This Quarter’s Church/Home Theme

God’s Glory within Us
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:**
   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 Church and Home Link** 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.

In your Adult Teacher’s Commentary for this quarter, you will see the Church/Home Theme given as, “Our God’s Love Heals.” This is incorrect. The correct theme is “God’s Glory within Us,” as shown in this Handbook. We apologize for the error.
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This Quarter’s Church and Home Theme:

GOD’S GLORY WITHIN US

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 and Home Theme is “God’s Glory within Us.” John said of Jesus, “We have seen his glory” (John 1:14, NIV). Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, Paul can talk about “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). As children of God, our grateful response should be to live every aspect of our lives “to the praise of his glory” (Eph. 1:14). This quarter’s Church and Home Theme, “God’s Glory within Us,” will remind everyone in your Sunday school that because God’s glory is in us and among us, our role is to demonstrate that glory to a world that needs Him.

This handbook will help you and your teachers proclaim unity and the love of God in your church body. Mention “God’s Glory within Us” 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.
George Washington Carver: A Scientist of Faith and Vision
by Daphne Myers

“All my life, I have risen regularly at four o’clock and have gone into the woods and talked with God. How I thank God every day that I can walk and talk with Him.”

George Washington Carver helped change the course of America’s agricultural and scientific landscape. He lived out his faith as a scientist who saw God’s hand in everything in creation.

Carver was born into slavery on the farm of Moses and Susan Carver in a one-room log shanty in Diamond Grove, Missouri. His exact birthday is unknown, but is believed to be in 1861 or 1864. Carver’s childhood was traumatic—he and his mother, Mary, were kidnapped by raiders and sold. Moses Carver was able to find George and buy him back, but George’s mother was not found. George and his older brother James were raised by their owners until slavery was abolished in 1865.

The Carvers taught George to read and write, but at the age of 11, he left their home to attend the Neosho, Missouri, school for black children approximately eight miles away. Although his only childhood book was Webster’s Elementary Spelling Book, George was fascinated by music, painting, flowers, science, and especially algebra. George stated, “Day after day I spent in the woods alone in order to collect my floral beauties and put them in a little garden I had hidden in brush not far from my house... and strange to say that all sorts of vegetation succeed to thrive under my touch until I was styled the plant doctor, and plants from all over the country would be brought to me for treatment. At this time, I had never heard of botany and could scarcely read.”

Frail and sickly, Carver was not expected to live to the age of 21, but in his biographical writings he said, “I trusted God and pressed on (I had been a Christian since about 8 years old).” As his health improved, Carver moved across Kansas to attend several schools until completing high school in Minneapolis, Kansas, where he learned that his brother James had died of smallpox.

For the next two decades, Carver worked odd jobs to pay for his education. In 1891, he enrolled in Simpson College to study art and piano, but transferred the next year to Iowa State Agricultural College (now Iowa State University), where he earned a Bachelors of Agriculture in 1894 and a Masters of Agriculture in 1896. That year, Booker T. Washington invited him to join the faculty of the Tuskegee Institute, a trade school for blacks in Alabama, as its Director of Agriculture.

At Tuskegee, Carver devoted his attention to projects to improve the quality of life for poor Southern farmers—black and white. He wanted to create new food products for them to grow and sell...
and taught crop rotation to improve the soil. He conducted experiments with organic fertilizers and the peanut, and his research suggested hundreds of products that could be made from peanuts—products such as cooking oil, paint, stains, and peanut oil massages. Carver’s research also suggested hundreds of uses for crops such as sweet potatoes, soybeans, and pecans. In 1916, Carver’s fame as a chemist and agriculturalist earned him an election to a Fellowship in the English Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts.

In 1921 Carver appeared before the Congressional Ways and Means Committee to support a tariff tax on imported peanuts. His lecture and demonstration of the many uses of peanuts elevated him to national and international fame. Carver then toured the country lecturing to promote the numerous benefits of the peanut.

Carver struggled with prejudice in society. Many of his close friendships were with whites. He often spoke to white groups, but he stayed in poor “coloreds only” accommodations when he traveled. Carver wanted white Americans to be aware of the creativity and talents of blacks. He particularly wanted all young people to catch a “vision” of everyone working together to solve the world’s problems, especially through science and agriculture. God, he said, had made him a “trail blazer” in casting this vision.

Carver said his faith helped him see truths about creation that God had left for him to find. Throughout his life, he said he had visions that he took as direction from God. Carver spent many hours teaching and mentoring his students, and not just on agriculture. He taught a Bible study class because he wanted his students to “find Jesus, and make Him a daily, hourly, and momently part of themselves. I want them to see the Great Creator in the smallest and apparently the most insignificant things around them.”

In his final years, Carver often traveled to promote Tuskegee, peanuts, and racial harmony. He met with three American presidents—Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and Franklin Roosevelt—and the Crown Prince of Sweden studied with him. From 1923 to 1933, Carver toured white Southern colleges for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Carver died January 5, 1943, at the age of 78. He was buried next to Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee. He once wrote to a friend, “No, I am not for sale. God has given me what He has in trust to make of it a contribution to the world far greater than money can for myself.” Reflecting this, his gravestone says,

He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world.
George Washington Carver
George Washington Carver is a scientist famous for his contributions to improving America’s agriculture.
**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.

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### Our God Gives

**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.*

**Opening**

- **Opening Signal**
- **Theme Related Songs** “Showers of Blessings”; “Wade in the Water”; “Ship of Zion”; “Blessed Assurance”
- **Scripture Readings** Isaiah 55:1a, 26, 3s, 10–11; Ephesians 3:20
- **Call and Response** God’s Unfailing Love

**LESSON**

- **Opening**
  - Scriptural Readings Isaiah 55:1a, 26, 3s, 10–11; Ephesians 3:20
  - Call and Response: God’s Unfailing Love
- **Opening Signal**
- **Theme Related Songs** “Showers of Blessings”; “Wade in the Water”; “Ship of Zion”; “Blessed Assurance”
- **Scripture Readings** Isaiah 55:1a, 26, 3s, 10–11; Ephesians 3:20
- **Call and Response** God’s Unfailing Love

**Theme Talk:**
- Use as an opening meditation before dismissal to classes; superintendent’s part in review at reassembly; and/or 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.

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### Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:

- **At the beginning of each class, ask one of your students to share a brief testimony of how God has shown His love for them.** Please be mindful of your take home books and materials.

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**Dismissal to Classes:**

- Appoint classes for review after the lesson. Tips for conducting lesson review.

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**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.*

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**Opening:**

- **It may also be used as a devotion for teacher-training time,** 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.

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**Closing**

- **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.
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Our theme this quarter examines how God’s glory has come to earth in the person of Jesus Christ and now lives in us who believe, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Now that is good news!

OPENING

Scripture Readings: John 14:16-17
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

Theme Talk: No doubt you’ve heard the expression, “too good to be true.” Sometimes God’s glorious news may seem too wonderful to believe! Though people of faith had been expecting the arrival of the Messiah for centuries, the announcement of His glory coming to earth still came as a surprise. Imagine the shock Mary and Zechariah must have experienced when Gabriel, the angel of God, approached them with such unlikely news. Zechariah and Elizabeth would become parents in their old age. Mary would give birth in spite of her virginity!

Mary was chosen above all others to have God’s Son live inside of her. Now we have all been invited to share in the same honor! If we trust Jesus as Savior and Lord, God’s glory can now also dwell within us! “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16). It does seem “too good to be true,” yet it is!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: When we keep the Sabbath, we recognize God’s holiness and glory (Exod. 20:8-11; 31:12-16).

HIGH SCHOOL: Zechariah’s song gives glory to God (Luke 1:5-25, 57-79). God’s glory within us enables us to do what God has prepared for us to do.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: An angel proclaims Jesus’ coming to Mary (Luke 1:26-38). The glory of God within us bears witness that nothing is impossible with God.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Prophets tell of Christ’s coming (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mic. 5:2; John 8:56, 58). Our glorious, indwelling Savior lived long before He was born on earth.

ELEMENTARY: Zechariah hears a special promise (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80). God promised us a glorious, indwelling Savior; He always keeps His promises.


PRESCHOOL: An angel talks to Joseph and Mary about Jesus’ birth (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-33). We can get ready for baby Jesus, the One who came to live in us.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: This week reflect on what it means to you to have God’s glory alive in you.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in Thine.” These lyrics to “I Am Thine, O Lord” exemplify the attitudes shared by Joseph, Mary, and Elizabeth in today’s lessons. They set a great example for us as we allow God’s glory to be manifested in our lives.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Draw Me Nearer”; “Our God Is Awesome”; “I Stand in Awe of You”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Isa. 9:6
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: Is anything too hard for God? Biblical history has proven repeatedly that “nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37). When Elizabeth was old and barren, she was told she would give birth to a son (Luke 1:36-45). How is it that Mary—a virgin—conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit? Why would angels come and go to announce God’s plans to lowly, uneducated men? The natural facts just do not add up. But God is able to override the natural and apply the supernatural wherever He sees fit. Our God is an awesome God, and His glory becomes more evident with every experience we have with Him.

As we stand in awe of the seemingly impossible hurdles God overcame to make His indwelling glory available to all who receive His Son, let’s celebrate the Good News—Jesus is born!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: God wants acceptable sacrifices (Lev. 22:17-25, 31-33). God’s glory within us comes when we are a living sacrifice to Him.

HIGH SCHOOL: Elizabeth gives praise to God (Luke 1:36-45). God’s glory is exhibited within Elizabeth as He performs “the impossible.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL: An angel announces Christ’s coming to Joseph (Matt. 1:18-21). Jesus was born to forgive and bring freedom through God’s glory alive in us.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Mary and Joseph learn about God’s plans for Jesus’ birth (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38). The glorious One who indwells me has plans I can trust and follow.

ELEMENTARY: After hearing God’s promise of the Savior, Mary shares the news with Elizabeth (Luke 1:26-56). We can share with family and friends the joy of God’s glory coming to earth to dwell in us.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus is born to Mary in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). We celebrate at Christmas that Jesus, God’s Son, is born! Thank You, Jesus, for coming to live in us.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus is born to Mary in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). We celebrate at Christmas that Jesus, God’s Son, is born! Thank You, Jesus, for coming to live in us.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
As a family, talk about ways you can cooperate with God to accomplish His purposes in your lives.
Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“We all understand from Scripture that God is not a respecter of persons. We can forget that sometimes because God’s love and devotion to each one is so personal that it makes us feel special. You may feel so overwhelmed by His goodness that you cry out in praise and thanksgiving for the wonderful things He has done for you—the gifts given you as part of the Body of Christ. Do you ever wonder why He’s chosen to show you such favor? Mary must have felt this way when she received the marvelous news of giving birth to such a special Son in such unlikely circumstances. Even humble shepherds are made to feel special when they receive a personal invitation from heavenly angels to witness God’s glory as the Son of God makes His entrance into the world. This week’s lessons give us a closer look at the reaction of ordinary people to God’s glory come to earth to dwell in us.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: Simeon recognizes Jesus, the promised, glorious Savior (Luke 2:22-32). We can do the same.

HIGH SCHOOL: Mary sings praises to glorify God in appreciation for the surprising honor He has given her (Luke 1:26-35, 46-56). God may glorify Himself through us in unexpected ways.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus is born in Bethlehem and the shepherds come to see Him (Luke 2:1-20). Jesus wants a relationship with us—God’s glory come to earth to dwell in us.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus’ birth and the visit of the shepherds (Luke 2:1-20). We celebrate the birth of Jesus—the glory of God alive in us and the reason for Christmas.

ELEMENTARY: Angels tell the shepherds about the Savior’s birth (Luke 2:8-20). We show reverence to Jesus on His birthday because He is come to glorify Himself in us.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Angels tell the shepherds that the Savior is born (Luke 2:8-18). We want to tell everyone the Good News that Jesus is God’s glorious Son.

PRESCHOOL: Angels tell the shepherds that the Savior is born (Luke 2:8-18). We understand that it is Good News that God sent Jesus, our glorious Savior, to live in us.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Remember the true meaning of Christmas: Commit to reading a few verses each day this week about Jesus’ glorious birth.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Born Thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King, born to reign in us forever. Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.” This week we celebrate the Good News: Our Savior is born just as God promised. Glory to the newborn King!

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Joy to the World”; “Walk in the Light”; “I Love to Praise Him”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Ps. 24:8-10; Matt. 2:1-2
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: If you listen to the latest economic news, the crises in the Middle East, and world violence, it is enough to make the fainthearted tremble. You may wonder if there is ever going to be any good news. Well, there is good news for us and it comes from the Good News proclaimed by angels and declared by Anna and Simeon as they looked into the face of their Savior. And the news is just as good today as it was back then! “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). “The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world” (John 1:9). God’s glory has come to us in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior! Hallelujah!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us

ADULT: Jesus warned against the sinful pride of the Pharisees and exalted the humble, sacrificial spirit of the widow who gave all she had (Matt. 23:2-12; Mark 12:38-44).

HIGH SCHOOL: Simeon sings of God’s glory coming to earth to save all people (Luke 2:21-38). God’s gift of salvation is available to all who accept Jesus’ invitation to live within them as Lord and Savior.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus, who has always existed, became a man (John 1:1-8). We can know God because of the miracle of Jesus, God’s glory come to earth, becoming like us.

- UPPER ELEMENTARY: Simeon and Anna believe Jesus is the promised Savior (Luke 2:21-38). We can accept God’s glorious gift of a Savior to live in us.

- ELEMENTARY: Simeon and Anna meet Jesus, the promised, glorious Savior (Luke 2:21-38). People of all ages should welcome Jesus as the One who came to live in us—the fulfillment of God’s promise and our Savior.

- EARLY ELEMENTARY: Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the temple (Luke 2:21-38). We can tell others about Jesus, God’s Son, the glory of God alive in us.

- PRESCHOOL: The wise men worship Jesus (Matt. 2:1-11). We worship Jesus through singing and praying.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Encourage the students to share the true message of Christmas with unbelieving friends and family members.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us
Church and Home Theme

“I will utter . . . things from of old—what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children” (Ps. 78:2-4). We know Jesus because someone else told us about Him. Now, we must share His indwelling glory with others.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Come on and Praise the Lord With Me”; “He Is Lord”; “You Deserve the Glory”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Ps. 78:1-7; John 4:39-42
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: “You better recognize!”
This slang term is familiar to many of today’s youth. It simply means we should know who we’re dealing with, and give credit where credit is due. In this week’s lessons we find that John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world! God’s glory working within him caused him to know at first sight who Jesus is. But he goes beyond recognition and gives credit where it is due. He tells people to respond appropriately to Jesus through repentance.

The religious leaders in Jesus’ day were in awe of His wisdom when, as a young boy, He taught in the temple—but did they recognize Him for who He is? Recognizing who Jesus is causes a positive change in our attitudes and behavior, as well as creating a desire in us to tell others about what He has done within us. Do you know Jesus? If not, you better recognize!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: Jacob decides that Rachel is a bride worth waiting for (Gen. 29:15-30). The best relationships outlast temporary difficulties.

HIGH SCHOOL: The parents of Jesus find Him in the temple after a three-day search (Luke 2:42-52). God’s glory can work within us to provide balance between dependence and independence.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: John the Baptist explains repentance (Luke 3:7-14). Real repentance results in a change of behavior that bears witness to God’s indwelling glory.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: God’s glory is at work within Jesus when He was a boy, helping Him walk in wisdom (Deut. 6:4-7; Luke 2:40-52). God’s glory alive in me can help me follow Jesus’ good example.


EARLY ELEMENTARY: Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt for His protection (Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23). God protected Jesus, and He can protect us.

PRESCHOOL: Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt for His protection (Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23). We know that God takes care of us through our families.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Have students ask friends this week what they know about Jesus.
Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

Evidence of God’s glory is beautifully displayed by His works: the sun, moon, and stars; seas and mountains; trees and flowers. But the pinnacle of His creation is man, because he was created in God’s own image to glorify Him and fulfill His purposes.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Our God Is an Awesome God”; “Something About That Name”; “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Job 33:4-6; Col. 1:15-18
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: Where did we come from and why are we here? The world’s scholars and philosophers have debated these questions for centuries. What began as the “theory of evolution” is now widely accepted as fact. But the answers to our deepest questions are found in the Word of God. “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, . . . all things were created by him and for him” (Col. 1:16). “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus . . . ” (Eph. 2:10). These verses clearly answer both questions! Man’s denial of God’s reality does not change that He is reality; for every eye shall see Him (Rev. 1:7).

God could ask these philosophers what He asked Job: “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?” (Job 38:4).

Some of this week’s lessons center around God’s unique creation of man, while others focus on valuable insights we can gain from Jesus’ earthly ministry. All of the lessons point us toward living lives that reflect the glory within us!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: The Song of Solomon shows us how to celebrate our spouses (S. of S. 6:4-12). Our marriages should show Christ because His glory shines from within us.

HIGH SCHOOL: Christ conflicts with authorities when He heals a man on the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-11). God is glorified within us when we seek to do what’s right in His eyes, in spite of opposition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus is baptized (Matt. 3:13-17). We understand through Jesus the importance of baptism.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus identifies Himself with God’s people through baptism (Matt. 3:13-17; John 1:29-34). We can be part of the community of those who have God’s glory living in them.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus visits the temple (Luke 2:41-52). God’s glory within enables children to be actively involved in understanding spiritual things.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus grew up in Nazareth and went to the temple at age 12 (Luke 2:40-52; Matt. 13:55-56). Even as children we can know our glorious God and do what He wants us to do.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus grew up as a child in Nazareth with brothers and sisters (Luke 2:40-52; Matt. 13:55-56). We know the baby Jesus grew up like all children do.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Encourage students to ask themselves in what ways their lives reflect Christ’s glory.
Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us
Church and Home Theme

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:8). As believers who have been identified with Christ, we can glorify Him by following His humble example of service that relies on prayer and God’s Word.

OPENING

Scripture Readings: Matt. 10:24-25; Eph. 4:4-6, 11-12; Prayer Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

Theme Talk: Joshua made a bold declaration before all of Israel, “As for me and my house we shall serve the Lord.” The world that our children is experiencing is quite different from the world we grew up in. If there was ever a time for Christian parents to take a stand for righteousness, it is today in our own homes. Our children may go to school with gang members or even be victims of crime. As parents, if we live our lives with integrity, pray over our children, and dedicate ourselves to the Lord it will make a profound difference in the lives of our children as they navigate their way through a world void of conscience. God can use early childhood experiences to prepare us for our future ministries.

This week we see Jesus’ humble example of dependence on His Father through prayer and saturation in the Word as He walked out His earthly ministry. As we follow His lead, we will honor and glorify our loving, indwelling Savior!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us

ADULT: Amos suffers from an unfaithful wife (Hosea 1). We suffer when we are unfaithful to our glorious God.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus spends many hours in prayer as He executes His earthly ministry (Mark 1:35-38; 6:46; Luke 5:15-16; 6:12-13). God is glorified within us as we develop a consistent prayer life.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Christ is tempted in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11). Jesus—God’s glory within us—understands what it’s like to be tempted. His power helps us resist temptation.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus used God’s Word to make the right decisions when tempted (Luke 4:1-13). God is glorified in us when we use His Word to stand for what’s right.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus learns reading, carpentry, and the Scriptures (Deut. 6:4-5; Mark 6:1-4; Luke 4:16). God—the One who dwells in us—wants His children to learn so that they will be able to glorify Him.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus is baptized, and John the Baptist recognizes Jesus as the Son of God (Matt. 3:13-17; John 1:32-34). Students will want to please and glorify God as they grow up.

PRESCHOOL: At 12, Jesus amazed the religious leaders (Luke 2:42-51). We understand that God can teach us some amazing things.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link: Encourage students to ask a prayer warrior about the benefits of prayer.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword . . . it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). God’s glorious Word alive in us is a powerful weapon against temptation and the key to keeping us on His righteous path.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord”; “Standing on the Promises”; “I Will Trust in the Lord”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Ps. 119:10-11; 1 Cor. 10:12-13
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: The Word is the Weapon!

Ephesians 6:11 urges believers to “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” The list of battle armor includes the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and feet that are ready to go share the Gospel of Christ. But notice that the only offensive weapon listed is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Also notice immediately after the list, we are encouraged to pray. It’s prayer that gives us the knowledge and power to use the sword effectively.

In this week’s lessons Jesus is introduced as the Messiah effectively using the Word and prayer as a weapon to resist temptation and receive wisdom to make right choices. As unique members of the family—and with knowing Christ as our ultimate goal—we can’t help but tell others about Him and glorify Him with all we are.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: The glory of Jesus is first shown through His miracle at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12). God reveals His glory in unexpected ways.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus used Scripture to make important choices (Luke 4:1-13). God’s glorious truth, alive within us, helps us resist temptation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Disciples gather around Christ (John 1:35-45). His glory alive within us compels us to introduce our friends to Him.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus prays before choosing His disciples (Mark 3:13-19a; Luke 6:12-16). Communing with the One who lives in me will help me make right choices.

ELEMENTARY: John the Baptist points out the true Messiah (John 1:19-34). The glorious One who lives in us—Jesus—is the one and only Son of God.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus calls some fishermen to follow Him (Luke 5:1-11). We know that following Jesus is an important part of growing and learning.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus calls some fishermen to follow Him (Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11). We want to tell others about Jesus, God’s glory living within us.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Encourage students to spend time in God’s Word and in prayer daily in order to be successful in fighting temptation.

Closing Benediction
**God’s Glory within Us**

**Church and Home Theme**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Ps. 119:105). What a blessing to know that we do not have to make decisions on our own. God’s glory within us enables us to evaluate our personal goals in the light of His Word.

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**OPENING**

**Opening Signal**

Theme-Related Songs: “I Say Yes, Lord, Yes”; “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”; “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”; or a song of your choosing.

**Scripture Readings:** 2 Chron. 20:12; Phil. 4:4-6

**Prayer**

Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

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**LESSON**

**Theme Talk:** “Should I buy a new car, or fix this old one?” Should I move, or just pray that this neighborhood changes?” “Is this really the person I should marry?” So many decisions to make in life. But how do we know which decision is the right one? God’s Word says, “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:6).

It is comforting to know that our Father in heaven is interested in every detail of our lives. His indwelling glory empowers us to evaluate our personal goals through prayer and guidance from His Word. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).

This week’s lessons examine how we can press on step by step to glorify Him by serving others and loving one another as Christ loves us.

**Age Level Summaries:** All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

**ADULT:** Jesus’ glory is revealed as He raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44). His indwelling glory shows us death is not the end.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Jesus sends out the disciples to preach and heal the sick (Luke 9:1-10). God is glorified within us as we serve others with love.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Jesus announces His mission in a Nazareth synagogue (Luke 4:16-22). God’s glory within us enables us to evaluate our personal goals in light of His Word.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY:** Jesus states His purposes for coming to earth (Mark 1:35-38; Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38). Jesus—alive in us—cares about every need we have.

**ELEMENTARY:** Jesus calls fishermen to follow Him (Luke 5:1-11). God who dwells in us wants us to follow His glorious Son and help in His important work.

**EARLY ELEMENTARY:** Jesus heals a deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31-37). We want to glorify Jesus by following His example and helping those with special needs.

**PRESCHOOL:** Jesus helps people by making them well (Matt. 9:35-36; Mark 8:22-25; Acts 10:38). We know that Jesus can use us to help others and show His glory.

**Dismissal to Classes:** 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—at church and at home. (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.)

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**CLOSING**

**Signal to Reassemble**

**Reassemble Classes**

**Lesson Reviews by Classes**

**Remarks by Pastor**

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:

Remind the students of the importance of Scripture memory to help guide us in right thinking and wise decision making.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide till the day is done; There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus—no not one, no not one!” The chorus of this familiar hymn assures us of the empathy Jesus has for us during times of suffering. As we begin Black History Month, we can celebrate God’s continual comfort through the struggle for racial equality.

OPENING

Opening Signal

LESSON

Theme Talk: Growing up black in a predominantly white neighborhood was not without its challenges back in the ‘50s. Walking to school while being laughed at and called names was extremely difficult, especially for a little seven-year-old girl. These vivid memories sadden me even now, years later. But God’s glory within me reconciled me to God and gave me the power to not only survive but to be victorious in the face of pain and rejection.

Jesus knows what it’s like to be rejected. He was not accepted in His own hometown of Nazareth (Luke 4:16, 24) and was not accepted by His own brothers (John 7:5). No wonder He has such compassion for the rejected and the forgotten among the human race. This week’s lessons focus on Jesus’ kindness and acceptance of the sick, the sinful, and others in need. We also see how we can give glory to God through prayer, caring for others, and giving.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: God’s greatness is celebrated in the Passover (Exod. 12:1-14). We remember and celebrate what He has done for us.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus gives sight to a man born blind (John 9:1-7, 35-38). Faith in Christ gives spiritual sight as God’s glory is manifested within us.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus helps Simon Peter overcome a fishing failure, and then calls Peter to follow Him (Luke 5:1-11). God’s glory alive in us gives us the superhuman power to be strong in our faith walk.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus uses a boy’s lunch to feed over 5,000 people (John 6:1-14). When we are willing, Jesus who lives within us can use us to glorify Himself.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus who lives in us heals a man let down through a roof by his friends (Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26). Our glorious, indwelling Savior cares in many ways for those who are sick.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7). Our God who lives in us loves each one of us.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus prayed and taught His disciples to pray (Matt. 6:9-13; 14:23). We can glorify God by learning about prayer and how to talk to Him in prayer.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Remind the students of the importance of staying plugged into God’s power through prayer.
Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“O Master, let me walk with Thee, in lowly paths of service free. Tell me Thy secrets, help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.” God’s glory is most evident within us when we selflessly serve others as Jesus did.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”; “We Shall Overcome”; “Praise Him”; or a song of your choosing.

LESSON

Scripture Readings: Ps. 41:1-4; Matt. 14:34-36
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

Theme Talk: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will long be remembered for his leadership in the civil rights movement. He sacrificed time and personal safety for the cause of racial equality and justice. He didn’t simply sit in a comfortable office making demands for people to follow. Rather, he was on the front lines of battle, leading marches and sit-ins and even being arrested in order to bring attention to injustice. Dr. King’s sacrificial leadership style was patterned after Christ’s. God’s glory was truly at work within, giving Dr. King strength and courage to persevere in the struggle right up to the point of his death.

This week’s lessons demonstrate how God’s glory is at work changing us, helping us let go of worldly ways, calming our fears, and strengthening our faith. As we respond to the glory within us, reading and listening to His Word and making music together will be a natural outflow of our worship.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: Celebrating the Feast of Weeks (Lev. 23:15-22), Pentecost, show us it is important to thank our glorious God for His blessings.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus calms a storm and the fears of the disciples (Luke 8:22-25). God’s glory within us brings calm in the midst of chaos, freeing us from anxiety and fear.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Matthew the tax collector decides to follow Christ (Matt. 9:9-13). God’s glory came to live in and change sinners like us.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus and Peter walk on the water (Matt. 14:22-33). The glorious One who lives in us uses difficult tasks to strengthen our faith.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus demonstrates God’s glory by stilling a storm (Mark 4:35-41). God’s glorious presence helps us when we are afraid.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: James and John ask for chief places in the Kingdom (Mark 10:35-45). To be great in God’s eyes we must help others.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus taught the people about having a right relationship with each other and with God (Matt. 5:1-12; 44-48). As God’s people, we can glorify God by understanding how to love each other.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Encourage students to pray that God will show them meaningful ways to help others.
Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my smitten heart with tears two wonders I confess—the wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.” Jesus chose to endure the Cross to save undeserving sinners like you and me so that we can experience His indwelling glory!

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “At the Cross”; “O How I Love Jesus”; “Amazing Grace Shall Always Be My Song of Praise”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Ps. 8:1-5; Rom. 5:6-8
Prayer
Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

LESSON

Theme Talk: A simple definition of “God’s glory” would be: God’s attributes and power revealed and exhibited to and through believers. What an awesome realization to know that the God of glory and power lovingly cares for us undeserving, unworthy creatures. Not only has He allowed us to witness His glory, but also God shares His glory and honor with us. We can exhibit God’s glory within us because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Through us, others can see God’s glory at work and have a heightened awareness of His presence, power, and authority, and respond with appreciation and praise.

This week as we look at God’s glorious power to provide all our needs and overcome what seems to be uncontrollable, we find many reasons to respond to Him as we worship, give, and pray.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: The Day of Atonement is a reminder that nothing but blood atones for our sins (Lev. 16:11-19). We are thankful that Jesus shed His blood for us so we could be vessels of His glory.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus miraculously feeds over 5,000 people and teaches about His sufficiency (Luke 9:12-17; John 6:33-35). God’s glorious power within us brings assurance that He is the ultimate source for all our needs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus casts out Legion (Mark 5:1-20). God’s indwelling glory imparts His power to tame forces that seem uncontrollable.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus heals an outcast leper (Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-15). The One who lives in us wants us to glorify Him by helping those in need.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus uses a boy’s lunch to feed more than 5,000 people (John 6:1-14). Jesus can use even the small things children do to glorify Himself within us.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus forgives a sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50). We can be happy that God forgives us when we do wrong things.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus forgives a sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50). We can be happy that God forgives us.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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: Encourage students to do chores this week to earn money to give to the missionary fund. As we help others we glorify God.

Closing Benediction
God’s Glory within Us

Church and Home Theme

“Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come and take His servants up to their eternal home.” There is comfort for the discouraged who are awaiting rest from earth’s burdens. We end this quarter and Black History Month with hope in Christ, our glorious, indwelling Savior!

Scripture Readings: Isa. 43:10-13; 2 Cor. 12:7-9

Prayer

Call and Response: The Lord Our Provider

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Your Grace and Mercy”; “Trouble in My Way”, “Give Thanks”; or a song of your choosing.

Scripture Readings: Isa. 12:1-6; 1 John 5:9-13

Prayer

Call and Response: God’s Glory within Us

Theme Talk: African Americans have a rich history, filled with a mixture of pain, suffering, hope, and victory. Throughout years of slavery, many disheartened people longed for a sweet release from bondage. They would sometimes comfort themselves with the phrase “trouble don’t last always.” Due to God’s grace and mercy, He revealed Himself to many slaves as they listened to or sang the Word of God, giving them the hope of heaven as well as strength for life on earth. Today we can “rejoice, give thanks and sing” that the risen Savior has freed us from both physical and spiritual bondage.

Lessons this week emphasize God’s glory that empowers us to minister to others as we are challenged by Christ’s earthly healing ministry.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: God’s Glory within Us.

ADULT: The Feast of Booths reminds us of God’s glory within us and His providence and provision in our wilderness moments (Lev. 23:33-43).

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead to show that He is the giver of life (John 11:1-4, 3-25, 41-45). The glorious life we enjoy now assures us of eternal life to come.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: A thankful leper receives Christ’s approval (Luke 17:11-19). We bow down in thanks to the Lord of glory at work within us.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus meets opposition after healing a discouraged man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-24). When we are discouraged, Jesus who gloriously lives in us gives hope.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus gives sight to Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43). The power of Jesus is available to all who truly believe Him and have His glory within.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus prays before choosing the 12 disciples (Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:13-14) and prays for His disciples (John 17:20). We know that Jesus wants us to pray for our friends.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus heals and helps people in many ways (Matt. 4:23-25; 8:14-15). We thank Jesus for helping those who are sick.

Dismissal to Classes: 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—at church and at home. (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:
Encourage students to try taking notes during the sermon as a way to improve their focus.
Closing Benediction
CROSS/Echoes links your church Bible study and home Bible study with one Church and Home theme. This quarter’s Church and Home theme is: **God’s Glory within Us**

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 link. **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-home study tools. 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. He grew in His wisdom of dealing with others and 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.