We Are the Body of Christ
As a Christian education director, superintendent, or pastor, you strive to achieve excellence in your Sunday school ministry. You recruit and train gifted, dedicated teachers. You select curriculum that helps students become “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (Jas. 1:22). Your goal is to help every student from preschool to adult “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).

This publication—the CROSS/Echoes Sunday School Superintendent’s Handbook—helps you do your best to accomplish your ministry goals. Here are some suggested ways to use this Handbook:

1. **The Church and Home Theme:**
   Echo this theme. Each Sunday, this theme serves as the foundation for your entire Sunday school. Every activity for every student revolves around this one theme. This provides a “big picture” for the church while allowing the variety of age-level Sunday school lessons needed to support biblical discipleship. The varying learning needs of children and adults are met.

   By revealing the big picture of the lessons, you gain the unity and order that leaders need. Teachers can see the value of their individual service within the larger teaching ministry. Families can feel a greater sense of unity when you give them this theme that shows how their different lessons are connected. All family members can study the same theme as it applies to each of their lessons.

2. **Order of Service:** Each Sunday, the Order of Service provides Opening exercises including suggested songs, Scripture readings, prayer, and responsive reading based upon the quarterly Church and Home Theme. Lesson exercises include a short devotion, the Church and Home Theme Talk, age-level lesson summaries, and guidelines for conducting Lesson Reviews, including a Closing program.

3. **Lesson Reviews:** Each Sunday’s Church and Home Theme Talk can be repeated during the Review time. The **Age-Level Summaries** are the superintendent’s guidelines to ensure that learning stays on track and that reviews are meaningful to the whole congregation. The **Superintendent’s Link to Next Week** reminds the entire church congregation of the importance of unity and continuity.

4. **Teacher Training:** See the teacher training material on pages 21 and 22 of this Handbook. You can use this to recruit new teachers and unite your teaching staff. If you have a weekly teacher-training session, each Order of Service page gives you the overview to help prepare your teachers for that Sunday. If you meet monthly or quarterly with teachers, read through the appropriate Order of Service pages and use them as the foundation for your teacher-training meeting.

5. **Sermon Coordination and More:** If you want to coordinate the Sunday sermon with the Sunday school lessons, use this Handbook to assist in identifying specific points to make and bringing out truths in each Sunday’s message. You may also choose family Bible study topics, small-group Bible studies, as well as youth and children’s activities that fit with the quarter’s theme.
Cross/Echoes embraces the need for unity in the Sunday school program with this whole—church theme. We thought long and hard, asking ourselves, What is the best way to achieve meaningful unity? Even if all classes study the same Scripture, the lessons will, and should, be different. Students of different ages will understand and apply the Scripture differently—and that is appropriate if we are to meet the developmental needs of each student. Some may suggest that we limit ourselves to Scripture passages that all ages will understand. But that approach would deprive older children and adults of the challenging Scriptures they need for further growth.

Cross/Echoes has chosen this unique course: We have selected age-appropriate Scriptures for each age level and have built appropriate lessons from those Scriptures for growth at all age levels. Then we unified these diverse lessons together with a quarterly Church and Home Theme. So, each class is age-appropriate, and all the classes revolve around the same Bible precept. This enables you, the Sunday school leader, to guide all your classes toward a common goal—age-appropriate, biblical discipleship.

This quarter’s Church/Home Theme is “We Are the Body of Christ.” God loves us and He wants us to serve one another in love. “I . . . beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One god and Father of all.” (Eph. 4:1-6a).

This handbook will help you and your teachers proclaim unity and the love of God in your church body. Mention “We Are the Body of Christ” in Sunday school exercises. Emphasize it in your teacher-training meetings. Remind teachers that unity can occur in their classes as each individual heart embraces it. Every Sunday, encourage families to talk about the theme throughout the week.

This Quarter’s Church and Home Theme:

CHRIST JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

Cross/Echoes

Links Church and Home

Embraces the need for unity in the Sunday school program with this whole—church theme. We thought long and hard, asking ourselves, What is the best way to achieve meaningful unity? Even if all classes study the same Scripture, the lessons will, and should, be different. Students of different ages will understand and apply the Scripture differently—and that is appropriate if we are to meet the developmental needs of each student. Some may suggest that we limit ourselves to Scripture passages that all ages will understand. But that approach would deprive older children and adults of the challenging Scriptures they need for further growth.

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Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth
Civil Rights Pioneer
by Victoria McAfee
“The best thing we can do is be a servant of God.
It does good to stand up and serve others.”

One of Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth’s first
sermons as a Baptist minister focused on
two questions that Paul (then Saul) asked
God: “Who are you?” and “What would you have
me do?” The latter question guided Rev. Shuttlesworth
for the rest of his life as a socially conscious
minister first in Alabama, then in Ohio.

Fred Lee Shuttlesworth was born in Montgom
ery County, Alabama, on March 18, 1922. His
family moved to Birmingham when he was a tod
dler, and he served as a truck driver during World
War II. After leaving the service, he experienced
what he believed to be a call to the ministry. He
enrolled in Cedar Grove Bible College in Mobile,
and eventually he graduated from Alabama State
College in 1952. Ordained in 1948, he took over
the pastorate of Bethel Baptist Church in Bir
mingham in 1953. A year later he met Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr., right before Rosa Parks refused to
give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery.

Rev. Shuttlesworth began his work with the
civil rights movement by supporting the NAACP
voter registration and also the Montgomery bus
boycott in 1955. The following year, when the
NAACP was banned from Alabama, he founded
his own organization, the Alabama Christian
Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR). The
organization’s first fight was integrating the Bir
mingham Police Department. After witnessing the
success of the bus boycott in Montgomery, Shut
tlesworth also attempted to desegregate the Bir
mingham Transit Company with blacks riding the
buses. Once he announced his plans, on Christmas
night, 1956, segregationists planted 16 sticks of
dynamite outside his bedroom in the church par
sonage. In the blast, Shuttlesworth landed in the
basement while his bedroom was blown apart, but
he and visiting Deacon Charles Robinson were
unharmed. A policeman told him, “Reverend, if I
were you I’d get out of town fast.” Shuttlesworth
replied, “If God could keep me through this, then
I’m here for the duration.” The next day he led
the bus protest. That he persevered, he said, “gave
people the feeling that I wouldn’t run, I didn’t run,
and that God had to be there.”

In 1957, Shuttlesworth made front-page news
when a white mob beat him with chains and brass
knuckles and stabbed his wife as they attempted
to enroll two of their children in an all-white high
school. Incredibly, Shuttlesworth managed to drive
his family to the hospital while telling his children
to always forgive your enemies.

Also in 1957, Eugene T. “Bull” Connor, an avid

Rev. Shuttlesworth (in the hat) with Dr. King at the March on Washington.
segregationist, was elected Birmingham commissioner of public safety. Conner used the fire and police departments to discourage ACMHR meetings, but those tactics failed. Connor is also believed to have been behind two more attempted bombings of Shuttlesworth’s church.

Shuttlesworth joined with Dr. King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy to help found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He told Dr. King, “I assure you if you come to Birmingham, this movement can not only gain prestige, but really shake the country.” At first, the mass sit-ins he and King organized brought little public attention, but in 1963 Shuttlesworth was behind the decision to allow students and even young people to participate in demonstrations and sit-ins. Some 2,000 students joined this “children’s crusade,” as it became known, and more than 600 of them were arrested. The Birmingham police turned police dogs and fire hoses on the demonstrators. Images of the demonstrations on national television caught the attention of the country, and President Kennedy declared the struggle for civil rights a moral issue for the nation.

Some people said Shuttlesworth was too aggressive, too confrontational, even a hindrance to the movement. But Dr. King called Shuttlesworth “one of the nation’s most courageous freedom fighters” and they continued to work together, organizing the voting rights march to Selma in 1965 and integration initiatives across the South.

Though Shuttlesworth regularly visited the movement in Alabama, he felt the Lord leading him to move in 1961 to Cincinnati for the sake of his family, and he pastored there for almost 50 years. He led protests against discrimination in Ohio as well, and in 1989 he established the Shuttlesworth Housing Foundation, which helps low-income Cincinnatians purchase their first home. In 2001, he received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Clinton.

Shuttlesworth kept his connection to Birmingham. He worked with Richard Arlington, the city’s first black mayor, to establish the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and Museum, and the Birmingham Airport Authority voted to honor Shuttlesworth by renaming the city’s airport as the Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. In 2007, during a commemoration of the voting rights march to Selma, then-presidential candidate Barack Obama pushed Shuttlesworth in a wheelchair across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to honor his service and commitment.

Shuttlesworth came back to Birmingham after he retired from his church in Cincinnati. He suffered a stroke and returned to Alabama in 2008 for rehabilitation. He died on October 5, 2011, in Birmingham.

When a group of grade school students asked him later in his life what he did in the civil rights movement, he said, “I went to jail 30 or 40 times, not for fighting or stealing or drugs…. I went to jail for a good thing, trying to make a difference.”

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth was a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama.
HOW TO USE THE ORDER OF SERVICE
A bird’s-eye view of each week’s lesson plan for the entire church.
You may make copies of the Sunday school Order of Service for purposes of teacher training.

Church and Home Theme:
Your big picture or foundation for the whole church—all Sunday school lessons and activities revolve around this theme at church.
Families use the same theme to reinforce learning at home.

Our God Gives
Sunday
September 4, 2011
Church and Home Theme
“Put your hope in God.” (Ps. 42:5b). This week’s lessons give many reasons to put our hope in God, who gives us all things.

OPENCING
Opening Signal
Theme Related Songs “Showers of Blessing”; “Wade in the Water”; “Ship of Zion”; “Blessed Quietness”; and “Near the Cross.”

LESSON
Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:1a, 2b, 3a, 10–11; Ephesians 3:20
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Unfailing Love

Our God Gives

Church and Home Theme

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Call and Response: God’s Unfailing Love

Church and Home Theme: Remind all students to take their lessons home for further study.
Challenge members of the church body to respond to the Sunday school lesson from God’s Word by applying it to their home lives and community activities.

Opening:
It may also be used as a devotion for teacher-training meeting.
Christian education meetings, or meetings with the pastor.
Add your practice of a responsive Scripture reading, or denominational church, or school creed. You may also call roll at this time if that is your practice.

DISMISSAL TO CLASSES:
Appoint classes for review after the lesson. Tips for conducting lesson review.

Theme Talk:
Use as an opening meditation before dismissal to classes; superintendent’s part in review at reassembly; and talk for teacher-training meeting.

Age-Level Summaries:
See this bird’s-eye view of exactly how the age-level lessons parallel the Church and Home Theme. This lesson review and teacher-training reference for the superintendent is also a home Bible study reference for families.

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Remind all students to take their lessons home for further study.
Challenge members of the church body to respond to the Sunday school lesson from God’s Word by applying it to their home lives and community activities.
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“... Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27b). The combined efforts of a unified body are so much more effective than the single efforts of individual believers. Unity equals power!

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Come Let Us Worship the Lord in the Beauty of His Holiness”; “O How He Loves You and Me”; “Standing on the Promises”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 4:1-16
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: The African-American church has for centuries been a place of refuge from external dangers and an internal witness of God’s love for us and our love for one another. God’s love and protection extends beyond the borders of a church to include all who safely trust in Him. When the unified body worships God, it reveals to the world that we are His disciples. Let us worship God in the beauty of holiness with uncompromised preaching of His Word, our practice of justice and mercy, and the lifting up of holy hands in reverence and praise. Let us comfort one another and love one another as Christ has loved and cared for us. “If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:12).

Lessons this summer—on God’s love for us, our love for God, and our love for one another through Jesus Christ—will challenge us to remember the precious gifts of unity and godly love we have as members of His Body.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: The prophet Amos tells Israel to keep the Law or they will bring judgment on themselves (Amos 2:4-16).

HIGH SCHOOL: Members of the Body of Christ are blessed when they trust God’s Word and keep His commands. We can find delight and instruction in God’s Word (Ps. 119:1-8, 137-144).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body studies the Bible individually and corporately. The Bereans study God’s Word together (Acts 17:10-12), and Paul exhorts Timothy to correctly handle Scripture (2 Tim. 2:15).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Hannah, in great distress, prays and receives an answer to her prayer. God hears the prayer of someone in His Body with a broken heart (1 Sam. 1:1—2:19).

ELEMENTARY: Jacob has an encounter with God at Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22). God is with the Body of Christ wherever we are.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Abraham moves to a new land (Genesis 12:1-9). God watches over the Body of Christ wherever we are.

PRESCHOOL: Abraham moves to a new land (Genesis 12:1-9). God watches over the Body of Christ wherever we are.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Unite with family members and church members for a time of prayer, praise, study, and service this week.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him” (1 John 2:9-10).

**OPENING**

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “We Are One in the Spirit”; “Unity”; “Lord You Are Good”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Romans 12:4-5
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

**LESSON**

Theme Talk: Every four summers, I look forward to watching the Olympic events. Heads of State, leaders of nations, and the best athletes in the world gather to showcase their country’s talent. People who can only communicate through a translator, even people from Communist and Democratic nations, manage to sidelong their differences for 17 days in order to compete on the world’s biggest stage and to receive a prize. If the world can bring together its poorest and richest—from every nation, tongue, kindred, and people—surely the Body of Christ, reconciled to God through the blood and body of our Lord, known and cared for by Him, can demonstrate the unity of the Spirit through compassion, love of His Word, and prayer. Olympians run for a corruptible crown, but we for the incorruptible crown of life that does not fade away. As spectacular as the Olympics are, their reward is temporal and ours is eternal.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.*

**ADULT:** Hearts devoted to God are an indication of His unified Body, but Amos says God’s people are far from Him (Amos 5:14-15, 18-27).

**HIGH SCHOOL:** We are God’s special creation—God loves and accepts us into His Body. The psalmist tells us that we’re fully known by our heavenly Father and He still loves us (Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18, 23-24).

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Paul asks for special books in prison (Acts 8:26-31, 34-35; 17:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:12-14; 2 John 1). As the Body of Christ, we should take time for God’s Word.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY:** Josiah is faithful to following God’s Word. The Body should pay attention to the Word as well (2 Chron. 34:1—35:19).

**ELEMENTARY:** Hannah, in great distress, prays and receives an answer to her prayer—a child. God hears the prayers of those in His Body but sometimes we must wait for an answer (1 Sam. 1:1—2:19).

**EARLY ELEMENTARY:** God promised Abraham many descendants (Gen. 15:1-6; 21:1-6). God always keeps His promises.

**PRESCHOOL:** Joseph is put in charge of Egypt (Gen. 41:28-55). God gives leaders for the Body of Christ to take care of us.

**Dismissal to Class:** Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, and a life response to step 4 of their lessons.)

**CLOSING**

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: What will your legacy be: humility, faith in God, prayer and reliance upon God and His Word? Set aside time to pray for the needs of your family members. Honor and pray for fathers this week.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell” (Col. 1:18-19).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “This Is My Father’s World”; “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: 1 Peter 2:17, 24
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: As we observe Father’s Day today, some of us come to that celebration with mixed emotions or wounds in need of tender care. Satan has waged war for centuries against the hearts and minds of our young men, stealing them away from the family structure of our heritage. But our eternal Father holds up a heavenly vision of His desire for a paradigm shift in relationships. In the context of the Body of Christ, there is to be a unity that promotes healing and a practical, functional love that mentors by example.

This week’s lessons encourage us in our Father’s careful instructions on how to do life well. Everything from managing resources, to confession and forgiveness, meditating on God’s Word, the power of prayer, and leadership are covered as part of His overarching plan to build up the Body and restore the family. Christ, the head of the Body, brings reconciliation and healing because it pleased our heavenly Father to have all His fulness dwell in Him. Praise God for His Father’s Day gift to each of us!

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: Amos tells the people that God abhors their selfishness, which is not how His people should treat each other (Amos 6:4-8, 11-14).

HIGH SCHOOL: Members of the Body confess sin and receive forgiveness. God’s Word promises our sins are forgiven (Ps. 32).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body of Christ delights in meditating on God’s Word. We must regularly think about what God has said to us in His Word (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; 119:11, 15, 47, 97, 165; 1 Tim. 4:15).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Daniel, his life in danger, ask for wisdom to understand the king’s dream (Dan. 2:1-49). As the Body, we know God is the only one who knows everything.

ELEMENTARY: The Israelites have a great task in building the temple (1 Chron. 29:1-9). God deserves praise from the Body of Christ.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God gives the Israelites manna and quail, because He gives His people food (Exod. 16:11-18).

PRESCHOOL: Joseph helps his family settle in Egypt (Gen. 46:5-7, 28-34; 47:1-12). God takes care of the families in His Body.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:
Continue family Bible study and individual devotions at home. Wish the men Happy Fathers’ Day.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me . . . I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me” (Ps. 3:3-5).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “God Will Take Care of You”; “I’m Yours Lord”; “I Will Trust in the Lord”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:23
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Continuing with our theme “We Are the Body of Christ,” we are highlighting stories of African-American members of the Body who made a difference.

In A.D. 300, the Christian church was advancing through North Africa. One North African church leader was St. Augustine.

Born to a Christian mother and a pagan father, Augustine experimented with a variety of philosophies as he sought the meaning of life. At 28, Augustine converted to Christianity. Augustine was dissatisfied until he met Jesus Christ. The opening prayer from Augustine’s The Confessions: “You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.” Augustine forgot all the vain philosophies that were part of his past.

As the Body of Christ, we experience the rest He provides through humble trust in Him, prayer, and living according to His plan.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: God’s people are to have His priorities first and foremost, not their own (Amos 8:1-6, 9-10).

HIGH SCHOOL: God loves the Body of Christ. We can express any feeling to God in prayer. The psalmist prays to the God of our life (Ps. 42:1-8).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Members of the Body understand and hold onto the relevance of prayer. We are told to call out to God consistently (Ps. 34:17-18; 55:16-17; 1 Thess. 5:17). God rewards our sincere, private prayers (Matt. 6:6-8). Prayer is a good response to problems (Phil. 4:6-7).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Zerubbabel and the people have to delay their plans to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1—6). But God is in control, so we in the Body should not be discouraged.

ELEMENTARY: Daniel and his friends escape death because God answers their prayer (Dan. 2:1-49). God knows how to help us with any problem.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God gives the Israelites water (Exod. 17:1-6). God gives the Body water.

PRESCHOOL: David expresses his trust in God’s care (Psalm 23). God takes care of the Body of Christ.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor
Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: We need to obey all of God’s commandments, including trusting in Him. Talk about how we, in the Body, can trust God during family devotions this week.
Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme
“‘All flesh [shall] come to worship before me, saith the L ORD” (Isa. 66:23).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Stand in Awe of You”; “Your Grace and Mercy”; “Trust and Obey”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Philippians 1:20
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: God’s grace and protection were evident throughout the life of another member of the Body of Christ: Harriet Tubman. Although she was born into slavery and suffered many cruel beatings at the hand of her owner, she emerged to fulfill her God-given purpose. After her own escape from slavery, Harriet made 19 more trips into the South, bringing more than 1,000 slaves to freedom. She led 300 slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad and over 800 more were rescued during the Civil War. Nicknamed “Moses,” Harriet never lost a man, woman, or child on her journeys North. Harriet had the honor of bringing her parents to freedom. After the war, she returned to Auburn, NY, where she supported her parents until their death.

God honored Harriet’s faith and obedience. She selflessly gave all her money and time to bring others to freedom. Later, she became a spokeswoman for women’s rights when women could not own property or vote.

Harriet spent the later years of her life housing and feeding poor blacks in her home, giving all she had. Harriet died in March of 1913 at approximately 93 years of age. She served God by serving others.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: The prophet Micah proclaims God’s truth to the people of Judah and calls them to be His faithful Body (Micah 2:4-11).

HIGH SCHOOL: The Body is called to worship and stand in awe of God’s worth and works (Ps. 98).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body continues to talk with and trust God through the troubles of life. Job keeps his faith and keeps communicating with God despite his losses (Job 1:1-3, 18-22; 42:10-13).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: God hears the Body when we confess our sin to Him. Ezra leads the Jewish people to repent (Ezra 7—10).

ELEMENTARY: Ezra and the Israelites confess their sin to God (Ezra 9—10). God hears the Body when we confess.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Isaac does not quarrel over the wells (Gen. 26:12-25). In the Body of Christ, getting along shows we care.

PRESCHOOL: Isaac does not quarrel over the wells (Gen. 26:12-25). In the Body of Christ, we know that fighting does not fix problems.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Worship God this week with your family. Each family member can praise God for something He has done for them this week.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps. 133:1)

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Unity”; “We’ve Come This Far by Faith”; “Lord Prepare Me”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Ephesians 3:6
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: The National Council of Negro Women published a cookbook, *The Black Family Dinner Quilt*. On its cover is the art of African-American artist Faith Ringgold who has depicted NCNW founder, Mary McLeod Bethune and her protégée, Miss Dorothy Height, having Sunday tea. Brenda Rhodes Cooper writes, “Mrs. Bethune’s legacy makes up the border of the piece. Her talk with Miss Height . . . is part of a conversation which helped shape a nation by inspiring the work of African-American women.”

The borders of the quilt read, in part, “I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another . . . I leave you faith . . . I leave you a responsibility to our young people,” signed, Mary McLeod Bethune. A legacy of hope left by a member of the Body.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.*

ADULT: God wants the leaders of His Body to practice His justice, and He will clean out any corruption He finds (Micah 3:5-12).

HIGH SCHOOL: Members in the Body are to demonstrate biblical character and principles within their families. God’s truths are to be obeyed and taught generation to generation (Deut. 6:1-2), in the home (6:4-9), and by the parents (6:20-21).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Members in the Body understand what God intends the character and operation of families to be. God uses the human family to teach about His generosity (Matt. 7:7-11); discipline (Heb. 12:5b-10); and loyalty (Prov. 18:24).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Members in the Body do their best to get along with others. Abraham keeps peace with Lot (Gen. 13).

ELEMENTARY: A Canaanite mother cries to Jesus for help for her disturbed daughter (Matt. 15:21-28). Keep believing that Jesus can help your family.


PRESCHOOL: Jacob and Esau quarrel, and then make up. As the Body of Christ, we know God can help us get along (Gen. 27:41a; 32:9-21; 33:3-11).

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor
Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Conflict is one of the realities of this life. Take today’s lessons with you, obeying God’s Word and applying His love in your everyday lives. Mentor your families. Love your neighbor.
Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins” (1 Pet. 4:8). Let us remember our commitment to love one another.

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “We Have Come Into This House”; “I Surrender All”; “Be Glorified”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Malachi 2:10

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: In Soul Theology: The Heart of African American Black Culture, authors Reverend Dr. Henry H. Mitchell and Nicholas C. Cooper-Lewter relate black beliefs about the Body of Christ and humanity:

“Soul folk treasure kinship in a manner not common in the prevailing lifestyles of the land . . . the larger vision of humankind as a kinship group influences interaction throughout the traditional black community. This belief system presumes folks to be related and obligated to each other until proven otherwise.

“The well-known western and biblical doctrines of the Church as family of God is not articulated very much among blacks, but it is followed seriously in practice.” (p. 127)

Today’s lessons exhort us to continue to build up individuals, families, and extended family in our homes, churches, and communities.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: The sacrifices God wants most from His people are justice, love, and humility (Micah 6:3-8).

HIGH SCHOOL: The Body of Christ values God’s perspective of moral purity. Paul exhorts the saints to purity (1 Cor. 6:12-20; 7:1-5).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Martha criticizes her sister (Luke 10:38-42). Andrew helps his brother (John 1:35-42). Brotherly love is unselfish (Rom. 12:10). When there is conflict, focusing on Jesus helps the Body get along.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: The Body of Christ values instruction and wisdom from all members in the family. Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro the Midianite priest, advises Moses on how to help the Israelites (Exod. 18).


EARLY ELEMENTARY: King David cares for Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4:4; 9:1-13). God helps us show kindness to everyone.

PRESCHOOL: King David cares for Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4:4; 9:1-13). God helps us show kindness to everyone.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble

Reassemble Classes

Lesson Reviews by Classes

Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: This week, as a family, do something special for each other to show your love. Continue topray, read the Word, share, and build each other up in Christ.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matt. 5:9).

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “God Is”; “I Want to Be a Follower of Christ”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Romans 8:13
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

Theme Talk: During slavery, masters totally controlled slaves’ lives. They directed their work and their family life. Most slaves lived in families that were very unstable because there were no protections. Slave marriages were not legally recognized. Masters had authority over slave children. Families were forced to separate, were sold, and were exported as property. Slaveowners could keep the slaves from marrying as well as sexually exploit the slaves.

Family and religion served, respectively, as the sail and the anchor for the slaves. They fought to keep their family members together. They developed their own “invisible” churches. They had their own slave preachers. In these and other ways they resisted slavery and found hope.

After Emancipation, the slaves were no longer someone else’s property, but they faced many struggles and had to overcome the damages that had been done to family ties and morals.

The Holy Bible, then and now, gives us God’s standard for relationships in the Body.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: God is compassionate and forgiving when His people repent. He gives them hope for the future (Micah 7:14-20).

HIGH SCHOOL: God wants only the best in marriage for those in the Body of Christ. The Beatitudes describe the quality of Christian character (Matt. 5:1-10). Only Christians can form Christian homes (2 Cor. 6:14-18).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Youth in the Body obey their parents. Children are wise to receive their parents’ guidance and discipline (Prov. 4:10-11; 29:17) and should respond obediently (Luke 2:51-52; Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-3).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Families in the Body who choose to honor God are blessed. God promises to bless David’s family (1 Chron. 17; 2 Chron. 7:1-10).

ELEMENTARY: Children in the Body of Christ know Jesus cares about families. Mary and Martha seek help for Lazarus from Jesus (John 11:1-44).

EARLY ELEMENTARY: The widow feeds Elijah (1 Kings 17:8-16). God asks us to be kind to other people.

PRESCHOOL: Elisha’s friends provide him with a room (2 Kings 4:8-11). In the Body of Christ, friends do nice things for each other.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response, as in step 4 of their lessons.

Closing Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:
Honor God through your family relationships this week.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“So they strengthened their hands for this good work” (Neh. 2:18b).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “No Not One”; “I Will Trust in the Lord”; “If You Can Use Anything Lord You Can Use Me”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Hebrews 4:16
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Marian Wright Edelman is one of the world’s foremost children’s advocates. She is a mother of three boys and includes in her professional background her work in Mississippi as a Civil Rights lawyer. Wright Edelman credits her Baptist-minister father and mother, who were both community activists, with instilling in her the zeal to fight injustice. Marian’s foremost work remains advancing the cause of children’s rights.

Marian Wright Edelman used her expertise to establish the Children’s Defense Fund, a non-profit network of children’s advocacy programs. Her motto has been “Leave no child behind.” Edelman has authored a number of publications, including The Measure of Our Success: a Letter to My Children and Yours, in which Marian has penned 25 admonitions for families to pass on to their children and grandchildren. One is: “Forming families is serious business.”

Today’s lessons prompt the Body of Christ to arm spiritually, and to bear fruit for God in our families, churches, and communities.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: God is the only one who is able to redeem His Body (Isa. 59:15-21).

HIGH SCHOOL: Members of the Body must be Christlike in all relationships and particularly in the home. Christians should possess the love of God and His character (Gal. 5:24—6:2; Jas. 5:16; 1 John 3:16-18).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body understands the importance of Christian training through the family. The Hebrew home passed on truth from generation to generation to fill the home with God (Deut. 6:6-9, 20-21, 24).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: A royal official trusts Jesus to help his son (John 4:43-53). The Body brings family concerns to Jesus and trusts Him to help.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus appears to Thomas and calls for witnesses to the Resurrection (John 20:24-29; Luke 24:33-48). Jesus wants everyone to believe in Him and become part of His Body.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Elisha helps a widow (2 Kings 4:1-7). Those in the Body of Christ help others in any way they can.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus knows all about those in His Body. Jesus knows all about Nathanael (John 1:43-49).

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible truth, memory verse, or a life response as in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor
Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:
Take time this week to study God’s Word daily with your family using your take-home student books and leaflets.
Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him” (1 John 2:10).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Pray for Me”; “Jesus Loves Me”; “O How He Loves You and Me”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:8
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Benjamin Elijah Mays was the son of ex-slaves. Born in poverty less than 30 years after Emancipation, Mays became a great educator, Baptist minister, and a promoter of understanding among humanity as a member of the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches. A Dean of Howard University’s School of Religion, Mays also served as the president of Morehouse College in Atlanta from 1950 to 1967. It was there that he had Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a student.

Mays is credited by King as being his “spiritual mentor and intellectual father.” It was Mays who encouraged King’s profession as a minister and civil rights activist. Mays worked diligently to promote racial harmony and justice through the Body of Christ.

Today’s lessons encourage church unity and loving God with our whole being.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: God protects those in His Body who are just (Jer. 7:1-15).

HIGH SCHOOL: When the Body prays together, we expect results. Jesus promises to meet with His disciples when they pray together (Matt. 18:19-20). Jesus’ followers join in prayer (Acts 4:23-31).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Each member of the Body is a vital part of the Church. Paul uses the illustration of the human body to describe how the church functions (1 Cor. 12:14-27).


EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus accepts the tax collector, Matthew (Matt. 9:9-13). The Body understands that Jesus cares for everyone.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus stills the storm (Mark 4:35-41). The Body of Christ needs to know that Jesus cares when we’re scared.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response as found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:
Gather in your homes for individual and family Bible study as well as fellowship in the Body.
Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness . . .” says the hymn “The Solid Rock.” Our hope should be built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, the head of the Body.

OPENING

Theme-Related Songs: “My Hope Is Built”; “There Is None Like You”; “He Is Lord”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Psalm 27:1-7; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-28

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). As cult leaders have risen over the past decades, whose doctrines were filled with heresy, their errors were easy to detect. But what about the subtle ones, “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” [the power of God] (2 Tim. 3:5). How discerning are we of the vain talkers, deceivers “who subvert whole houses, teaching things they ought not which for, filthy lucre’s sake” (see Titus 1:10-11). As we draw near to the second coming of our Lord, many antichrists will compete for our worship. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, and He must have the preeminence in all things—in the church and in our lives.

Today’s lessons encourage the Body of Christ to focus only upon Christ, and to hold fast to His teachings alone.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: Ezekiel tells the exiles they are responsible for their own sins and they must repent of them to find salvation (Ezek. 18:1-13, 30-32).

HIGH SCHOOL: The Body of Christ shares God’s truth with each other. The Jews are attentive to Ezra’s preaching from Scripture (Neh. 8:2-3, 7-8). Paul comments on preaching and the response to it (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Jesus calls for a response to His teaching (Luke 6:47-49).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body of Christ understands that Jesus breaks down barriers between believers. Paul describes Jews and Gentiles as reconciled together through Christ in His Church (Eph. 2:12-22).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus takes the place of the Old Testament sacrifices (Exod. 11—12; 29:15-18; John 1:29). Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

ELEMENTARY: Zerubbabel and the people rebuild the temple (Ezra 1—6). The Body should work together for God.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus tells the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). God wants the Body to show their neighbors that they love them.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus heals the man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15). The Body of Christ knows Jesus can make people well.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Be sensitive to the Word of God this week. Use your sermon notes, your take-home books and materials, and your Bibles to focus on Christ this week as you live for Him.

Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ
Church and Home Theme
“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” describes how the love of Jesus leads us through our lives here on earth.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Oh How I Love Jesus”; “Praise Him”; “Thank You Lord”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Mahalia Jackson’s father preached the Gospel and worked on the docks in New Orleans where the great gospel singer was born. Mahalia grew up singing with her aunts in the Baptist churches. Her music was also enthused by the worship services of a church she lived next door to. Though she was not in the Holiness church, it left its mark on her singing.

During her early years, she helped earn her living by touring storefront churches. Her religious convictions were evident in her choices of where and how she would use her God-given musical gifts. Jackson, when criticized for clapping and swaying as she sang, defended her style with Scripture. Mahalia sang for presidents, went on European tours, and appeared on television. She was also a philanthropist who started a scholarship fund.

Today’s lessons discuss many ways for the Body to worship in spirit and in truth—with or without music, in and out of church.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: The prophet Zechariah tells the people to actually listen to God and do what He says to do (Zech. 7:8-14).

HIGH SCHOOL: The Body understands the importance of baptism and the Lord’s Supper in worshiping God. Both help us focus on Christ’s love and be in unity with other believers (Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:23-28).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Body praises and worships God together. The Levites lead in singing and praising God through music (2 Chron. 5:12-13; Ezra 3:10-11). The church worships with clear understanding and order (1 Cor. 14:15, 26-33).

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus worships and teaches in the synagogue (Luke 4:16-31). God plans for His Body to join together for instruction.

ELEMENTARY: The Body of Christ knows that God loves a cheerful giver. A Greek church is praised for sacrificial giving (2 Cor. 8—9).

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Ten lepers are healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). God wants the Body of Christ to remember to thank Jesus for His care.

PRESCHOOL: Ten lepers are healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). God wants the Body of Christ to be thankful because Jesus cares.

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor
Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:
Participate in worship this week with your family, both at church and at home.
Closing Benediction
We Are the Body of Christ

Church and Home Theme
“Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations . . .”
(Acts 20:19a).

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Give Myself to You”; “I Am on the Battlefield”; “O How He Loves You and Me”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Acts 2:40-47; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are the Body of Christ.

LESSON

Theme Talk: The Reverend Leon H. Sullivan told about his principles and purpose in Moving Mountains, his autobiography published in 1998. Sullivan was the founder of OIC, Opportunities Industrialization Centers; the International Foundation of Education and Self-Help; and his Sullivan Principles helped destroy South African apartheid. This black leader is said to have created job opportunities for some one million young people throughout the United States and the world. He was in the vanguard of American civil rights, literacy training, and development in sub-Saharan Africa. He served as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia for 33 years. Born in poverty, he became a big business executive and constantly reached back to help those who were in less fortunate circumstances.

Being a member of Christ’s Body means helping others.

Age-Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: We Are the Body of Christ.

ADULT: The prophet Malachi says that God wants His Body to give to Him what is His in their time, treasure, and talent (Mal. 3:1-10).

HIGH SCHOOL: The Body makes music to God (Psalm 150; Rev. 15:2c-4). We join together to praise God with music.


UPPER ELEMENTARY: Early Christians help each other (2 Cor. 8—9). God wants those in His Body to give generously to each other.

ELEMENTARY: Christian leaders help us grow closer to Jesus in the Body. God gives church leaders Christian maturity (Eph. 4:11-16).

EARLY ELEMENTARY: The Body knows Jesus cares for us when we’re lonely. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-26).

PRESCHOOL: Jesus always cares for His friends in the Body of Christ. The risen Christ continues to care for His disciples during a seaside breakfast (John 21:1-14).

Dismissal to Class: Announce the class(es) that will do the lesson review when you reassemble. Tell students they will share how they will apply Bible learning in their own lives today. (Tell teachers that younger students’ review may include showing a craft they have made in class or a visual from the Creative Teaching Aids. Older students may share the Bible Truth, memory verse, or a life response found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble
Reassemble Classes
Lesson Reviews by Classes
Remarks by Pastor
Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: As a family, choose a person you can help. It could be a friend, a neighbor, or another family member. Take steps to serve that person this week.
Closing Benediction


Links to Church and Home

*CROSS/Echoes* links your church Bible study with home Bible study with one Church and Home theme. This quarter’s Church and Home theme is: *We Are the Body of Christ.*

Every age-level lesson, each Sunday this quarter, is linked to that theme at church. So every student carries that same theme home for unified family Bible study.

*CROSS/Echoes* links students’ home experiences with God’s Word—at the beginning and end of each lesson. When the lesson starts, students share their ideas about real-life issues. Teachers use the materials pictured on this page to show how God’s Word applies to real life. Then students take the Sunday school lesson home with devotions, stories, crafts, posters, and other links for home Bible study.

Each *CROSS/Echoes* teacher’s commentary clearly pictures and explains the Church and Home link. Teachers use four steps that guide students to line up their lives with God’s Word.

1. **Life Need**—Creative Teaching Aids, real-life stories, and relevant questions provoke discussion. This draws students into the Bible lesson because they can personally relate their needs to the study of the lesson in class.

2. **Bible Lesson**—Students’ minds are now prepared to study age-appropriate Scriptures and Bible exposition.

3. **Bible Application**—Students examine how God’s Word applies to *their* life needs.

4. **Life Response**—Students respond, “What will I do based upon what God has said?”

The Bible lessons are literally driven home—read-at-home stories, devotions, worksheets, crafts, email, etc.—a Church and Home learning ink. Teachers help make this link a solid connection with these student products:

**NURTURING CHILDREN’S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD, THEIR CREATOR**

Younger students’ heads and hearts are opened to their Sunday school lesson when teachers present Creative Teaching Aids in class, like Bible art figures and DisKit gospel songs for children to sing.

Preschool students review *My Sunday Pictures* in class. Early Elementary students use *Storytime* class worksheets. Children take these papers home with lesson-related activities for children and families. Adults receive special notes in these take-homes. Teachers can make sure all these tools get home to explain what happened in class. Parents get tips on how to continue the learning activities at home. Elementary *My Bible Book* lesson pages tear out and go home along with *Kid Crafts*.

Upper Elementary *Bible Adventures* comes in leaflet form so, every Sunday, students do Bible study in class and get a take-home study tool.
CROSS/Echoes challenges every student to take God’s Word full circle—out of the classroom and into their world.

DEVELOPING YOUTH TO ANSWER GOD’S CALL

Creative Teaching Aids help teachers relate God’s living Word to youth experiences. Rock and Blueprint contain Bible studies that youth do in class. These also act as lesson-extending take-home resources. They feature devotionals for study at home. Teachers can point out how these take-home resources are especially designed for youth to do independently. Students use them to think about God’s Word and respond throughout the week. This builds up students’ relationships with God, parents, and other family members.

ENCOURAGING ADULT DISCIPLES IN THEIR CALLING

When adult students are stirred and refreshed in their individual faith through personal devotionals and Bible study, they become better disciples.

CROSS/Echoes provides Adult Creative Teaching Aids to reach the variety of learning styles present in adult classes.

Step one in Comprehensive Bible Study uses the Present-Day Illustration as a practical, contemporary story in class. This helps adults relate biblical principles to their real-life family, work, and community activities.

Comprehensive Bible Study encourages adult students to study daily Bible readings at home prior to class.

Teachers can provide adult students with The Quiet Hour, a devotional for personal use. This will keep God’s Word in adults’ hands and in their hearts. You equip adults to lead their family members in God’s Word, inside and outside of Sunday school.

A variety of other resources are also available to enhance adults’ church and home study.
BUILD DISCIPLES

Through Bible Coverage

*CROSS/Echoes* curriculum guides students through a thorough study of the Bible.

Preschool children and early readers in kindergarten and first grade get a firm foundation before beginning in-depth Bible study. During elementary through high school years, students examine the entire Bible—cover to cover—almost four times, digging ever deeper every three years as their minds mature. *CROSS/Echoes* adult Bible studies then sustain their lives of self-examination and service.

Through Age-Appropriate Lessons

*CROSS/Echoes* provides excellent Bible coverage of passages that students can understand and practice. That’s why Bible study passages are chosen with students’ abilities in mind. For example, at the younger age levels, we do not talk in-depth about David and Bathsheba’s relationship. That’s only appropriate for older students. The result—students learn and apply Bible truth at their own age levels.

Through Life Response

Your goal is results—to help students become “doers of the Word” (Jas. 1:22, KJV). How? The Bible says “bring [children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4b.) That means teaching truths that they can understand and apply.

Hebrew words and examples in the Bible define stages of development from infancy. Jesus was trained (Prov. 22:6a) at home and in the community by an extended family. And Jesus grew or increased in wisdom as He got older (Luke 2:52). He grew in His worship and in His ability to share the Holy Scriptures at the synagogue. In His wisdom of dealing with others. In responding with wisdom as an adult servant. Each lesson helps students grow in godly wisdom.

Building Servants

*CROSS/Echoes* teachers can successfully build upon what students have already learned (see Deut. 6:2-9) so that students can grow in wisdom in relationship with God, with others, and in service. Excellence in Bible coverage, combined with all the right age-level materials, builds disciples. Plus, solid teacher-training materials give you all the right teaching tools to support your teaching ministry.

The Right Teaching Tools

Experienced educators say that anyone can learn almost anything if the lesson is taught at the learner’s age level, and if the learner thinks the lesson is important to him or her. *CROSS/Echoes* materials—student books, Creative Teaching Aids; take-home books and papers, craft booklets—all work together at each age level to show students that their lessons are important to master and apply to their lives.

Teacher’s commentaries provide step-by-step instructions. This *Superintendent’s Handbook* pulls everything together for you.