14:2-3; Luke 23:42-43).
4. Jesus describes eternal life as knowing God through a personal experience. This is having a deep acquaintance with God in Christ (John 17:1-3, 14:6).
5. Eternal life can be described not only as duration of life but as a quality of life. The Greek meaning of 'Eternal' is 'Aionios' which relates to quality of life (Ephesians 2:4-5).

STEPS TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE

6. **Acknowledge your sin:** Whether it is a transgression (rebellion against God's authority and law) iniquity (distortion of what should be) or sin (missing the mark) search it out and confess it before God (Psalms 51:1-3; Romans 3:23).
7. **Realize that sin brings death:** It is clear that, the wages of sin is death. It is our sins that Jesus bore at cross and took our punishment. He has also offered us eternal life as a free gift (Romans 6:23).
8. **Confess and believe for justification and salvation:** when you genuinely trust God to save you and believe in his power of redemption you are justified before God and made righteous. (Romans 10:9-10).
9. **Be born again:** When you confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you receive a spiritual birth. This is the forsaking of all evil ways and living of a regenerated life by faith in Him (John 3:3).
10. **Jesus is the only way to eternal life:** Jesus taught that he alone is the way to eternal life. There is no other savior or means of salvation. (John 14:6).
11. **Be willing to hear and receive Christ in your life:** Jesus desires to grant you eternal life and requires you grant him access by welcoming him in (Revelation 3:20).
12. **Partaking of the Communion:** The mystery in taking of the body and blood of Christ makes us partakers of eternal life (John 6:54).

SOME BENEFITS OF ETERNAL LIFE

11. Eternal life is God's free gift of love that helps the redeemed from perishing for anyone who believes (John 3:16; Romans 6:23)
12. It keeps the believer away from the wrath of God reserves for those who rejects the gift of salvation (John 3:36).
13. It keeps people away from the broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14; Galatians 6:8)
14. It gives protection, making the believer safe from all forms of harm by the devil (John 10:28-30)
15. You shall reign with Christ eternally in glory and free from sufferings, tears, and pains (Revelation 21:3-4; 1 Peter 5:10).

CONSEQUENCES OF REFUSING THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

5. The only wages sin pays results in death spiritually and eternally (Ezekiel 18:4,18,20; Romans 6:23)
6. There is a day coming when God will judge the secrets of men and his righteous judgment will reward men according to their deeds (Romans 2:16)
7. Unbelief is the greatest sin. To refuse to repent and turn to Jesus Christ in faith is to act wickedly to oneself (Matthew 11:20-24; Matthew 23:15,33)
8. God has no blame when a sinner dies as He takes no pleasure in their death (Ezekiel 18:32).

CONCLUSION

Eternal life is a choice anyone needs to make as we desire salvation. This free gift has been offered by God through Jesus Christ to all (John 1:11-12; Titus 2:11). The process of eternal life starts while yet alive and continues for everyone saved. Every believer should strive to stand out in righteousness to maintain this. Eternal life brings along God's presence which produces peace, purpose, and power. Jesus saves!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I desire your continual grace to remain eternally in You; in Jesus' name - Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

The theme for this month of July dwells on two important virtues "Love and Peace" which acts as a pivot on which Christian belief and life revolves. Christ's ministry on earth centered on these principles that twinned together. The foundation of our existence as believers is be anchored on love and peace. This is practically demonstrated by God Himself, who first gave His only begotten Son Jesus Christ as a sacrifice, and His Son who accepted to die for us as a ransom, to restore peace on earth. This month of July is also a time we devout to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (the City of David), and by extension, the peace of our nations, churches, and families. Where there is peace, there is love, for God is Love. We shall explore the following topics under this theme for a better understanding.

1. **Love never fails:** God can never fail because God is Love. Therefore, Love never fails. We are commissioned to express our love for everyone including those that hate us. We are required to show our love for one another both in deeds and in words. By so doing, we are fulfilling the law of God. Today, as the world of Seraph celebrates the prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, let us reflect on how much positive impact we have made so far in our own little way, ensuring the peace of our society, the church, family, and nation. We shall amongst others sub-topics discuss what love can never be; how to show love for one another; why love never fails; some factors that can make the love of many to grow cold; and the benefits of loving each other. The Word of God has advised us not to owe anyone anything other than to love each other.
2. **Walking in the fear of the Lord:** Walking in the fear of the Lord is to align with all godly principles that would enable us to stand firm without stumbling, even in the face of tribulations. There are certain things you could ordinarily do, or certain decisions you could take, but for the fact that they are not in line with the plan of God, you desist from them. You rescind because you fear God. This topic will be discussed under the following subheadings: Some ways of walking in the fear of the Lord; some benefits of walking in the fear of the Lord; examples of those who walked in the fear of God; and the dangers of not walking in the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. You fear the Lord because you love Him. You will express inner peace for doing so.
3. **Understanding the art of serving God:** Understanding the art of venture makes it very easy to adapt. Similarly, if you understand the art of serving God, you will flow very easy with Him. No wonder Jesus says my sheep hear my voice. If you use the right application to solve a problem, you will achieve result; otherwise, you keep fumbling without making any headway. Many Christians today, are finding it difficult serving God because they lack the basic knowledge, understanding the art of service. To throw more light on this topic, we shall express our views under the following sub-headings: The veritable art of serving God; why do we serve God; Basic requirements we need to serve God; the benefits of serving the Lord, God; the dangers of refusing to serve God.
4. **Falling at the feet of Jesus Christ:** To fall at the feet of Christ is to demonstrate obeisance and worship. It is an act of submission. Several examples abound in the Scripture about those that fell at the feet of Christ. The most

significant thing is that such people never left His feet without their problems solved. In the study outline, we shall study the significances of falling at the feet of Jesus Christ; what happens at the feet of Jesus Christ; examples of those that fell at the feet of Jesus; the gains of falling at His feet.

5. **A worthy citizen of God's kingdom:** God's kingdom is prepared for those that will overcome the challenges of this world. Christ has gone to prepare a place for us. His second coming is to take the saints away with Him to His Father's kingdom. You must be worthy to enter. God's kingdom is not for all-comers; it is for those who are found to be righteous in the sight of God. You must understand and practice the truth in the Word of God. Under the study outline, we shall be exposing how to become a worthy citizen of God's kingdom; some attributes of worthy citizens of God's kingdom; the benefits of being a worthy citizen of God's kingdom; and the dangers of not being among the worthy citizen of God's kingdom.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 3RD JULY 2022

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

TOPIC: LOVE NEVER FAILS

TEXT: I CORINTHIANS 13:1-END

MEMORY VERSES: I CORINTHIANS 13:8 *"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The closest Hebrew word for love is **ahava**, meaning friendship. **Hesed** is also a Hebrew word defined as God's love, while Greek word is agape, refereeing to unconditional love; and this is charity. "It is the highest form of love, and the love of God for man and of man for God" (online dictionary). In Christian circle, Charity (the highest form of love) is the kind of love considered to originate from God or His Son Jesus Christ for humanity. All believers are required to practice it with each other and for our nations. Today in all our churches, we are required to pray for the peace of Jerusalem as stated in the book of Psalm 122:6. This is a devotion that requires a practical demonstration of Christian love for all around us, especially the downtrodden, the oppressed and the needy. It leads to divine prosperity. In today's lesson, we look deeply into various aspect of how to sustain the love of God in our everyday lives.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT LOVE CAN NEVER BE

Today's Bible text is very explicit. It begins the chapter with those good characters most of us display, but in actual Biblical sense do not in any way indicate practical show of love or charity. They include:

1. **Speaking with the tongues of men and of angels:** One who may have this ability without charity or show love for one another, is compared to a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal (i.e., a noise maker who adds no value) (1 Corinth. 13:1)
2. **Having the gift of prophecy, understanding all mysteries and knowledge:** Possession of the spiritual gift does not truly represent the show of love. Many prophets and prophetesses have defaulted on this (1 Cor. 13:2).
3. **When you profess faith without show of love:** From this scripture, it is possible to have faith and perform all kinds of miracles; but in all this, if you do not have love, you are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2)
4. **Giving alone does not define Love:** If one gives out of necessity or compulsion, it negates true love- (1 Cor 13:3 – 7).

HOW TO SHOW LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

14. Let humility, gentleness and patience define who you are when dealing with others (Eph. 4:2)
15. Love for one another must be sincere; it must come from a pure heart (Romans 12:9)
16. Cultivate the habit of praying for one another as directed in the scriptures (Psalm 122:6; James 5:16)
17. Become a burden bearer. Help to shed off the load on your brothers' shoulders (Galatians 6:2)
18. Volunteer to stand in the gap for others when it matters most, both spiritually, physically, and financially (Ezekiel 22:30)

WHY LOVE NEVER FAILS

1. It is God's nature (1John 4:8 & 16)
2. The word of God says so (1 Corinthians 13:8a)
3. It is the foundation of Christianity (John 13:34 - 35)
4. As a Fruit of the spirit, it is superior to Gifts of the spirit (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 & 8; 1 Corinthians 12:31)
5. It is the greatest of the three things that will last forever (1 Corinthians 13:13)
6. It has enduring qualities (1Corinthians 13:4 – 7)

SOME FACTORS THAT CAN MAKE THE LOVE OF MANY TO GROW COLD

1. **Keeping quiet amid evil occurrences:** A popular adage says that "evil thrives when good men do nothing" according to Edmund Burke. When those responsible fail to speak out in condemnation of evil occurrence, such as persecution of Christians and wanton killing of innocent people, it breeds hatred (Matt. 24:9)
2. **Promoting hatred amongst believers:** Those who derive joy in sponsoring hatred among brethren, demonizing your fellow humans, even in the churches; they fall in the category of "despisers of those that are good" and "traitors" (2 Tim. 3:3-4)
3. **When iniquity abounds or prevails:** The multiplying effect of evil in our society can discourage people from showing kindness to others. Many have fallen victims of providing help, out of genuine love (Matt. 24:12)
4. **Application of conspiracy theory:** When people conspire to overturn the goodwill of men, it is highly demoralizing (Isaiah 5:20)

THE BENEFITS OF LOVING EACH OTHER

16. Fervent and sincere show of love for one another can cover the multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8)
17. God says that praying for the peace of His people Israel shows love. It brings prosperity. When we pray for the good of others, we are indirectly enriching our vaults both spiritually and otherwise (Psalm 122:6, Job 42:10)
18. It guarantees peace around our borders and prosperity within our palaces (Psalm 122:7)

CONCLUSION

The tribulation Jesus Christ faced on the way to Calvary, the humiliation, torture and eventual painful death on the cross did not make the love He has for us to fail. This is a clear example of how we are expected to live our Christian lives. God has given us sufficient grace to overcome those challenges that can make the love of many to grow cold. Always remember that Jesus first loved us.

PRAYER

My Father in heaven, help me to build my habit of loving my neighbours unconditionally. Let no challenge or predicament prevent me to fulfilling this divine mandate, till the end; we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen!

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 10TH JULY 2022

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

TOPIC: WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

TEXT: ACTS 9:26-31

MEMORY VERSES: ACTS 9:31 *"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

To fear the LORD is to hate evil. To walk in the fear of the LORD is to align with all godly principles. This enables you to walk better without stumbling. You can only walk better and precisely if you make the right choice. Working in the fear of the LORD is a perfect demonstration of your humility and commitment to do the will of God, even if it is not physically convenient for you; that is, working with divine boldness. Many people who chose to walk according to their own dictates, not minding what God has to say, end up walking into trouble, or ending up in destruction. Many have walked with artificial boldness that landed them to perpetual sorrow. Today, we shall study ways of walking in the fear of God and the attendant blessings.

STUDY OUTLINE

SOME WAYS OF WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

7. Recognize God's presence and solemnly maintain reverence in quietness before Him (Habakkuk 2:20)
8. Learn to trust the Lord always (Psalm 125:1, Proverbs 3:5 - 6)
9. Respect and honour the Holy Bible which is the Word of God (Prov. 2:1-5; Psalm 138:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
10. Make the worship and praise of God a continuous practice (Psalm 34:1)
11. You must live a convincing lifestyle before God, for Him to believe that you truly trust and obey Him. Abraham and Job did not fail to prove this fact when it mattered most (Genesis 22:12^b; Job 13:15)
12. You must hate evil and evil practices with passion (Proverbs 8:13)

SOME BENEFITS OF WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

1. Walking in the fear of the Lord lays a solid foundation of divine knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10)
2. **It guarantees a secure fortress:** If you work in the fear of God, your fortress is secured, and it will be a refuge for your children (Proverbs 14:26).
3. **It prolongs life:** When you walk in the fear of the Lord, your life will be prolonged (Prov. 10:27)
4. **It is a fountain of life:** Fountain don't dry; therefore, walking in the fear of the Lord gives assurance of eternal life (Proverbs 14:27; 19:23).
5. **It promotes revelation knowledge:** The Lord reveals His secret to them that fear Him. He will show them His covenant, that is His promises, like He did to Abraham (Psalm 25:14; Genesis 18:17-19)
6. **There is a promise of goodness:** It is stated in the Holy Bible that those walk in the fear of the Lord, that their days shall be prolonged, and that it shall be well with them that fear God (Eccl. 8:12)
7. **It attracts God's attention:** The poor and a contrite spirit, and those who tremble at God's word will attract God's attention (Isaiah 66:2^b)

EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO WALKED IN THE FEAR OF GOD

6. Abraham: Despite his long time of waiting on God, he obeyed when God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen. 22:10)
7. **Joseph:** He refused to lie with his master's wife, and he was not pretending about it (Genesis 39:7-9)
8. **Noah:** Noah remained resolute and refused to sin like his generation did. God saved him and his family (Gen. 7:1)
9. **Daniel:** For the fear of the Lord, Daniel refused to defile himself with the portion of the king's meat. He also refused to yield to pressure of praying to the king as decreed in the land. God delivered him from the dens of lion (Daniel 1:8; 6:10-11, 19-22).
10. **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:** They refused to bow to worship the king's image. They were thrown into the burning furnace; they came out unhurt (Daniel 3:16-18).
11. **The Hebrew midwives:** They fear God, hence they refused to kill the Hebrew male child at birth as ordered by the king of Egypt (Exodus 1:17-19).
12. **Esther:** Showed that she had the fear of God. She declared prayer and fasting in the palace. That was the panacea to the liberation of her Jewish people from servitude (Esther 4:16)

DANGERS OF NOT WALKING IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD

6. **It leads to careless and reckless behaviours:** You will be held accountable for what you say or do (Matt. 12:36-37)
7. **It attracts severe punishment:** On the contrary, those that do not walk in the fear of the Lord are among the wicked. The Scripture says that it their days shall not be prolonged, and it shall not be well with them (Eccl. 8:13)
8. **It results to untimely death:** The Israelites demeaned God in the wilderness; and they did not enter His rest. They died without entering the promise land (Psalm 95:8-11)

CONCLUSION

Not walking in the fear of God is like one walking in a dark room without light. No doubt, he or she must stumble and fall. God desires that we walk with Him and show a high sense of honour and obedience to His word. This is the only way to win His heart like Abraham, Joseph and others.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, may I not just walk with you, give me the needed knowledge to walk in the fear of the Lord, so that I will be justified, in Jesus name I pray Amen!

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 17TH JULY 2022

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING THE ART OF SERVING GOD

TEXT: JOHN 12:20-36

MEMORY VERSES: JOHN 12:26 *"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

I have heard from not few people who said that to serve God is a difficult task. I can say from experience that there is no venture that is easy to accomplish without the right application of the basic principles. Service to God is not an easy task if you do not understand the art and the right application to the service. In life situations, the right application of the first principles makes the solution to the problem easy to come by. No wonder Christ beckons on us to bear His yoke, for it is very light and easy. If you understand the formula of any mathematical equations, it becomes easy to solve. This is how it is with the service to God. The antidote to the art of serving God is expounded in the memory verse (John 12:26). It is a conditional statement.

STUDY OUTLINE

THE VERITABLE ART OF SERVING GOD

10. **Make the right choice:** God has never and cannot force anyone to serve Him. It is at your own volition to serve Him. However, the right decision you need to make is to serve God with all your heart. That is why Christ says *"if any man serve me..."* meaning that it is a choice you need to make (John 12:26a; Joshua 24:15)
11. **Be a good follower of Christ:** It is right to say that not all followers of Christ are good followers. A good example is Judas Iscariot, who followed Him in deceit; Thomas who followed Christ in doubt; crowd of people that followed Him because of food (John 6:26; Luke 22:3-4; John 20:24-25)
12. **You must be in His presence always:** This is far from going to church or attending religious programs. To be in the presence of God, is to live in righteousness always and unconditionally, no matter where you are. God is Omnipresent (Jer. 23:24)

WHY DO WE SERVE GOD?

- F. It is a covenant God had with our father Abraham, that He would deliver us from our enemies; that we serve Him without fear all the days of our life (Luke 1:73-74)
- G. Service to God creates the opportunity for us to experience satisfaction, joy and inner peace (Psalm 122:1)
- H. It is an expression of obedience to His will, irrespective of how we feel or the circumstances surrounding us (Gen. 22:1-2)
- I. Worship is an act of service to God; and this is the purpose He created us (Rev. 4:11; Exodus 8:1)

BASIC REQUIREMENTS WE NEED TO SERVE GOD

5. We need the fear of God, sincerity and truth (Joshua 24:14)
6. We need holiness and righteousness (Luke 1:75)
7. We need spiritual anointing and power as ministers (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
8. We need the passion to work for God (1 Cor. 9:16)
9. We need good courage to stand firm even in the face of terror (Joshua 1:6-7)
10. We need sacrifices. If you are not willing and cheerful to sacrifice, it would be impossible to serve God (2 Samuel 24:24)
11. We need dedication. You must show very strong support for, and loyalty to God in order to serve Him effectively (Philip. 1:21)
12. We need faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God. You must be a God-pleaser to serve Him (Hebrews 11:6)

THE BENEFITS OF SERVING THE LORD, GOD

6. It helps the youth to develop confidence and self-esteem, learn how to build good relationship with God and people around them (1 Tim 4:12-15)
7. It attracts God's all-round blessings including your bread (Lev. 26:3-6; Exodus 23:25)
8. You shall eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19)
9. Serving God brings about soul-satisfaction and sense of accomplishment (Luke 2:25-32)
10. It elicits honour from God the Father. It is a rare privilege to be honoured by God (John 12:26^b)
11. Those who serve the Lord and call upon Him shall be saved (Romans 10:13; Joel 2:32)

THE DANGERS OF REFUSING TO SERVE GOD

11. It is an act of disobedience. Jonah displayed this sinful act (Jonah 1:1-3)
12. It attracts severe punishment such as the plague upon the Egyptians (Exodus 11:1)
13. It leads to death. God frowns greatly at refusal to serve Him (Isaiah 1:20; Deut. 8:19)

CONCLUSION

There is dignity in service. There is reward for every duty performed in honour of God and humanity. According to Matthew 25:33-46, the sheep on the right hand are those that served God selflessly and diligently, while the goats on the left hand are those that refused as biblically directed. So, God will reward everyone according to their deeds (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

PRAYER

Dear Father, may you equip me with the knowledge, to understand the need to serve you in humility and dedication; this I ask in Jesus mighty name; Amen

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 24TH JULY 2022

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

TOPIC: FALLING AT THE FEET OF JESUS CHRIST

TEXT: LUKE 8:40-END

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 8:41 *“And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house.” (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Falling at the feet is an act of submission, worship or absolute respect to superior being, deity, or officer. In our famous Christian hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy”, a line in the second stanza reads, “Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Him.” We owe total allegiance to God. We show total submission and unflinching worship to God by falling down at His feet. In today's Bible text, Jairus approached Christ with heavy heart because of his sick daughter. Jairus, despite his high position as the ruler of the synagogue, understood that Jesus Christ is God and deserved to be worshipped. This is a position many would ignorantly or arrogantly neglect. How do you approach the feet of Jesus Christ?

STUDY OUTLINE

THE SIGNIFICANCES OF FALLING AT THE FEET OF JESUS CHRIST

20. **It is a demonstration of loyalty:** Christ is loyal to His Father. His disciples pledge their loyalty even at the point of death. You cannot fall at His feet with show of arrogance like the Pharisee (Luke 18:11-12; Matthew 23:23)
21. **It is a show of humility:** Jesus lived a humble life and taught His disciples to emulate Him. If you humble yourself in God's presence, He will show you grace and upliftment (James 4:6, 10; Luke 14:11)
22. **It signifies total dependency on Christ, and faith in Him:** When you depend on your God for everything, He will not fail you, His jealous nature would steer Him into total focus on you challenge. God can never share His glory with anything made by Him. Christ's disciples understood that Christ is all in all, the Way, Truth and Life. In Him we live and move and have our being (John 14:6; Acts 17:28)

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE FEET OF JESUS CHRIST?

4. Worship Him. The way you react when you see a great person matters much. You must recognize Jesus as Lord and Saviour (Revelation 4:10).
5. People make passionate plea with Jesus Christ on various issues of concern (Luke 8:41)
6. There is expression of grief: Mary and Martha the sisters of Lazarus expressed grief at the feet of Christ when their brother died (John 11:32-33)

EXAMPLES OF THOSE THAT FELL AT THE FEET OF JESUS

- ❖ Jairus daughter (Luke 8:41)
- ❖ A man with an unclean spirit (Mark 5:1-7)
- ❖ Mary the sister of Lazarus (John 11:32)
- ❖ The Canaanite woman (Mark 7:25)
- ❖ The blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-50)
- ❖ The man born blind (John 9:35-38)
- ❖ The Samaritan leper (Luke 17:16)
- ❖ The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years (Mark 5:24-29)

THE GAINS OF FALLING AT HIS FEET

1. **Your sins are forgiven you:** Forgiveness can only be gotten when a sinner shows willingness to confess and forsake his/her sin, through genuine repentance like the publican (Luke 18:13; John 8:10-11; Mark 2:5)
2. **Healing takes place at the feet of Jesus Christ:** The essence of falling at His feet is to show that we can't help ourselves. Our dependency is on Christ for our healing (Luke 17:15)
3. **Restoration of life when all hope was lost:** Certain critical conditions have led to hopelessness in the life of people, but once it is brought to the feet of Christ, hope is rekindled, and life is restored (John 11:43-44; Luke 8:49-55; John 5:6 - 8)
4. **Deliverance from evil/unclean spirit:** Evil spirits are not afraid of any man; but the name of Jesus Christ put them to flight. No wonder, the unclean spirit recognized Jesus and bowed at His feet in worship (Mark 5:8-13; Matt. 17:15-18)
5. **Salvation of soul is guaranteed:** After conversion, Paul became not just a follower of Jesus Christ, but an ardent apostle with uncommon grace. He won nations for Christ through his strong belief and convincing message of salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:12; Acts 19:14-16)

CONCLUSION

Coming into the presence of God is tantamount to being at His feet; provided you approach Him in humbleness of mind and spirit. Only then, can you attract His attention like Daniel (Daniel 9:3-19), Hannah and others as mentioned above.

PRAYER: At your feet O LORD, let your mercy, grace, favour and compassion speak for me; in Jesus' name I pray; Amen!

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 31ST JULY 2022

THEME: LOVE AND PEACE

TOPIC: A WORTHY CITIZEN OF GOD'S KINGDOM

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-END

MEMORY VERSE: 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5 *"This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering."* (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

A citizen is a legally recognized subject or national of a state or commonwealth, either native (inborn) or naturalized (adopted). An inhabitant of a particular town or city is also called a citizen. This definition is also applicable to a citizen of God's kingdom. However, unlike the earthly kingdom, in God's kingdom, all worthy citizens are admitted through naturalized process. God's kingdom citizens do things only in God's own way, submitting to the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ whose government and officers are superior in all facets; they are ready to do good always. A worthy citizenship of God's kingdom is synonymous to Biblical citizenship who understands the truth in the Word of God, and ever ready to apply them as a culture. You are entitled to full rights and privileges.

STUDY OUTLINE

HOW TO BECOME A WORTHY CITIZEN OF GOD'S KINGDOM

According to W. R. Luchie "every Kingdom Citizen today is a naturalized citizen. We emigrated from a foreign country, a dominion of darkness." To become a worthy citizen of God's kingdom, the following is applicable:

8. Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness; a kingdom where only righteous living exists. You must be born again and hunger after righteousness only (Matt. 6:33; John 3:3)
9. Learn to live a life devoid of nepotism, tribalism, and ethnic bigotry; everyone in the kingdom lives in unity and as one big family (Gal. 3:28)
10. Enrollment into the evangelical ministry of the kingdom, is a requirement for citizenship of God's kingdom. Preaching the gospel is a mandate given to every kingdom citizen (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 4:17).
11. You must be ready to naturalize in the new God's kingdom and become a full citizen and a member of the household of God, just like other saints who were there before you (Ephesians 2:19).
12. Grow in faith exceedingly and let the love of Christ for each other abound (2 Thessalonians 1:3).

SOME ATTRIBUTES OF WORTHY CITIZENS OF GOD'S KINGDOM

21. **They are heaven conscious:** Focus on things of heaven and not on things on earth (Philip. 3:20; Colossians 3:2)
22. **They endure suffering, tribulation:** You must endure many tribulations, through which you enter God's kingdom (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim 3:11-12)
23. **They are peaceful:** God's kingdom citizens are known by their peaceful disposition (Matt. 5:9)
24. **They are faithful unto the end:** They remain resolute and resilient and no longer be infants tossed about by wind of doctrine (Heb. 3:14; Eph. 4:14)
25. **They are holy:** They are holy in the similitude of God's holiness (Lev. 11:44, 20:26; 1 Peter 1:16)
26. **They are joyful always:** Worthy citizens rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and glory in tribulations (Philip. 4:4; Romans 5:2-3)
27. **They are fruitful:** They bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:5)

THE BENEFITS OF BEING A WORTHY CITIZEN OF GOD'S KINGDOM

6. It is righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you. As a kingdom citizen, God will fight your battle and you will hold your peace (2 Thess. 1:6; Exodus 14:14)
7. There will be rest for those that are troubled, when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven (2 Thess. 1:7)
8. God will count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness (2 Thess. 1:11)
9. The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you, and you in Him (2 Thess. 1:12)

THE DANGERS OF NOT BEING AMONG THE WORTHY CITIZENS OF GOD'S KINGDOM

13. God will take vengeance on them that know not God, and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 1:8)
14. They will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:9).
15. If you are not a worthy citizen of God's kingdom, your labour may be effort in futility. There would not be a favorable reward (Matt. 7:22-23, 8:11-12)

CONCLUSION

A worthy servant deserves a worthy reward; also, worthy citizens of nations are adequately decorated with different honor medals. This is how it is in God's kingdom. The citizens are considered worthy. But be ready to endure various sufferings and tribulations for the kingdom's sake.

PRAYER: My Father, my God, through obedience to your word, make me a worthy citizen of your kingdom, in words and deeds; in Jesus' name I pray; Amen

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

THEME: AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN

It's the eight month of the year and it's a month of waking Sleeping Giants!

By divine design, we are well loaded, loaded well enough to succeed in life and ministry. However, many of us that were made to be giants have slept off while on duty! We are no more able to make any mark in life because we are fast asleep, struggling with slumber at a time when challenges should be surmounted before us! It's time to wake up. It's time to arise and shine! Any time you realize that you have stayed long enough in a particular mountain and you sincerely want to make a change, the first thing you must do is to raise your standards and believe you can meet these standards. You must begin to value yourself and think positively. You must change the way you see things and begin to see yourself as been able to achieve great feats before you actually achieve them. This is key to remaining the giant that God made you to be.

In life, many people know what to do, but in the end, only a few people will actually get to do these things that they know. We must not only awaken the giant so that we have the capacity to act, but we must also act! We must decide the areas we will create impact and we will see to it that we actually get to create the planned positive impact. If you truly decide to do certain things and you begin to do them, you will discover that you can do almost anything.

In this month, we shall be studying God's Word on waking sleeping giants, based on the following topics:

- ❖ **Identify and Utilize Opportunities:** When the giant is awake, he needs to be engaged. An idle giant is the same as a sleeping giant. Until we are able to identify and utilize opportunities, even if we wake the giant, there will be nothing for the giant to do. We must be observant to identify opportunities and we must also be disposed to act and utilize identified opportunities. When this is done, we have our proof that indeed, we have been able to wake up the sleeping giant within us.
- ❖ **Get Involved in Evangelism:** Every believer is expected to be involved in the business of winning souls to the Kingdom. God has given us the gifts and the talents that we need for the assignment of soul winning. However, many evangelical giants are sleeping away their time, doing nothing, while souls descend into eternal damnation minute by minute. We need to wake this sleeping giant and get involved in preaching Jesus Christ to the unbelievers. No giant is permitted to remain asleep while souls perish. The Evangelical giants have slept long enough, while the world waits in pains, for them to wake up and manifest. Let every sleeping giant arise and get involved in evangelism. The time for sleep and laxity is over.
- ❖ **Overcoming Evil with Good:** When some of us are treated badly, we condescend to the level of the ones treating us badly and return evil for evil. This is far from what God requires from us as the children of light and the followers of Christ. In fact, it is sure evidence that we are still carnal. We are still sleeping giants. As we wake the sleeping giant within us, we will receive the power to be able to respond to evil with good. We will respond with so much kindness that evil will be overcome with good. Even we think that we have failed to retaliate, we will be considered weak and powerless. This line of thought will prove to be erroneous in the end, when we follow it and get hurt while trying to exert vengeance. Doing evil unto others is not in the nature of the children of light. No matter the reason or provocation, God's children must never return evil with evil, rather, they must overcome evil with good. In the same way, darkness is overcome by the light.
- ❖ **The Giant In Motherhood:** Until you begin to act, you never can tell what you are capable of. When things go wrong and we do nothing or go into hiding, we have sealed our failure. However, if we awake the giant within us and rise up, we will do things that we had formerly thought not to be possible. When women arise, we see life become colorful and interesting. When the streets became insecure and Israel was groaning under the weight of the bondage of their oppressors, Deborah woke up the giant within her, judged Israel and rose as a mother in Israel and things became well again. As our women celebrate their anniversary this year, the Lord is asking them to awaken the giant within them, arise and shine! This will give rise to a better ESOCS church and a more colorful world at large.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 7TH AUGUST 2022

THEME: AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN
TOPIC: IDENTIFY AND UTILIZE OPPORTUNITIES
TEXT: ACTS 17:16-43

MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 17:23 *"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

To face certain challenges, you need to wake up the sleeping giant within you. Once the giant is awake, the first thing you must do is to identify the exact things that need to be done. From our text, we see that St Paul identified an opportunity for soul winning when he discovered that the city was full of superstitious idol worshippers. He identified this opportunity of a lifetime and made up his mind to utilize it. When opportunities show up, we need to wake the sleeping giant within us and push ourselves to utilize it. Waking the sleeping giant, only for him to wake up and be idle does not make any sense. Once the giant is awake, you must search for opportunities and see to it that you utilize those opportunities. In fact, the moment we wake the giant within us by deciding on the areas we want to create impact, opportunities in these areas will naturally begin to stare us in the face.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY YOU MUST UTILIZE OPPORTUNITY

1. A time may come when it will be too late to utilize the opportunity e.g., the five foolish virgins. (Matt 25:6-9)
2. God is not happy when He gives us opportunities, but we are afraid to utilize them. This explains why all the Israelites that refused to fight the giants died in the wilderness (Numbers 14:28-30; Matthew 25:24-28)
3. When we miss some opportunities, we may be helpless before other challenges in the future. If Esther had not become queen, who knows how Israel would have survived Hamman's plots? (Esther 4:14)
4. When we miss opportunities, others may take it up immediately (Luke 14:16-24)

HOW TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Move Around:** St. Paul travelled, identified and utilized every opportunity to preach the gospel (Romans 15:25)
2. **Be Observant:** In our text, St. Paul observed that they were idol worshippers and saw it as an opportunity to preach the gospel (Acts 17:22-23)
3. **Carefully Follow Trends to know what is going on around you:** Esther heard that the king needed a bride and responded (Esther 2:8).
4. **Watch out for Problems and Challenges, they are opportunities in disguise:** When Vashti was removed as queen, the need for a new queen naturally occurred (Esther 2:1-4)
5. **Get Sound knowledge; Investigate:** St Paul found out that they liked hearing of new things so he shared the gospel to them as something new that will be of interest to them (Acts 17:19-21)
6. **Be sensitive in the spirit:** St Paul was stirred in his spirit (Acts 17:16)
7. **Make yourself visible:** Joseph asked Pharaoh's butler to remember him when he is released (Gen 40:14)
8. **Divine Revelation:** St Paul got a revelation to come and preach in Macedonia (Acts 16:9)

SOME OPPORTUNITIES YOU MUST NEVER MISS TO UTILIZE

1. Opportunity to become greater in life e.g., Queen Esther (Esther 2:8-9).
2. Every opportunity to preach the gospel (2 Tim 4:2).
3. Every opportunity to do good unto others, especially Christian brethren (Galatians 6:10).
4. Opportunity to defend/refute false allegations levelled against you (Matthew 10:17-20; Acts 28:19).
5. Opportunity to shut up all critics (who may find a steppingstone as a result of your errors) by living in righteousness. (See 1 Timothy 5:14).

FEW BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF IDENTIFYING AND UTILIZING OPPORTUNITIES

1. The Shunamite woman used the opportunity of entertaining Prophet Elisha to get the blessing of baby she longed for (1 Kings 4:9-17).
2. When the King told Nehemiah that he looked sad, he saw it as an opportunity to make his request which was granted (Nehemiah 2:2-5).
3. When Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos preaching boldly but without deep rooted knowledge, they utilized the opportunity and taught him the scriptures more accurately (Acts 18:24-26).

4. When St. Paul could not visit the Thessalonians physically, he had to write an epistle to them. He still did not miss the opportunity to evangelize to them (1 Thess. 2:18).

CONCLUSION

They say that “Opportunity knocks but once”. When opportunities come our way, we should not see them as impossible feats; rather we should identify and utilize them. By the special grace of God, our efforts will never be in vain.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, destroy all the adversaries that stand in my way, and help me utilize the opportunities that you bring, in Jesus’ name. Amen!

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 14TH AUGUST 2022

THEME: AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN

TOPIC: GET INVOLVED IN EVANGELISM

TEXT: ROMANS 15:14-33

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 15:25 *"But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

From the day of his conversion, the Apostle Paul lived every day of his life, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Knowing who Saint Paul was before he began to evangelize, and who he became after he began to evangelize, it's obvious that getting involved in Evangelism turned Paul into a good giant. He went from being a part of the team that persecuted Christians to becoming a terror to the kingdom of darkness, such that handkerchiefs and aprons from him healed the sick. By getting involved in evangelism and soul winning, St Paul was able to awaken the giant within and became a great vessel of God. You too can awaken the sleeping giant within you by getting involved in evangelism. You will soon become a giant and heaven will be proud of you.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT GOD EXPECTS FROM US

4. God expects all believers to get involved in the preaching of the gospel to unbelievers. (Mark 16:15)
5. God expects us to preach all the time. He wants everyone to be saved (2 Tim 4:2; 1 Tim 2:4).
6. God expects us to reconcile the ones that have missed the way back to him (2 Cor. 5:18-19)
7. God expects us to remain in the faith while preaching to others. Do not fall out of faith to win a soul (1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Cor. 9:27)

EXAMPLES ON HOW THE EARLY APOSTLES PREACHED THE GOSPEL

1. Evangelism is not a money-making venture. The aim of evangelism is to make disciples (Luke 10:3-4; Matt 28:18-20)
2. St. Paul travelled far and wide, preaching the gospel (Romans 15:25)
3. On the day of the Pentecost, Peter fearlessly preached the gospel, and 3,000 souls were won in one day (Acts 2:41)
4. Apostle Philip preached at Samaria with miracles recorded as many were baptized (Acts 8:5-12)
5. Peter and John at the gate of the temple called Beautiful healed the lame; they went further to preach to witnesses of the miracle (Acts 3:11-19).
6. St. Paul goes back to places he has preached to water the seed planted in previous visits (Romans 15:28-29)

WAYS THAT BELIEVERS CAN EVANGELISE

6. Open Air and early morning preaching and crusades. You should attend, even if you are not preaching, get involved by sharing the tracts (Mark 1:3, 7).
7. Spreading the Gospel over the Media e.g., Television, Radio, Newspapers etc.
8. Preparing and disseminating the written gospel. The Apostles wrote lots of books and letters. (Romans 15:15)
9. Engaging in counselling and advice when appropriate. (Exodus 18:14-23).
10. Take advantage of current technology to evangelize e.g. The Internet, social media, messaging platforms, live streaming
11. Using your spiritual gifts to deliver others from the clutches of Satan e.g. Using Prayers, Drama, Music etc. to win souls (1 Samuel 16:14-18; Acts 9:39-40)
12. Living an exemplary life (Rom 2:21-24)
13. Be among the ones who finance evangelism and minister to people's need (Acts 2:44-47)

EVIDENCE THAT EVANGELISM TRANSFORMS BELIEVERS INTO GIANTS

1. Demons were subject to the disciples as they preached the gospel (Luke 10:17)
2. Handkerchiefs from St Paul healed the sick. At a point, they tried to worship Paul. (Acts 19:11-12; 14:7-15).
3. People wanted to be like the Apostles and even offered to buy the gifts of the Holy Spirit with money (Acts 8:17-22).
4. Signs and wonders followed the Apostles as they preached the gospel (Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3)
5. An eternal reward awaits believers who win souls to Christ (Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3)

CONCLUSION

Evangelism is an emergency operation because souls are descending into hell every moment. You must get involved today in evangelism. The Harvest is much but the laborers are few. We all need to get involved in the emergency mission of

spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. God expects every believer who finds the WAY to show that WAY to others. As we show others the WAY, the Lord fills us with the grace and power to perform signs and wonders and turns us into His treasured Vessels.

PRAYER: O Lord, change my attitude towards soul winning and help me to get involved in preaching the gospel in Jesus' name - Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2022

THEME: AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN
TOPIC: OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD
TEXT: ROMANS 12:16-21

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 12:21 *"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

In life, we may be tempted to return evil with evil. We may begin to think that if we fail to retaliate, we will be considered weak and powerless. However, this is far from what the Lord expects from His children. Having an extraordinary stature does not necessarily make you a giant. For example, David happened to be a giant to Goliath. What proves that you are a giant is that you are able to overcome evil with good. If you have been repaying evil with evil, then you are overcome by evil. You need to awaken the giant within. When this happens, you will no more be overcome by evil, but you will overcome evil with good. You will not become evil because everyone around you is showering evil on you. You will overcome evil with good as a proof that the sleeping giant is now awake. Our text in Romans 12 gives practical steps on how a believer can overcome evil with good.

STUDY OUTLINE

EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF BEING OVERCOME BY EVIL

1. To be overcome by evil is to take a wrong decision because someone showered evil on us (Romans 12:21)
2. To be overcome by evil is allowing the devil to dictate the kind of life we live (Genesis 3:1-6).
3. To be overcome by evil is to revenge the evil done to us (1 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:17^a).

WHY YOU MUST NEVER BE OVERCOME BY EVIL

1. God requires that we are not overcome by evil (Romans 12:21)
2. Vengeance belongs to God and not us. He will always avenge on our behalf (Hebrews 10:30)
3. Darkness should never be able to quench the light. God's goodness is stronger than evil. (John 1:5)
4. This is not the life God expects His children to live (Matthew 5:43-48)
5. We can be hurt while pursuing vengeance. See how God responded to Jehu's killings (Hosea 1:4)
6. God is our example. He makes the sun to rise on both the sinners and the righteous. (Matthew 5:45)
7. Evil cannot cast out evil. It takes good to overcome evil. (Matthew 12:25-29)
8. Eternal life awaits anyone who is able to overcome evil (Revelation 21:7)

HOW TO OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

1. Awaken the giant within. Decide that this is what you want to do and stick to your decision. (1 Thess. 5:21-22).
2. Keeping your eyes on Jesus will help you to know how to respond when you are treated poorly (Hebrews 12:2).
3. Bless those that curse you and persecute you (Romans 12:14, Luke 6:28).
4. Treat everyone with love, not minding how they treat you (Matt 5:43-45).
5. Be guided by God's Word and His Holy Spirit (Psalm 119:105, Gal 5:16).
6. Overcome trials and temptations (James 1:12).
7. Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; continue to pray without ceasing (Romans 12:12).
8. Put on the full armour of God to be able to withstand evil (Eph. 6:13-17).
9. Do not pay back evil with evil (Romans 12:17).
10. Crave for unity and do your best to live peacefully with all. (Romans 12:16, 18).
11. If your enemy is hungry, feed him, provide for his needs (Romans 12:20).
12. Examine yourself to ensure that you have not been overcome by evil. Assess yourself from time to time (2 Cor. 13:5).

SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

1. Joseph did not pay back his brothers in their own coin for selling him into slavery (Gen 50:20-21).
2. Jesus prayed God to forgive the ones who were crucifying Him (1 Peter 2:23).
3. Stephen prayed God to forgive the ones who were stoning him to kill him (Acts 7:60).
4. When the opportunity came, David did not kill King Saul though the King was out to kill him (1 Sam 24:17).

CONCLUSION

Overcoming evil with good is the identity card of the believer. We can't become evil because everyone around us is evil. If this happens, we are no more giants. We are no more believers. Rather, we will remain good although everyone around us is evil. We only need to try and we will get it right because we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus – Amen!

PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, with your help, I will always overcome evil with good from today onwards in Jesus Name - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 28TH AUGUST 2022

THEME: AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN

TOPIC: THE GIANT IN MOTHERHOOD

TEXT: JUDGES 5:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: JUDGES 5:7 *"The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Until you begin to act, you never can tell what you are capable of. When things go wrong and we do nothing or go into hiding, we have sealed our failure. However, if we awake the giant within us and rise up, we will do things that we had formerly thought not to be possible. In our text, when there was insecurity in the land, Deborah decided to awake the giant within her and rose up as a mother in Israel. When she did rise up, God used her mightily, along-side other women, who were also able to awaken the giant within them and Israel were saved from her enemies. God used these women to achieve things that men somehow, were unable to achieve, as a lesson to Eternal Women to without making excuses, rise up as Mothers today. They should not assume that they will fail because others already failed, or because men could not resolve those issues. As they wake up the giant within them, they will exceed all expectations and they will do great exploits. These great women will now be able to play a pivotal role in subverting man-made power structures that were made to distort the peace and progress of the Land. The Slogan: ***"Eternal Women, Arise and Shine!"***, is a call to all Eternal Women to wake up the giant within them, after which they can arise and shine.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHO IS A GIANT?

1. A person of extraordinary stature. Others look like grasshoppers unto them. They dwarf all others (Numbers 13:33).
2. A person of extraordinary strength and courage (It could be physical or spiritual strength) (1 Sam 17:4-7).
3. A person that others are scared of. All the Israelite Soldiers were afraid of Goliath, except David. (1 Sam 17:11)
4. A Champion. A Champion is better than the best. (1 Sam 17:4)

WHY YOU MUST AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN YOU

1. You have strength and courage to face hard times (Proverbs 24:10)
2. To be a virtuous woman, you must be a giant. (Proverbs 31 13-27).
3. The giant in you needs to manifest for people to be liberated (Matthew 9:37-38; Romans 8:19)
4. Everyone especially women need to so as to attract glory to God. (Judges 4:9)

HOW TO AWAKEN THE GIANT WITHIN

1. Be Courageous. Our mothers must be bold and stand out like Deborah (2 Tim 1:7)
2. Awaken the hunger and thirst for righteousness (Proverbs 28:1; Matt 5:6)
3. Awake from sleep. All sleeping giants need to wake up! (Eph. 5:14)
4. Get God's support so that you become a giant killer like Jael the wife of Heber (Judges 4:17)
5. Use the wisdom and spiritual power given to believers. You will dwarf others who have no spiritual Power (Luke 10:19)
6. Don't just fold your arms. Do something to change your situation like Rahab who hid the spies (Joshua 6:23-25)
7. Begin to act like a fearless giant like Mary Magdalene who stood out to check the tomb of Christ (Mark 15:40)
8. Use your gifts, work for God and do great exploits like Dorcas (Acts 14:7-15)
9. Giants must raise more giants. Older women must be an example to younger women. They should teach them to be kind, to love their husbands, their children and to take care of their homes. (Titus 2:4-5)

SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO WORKED AS GIANTS

1. Deborah judged Israel and even went to war with the men (Judges 4:5,8-9)
2. Israel conquered the enemy after a Jael, wife of Heber passed a nail through Sisera's skull (Judges 4:21-23)
3. Abigail saved her family from David's wrath by using her initiative to find ways to appease David (1 Sam 25:14-32)
4. Queen Esther achieved what the men could not achieve. God used her to save her nation (Esther 4:16)
5. Virgin Mary was favoured to be the mother of the Messiah by virtue of her purity (Luke 1:28)

CONCLUSION

The Last thing the devil wants is for you to awaken the giant within. When the giant awakes, his kingdom will be in trouble. Know that you too can shock the world. Many people may have done great things, but you can even do greater

things than the ones done by them. You only need to awaken the giant within you, rise up and all challenges around you will be dwarfed. You will be surprised at the end of the day, when you begin to count your exploits one by one. Happy Women Anniversary to all ESOCS Women!

PRAYER

Oh Lord, May the Giant within me wake up and become a terror to the forces of darkness in Jesus name - Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

THEME: A GODLY GENERATION

This month's theme is "A Godly Generation." Godly generation simply means a generation that seeks to fulfil God's purpose and mandate here on earth. Every godly generation is determined to align itself to God's agenda and to bring down the will of God to their environment. God created us to be a godly generation. We are created to live a life of holiness. We are also created to use God's Word to change every negative situation and to be a blessing to others. Hence, in this month we shall be examining several topics that will enable us to understand what it takes to become a godly generation. The topics are summarized as itemized below:

- ❖ **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF THE LORD:** This teaching is all about proclaiming the Word of God to the world. As Christians, we are expected to be carriers of God's Word to all creatures. It is God's command and God desires to save sinners who are going astray through our preaching and teachings. In this topic, we shall be examining why God gave us the mandate to proclaim His Word. We shall be learning the potency of God's Word to mankind. Finally, we shall learn how to become effective soul winners in God's kingdom.
- ❖ **THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S GOODWILL TO ELISHA:** Studying about the Shunammite woman is an opportunity to learn the character of a woman of influence and affluence. This noble woman lived with her husband till old age but had no child. The Bible recorded that she noticed that a particular man of God passes through her house every time. Then, she appealed to her husband to give approval for them to give a room to the man of God to make life easier for him. Upon the husband's approval, she set up a room for Elisha's comfort and lodging. This singular act earned her a great blessing of a child. This teaching will expose to us life lessons from the Shunammite's woman. It will equally reveal to us rewards for her goodwill. Finally, it will teach us how to respond to the Prophet to attract the Prophet's reward.
- ❖ **RAISING DISCIPLES THROUGH MENTORSHIP:** Mentoring entails more than mere passing on knowledge about God. It involves showing people how to love and serve God. There are many instances of someone who is wiser and more experienced in the ways of the Lord acting as a mentor to someone younger or newer in the faith. This teaching is expected to illuminate our spiritual understanding on who a godly mentor should be. Also, it will equally expose to us that mentoring is all about becoming a role model for younger ones to emulate. Finally, it will give us insight on what you need to do to become a godly mentor.
- ❖ **OVERCOMING THE DEVIL:** The devil has always been the arch enemy of believers. He has been in the business of fighting the believers using different strategies available to him. Ever since God cast him down here on earth, he has played major role in bringing down Christian giants. This teaching is so important because it will aid us with all the required knowledge on how we can overcome the devil and his agents. It is meant to expose to us the following: some strategies of the devil against humanity; steps towards achieving victory over the devil; the benefits of overcoming the devil and the dangers of yielding to the devil.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

THEME: A GODLY GENERATION
TOPIC: PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF THE LORD
TEXT: JEREMIAH 36:1-26

MEMORY VERSE: JEREMIAH 36:6 *"Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD'S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities." (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The Word of the Lord was made known to Prophet Jeremiah concerning the impending danger to the house of Judah. The Lord asked Jeremiah to write down on the scroll all the warnings and instructions from the Lord so that it would be read in the hearing of everyone. The services of Baruch (the Scribe) were sought to assist in writing down God's Words from the mouth of Jeremiah. Baruch was charged by Jeremiah to read and proclaim the warnings to the hearing of everyone in Judah. The reason behind these steps by the Lord is because of His love to mankind. He desired that the house of Judah be saved from destruction if they yield themselves to God's instructions. However, God's Word can only be effective when it is proclaimed. As Christians, we owe God obligation of proclaiming His Word to sinners so that they will be saved from His anger. This command is not addressed to preachers only, but to every believer. God's Word is better proclaimed in sincerity than engaging in unnecessary argument.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHY PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD?

1. To obey God's command (Matthew 28:19; Proverbs 11:30).
2. To reveal God's mind and agenda to the people (Jeremiah 36:3-8).
3. To avert punishment (Jonah 3:4; Matthew 3:3-7).
4. To get the church ready for Christ second coming (Luke 12:40).

THE POTENCY OF GOD'S WORD TO MANKIND

1. **Conversion:** God's Word has the capacity to convert souls (Psalm 19:7)
2. **Regeneration:** The Word of God has the capacity to save sinners from their sins (Rom. 8:13).
3. **Revelation:** The Word of God has the power to reveal to us certain things that we may not know (Psalm 119:130)
4. **Reproduction:** God's Word is like a seed when planted in an obedient heart it will reproduce after its kind (Luke 8:11).
5. **Encouragement:** God's Word is necessary for encouraging people in the service of God (Psalm 37:39; Rom. 15:5).
6. **Comfort:** God's Word brings comfort and strengthens the heart-broken (Psalms 147:3; Isaiah 61:1^b)
7. **Revival:** God uses His Word to revive the sluggish in heart and impart zeal for His service (Psalm 138:7; Habakkuk 3:2).
8. **Correction:** God's Word is used to bring correction to those that are straying (1 Peter 2:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
9. **To humble the proud:** The power in God's Word has a way of humbling the proud and subjecting them under His Word (Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12).
10. **Benchmarking tool:** God's Word is the standard for measuring our spiritual well-being and walk with God (2 Timothy 3:16).
11. **Reward:** God's Word provides assurance of God's reward to those that diligently follow Him (Heb. 11:6; Daniel 12:3).

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SOUL WINNER

1. Know the Word (Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:15).
2. Ask God for Evangelistic Burden, Boldness and Utterance (Ephesians 6:19; Matthew 9:37-38;).
3. Live a consistent Christian life (Matthew 5:14-16).
4. Seek to build a healthy relationship with those that need Christ (Luke 19:1-10).
5. Be watchful for good opportunities to preach God's Word and create one where none exists (2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 17:23).
6. Leave the conversion for God. Our duty is to preach the Word to sinners, but it is the work of God to do the conversion (John 6:44; 1 Cor. 3:6; John 16:8).

CONCLUSION

God, the sovereign One of the Universe, speaks and unveils Himself to us through His proclaimed Word. Where there is no proper preaching and hearing of the Word of God, the people will perish. The decision to turn deaf ears to God's Word leads to ruin and destruction. It also results in deterioration and weaken spiritually. Therefore, it is imperative that we engage vigorously in preaching God's Word to sinners to multiply His kingdom.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I need greater grace to continue to propagate Your Word in a more effective way to win souls for the kingdom in Jesus' name – Amen!

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2022

THEME: A GODLY GENERATION

TOPIC: THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN'S GOODWILL TO ELISHA

TEXT: 2 KINGS 4:8-37

MEMORY VERSE: 2 KINGS 4:16 *"And he said, about this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The Bible passage above gives us a story of Elisha and his encounter with the Shunammite woman. The woman and the husband had influence and were notable in the land. She pressed Elisha to dine with them as he passed through their house. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he would stop there to dine. So, she said to her husband, *"I know that he is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes, he can stay here."* (2 Kings 4:8-10). The woman used her kindness and wealth to entertain a prophet. This stirred up the prophetic grace on Elisha to make a prophecy to the Shunammite woman that in a year's time that she would have a son. The woman was in doubt of the prophesy but because of God's mercy, she conceived and bare a son according to the word of the Prophet. She got blessed with a child because of her kindness.

STUDY OUTLINE

LESSONS FROM THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

8. **She was hospitable:** This woman's miraculous story would have never happened if she had not been a woman who offered hospitality (2 Kings 4:9-10).
9. **Contentment:** She never made a request from the prophet. This communicates contentment (2 Kings 4:13; Proverbs 20:27).
10. **She was prominent:** Being a woman is not an excuse for poverty. She was a woman of influence and affluence (2 Kings 4:8).
11. **She was discerning:** She was able to see from the lens of the Spirit that Elisha was a man of God and deserves to be honored (2 Kings 4:9).
12. **She was a good counsellor:** The Shunammite woman gave godly counsel to her husband (2 Kings 4:10).
13. **She knows God:** The account of the Shunammite woman revealed that she knows and reverences God (2 Kings 4:9).
14. **She had faith and was fearless:** As her only child died, her utterance (it is well) depicted faith in God (2 Kings 4:26).
15. **She was appreciative:** The Shunammite woman fell at the feet of Elisha appreciating him and God, being convinced that the child is a gift from God (2 Kings 4:37).

THE REWARDS FOR HER GOODWILL

14. She was blessed with a son (2 Kings 4:17).
15. She received the restoration of her blessing (2 Kings 4:35-36).
16. Her family was saved from famine (2 Kings 8:1-2).

HOW TO RESPOND AND ATTRACT THE PROPHETS'S REWARD

7. **Believe the Prophet:** One of the secrets that provokes divine visitation is to believe God's Word through His Prophets (2 Chron. 20:20^b; 1 Thess. 5:20).
8. **Receive the Prophet:** When we receive the Prophets and treat them well, then we will receive the Prophet's reward (Matt. 10:41).
9. **Act on the prophecy by faith:** It takes faith to receive anything from God; even through the prophetic ministry (2 Kings 8:1-2, 1 Samuel 9:20).
10. **Keep the prophecy to yourself:** A lot of Christians have truncated God's plans for their lives by being careless in sharing a delicate prophecy with the wrong persons, so be careful (Gen. 37:5; Judges 16:6).

CONCLUSION

As Christians, it is important for us to know that our goodwill goes a long way to lead us to the path of success. The Scripture admonishes us not to be weary in well-doing because we shall receive our rewards if we faint not (Gal. 6:9). So many persons in the Bible have attracted angelic and divine visitation by their goodwill. Today's teaching encourages us to emulate the character of the Shunammite woman who through her kindness and goodwill earned the blessing of a son through God's servant Elisha. Also, we should depend on the Holy Spirit to fill us with the grace for discernment. The Bible records that as this woman discerned that Elisha was a man of God, she immediately took advantage of that revelation to become a blessing to Elisha (2 Kings 4:9). This earned her an uncommon blessing.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that You grant me the grace to always display goodness to people, so that I will not miss out opportunities for blessings in Jesus Name; Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2022

THEME: A GODLY GENERATION

TOPIC: RAISING DISCIPLES THROUGH MENTORSHIP

TEXT: MATTHEW 10:24-33

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 10:25^a *"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord ..." (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

Mentorship is defined by online dictionary as, *"the guidance provided by a mentor, especially an experienced person in a company or educational institution."* Jesus mentored His disciples during His ministry on earth. In fact, He said anyone who serves Him must follow Him. In the Great Commission, Jesus told His followers to make disciples of all nations. Making disciples involves much more than giving people a set of rules to follow; it includes living with them and helping them to grow in Christ. The Words of our Lord Jesus Christ said that if a disciple become like his master, then it is enough for him. The word *'enough'* according to the context means sufficient. As you get into mentoring program, it is expedient that you grow to become like your mentor or even greater in all ramifications. And this brings about sufficiency both in knowledge and character. Remember that Jesus says that we shall do greater works than Him only if we believe.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHO IS A GODLY MENTOR?

9. **A Teacher:** Mentoring is about teaching for one to become better e.g., Apollos to Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:26).
10. **A Coach:** He is expected to be a coach to young ones. Eli to Samuel (1 Sam. 3:8-9).
11. **An Encourager:** A mentor is an encourager to the mentee. Encouragement stirs up hidden potentials. Barnabas to Saul (Paul) (Acts 9:26-27; Acts 11:22-24).
12. **A Disciple Maker:** This is exactly what Jesus came to do. He focused so much on raising disciples who will continue after Him (Mark 3:13-14; Matthew 4:18-19).
13. **A Counsellor:** A mentor should be a good counsellor. When there is good counsel, the mentee is bound to improve (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22).
14. **A Disciplinarian:** A mentor is expected to discipline the mentee whenever he/she errs (1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 3:10-11 - ESV).

MENTORSHIP IS ABOUT BECOMING ROLE MODELS

4. Older women were given an instruction by the Apostle Paul to train younger women how to show love to their husbands and children (Titus 2:4-5).
5. Older men in likewise were charged to teach younger men by example. It is more than preaching or teaching the Bible (Titus 2:2, 6-7).
6. Youths should show good examples to their peers (1 Timothy 4:11-12).
7. Men of God are expected to shepherd the flock of Christ in good examples and not with compulsion. Apostle Paul was very bold to tell the church to be imitators of him even as he emulates Christ (1 Cor, 1:11; Phil. 4:9).

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO BE A GODLY MENTOR

1. Know the Word of God sufficiently to avoid misleading people (2 Timothy. 2:15).
2. Constantly pray for those that are looking up to you for mentorship (Philippians 1:4; 2 Thess 1:11).
3. Be transparent as people look up to you (Gal. 2:11-13).
4. Don't be afraid to ask the hard questions and hold someone accountable (2 Timothy 4:10-11).
5. Do and say everything in love just as Jesus did (Eph. 4:15; Luke 22:31-32).
6. Avoid pride because you are a mere tool in God's hand to bring up others (1 Peter 5:5-6).

CONCLUSION

In Christendom, good and effective mentorship is still lacking. This has contributed to raising half-baked Christians who are not spiritually balanced. Even the Bible tells us that it is difficult for people to know what they should do without a teacher (Romans 10:14). We cannot build a church that will outlive us without raising godly men and women who will continue the work of the ministry. The whole essence of Christ's ministry is to raise disciples. In turn, he empowered the disciples and charged them with responsibility of winning sinners to God. It is our duty to fill this gap of becoming good mentors to younger generation.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, grant me sufficient knowledge and the enabling grace to impact others in Jesus Name - Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2022

THEME: A GODLY GENERATION
TOPIC: OVERCOMING THE DEVIL
TEXT: LUKE 4:1-15

MEMORY VERSES: LUKE 4:8 *"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The existence of evil in the society predates this present generation. It had its root beyond the creation of man. Lucifer once plotted coup against God in heaven. After man was created and placed in the Garden of Eden, he was deceived by the devil into sinning against God. Despite the falling out with God, man was given a second chance of reconciliation with God, through the price Jesus paid on the cross of Calvary. He secured our victory. Notwithstanding that Satan has been defeated, he is still not relenting in fomenting trouble, creating avenues to choke the world, and land humanity into troubles. In today's lesson, we shall study among others, various ways we can overcome the devil and his antics.

STUDY OUTLINE

SOME STRATEGIES OF THE DEVIL AGAINST HUMANITY

1. By performance of signs and wonders, and demonic teachings and doctrines of devils (1 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 24:24; Acts 20:30).
2. The devil blinds the minds of unbelievers, preventing them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4).
3. He appears in pretense as messenger of light and righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
4. The devil adopts the strategy of tempting people to sin. He did same to Eve and Judas and succeeded; but was not successfully with Christ (Luke 4:1-13; Luke 22:3-6; 2 Cor. 11:3).
5. He plucks the Word of God out of people's heart and chokes their mind of faith (Mark 4:14-15).
6. Satan lies a lot. He twists God's Word to serve his purpose. *"And he said unto the woman, yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"*. The devil also sells this technique to the feeble minded (weak) (John 8:44; Gen. 3:1).
7. Satan inflicts sickness and disease on people. He bound a woman, who also is a daughter of Abraham for eighteen years (Luke 13:16).

STEPS TOWARDS ACHIEVING VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL

1. Having the full knowledge that devil is walking about to devour, will get you prepared and awaken your spiritual consciousness (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Cor. 2:11).
2. You should not believe every spirit; but try the spirits to know if truly they are of God (1 John 4:1-2).
3. Be active in watching and praying (Luke 21:36).
4. Resist the devil whenever he comes, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).
5. Your weaknesses are known by the devil, therefore, realize those weak areas that can make you vulnerable, and don't give devil the opportunity (Ephesians 4:27).
6. Do not depend on your own strength, it would fail you. Put your trust in the Lord (Jude 9; 1 Sam. 2:9).
7. Put on the whole armor of God to be able to defeat the devil (Eph. 6:12-13).
8. Be grounded in the Word of God and use it as a weapon of war against the devil (Luke 4:3-13).

THE BENEFITS OF OVERCOMING THE DEVIL

1. There is joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10).
2. It boosts the courage (John 16:33; Luke 10:18).
3. It is a show of strong faith in, and total submission to God (Luke 4:8).
4. Once you resist the devil, he will run away from you (James 4:7).
5. You are handsomely compensated by God (Job 42:12-13).
6. You will gain eternal life (Matthew 25:46, John 3:15).

THE DANGERS OF YIELDING TO THE DEVIL

1. It leads to falling away, thereby exposing one to becoming a son of perdition marked for eternal destruction (2 Thess. 2:3)
2. It brings shame and regret, just like Judas Iscariot and the Apostle Peter (Matthew 27:4; Matthew 26:74-75).
3. It leads to physical death (Matthew 27:5; Esther 7:9-10).
4. It leads to eternal death (Romans 6:23^a; Revelation 21:8).

CONCLUSION

In this world we live, Satan the devil is moving about luring people to sin, to prepare them for eternal destruction. Christ has come that we may have life in abundance. Accepting Him is the only way towards overcoming the devil; rejecting Him, is tantamount to

yielding to the devil. The weapon needed to overcome him is “*the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of the testimony*” (Revelation 12:11).

PRAYER: My Father, My God! Give me the wisdom to defeat the devil; the spiritual strength to stand against him; and the grace to resist him; in Jesus’ name - Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

THEME: FINISHING WELL

When we get to the 10th month of the year which is October, we are counting down towards the end of the year. Just like any other activity in life, we trust to end well. The scripture highlights that beginning is good, but the good finisher is the best. Considering our theme for the month, we are encouraged to finish well in every aspect of living. To finish well is to prepare better. Anyone who takes time to prepare and follow the necessary steps and instructions, will certainly end well by the grace of God. Again, the Christian race has challenges and requires the believer to maintain a good relationship with Jesus Christ to sail through. The topics to be treated in this month are drawn to equip us with the relevant knowledge to make us finish as champions.

- ❖ **The Bible: Your compass to enter God's kingdom:** Modern technology has developed apps and tools which aid movement to reach the desired destination. Sailors use the compass to navigate the sea routes to get to shore. Likewise, the Bible is the most dependent compass to bring us to God's kingdom. When you choose not to follow the compass, certainly you are bound to go the wrong way. God's kingdom is every believer's choice of eternal destination. As part of the Bible Sunday service, the topic lists some important teachings of the Bible. The usefulness of the Bible is stated; You should not be ashamed of the Bible as a child of God; The blessings of using the Bible are highlighted. Remember: *'Study to show thyself approved a workman rightly dividing the word of truth'* (2 Timothy 2:15).
- ❖ **Making Your Child Grow Before the Lord in Goodness:** Children are the only asset that shall join us when we both make heaven. It is therefore necessary to raise them up before the Lord in goodness. The ESOCs church has set aside a Sunday in a year to see the impact of our children in following our steps. The topic explains how parents are expected to raise their children; The challenges of raising godly children are discussed. There is a list of the benefits of raising children in the goodness of God. Some biblical examples of children who grew in God's goodness are also highlighted. We encourage you to *'train your child in the way he should go so that he will not depart from it when he grows'* (Proverbs 22:6).
- ❖ **Learning Humility from Children:** The world is a place of learning. We can certainly learn something from the children and that is the act of humility. Jesus used a child to illustrate to His disciples about the virtue of humility. In the topic, we listed the characteristics of humility that every believer should possess. Reasons to strive for humility are discussed. The blessings of humility as a fruit of the Spirit are stated. Examples of persons in the scripture who lived in humility are also discussed. *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"* (Philippians 2:3).
- ❖ **A Faithful Servant:** Whenever you receive salvation through Jesus Christ; you become enlisted as servants of God for the kingdom service. What is important is for the individual to become a faithful servant. In this topic, we shall discuss what a faithful servant is. The characteristics of a faithful servant are highlighted. Qualities of a faithful servant are stated, as well as the rewards of maintaining faithfulness. Some biblical examples of faithful servants are shared. It is our desire that someday Jesus will say to you: *"Well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things....."* (Matthew 25:23)
- ❖ **Follow the Right Way:** As pilgrims on earth, we are set on course. The ways we follow is the product of the choices we make. Nevertheless, we are been admonished to follow the right way. The topic explains the types of good ways we should follow. The reasons to follow the right way are stated. The blessings of following the right ways are highlighted. Some biblical examples of those who walked in the right way are listed. *"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"* (Matthew 7:14)ESV.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2022

THEME: FINISHING WELL

TOPIC: THE BIBLE: YOUR COMPASS TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM

TEXT: MATTHEW 13:34-43

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 13:43 *"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"*(KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is more than a story book. It is written by the inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit. As the believers' source of authority, it is the foundation of the church's doctrine. It contains God's instructions. The Bible is the starting point for guidance about the faith of the believers. The Bible Sunday offers us the opportunity to reflect on the benefits of the Bible. It encourages believers on how to impact on the kingdom service. The Bible can be described with the acronym: **B**asic **I**nformation **B**ringing **L**ife **E**ternal. Just like the GPS, you need the Bible to navigate into eternal life.

STUDY OUTLINE

IMPORTANT TEACHINGS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. The Bible informs us that a loving God created everything and for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11)
2. It exposes to us the entrance of sin into the world by Satan and the plans of salvation through Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:4-5; Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:13)
3. The Bible shows us that Jesus is God and Saviour (John 10:30; I John 4:15).
4. The Bible draws sinners to the relationship with God; and exposes the consequences of its rejection (John 1:12; Romans 1:28).
5. The Bible enlightens us that God rules and reigns forever; encouraging us to build our faith in the truth of His promises (Revelations 21:6; Psalms 103:19).

THE USEFULNESS OF THE BIBLE (GOD'S WORD)

1. Its teachings must be obeyed (Exodus 20:1-17; Joshua 1:8).
2. Christians use the Bible as a lectionary (reading different passages daily) to offer advice on different areas of life (Matthew 12:3-5; 2 Timothy 2:15).
3. The Bible is used during worship services where the priest may choose to explain for help and prayers (Luke 4:16-17).
4. The Bible plays a key role in Christian ceremonies as the scripture chosen, links the ceremonies e.g., burials, naming etc to the life and teachings of Christ we should copy/learn (Revelations 14:13; Deuteronomy 28:1-14).
5. It is the sword of the Spirit to overcome the devil (Ephesians 6:17).

HOW TO MAKE USE OF THE BIBLE

1. You need to read the Bible frequently, that is, daily (Psalms 119:97-104; Joshua 1:8).
2. The Bible is for profit as regards soul winning and sustenance (Proverbs 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
3. The Bible is not for controversy (Titus 3:9).
4. Study the Bible with consciousness and faith (Acts 17:11; Hebrews 11:6).
5. Compare scripture with scripture and search out the truth (1 Corinthians 2:13).

SOME REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is God's Word (John 1:1).
2. The Bible is God's Spirit and are life (John 6:63).
3. It provides a defence in times of judgement (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).
4. The Bible reconcile us to God (John 14:23).
5. The Bible brings answers to prayers (John 15:7; Daniel 9:2-3; 10:12).

BLESSINGS OF THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD

1. The Bible is the perfect instrument in converting souls (Psalms 19:7).
2. The study and doing of the teachings of the Bible makes wise in simple (Psalms 19:7).
3. The teachings of the Bible bring rejoicing to the heart and enlightens the believer (Psalms 19:8)
4. The message of the Bible warns God's servants and rewards those that are obedient (Psalms 19:11)
5. The Bible is a weapon of warfare to quench every fiery dart of the enemy and pull down its stronghold (Jeremiah 23:29; Ephesians 6:17).

CONCLUSION

The Bible is like a compass that we cannot do without on our journey to heaven. It is the manual that describes our operations as Christians. The Bible is a rich treasure to help you develop godly virtues and have victory in your Christian

life. A Bible owned without study and application is like a car in a show room that serves no purpose other than admiration. Therefore, as we celebrate the Bible Sunday, let us explore the beauty, translations, and studies of faithful scholars aimed at reaching out to the world with the message of salvation. My Bible and I!

PRAYER

Dear Lord; teach me your Word daily; give me the grace to live according to the Bible, that I may inherit your kingdom in Jesus name; Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2022

THEME: FINISHING WELL

TOPIC: MAKING YOUR CHILD GROW BEFORE THE LORD IN GOODNESS

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-END

MEMORY VERSE: 1 SAMUEL 2:26 *“And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men..” (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Goodness can be described as the act of being good or living in righteousness. It is doing well out of a good heart and is synonymous with godliness. Goodness is the virtue and a part of the Spiritual fruit enumerated by Apostle Paul to the Galatians. Goodness can be summarised to be doing right, living godly and separated from sinful activities. Children are gifts, heritage and reward from God. Children are the only asset we will take along to eternity depending on their performance. It is therefore necessary to catch them early for Christ Jesus toward eternal life.

STUDY OUTLINE

HOW PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN

1. Parents should teach their children the ways of the Lord early in life (Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:4-7).
2. Parents are expected to encourage their children to accept the call of salvation as it is for everyone (Acts 2:39).
3. Parents are to imbibe the virtue of honesty in all dealings (2 Corinthians 8:21; Matthew 5:37).
4. Parents are required to guide their children towards becoming witnesses for Christ (2 Timothy 1:5).
5. Parents (as the child's first contact) should raise their children into God's image and likeness which is the original plan of God (Genesis 1:26; Proverbs 22:6).

SOME CHALLENGES IN RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

1. Lack of upright Parents/adults around Children. Adults not morally sound lack the capacity to enforce godly discipline (1 Kings 15:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11).
2. The challenges of freedom and authority. Parents should be able to strike a balance between freedom for the child and their authority to give account to God as caretaker of the child (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16).
3. The problems of peer pressure. This makes children take to wrong advice of friends, thereby keeping vital information away from parents (1 Kings 12:8-11, 2 Samuel 13:3-5; Judges 14:9).
4. Childish indulgence. When parents tolerate excesses and over pamper children, they become ruined (1 Corinthians 13:11; Proverbs 22:15).
5. The Present day social vices (alcohol, drugs, sexual sin etc). We must be vigilant of these and not feign ignorance. (2 Peter 5:8).

BENEFITS OF RAISING CHILDREN TO GROW IN GOD'S GOODNESS

1. Children raised in godly virtues bring peace and stability in the family. They bring joy to their parents and not misery (Proverbs 23:24, 15:10).
2. Children raised in God's goodness bring peace and prosperity to the land (Proverbs 29:2 ; 2 Chronicles 34:1-8)
3. They are full of the Holy Spirit and power doing exploits. They turn people back to God by salvation (Luke 1:15-16)
4. They become outstanding everywhere; making impact as reflecting the God's covenant of promise (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

EXAMPLES OF CHILDREN WHO GREW IN GOD'S GOODNESS

1. Samuel grew in God's goodness making him a great Prophet, Judge and Priest in Israel (1 Samuel 2:26, 3:19).
2. Esther grew in God's goodness making her to become a queen in her place of captivity (Esther 2:17)
3. Joseph grew in favour despite all challenges encountered and received the promise of God as a ruler in Egypt (Psalms 105:17-22)
4. David grew in goodness depending on God always for protection and deliverance. He became a great King in Israel having defeated Goliath as a youth (1 Samuel 17:42-51).

CONCLUSION

Making your child grow in the goodness of God may be tasking, but it is worth it. The collective responsibility of every believer is required in this process. It begins from a godly home where parents should act as the child's first role model. The power of prayer and effective study of the scripture should not be neglected. Also, living according to the

Word is the best approach. The church has a role to play in content creation and development in line with sound doctrine .This will help the children appreciate the efforts of their fathers' of faith. Let us make it work!

PRAYER: Lord, give me wisdom and strength to raise my children to bring goodness to your name in Jesus name. Amen

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2022

THEME: FINISHING WELL

TOPIC: LEARNING HUMILITY FROM CHILDREN

TEXT: MATTHEW 18:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 18:4 *“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Humility is defined as freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble. It is a principal character that needs to be seen with anyone who follows Jesus Christ. Humility is very important because it opens doors to truth. Godly humility is being comfortable with who you are in the Lord and therefore putting others first. Jesus is our model of humility in conversation and actions. He used little children to highlight on the virtue of humility to be inculcated by every believer. Do you notice that the craze for superiority and who come first in processional line in adults can never be found in children activities. It is the reason why we need to learn humility from kids.

STUDY OUTLINE

CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMILITY WE NEED TO ACQUIRE

1. Humility is to submit to the will of God. This is the foundation of all acts of true humility (James 4:7)
2. They trust in the sovereignty of God. They know that God is perfect in all judgements and can never be questioned (Romans 9).
3. They have a teachable spirit. They understand that they don't know everything and can learn much from others (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 4:7).
4. Humility makes us have servant heart. Loving and serving others is the mark of their lives (Galatians 5:13-14)
5. Humility makes us set aside personal differences for the sake of unity (Ephesians 4:2-3)
6. Humility always replaces pride and changes conduct (Proverbs 11:2 ; Jeremiah 9:23-24)

REASONS TO STRIVE FOR HUMILITY

1. Humility allows us to fully submit to God.
2. Humility helps us avoid the negative effects of pride.
3. Humility keeps us from sin.
4. Humility increases our gratitude.
5. Humility gives us the desire to be kind.

LESSONS FROM CHILDREN ABOUT HUMILITY

1. Children are very dependent on parents in their provision for basic necessities of life. Therefore we must learn the humility of depending on God in all things (Psalms 27:14; Genesis 18:12)
2. Children trust parents' judgement in making best decisions for their welfare and future. Believers need to trust God for guidance and direction in all matters. (2 Kings 7:2; Luke 1:18)
3. Children have the child-like faith in their relationship with God. Children faith in God needs to be protected so that they are not taken advantage of. Likewise we need to ensure that followers of Christ do not lose track because of our actions (Matthew 22:29)

BLESSINGS OF HUMILITY

1. Humility leads to exaltation as God lifts humble higher (James 4:10)
2. Humility brings riches , honour and life (Proverbs 22:4)
3. Those who are humble can never be forgotten by God and will have His respect (Psalms 9:12; 138:6)
4. The humble will be considered the greatest in the Kingdom of God and receives grace (Matthew 18:4 ;1 Peter 5:5)
5. God will teach you and guide you when you are humble (Psalms 25:9)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO EXHIBITED HUMILITY

1. Ahab was a wicked king but who repented of his actions. God saw his sincere humility and modified His punishment (1 Kings 21:17-29)
2. Nebuchadnezzar was full of pride until his encounter with God which taught him humility (Daniel 4:37)
3. The story of the Pharisee and the Publican expresses the action of the Publican as humility (Luke 18:13-14)
4. Jesus is the greatest example of humility to have lived. He was God in the flesh , yet he came to earth to be servant to others(Mark 10:45 ; Philippians 2:8 ;2 Corinthians 10:1)
5. Moses put others above himself. He was so humble that he even asked God to blot him out of the book of the living to save Israel (Exodus 32:31-32)
6. Apostle Paul exhibited humility after his conversion and missionary experience (Philippians 3:4-8)

CONCLUSION

To be humble is not only freeing you from pride and arrogance but submitting to God. It involves showing our full reliance and obedience to him. As Christians our daily activities demonstrate our ability to act childlike in terms of kingdom service. Let our conduct and conversation reflect this always. Humility takes you higher and on top. Learn it!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, give me the true spirit of humility that I may live according to your words in Jesus name. Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2022

THEME: FINISHING WELL

TOPIC: A FAITHFUL SERVANT

TEXT: REVELATION 22:1-7

MEMORY VERSE: REVELATION 22:3 *“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him”* (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The parable of the faithful servant in Matthew 24:45-51 gives a detailed illustration to the teaching of today. A faithful servant is one who have graduated from receiving salvation and have been engaged to service to God in the kingdom business. The individual has task or persons to manage and is expected to make good profit/account concerning them. A faithful servant is conscious of that he/she is accountable to God who will reward based on works. Faithful servants follow laid instructions to their assigned task. When he continues in line with the Holy Spirit, then he shall have good success.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHO IS A FAITHFUL SERVANT?

1. A faithful servant is one who has accepted salvation by Jesus Christ and ready to follow Him. ()
2. A faithful servant has been predestined and ordained to join in the Kingdom service ()
3. A faithful servant hears and obeys the Masters instructions and are answerable to Christ (1 Corinthians 5:1,4)
4. Faithful servant is an elect servant of God , holy and beloved (Colossians 3:12-13)
5. Faithful servant is one called to liberty and should not use it to the flesh (Galatians 5:13)

CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITHFUL SERVANT

1. A faithful servant loves his heavenly father and strives to follow Jesus Christ. He is also available to teach others how to follow Jesus too (John 12:26)
2. A faithful servant is humble and does not act in a way that is superior over others (Mark 10:42-45; Colossians 3:12)
3. Faithful servant knows when it is necessary to be meek and serves in a way that displays this Christ-like virtue (Ephesians 4:2-3)
4. Faithful servant is patient to serve everyone and takes every opportunity to give a helping hand. Rom 8:4
5. He does not put his needs above the needs of others but learns from Jesus about self sacrifice (Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:3-4 ; Matthew 20:28)

QUALITIES OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS

1. They are prudent in managing the resources entrusted to their care. They must be diligent and gentle (2 Timothy 2:14-18, 23-26)
2. They perform their assignment based on the ability God has deposited in them. Therefore they are charged to be strong (2 Timothy 2:1; Ephesians 4:7)
3. They are patient and conscious of time. Therefore they to be courageous and should endure hardness (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
4. They should live to be law abiding-like an athlete must follow the rules and like a farmer must be hardworking(2 Timothy 2:5-6)
5. A faithful servant must be a sanctified vessel and must depart from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19-22; Isaiah 52:11)

REWARDS OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS

1. Faithful servants are divinely protected by God as they stay focused on whatsoever tasks assigned (Jeremiah 45:1-5; Psalms 91:11-12)
2. Faithful servants seek praise ,honour and immortality from God and shall also receive eternal life for their persistence (Romans 2:7-8)
3. Faithful servants shall be entrusted with the secret things of God (1 Corinthians 4: 1-2 ;Ephesians 1:9-10 ;Psalms 25: 14)
4. Faithful servants shall be judged by the Lord who will bring to light what is hidden and expose the motives of heart. Therefore after they shall have the praise of God (1 Corinthians 4: 5)
5. Faithful servants shall receive unquantifiable reward from God (1 Corinthians 2:9)
6. They shall enjoy at the lord's table at His coming and He shall make them ruler over all He has (Luke 12:37, 44)
7. They are shall wear special forms of crowns like crown of life, crown of glory etc (James 1:12 ; 1 Peter 5:4)

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS

1. Apostle Paul recognized and addressed Timothy to the Corinthian church as a faithful servant of God (1 Corinthians 4:17)
2. Joshua was a faithful servant who was committed in the task as a follower and leader in Israel (Luke 1:15)
3. Samuel was a faithful as a Priest and Judge in Israel leaving a lasting footprint (1 Samuel 12:2-5)

CONCLUSION

It is clear that faithful servants are dedicated to the work. He must be upright in conduct and character. The faithful servant must be clear and accurate in his teaching. He should be courteous and gentle in his manner. This is what the founder of ESOCS church lived for. Truly St Moses Orimolade was a faithful servant of God. As we celebrate his memorial thanksgiving service; it's certain you shall receive reward at due season if we don't grow weary in doing well (Galatians 6:9).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to serve and remain faithful to the end. May I receive the reward of good works made due to your faithful servants, Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2022

THEME: FINISHING WELL

TOPIC: FOLLOW THE RIGHT WAY

TEXT: PROVERBS 14:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: PROVERBS 14:12 *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man: but the end thereof are the ways of death". (KJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Ways are paths created for movement. It can also be mean lifestyle chosen by any individual to live by. Ways are repeatedly mentioned in the bible to emphasise its importance to living. The way one chooses determines the destination. It is therefore necessary to follow the right way of God to get the good of life. Jesus described himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the only right access to God. Following the right way requires identifying the ways before man and accepting the invitation and counsel of Jesus Christ to make the right choice. Anyone who decides to follow his instinct in making choice of way may miss the correct path to his/her doom.

STUDY OUTLINE

TYPES OF GOOD WAYS EXPLAINED IN THE BIBLE FOR YOU TO FOLLOW

1. **The way of God:** This is the way God chooses to do things and He commands that we should follow this way. God's way is also different from our ways. To follow God's way is to follow Jesus teachings and the instructions of the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 5:33; Proverbs 10:29)
2. **The way of life:** This is the winds upwards for the wise and is described as the way of righteousness. Those who keep instructions follow it (Proverbs 10:17 ; 15:24)
3. **The way of wisdom:** God gives wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Nothing can be compared to it. It gives riches , honour and long life (Job 12:12-13; Proverbs 4:11)
4. **The way of truth:** This is the way to follow the Spirit of truth and honest judgement. Knowing the truth makes us free. Those who follow God will be led in the paths of truth (Psalms 25:5, 119:30)
5. **The way of holiness:** This is the about holy living. It is following discipline by setting apart oneself to way that will give God glory (Isaiah 35:8)
6. **The way that leads to life:** This is also called the way of salvation and brings life eternal. It is a narrow way and few follow it (Matthew 7:13; Proverbs 15:24 ;Acts 2:28)
7. **The way of peace:** we need to know this way as peacemakers are called children of God. Those who love the laws of God follow this path and the receive the wisdom from above(Psalms 119:165; Romans 3:17; James 3:17-18)

REASONS TO FOLLOW THE RIGHT WAY

1. The right way is the path to eternal life. Jesus is the way, truth and life. Ask for this way and follow it to have rest (Jeremiah 6:16)
2. It is the ways of good men and the righteous. It is pleasant and brings peace (Proverbs 2:20, 3:17).
3. The right way brings peace. Those who forsake it tread the crooked paths and have no justice or peace (Isaiah 59:8)
4. You will make your path straight when you acknowledge and follow God. He will lead to into the paths of righteousness. You shall not stumble or walk in darkness (Proverbs 2:13)
5. The right way is God's way. His ways and thoughts are different from man's way. His grace directs man's steps (Isaiah 55:8-9 ; Jeremiah 10:23)

BLESSINGS OF FOLLOWING THE RIGHT PATH

1. Following the right way keeps you away from the sinners and ungodly which brings shame (Psalms 1:1,6 ;)
2. Following the right way is better than the ways of fools and transgressors' (Proverbs 12:15, 13:15)
3. The ways of the forward, slothful man and adulterous woman leads to hell. Keeping away from it saves one's soul (Proverbs 15:19, 22:5, 30:20)
4. The ways of the wicked is the same as the way of Cain. Those who avoid death and curses keep away from it (Proverbs 12:26, Jeremiah 21:8; Jude 1:11).
5. The ways of the Lord brings prosperity and continual presence of God. It makes you established (1 Kings 2:3, 11:38, Deuteronomy 28:9)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO WALKED IN THE RIGHT WAY

1. The early church were described as those who follow the Way and called Christians (Acts 9:2, 24:14)
2. John the Baptist is the forerunner of Christ who preached calling people to prepare and follow the right way (Luke 3:2-6)
3. Timothy followed the good way he learnt from his parents Eunice and Lois (2 Timothy 1:5-8)
4. Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives for Apostle Paul and supported the gospel (1 Corinthians 16:19; Acts 18:18)

CONCLUSION

The right way is narrow with few individuals walking through it. To follow it requires discipline and committed relationship with Jesus Christ. It does not accommodate the crowd or multitude. Believers are encouraged to show the world the right way and encourage people to accept the gospel of salvation. Seek the right way. Maintain the path. You shall make heaven.

PRAYER

Help me lord, to choose and follow the right way according to the leading of the Holy Spirit in Jesus name, Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

THEME: LOOKING ABOVE

The theme for the month of November, “Looking Above” is centered on capturing the essence of our creation, which is focusing on heaven-conscious life. We are expressly admonished to look on things above where Christ dwells, and not on things below. Believers are required to make heaven (the throne of God) to be their center of attraction. This will help in structuring their living pattern towards God’s design. To be able to drive home the points and analyze the broad theme in a more simplistic way, the following topics are outlined.

1. **Living in God’s tabernacle:** God’s tabernacle which represents a place meant for worship of God, literally means God’s dwelling place. Where God is, His glory flows. No other place could be holier than that. We are created to always be in the presence of God, for His pleasure; therefore, we must be holy always to dwell in His presence. We shall also consider under this topic, the qualities required to abide in God’s tabernacle; some of the effects in God’s tabernacle; what living in God’s tabernacle doesn’t portray, also, some factors that can impede God’s presence. Once we are certified to live in God’s tabernacle, we should endeavor to sustain our holy living standard.
2. **The behavior of the fanatical Pharisees:** One may ask why the phrase “fanatical Pharisees.” The reason is because there are some Pharisees who are devoted to the righteous living. In our worship centers, churches, societies, and the world at large, there are people who are bent on downgrading every genuine effort towards the propagation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing you do that can please them. They are quick in condemning others. Destructive criticism is their way of life. Every little mistake made by someone would be escalated to high heavens. Jesus cautioned the Church to beware of the living of the Pharisees. In our study under this topic, we shall examine some fanatical behaviors of the Pharisees in our midst; some outstanding Pharisees who are ardent believers in Christ Jesus; also, the dangers of fanatical behaviours of the Pharisees. The ungodly behaviours are serious distraction from looking above, where God lives.
3. **Grace and divine favour above facial beauty:** The Bible says in Proverbs 31:30 that “*Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.*” (NLT). Beauty without Godliness is useless. What every believer should strive at is to please the Lord, so that He makes the impossibility to become possible. It takes a simple humility to attract the grace and divine favour from God. We shall explore in this lesson what grace is; what divine favour is also; and how to attract God’s grace and favour. God’s grace and favour cannot be wasted; and that is why Jesus responded to the Canaan woman who came to Him asking for healing for her sick daughter. “*But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs.*” (Matt. 15:26-28). Her response to Christ is a confirmation to the fact that grace and favour is attracted.
4. **Walking with God:** It takes two to tango, as the old saying goes. The scripture asks a vital question “*can two walk together except they agree?*” (Amos 3:3). Walking with God is only possible in a situation where there is mutual agreement. Your will must be in alignment and total submission to the will of God. A good number of Bible Characters walked with God and the outcome was awesome. We shall learn under this topic what it means to walk with God; ways to walk with God; how to walk with God; and the benefits of walking with God. You can only successfully walk with God if you know and trust Him.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2022

THEME: LOOKING ABOVE

TOPIC: LIVING IN GOD'S TABERNACLE

TEXT: EZEKIEL 37:15-END

MEMORY VERSES: EZEKIEL 37:27 *"My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

A tabernacle is a temple or synagogue meant for worship. God's tabernacle, therefore, could be defined as God's temple. Living in God's tabernacle literally means the same as dwelling in God's presence; and in His tabernacle dwells His glory. It is an honour to say that every true believer is a carrier of God's glory. The Holy Bible defines our body as the temple of God, where the Spirit of God dwells (1 Cor. 3:16). This goes to say that God requires His temple to be holy all the times. This is among the conditions that would qualify us to be God's people, and He will be our God.

THE STUDY OUTLINE

QUALITIES REQUIRED TO ABIDE IN GOD'S TABERNACLE

According to Psalm 15, the following are the basic qualities one must possess:

1. We should walk uprightly (Psalm 15:2^a)
2. We should walk in righteousness and speak the truth in our hearts (Psalm 15:2^b).
3. We should not backbite with our tongue nor do evil to our neighbour nor take a reproach against our neighbour (Psalms 15:3)
4. We must condemn/despise a vile (a morally bad or wicked) person but honour those that fear the Lord (Psalm 15:4^a)
5. We must keep an oath truthfully (remain resolute) even when it hurts; no condition would make you change your mind against the truth (Psalm 15:4^b).

SOME OF THE BENEFITS IN GOD'S TABERNACLE

1. **Joyfulness:** There is fullness of joy and pleasures (Ps 16:11^b). David expressed his excitement and joyfulness for being in the presence of God. *"I was glad when they said to me let us go to the house of the LORD"* (Ps. 122:1).
2. **Healing takes place:** All kinds of diseases and infirmities are cured. Healing takes place (Matthew 4:24).
3. **The feel of God's glory:** You feel the impact of the glory of God (Ezekiel 43:5; 2 Chronicles 5:14).
4. **Bonding:** Living in God's tabernacle cements the bond of unity between us and God (John 17:23).
5. **Acceptability:** Once you accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, there is total acceptance by God (Ezekiel 37:27; Romans 8:9)
6. **It is attractive:** It attracts all manner of blessings and goodwill from all nations (Haggai 2:7).

WHAT LIVING IN GOD'S TABERNACLE DOESN'T PORTRAY

Certain characteristics shown by people are negative representations of living in God's tabernacle. They include the following:

1. **Living in the church or vineyard:** Making the church premises your abode is an acceptable practice in many churches but it does not in any way represent living in God's tabernacle. That is to say, if you are not living in righteousness. The sons of Eli are clear examples. (1 Sam. 2:12).
2. **Professing God as Lord with your lips and not your heart:** Many are there that calls Jesus by His name, but have no place for Him in their hearts; paying lip service (Matthew 7:21; Isaiah 29:13)
3. **Displaying spiritual gifts with sense of carnality:** This is a practice many people get involved in out of self-centeredness and personal gains (Matthew 7:22-23).

SOME FACTORS THAT CAN IMPEDE GOD'S PRESENCE

1. **Sin:** Sin is a hedge preventing access to the Holy Spirit. God's face is too righteous to behold iniquity. Sin causes separation between man and God (Habakkuk 1:13; Isa. 59:1-2).
2. **Living in doubt:** Doubting God's power is tantamount to doubting His existence. It shifts His attention away from those who indulge in it, thereby exposing them to severe danger (2 Kings 7:1-2).
3. **Hatred:** Act of hatred can defile you totally and dispel the presence of God. Typical examples are Cain who hated his brother, and Pharaoh that hated the Israelites with passion (Genesis 4:11-12; Exod. 5:1-2; 7:3-4).
4. **Idolatry:** God detests idol worship. He is jealous and would treat idol worshippers with scorn (Psalm 115:8)

- 5. Disobedience:** Disobedience is a gross sinful act that can wade off God's presence. Adam and Eve were chased away from the Garden of Eden due to this misbehavior. King Saul was rejected by God because he disobeyed Him and decided to walk in his own ways (Genesis 3:23-24; 1 Sam. 15:11, 26).

CONCLUSION

The vantage position of man in God's heart should always make us to be conscious of living a life devoid of sin; bearing in mind that we are God's temple. Let God be proud that He made us in His own image. It is important to mention here, that for this reason, God sent us the Holy Spirit to help us in our weaknesses, that we may be able to achieve this.

PRAYER

Dear Father, help me to keep my body a holy tabernacle, so that your Spirit would continue to dwell in me, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

THEME: LOOKING ABOVE

TOPIC THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE FANATICAL PHARISEES

TEXT: LUKE 11:37-END

MEMORY VERSES: LUKE 11:53-54 *“And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.” (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

The study of the Holy Bible has made us to know much about the behavior of the Pharisees. One may go further to ask, who are the Pharisees? According to Wikipedia, “the Pharisees are a social movement and a school of thought in the Levant during the time of second Temple Judaism. Conflicts between Pharisees and Sadducees took place in the context of much broader and longstanding social and religious conflicts among Jews, made worse by the Roman conquest.” The Pharisees are known for their indulgence in conflicts ranging from cultural to juridico-religious. In our society today, we have many people including Christian worshippers whose ways of life resembles those of the Pharisees. Today, we shall explore some of those behaviours of the diehard or fanatical Pharisees which must be avoided at all costs. Despite those notable references are made in the New Testament with record of hostilities between some of the Pharisees and Jesus Christ, there are also some references made on Pharisees who believed in Him.

STUDY OUTLINE

FANATICAL BEHAVIOURS OF THE PHARISEES IN OUR MIDST

Most of the fanatical behaviours of the Pharisees are exposed by Christ Himself in the gospel. In this present-day Christianity, they persist. They include, but not limited to the following:

1. Setting up traps for God's people in disguise and luring them into falling victims (Luke 11:53-54).
2. Showing off with pride. A situation where a leader exercises authority with pride is unchristian (Proverbs 8:13).
3. The attitude of always thinking that you are better than everyone else (Luke 18:11)
4. When the love of money rules your life, you become more excited for what is being achieved with money than you appreciate the folk providing the money (1 Tim. 6:10).
5. Little or lack of compassion on humanity, especially the household of Christ (Mark 3:1-2)
6. Living in pretense; not working the talk is the height of deceit (Matt. 23:1-3)
7. Shutting up the kingdom of heaven against men. There are people who neither work towards entering the kingdom of heaven nor allowing others that want to enter (Matthew 23:13).
8. Oppressing the widows, and extorting from them, while living in pretense of caring for them. Sometimes referring to obnoxious laws and traditions to commit the evil (Matthew 23:14).
9. Sponsoring some persons into positions of trust and leadership, only to tailor them to becoming puppets used for evil works (Matthew 23:15).
10. Laying much emphasis on frivolous and petty things and paying less attention to things that matter most (being much more dogmatic than liturgical (Matthew 23:16-22).
11. Paying lip service to justice, mercy, love, faithfulness, and meeting spiritual needs, while echoing on financial growth as the 'only' need of the church. We must focus on all aspects without neglecting anyone (Matthew 23:23-24).
12. Being beclouded by greed, envy, and self-indulgence (Matthew 23:25-26)
13. Persecuting and indirectly killing the prophets and the servants of God through malicious means, character assassination and evil prayers (Matthew 23:29-31)
14. Claiming to be a Christian, yet an extremist who has no room for forgiveness, sacrifice, and tolerance (John 10:10-11).

SOME PHARISEES WHO BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST

1. **Nicodemus:** Despite his ignorance in what born again is, Nicodemus truly recognized Jesus as a Teacher from God, with the ability to perform miracles (John 3:2-4).
2. **Joseph of Arimathea:** He was a disciple of Jesus who played very vital role in ensuring that proper burial was given to Jesus Christ (John 19:38).
3. **The Apostle Paul:** Paul's exploits for Christ were so massive despite that he is a Pharisee (Acts 23:6).
4. **Gamaliel:** He encouraged his fellow Pharisees to show leniency to the apostles and let them be (Acts 5:34-39).

DANGERS OF FANATICAL BEHAVIOURS OF THE PHARISEES

1. A situation where negative behaviors are seen frequently amid Christians, portrays the church in a bad light (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
2. It shows double standard of life, which ends in shame. Judas Iscariot is a clear example (Matt. 27:5).

CONCLUSION

One's negative behaviour can classify him/her as belonging to the group of fanatical Pharisees, whose stock in trade most times is to counter or oppose the good work, doctrine, and gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to be watchful because we have them in our midst.

PRAYER

Help me O God to live and behave in a manner that depicts the true character of our Master, in Jesus' name Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2022

THEME: LOOKING ABOVE

TOPIC: GRACE AND DIVINE FAVOUR ABOVE FACIAL BEAUTY

TEXT: ESTHER 2:5-18

MEMORY VERSE: ESTHER 2:17 *"And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti."* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

God is not a man that looks at the outward appearance. By human standard, Esther might not be qualified for the position of Queen. But when grace and favour of God speaks, every disgrace would disappear, gaps are bridged. It may be right to say that Esther could not have been the most beautiful damsel in that contest facially. But she was the most gracious and favoured in the sight of the king. This goes to say that grace and favour of God is much more attractive than facial beauty. The Bible says, *"when a man's way pleases the Lord, He makes even his enemy to be at peace with him."* Man may be attracted by facial expression, but God, the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). May I adopt the online definition that captures more significantly, the Biblical meaning of grace. It is defined as "a spontaneous gift from God to people; it is generous, free, totally unexpected and undeserved." Typical example is the gift of Jesus Christ the Only begotten Son of God to the world (John 3:16-17). Jesus came on His own free volition when the whole world did not expect nor deserve the supreme sacrifice. It is like God saying to the sinful world, you do not deserve sacrifice (that my Son died for you), but I would do it for you. Without the grace of God, salvation couldn't have been possible

STUDY OUTLINE

SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS THAT ENJOYED DIVINE GRACE

1. Noah found grace in the eyes of God; he and his household were delivered (Genesis 6:8)
2. The grace of God made Joseph to persevere amid woes by his brethren (Genesis 50:20)
3. Rahab in spite that she was referred to as the harlot-a sinner not worthy of grace, but she bargained for her life which was graciously given unto her (Joshua 2:12-14)

SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS THAT ENJOYED DIVINE FAVOUR

When a person is being singled out by God amongst others for a special treatment, it is defined as divine favour. No one can question God on the rationale behind His decisions. Hear what the Bible says: *"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion"* (Romans 9:14-15).

1. Divine favour is responsible for Joseph's exponential rise in destiny and career (Genesis 41:38-44).
2. Divine favour made David to be anointed king amongst his brothers who were senior to him (1 Sam. 16:10-13)
3. Esther became the Queen after Vashti, not because she was born in a royal family or with royal blood (Esther 2:17)

HOW TO ATTRACT GOD'S GRACE AND FAVOUR

1. **Be affectionate towards others:** Show love to others, and you are by extension expressing it to God indirectly (Matt. 25:34-40; Psalms 41:1-2).
2. **Hate what God hates:** As God's image, we cannot be different in God's preference. We must abhor those things that irritate Him and cling to those He cherishes (Proverbs 6:16-19).
3. **Be a cheerful and willing giver:** Give bountifully both to God and fellow men (Genesis 4:4; Gen. 32:5; Pro. 18:16).
4. **Let God see faithfulness in you:** Remain faithful to God till the end (Genesis 6:7-9).
5. **Embrace righteousness:** Live righteously no matter the challenges you are facing (Matthew 6:33).
6. **Be humble:** Humility attracts favour. It can take you to heights beyond your imagination. Esther was humble, and it attracted to her, special care, attention, provision, and ultimately, the best apartment (Esther 2:9, 15).
7. **Be submissive:** Esther was submissive to her uncle Mordecai. She worked according to instructions and it landed her to the palace of king Ahasuerus (Esther 2:10).
8. **Keep your ego behind:** Present less of your beauty wealth and material possession; but the strength of your character as ordinary as you can. Paul despite his greatness didn't go around showcasing his prowess (Eph. 3:8; 1 Cor. 15:9; Prov. 31:30).

CONCLUSION

People do many things including breaching protocols and adopting illegitimate means to achieve their desires and attain enviable heights. Sometimes, it becomes effort in futility. But when the grace and favor of God is upon you, with little or no effort of yours, God would launch you to a level beyond your imagination. You may be selected for multiple promotions or special

appointment, not because you are more qualified than others, but the favour of God has qualified you. Therefore, let us learn to depend on God fully, so that we can attract His grace and favour.

PRAYER

Almighty gracious God, may I find grace and divine favour in every area of my life in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord; Amen.

THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL

SUNDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 2022

THEME: LOOKING ABOVE

TOPIC: WALKING WITH GOD

TEXT: DANIEL 6:1-23

MEMORY VERSE: DANIEL 6:5 *"Then said these men, we shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God."* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

Walking, according to online dictionary is described as "moving at a regular pace by lifting and setting down each foot in turn, never having both feet off the ground at once." This definition clearly captures the essence of our study today, and how we must walk with God. Walking with God entails that we must align our lifestyle with His will. Anything other than that pulls one's feet off the ground of righteousness; the consequence would be so devastating and destructive. In our lesson today, Daniel was a man that respected and honored God, even at a time when his life was threatened and endangered by his fellow princes. He kept his closeness with God and preferred not to obey man to the detriment of his relationship with God. The presidents and the princes in the kingdom knew that nothing could distract him from his walk with God; they used that as a prey to set him up. But in all, though many afflictions that befall the righteous, the Lord will surely deliver him out of them all.

STUDY OUTLINE

WHAT IT MEANS TO WALK WITH GOD

1. Walking with God is walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16; Rom. 8:4).
2. **Aligning with the will of God:** This entails letting God's will prevail over every circumstance and seeking on a daily basis to consider yourself crucified with Christ (Luke 22:42^b; Galatians 2:20).
3. To walk with God is to find the true delight of calling upon the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26).
4. Walking with God is entering into an intimate heart relationship with Him through faith in Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit. This triggers our heart's desire towards hearing His voice, sharing our hearts with Him, and the willingness to follow Him (John 10:27; Hebrews 10:22).
5. To walk with God means that you agree with God about your life; two cannot walk except they agree (Amos 3:3).
6. Walking with God means that even in your imperfect condition as a mortal being, you must yearn to please God always, and be willing to let His Spirit conform you to the image of Christ His Son (Romans 8:29).

WAYS TO WALK WITH GOD

God is a Spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). In the words of Kenneth Copeland, let us go through these five steps to help us learn how to walk in the spirit.

1. Walk in the Spirit by not giving in to hinderances and those things that are out of line with the Word of God (Hebrews 12:1; Colossians 3:5-6)
2. Walk in the Spirit by sowing to the Spirit (Galatians 6:8).
3. Walk in the Spirit by presenting yourself a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)
4. Walk in the Spirit by praying in the Spirit daily. God will reveal mysteries to us when we pray in the spirit (Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 14:2)
5. Walk in the Spirit by obeying the prompting of the Holy Spirit (John 10:4)

HOW TO WALK WITH GOD

1. We walk with God in absolute and constant faith. Abraham, Enoch, and Noah pleased God with their absolute and unwavering faith in God (Genesis 5:24; 6:9; Hebrews 11:5-9)
2. We walk with God in total submission to His will. Abram obeyed God and left his father's house (Gen. 12:1-4; Luke 22:42^b)
3. We walk with God with a teachable spirit so that we can learn of Him. He is the all-knowing God (Omniscient). Follow Him anywhere and everywhere He goes; He can never mislead you (Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 9:57).

BENEFITS OF WALKING WITH GOD

1. You bear fruit in every good work, and grow in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10)
2. The longer we walk with God, the deeper bond of friendship. Abraham waited for 25 years for Isaac to come (Genesis 21:5)
3. It offers us the opportunity of gaining eternal life with God. Enoch had intimate relationship with God, had a deep communion with Him and was taken up to heaven; same with Elijah and Timothy (Gen. 4:26; 2 Tim. 4:8).

CONCLUSION

Walking with God is a privilege afforded us by God through the coming of His only son, Jesus; to enjoy deep communion with Him. We should align with the will of God always. We should also allow God to dictate the pace, if not, we would drift and miss the steps.

PRAYER: Dear Father, help me to walk with You side by side; have deep communion with you and learn of You in Jesus name I pray; Amen.

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

THEME: LIVING AFTER GOD'S HEART

The theme for this month is 'Living after God's heart.' It derives its essence from the proclamation in 1 Samuel 13:14. God has a principle which He has set out. Total participation in His will and dictates keeps us at a good place with Him. Various expositions have been made in the month under review to direct our steps towards living after God's heart to make God happy. This month of December is the last month of the year; therefore, it is essential we study and practice how to make God happy in order to receive His blessings. We shall espouse the following topics under this theme for a better understanding.

- ❖ **A Faithful Christian:** As humans, we have this free will tool-kit installed in us from creation up till now. Thus, this feature puts us in control of our actions and behaviors. To be associated with the term "Faithful", we must be willing to go through trials, temptations, pains, and hard times. The topic has various outlines which elaborate how we can be faithful Christians. These include characteristics of a faithful Christian; how to become a faithful Christian; examples of faithful Christians from the Bible; and the rewards for being a faithful Christian. Faithfulness to God involves total commitment to the dictates and ordinances of God.
- ❖ **The House of God:** The house of God is where God's Spirit dwells. It is made up of diverse personalities that are united with the sole purpose of worshipping, exalting, and magnifying the supremacy of God. God's house is more than a congregation or society with membership where religious services are performed. To better understand the house of God, various outlines are highlighted: The significance and purpose for the house of God; reasons to be active in the house of God; procedure for enrollment into the church. There is a tremendous joy according to David associated with going to the house of God, because he understood the values attached to God's house.
- ❖ **A Trustworthy Child of God:** God is always keen on ensuring that we His children are trustworthy. This is why He permits some temptations to befall us to test how much faith we have in Him. Whenever we prove ourselves trustworthy to God, the blessings that He released to us are bountiful. It would be very disappointing to Our Maker if we allow our bad times and temptations to get the better of us and lead us to sin. The study outlines include: the significances of a trustworthy Christian; reasons to be a trustworthy Christian; how to be a trustworthy Christian; Benefits of trusting God. In fact, trusting God is one thing, but earning God's trust puts us on a different and higher plane.
- ❖ **Born of a Virgin:** The birth of Jesus is celebrated by many in the religious world with great pomp, celebrations, and festivities. Malls and events places often empty, become full. People usually inconvenience themselves to attend various services, including occasions and merriments. Nevertheless, few understand the importance and value of Christmas. The purpose of the birth of Jesus is still a mystery to many. Here are few outlines that elaborate this topic: Importance of the birth of Jesus; Significance of the birth of Jesus; Benefits enjoyed from the birth of Jesus. Christmas symbolizes a happy and new era. Let us not get carried away and divert our focus from God.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2022

THEME: LIVING AFTER GOD'S HEART

TOPIC: A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN

TEXT: 1 PETER 4:1-11

MEMORY VERSE: 1 PETER 4:1 *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (KJV).*

INTRODUCTION

A faithful person is someone who is loyal and reliable. As humans, we have this free will tool-kit installed in us from creation up till now. Thus, this feature puts us in control of our action, behavior, loyalty etc. To be associated with the term "Faithful", we must be willing to go through trials, temptations, pains and hard times. Faithfulness in God's service is not a product of good life, wealth or even happiness. Instead, faithfulness is displayed when we are at our worst times. This is to test how reliable and trustworthy we are in the service of God. It is essential we reflect on our lifestyle, fix up the bugs of disloyalty and focus our trust on God because He never fails.

STUDY OUTLINE

SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN

1. A Follower, teacher and Leader in the Christian Family. He/she chooses what Jesus would choose and goes where Jesus would go. A faithful Christian servant will be available to teach others how to follow Jesus too (John 12:26).
2. **Humility:** A faithful Christian servant does not act in a way that is superior over others. He will be humble and not proud (Colossians 3:12).
3. **Meekness:** A faithful Christian servant knows when it is necessary to be meek and serves in a way that displays this Christ-like characteristic. (Ephesians 4:2-3).
4. **Long suffering:** A faithful Christian servant is patient to serve everyone, even when they are not ready to be served (Galatians 5:22).
5. **Forbearing:** A faithful Christian servant is careful not to impose his calling onto others. We cannot make someone volunteer. (Ephesians 6:9).
6. **A good Steward:** A faithful Christian servant must not only give at the offering box. He must also be willing to give his spiritual gifts and talents to the service of God and mankind. (1 Peter 4:10).
7. **Foresight:** A faithful Christian servant learns from his experience and applies that to situations in which he may serve (James 1:2-3).
8. **Selfless:** A faithful Christian servant does not put his needs above the needs of others. Jesus was selfless in that He came to serve, not be served (Matthew 20:28; Galatians 5:13).

HOW TO BECOME A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN

1. Accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior and be baptized in the name of the Lord (John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23)
2. Constant attendance to church activities and active participation in various sectors of the church work. (Heb. 10:24-25).
3. Receive the Holy Communion according to the church doctrines (John 6:53-58).

4. Study the scriptures and if any part seems confusing or unclear, seek clarity from sound teachers (Proverbs 4:7; Acts 8:26-40).
5. Teach and preach the gospel and testimonies of Jesus Christ to any length as we may go (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
6. Trust and believe that God can take care of all circumstances that may surround us (Philippians 4:19; Psalm 37:4-6).

SOME EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL STEWARDS FROM THE BIBLE

1. King David depended on God to defeat Goliath and save Israel from shame (1 Samuel 17:37; Psalms 27:1-5).
2. Queen Esther trusted in God to overturn Haman's plot against the Jews (Esther 4:16-17).
3. Nehemiah displayed faithfulness in managing his people during the time of rebuilding the wall (Nehemiah 8:10; 2:20).
4. Daniel in Babylon chose to remain faithful to God through prayer, rather than obeying man (Dan 6:10).
5. Joseph's faithfulness to God saved his family and entire Egypt during the seven years of famine (Genesis 50:20).

THE REWARD FOR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

1. Earthly Abundance (Matthew 25:29).
 2. Crown of Glory (2 Timothy 4:8)
- Heavenly Inheritance (Colossians 3:23-24).
3. The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 4. The Crown of Life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)
 5. The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)

CONCLUSION

When we decide to follow Christ and remain faithful, it becomes clear to us that every other thing in life is secondary. For the sake of Christ, we have to give up lust, unhealthy habits, drunkenness, fornication, adultery and every sin of the flesh. Faithfulness in God involves total commitment to the dictates and ordinances of God.

PRAYER

Forgive me oh Lord, and give me the grace to be faithful to you till the end; in Jesus' name; Amen.

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2022

THEME: LIVING AFTER GOD'S HEART

TOPIC: THE HOUSE OF GOD

TEXT: GENESIS 13:2-END

MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 13:18 *"Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD."* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

A building is a structure that has a roof and walls standing more or less permanently in one place. The house of God is where God's Spirit dwells. It is made up of diverse personalities that are united with the sole purpose of worshipping, exalting and magnifying the supremacy of God. God's house is not just a congregation or society with membership where religious services are performed. Rather it is a place for spiritual connection, fellowship and relatedness of believers. A synonym used in representation for the house of God is a Church. The holiest moment of the church is the moment when God's people—strengthened by the Holy Spirit in word and action, go out of the church door into the world to propagate the gospel. We don't just go to church; we are the church.

STUDY OUTLINE

THE SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE OF THE HOUSE OF GOD

1. It signifies that God dwells among His people (1Kings 6:11-13).
2. The house of God doesn't physically denote the abode where God resides. Instead, it signifies God's special covenant with us his people (1 Kings 8:27).
3. God's house is a point of assembly for the purpose of growing each and every member into spiritual maturity (Eph 4:13).
4. The church reaches out to spread the love of Christ and the gospel message to unbelievers in the world (Matt. 28:18-20).
5. The church, both in the universal and local sense, is important because it is the primary vehicle through which God carries out His purposes on earth. (Mark 16:15).
6. To provide edification and fellowship for the believers. This is an internal function where people are able to find fellowship with those of like mind, and where they can receive instruction in kingdom ways. In many places, this aspect of church life is ignored or neglected. (Ephesians 4:11-16).
7. To engage in matters of social concern. The church is called to sound a voice in favor of the down-trodden, to care for the destitute, to raise a societal sense of conscience against wrong-doing. (James 2:1-4)

REASONS TO BE ACTIVE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

1. The church is one of God's primary means of keeping you from being hardened by sin (Hebrews 3:12-13).
2. Not only is a church gathering an encouragement for you, but you are likewise called to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ (Hebrews 10:25).
3. To hear the powerful words of God preached (Hebrews 3:12).
4. It is very vital to be among the believers so as to keep you sharp and active in spirit and in truth (Proverbs 27:17).
5. In order to exercise and utilize our various spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6).
6. The church enables us to showcase the love we have in Christ to each other as brethren. (John 13:35).
7. Active participation aids in bearing one another's burden (Galatians 6:2).

STEPS TOWARDS ENROLLMENT INTO THE CHURCH

A person wishing to be a member of the church must give a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and follow these few principles:

1. Accept and proclaim Jesus as your Lord and Savior followed by baptism (Acts 16:31).
2. Understand and accept the beliefs of the Church (Acts 15:24-31).
- 3 Join and participate as a member at church meetings (Hebrew 10:25)
4. Be deeply committed to serving Christ within the Church and beyond (Acts 20:19 ; Romans 12:11).

CONCLUSION

God's house is a serene and comfortable environment to think, meditate, plan and also, communicate with God. There is a tremendous joy according to David associated with going to the house of God. This is because he understood the value of God's house. It is a shame to see modern Christians use the church as a venue for jamboree, quarrels and various immoralities. Judgement will surely start from the church and severe punishment will be melted to sinners who camouflage and dent the image of believers.

PRAYER

Dear God; help me and give me the grace to build your house in spirit and in truth to the best of my potentials in Jesus' name. Amen

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2022

THEME: LIVING AFTER GOD'S HEART

TOPIC: A TRUSTWORTHY CHILD OF GOD

TEXT: GENESIS 22:1-19

MEMORY VERSE: GENESIS 22:17 *"That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies"* (KJV).

INTRODUCTION

Trust means a firm belief in the reliability, truth and ability of someone or something. Trust is a very big word. It is not associated with a person; it is earned through deeds that prove reliability, confidence, belief and faith. God is always keen in ensuring that His children are trustworthy. This is why He permits some temptations to befall us to test how much faith we have in Him. Whenever we prove ourselves trustworthy to God, the blessings that He rewards with is bountiful. It would be very disappointing to our Maker if we allow our bad times and temptations to get the better of us leading us to sin.

STUDY OUTLINE

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A TRUSTWORTHY CHRISTIAN

1. Ministry success depends on trustworthy people (Exodus 18:20-21).
2. Trustworthy people are to seek out other trustworthy people (2 Timothy 2:2).
3. Trustworthy people stand out from the rest (Numbers 12:1-9).
4. Trustworthy people keep to their words at every moment and circumstance (2 Corinthians 1:18).
5. Trustworthy people are not stopped by obstacles (Philippians 2:28-30).

REASONS TO BE A TRUSTWORTHY CHILD OF GOD

1. It is a commandment from God (Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 23:21-23).
2. It attracts blessings, recommendation and happiness (Job 42:12; Genesis 22:16-17).
3. God knows your needs better than you do (Psalms 139:3; Luke 12:7).
4. He knows the desires of your heart. If you trust in Him with the things that you want most, He will take care of it. (Mark 9:23).
5. God knows exactly what he wants for your life. He has a purpose for you and has everything planned out (John 11:40; Proverbs 19:21).

HOW TO BE A TRUSTWORTHY CHILD OF GOD

1. Be truthful, there are no needs for lies (Colossians 3:9-10; Proverbs 6:16-19).
2. Learn to keep secrets entrusted to you, a shut mouth saves a lot of problems (Proverbs 11:13).
3. Always be godly and do good (Romans 12:17-21).
4. Sacrifice your soul and body to the service of God and the restoration of mankind (Romans 12:1-2).
5. Trust and believe in God first, establishing a trust-based relationship with God is a mutual function. (John 14:1; Genesis 22:8)

BENEFITS OF TRUSTING GOD

1. He will lead us to the right path (Psalms 16:11).

2. He will never leave us. Even if we have shortcomings, He is willing to forgive us as His mercy endures forever. (Psalms 136; Joshua 1:5).
3. He will always comfort us no matter the circumstances (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Psalms 46:1).
4. He will help us go through anything and He will fight our battles (Exodus 14:14; Isaiah 54:17).
5. He will fulfill what He has promised (Joshua 21:45; Luke 1:45).

CONCLUSION

Trusting God is one thing, but earning God's trust puts you on a different and higher plane. God's trust is a product of sincere and unwavering commitment of faith in Him. It is very essential we have it in mind that temptations must come; because that is the examination that transcends us into close familiarity with God.

PRAYER

My Father, give me the grace to trust in you with all my heart and my soul. Grant me the strength to overcome trials and tribulations in Jesus' name. Amen

**THE ETERNAL SACRED ORDER OF THE CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S MANUAL**

SUNDAY, 25TH DECEMBER 2022

THEME: LIVING AFTER GOD'S HEART

TOPIC: BORN OF A VIRGIN

TEXT: LUKE 2:1-20

MEMORY VERSE: LUKE 2:11 *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*
(KJV)

INTRODUCTION

The birth of Jesus is celebrated by many with great pomp, celebration, and festivities. Malls and events places often empty will become full. People will inconvenience themselves to attend various services, including occasions and merriments; yet few understand the importance and value of Christmas. A tremendous irony emerges as unbelievers' participation, whereby numerous atrocities are committed in the name of Christmas celebration. We experience various ungodly and unrighteous gathering, drunkenness, parties. Although the birth of Jesus has already been interpreted as a seasonal festivity for the end of the year, certain cultures and people still misinterpret the importance and purpose of the birth of Jesus.

STUDY OUTLINE

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (1 John 1:1-2).
2. The birth of Jesus revealed the true nature of God (John 1:18).
3. The birth of Jesus revealed to us the grace of God and gives us access to God (John 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:18).
4. The birth of Jesus revealed to us the truth of God. (John 14:6; John 17:17).
5. He came to execute the will of the Father which is in heaven (John 6:8).
6. The birth of Jesus brought light and life to the world at large (John 8:12).

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. Jesus was born as a child with flesh and blood, but His source was the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:7; Matthew 1:20).
2. It gave redemption and salvation from sin for all (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30)
3. He came for peace and to reconcile us back to God (Colossians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 5:19)
4. He came to be our Lord, Savior and cleanse us from all sins (Acts 2:36-38).

BENEFITS ENJOYED FROM THE BIRTH OF JESUS

1. Remission and forgiveness of sins (Romans 3:25, 1 John 1:9)
2. Eternal life is guaranteed (John 3:16, 1 John 5:11)
3. Jesus makes us receive physical healing from God the Father (Matthew 8:17, 1 Peter 2:24)
4. We obtain emotional peace and restoration (Psalm 23:3, Isaiah 26:3)
5. We are surprised by financial provision as a result of God's favor (Psalm 23:1, Psalm 34:10)
6. It is a season to enjoy good meals from brethren (Psalm 23:5, Psalm 103:5)
7. We receive physical strength for daily living (Psalm 29:11)
8. We receive divine wisdom to navigate life better (1 Corinthians 1:30)
9. We are assured of divine safety in our movement (Psalm 91:11-12)
10. God make us partakers of His prosperity (Psalm 1:3, 3 John 2)

CONCLUSION

Christmas reminds us about God's love for the world, thereby he gave us His only begotten son. Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will celebrate the Christmas with the right mindset that He gave us salvation freely. We should also trust that God who gave us His son is willing to give us richly all things to enjoy. Let this Christmas be different in your good conduct and conversation. Merry Christmas !

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your coming and accepting to die for the remission of my sins. May your birth bring blessings, open doors, happiness and thanksgiving to my life in Jesus' name, Amen.