This Quarter’s Church/Home Theme

We Are God’s People
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.
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 (1 Peter 2:2). 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 “We Are God’s People.” We are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called [us] out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God” (1 Pet. 2:9-10a, KJV). Revelation 21:7 promises “he that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his god, and he shall be my son.” He has promised us sonship and relationship.

This handbook will help you and your teachers follow God’s calling in your Christian education ministry. Mention “We Are God’s People” in Sunday school exercises. Emphasize it in your teacher-training meetings. Remind teachers that spiritual growth can occur in their classes as they use their gifts in love. Each Sunday, encourage families to study the theme through the week.
Dr. Benjamin E. Mays: Man of Faith and Passion

by Dr. Roslyn R. Yilpet

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays was an outstanding leader, excellent teacher, a silver-tongued orator, eloquent preacher, scholar, and the recipient of 56 honorary degrees. His roles as Dean of the School of Religion at Howard University, President of Morehouse College for 27 years, and mentor of Martin Luther King, Jr., are among his legacies. However, Dr. Mays viewed his life simply as one of obedience to what God required of him. He often quoted Micah 6:8—“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (KJV). He believed a person’s character and beliefs should be embodied in actions. Dr. Mays lived a life that integrated his faith and passion—resulting in a life that changed those around him.

His childhood greatly influenced his convictions and passion. He was born on August 1st, 1894, in South Carolina, as the eighth child of Hezekiah and Louvenia Carter Mays. His father was eight years old and his mother three years old when slaves were set free in 1865. Since it was illegal for slaves to read and write, Mays’s father had to secretly become literate. A young white boy took Mays’s father to a secluded place in the woods and taught him to read.

Benjamin’s mother never learned to read or write, but she certainly shaped his view of himself and God. She often told her eight children, “You are as good as anybody!” She planted and nurtured his faith in a living and faithful God. He stated in his autobiography *Born to Rebel*, “My mother only had two things to give me—her love and prayers. She gave both with an open heart.” Mays learned from his mother’s life and prayers to believe God answers prayers. He accepted her teachings and then applied it to his dream of furthering his education beyond the one-room schoolhouse in his town.

Though his father opposed this dream, Mays had an insatiable desire to advance his education. At night as Mays worked alone in the fields, he prayed fervently that God would enable him to go away to school. Those prayers were answered. Not only did he receive a high school education, but also a Bachelor’s degree, a Masters, and a Ph.D. God responded to Mays’s request even further by having his father explain to Mays that the only reason he opposed his son’s education was because he didn’t know any better. His father died proud of what Mays had accomplished.

At home and in school Mays learned about black heroes such as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Paul Dunbar, and Crispus Attucks. This knowledge—and the time he spent picking cotton—instilled in him a passion for social justice, racial equality, and solidarity for humanity.
He later said, “No one has agonized more over the race problem than I have. It has weighed heavily on my mind ever since I saw my first [lynch] mob when I was only four or five years old.”

Mays influenced the world through his faith and advocacy for justice. In the early 1930s, it was rare for black Americans to travel internationally and have great influence as Mays did. His travels were often connected with his position in the church and social organizations. The summer of 1937, he traveled to Oxford, England, to attend the Church Conference on Church, Community, and State. Most of this conference dealt with racial issues, and Mays strongly impacted those who attended. He taught that it is the church’s responsibility to demonstrate the reality of community as God intended it—a community that transcends all national and racial divisions. Despite the fact that many opposed his teachings, what he taught about equality made an impact.

He also proclaimed biblical truths while president of Morehouse College. During his tenure, he worked hard at correcting some of the deficiencies by educating the men on the importance of radical and relevant ministry. He taught these men, along with black and white churches, that segregation was an insult to God. Mays was completely committed to having a ministry that glorified God, even if it went against what society taught. His ministry gave a new dynamic to Morehouse and consequently influenced many black ministers, including Martin Luther King, Jr.

King had originally decided to study law or medicine, but after sitting for a few years at Mays’s feet he felt the call to become a minister. Mays stimulated King intellectually and spiritually through his life and sermons. King saw in Mays how a real minister should be. Mays said, “King often stayed behind after Tuesday morning chapel to discuss some point I had made. I was not aware how deeply he was impressed by what I said and did until he wrote Stride Toward Freedom, in which he indicated that I had influenced his life to a marked degree.” Martin Luther King, Jr., often referred to Mays as his “spiritual mentor,” and King’s language and passion for civil rights were definitely influenced by Dr. Mays.

Mays not only lived out Micah 6:8, but he also fulfilled the command in 2 Timothy 2:2 to entrust the Gospel to reliable men that they may go and teach others. He died in 1984, but his teachings live on through the faithful men he taught who continue to instruct others. Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays lived out his faith in everything he did.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, teacher and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
Dr. Mays lived a life that integrated his faith and passion—resulting in a life that changed those around him.

(this page is reproducible)
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.

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.

Dismissal to Classes:
Appoint classes for review after the lesson. Tips for conducting lesson review.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

LESSON

Theme: Our God Gives
Lessons parallel the Church and Home Theme.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: God gives us the choice of following His plan. (1 Sam. 8–10). Follow God instead of trying to be like everyone else.

ELEMENTARY: God gives His plans to young Samuel, who listens and obeys (1 Sam. 3:1–19). Students should listen carefully to God’s directions for them.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God calls Abraham to a new land (Gen. 12:1–9). God takes care of His people because of His unfailing love.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus gives the Samaritan woman hope as she drinks from living waters (John 4:4–26). We can teach the children that one else.

Theme Talk:
God’s Word echoes through the prophet Isaiah to us today. Our God Gives. He gives us everything we need to live for Him. His Word is living water He freely offers to us. Our ability to receive this living water and to respond differs depending on where we are in life and in the Lord. Some of us are suckling babes in the nursery. Others are just being trained up in the way that we should go. Mature saints are continuing diligently to seek Him.

We can seek God and depend upon Him just like the Bible people did—Moses, the leader; King Solomon, Samuel, the prophet; Miriam, the child—and God will give us what we need of Him.

Age-Level Summaries:
All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme. Our God Gives.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus gives the Samaritan woman hope as she drinks from living waters (John 4:4–26). We can teach the children that one else.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God gives His plans to young Samuel, who listens and obeys (1 Sam. 3:1–19). Students should listen carefully to God’s directions for them.

ELEMENTARY: God gives His plans to young Samuel, who listens and obeys (1 Sam. 3:1–19). Students should listen carefully to God’s directions for them.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: God gives us the choice of following His plan. (1 Sam. 8–10). Follow God instead of trying to be like everyone else.

HIGH SCHOOL: God gives us His Word to help us choose wisely to follow Him (Prov. 1:1–7). Get wisdom from God, get understanding, and seek to live according to God’s plan.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: God gives us the choice of following His plan. (1 Sam. 8–10, 19–22). Be wise. Follow God, not peer pressure.

Prayer
Call and Response:

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

CLOSING

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.

Closing Benediction

Closing Benediction

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 God’s People

Church and Home Theme

One of the great hymns of the black church experience is “We’ve Come This Far by Faith.” The song stirs the soul to worship God for the faith He gives us as His people to “press on” regardless of what the enemy may put in our way!

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “I Will Trust in the Lord”; “Praise Him; “Take Me back”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Romans 4:20-21; Hebrews 11:6

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: One evening during testimony service, a young black man in his late-twenties began to tell how he grew up in the church and often didn’t like going. He was frequently bored and restless. As soon as he got old enough, he stopped going completely. He told how he had rebelled against his family and upbringing, which got him in trouble with the law and landed him in jail. Now with tears in his eyes, he said that while he was in that lonely cell he remembered the Sunday school lessons and sermons. He asked for a Bible and reignited his faith and love for Christ. As we reflect on the theme, We Are God’s People, be encouraged that our labor in the Lord is never in vain (1 Cor. 15:58). “In due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Gal. 6:9).

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Our God is holy (Isaiah 6:1-8). God’s people respond to God’s holiness with awe and a contrite heart.

HIGH SCHOOL: Christ is the cornerstone of the Church. Peter teaches that as God’s people we are living stones that build His spiritual Church (1 Pet. 2:4-10; Eph. 2:19-22).

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul teaches the Corinthians about spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-11). God’s people have different spiritual gifts but the same Lord.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Hezekiah cleans up the temple and calls Israel back to true worship and obedience (2 Chron. 29:1-19; John 4:21, 24). God’s people worship Him with honor and respect.

ELEMENTARY: Philemon is asked to show love by welcoming back his runaway slave, Onesimus (Philem. 1-25). We show that we are God’s people when we love others.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Abram learns how to trust God in a new land (Gen. 12:1-9). God’s people can rest in His promises as they go where God sends them.

PRESCHOOL: God sent Abram to Canaan (Gen. 12:1-9). God is with His people wherever they go.

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, or a life response from Step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:

God has called us as His people to press on in ministry. This week, consider ways to reach out to those you may have forgotten along the way. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“Come we that love the Lord and let our joys be known.” These celebratory words from the hymn *Marching to Zion* remind us that as God’s people we have something to celebrate, to sing about, and to rejoice about!

**OPENING**

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “Trust and Obey”; “Thank You Lord For Saving My Soul”; “Near the Cross”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Psalm 47

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are god’s People.

**LESSON**

**Theme Talk:** A little boy was riding his tricycle furiously around the block, over and over again. Finally a policeman asked him why he was going around and around. The boy said that he was running away from home. Then the officer asked why he kept going around the block. The boy responded, “Because my mom said that I’m not allowed to cross the street.” When we are committed to obey the Lord, it keeps us close to Him even on a bad day! Jesus tells us that we have not successfully made disciples until we teach God’s people to “obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). Our obedience is a gauge of how much we love Him (John 14:15) and obedience determines the level of spiritual intimacy we reach with Him (John 14:21). God’s people are not only hearers of the Word, but doers.

**Age Level Summaries:** *All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.*

**ADULT:** Give thanks (Isaiah 12). As God’s people we praise and thank Him for the salvation He brings.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Paul instructs Timothy on leadership (1 Tim. 3:2-3; 4:6-13). God’s people rely on the faithful, strong guidance of pastors and should respect all those in leadership.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Paul teaches the Corinthians on love, the gift and virtue that most reflects the heart of God (1 Cor. 13). As God’s people, we are to love one another.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY:** King Hezekiah commands the priests to offer sacrifices (2 Chron. 29:20-36; Heb. 10:10, 19-22). God’s people worship Him in confidence through faith in Christ.

**ELEMENTARY:** Joash learns about God from the priest, Jehoiada (2 Kings 11:1—12:2). Godly leaders help God’s people to understand His ways.

**EARLY ELEMENTARY:** God promises Abraham many descendants (Gen. 15:1-6, 21:1-6). God takes care of His people by doing what He promises to do.

**PRESCHOOL:** As Egypt prepares for a famine, Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge (Gen. 41:28-55). God takes care of His people through wise leaders.

**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:

Over this next week, have family members take turns thinking of ways to celebrate Jesus—then follow through! Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.” To some degree, there is a testimony found in this great song for every one of God’s people.

**OPENING**

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Love You Lord Today”; “Lead Me, Guide Me”; “Amazing Grace”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2:8-9; Psalm 136

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

**LESSON**

**Theme Talk:** We are God’s people, thus our capacity to love is not based on our own strength, but on the reality that God has poured His love into our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). This God-kind of love—an agape love—covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8), and love draws people nearer to Christ (John 13:34-35). Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., understood the power of love. He once said, “Do to us what you will, and we will still love you.” When you love and pray for your enemies, it is like heaping coals of fire on their heads (Rom. 12:20). Maybe this biblical truth inspired King to say, “The problem with hatred and violence is that they leave the white majority less ashamed of their prejudices...” As God’s people, we have unique opportunities to show love and thus influence further change in people and society.

**Age Level Summaries:** All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

**ADULT:** Meaningless worship (Isaiah 29:9-16). As God’s people, the condition of our hearts and lives influences our worship.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** The church helps its members live faithfully for Christ (Matt. 18:15-17; 2 Cor. 2:6-8; Heb. 10:23-25). God’s people strive both to help one another and hold each other accountable.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Paul teaches on the resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-23). God’s people have new life and hope because of the resurrection of Christ.

**UPPER ELEMENTARY:** King Hezekiah reinstates the celebration of the Passover for Israel (2 Chron. 30:1-27). God’s people honor Him by expressing worship through songs, prayer, offerings, and His Word.

**ELEMENTARY:** David was used by God to comfort Saul (1 Sam. 16:8-23). God can use the youngest of His people to help adults.

**EARLY ELEMENTARY:** God gives Israel manna and quail (Exod. 16:11-18). God provides for us because we are His people.

**PRESCHOOL:** Joseph helps his family settle in Egypt (Gen. 46:5-7, 28-34; 47:1-12). God’s people know that He cares for 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:

Encourage families to invite a friend to church next Sunday. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” We can rejoice with the hope the words of this song give us—that no matter how difficult things may get, we have a faithful God watching over us and caring for us because we are His people.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Glory Glory Hallelujah”; “I’m on the Battlefield for My Lord”; “We Are Soldiers in the Army”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Psalms 24:1; 33:6-9
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: We are God’s people and our goal is to glorify Him—not ourselves. The story is told of a church that was filled with God’s people who loved the Lord. Over time, the people of the church lost interest in living for God. They began to bicker, fight, and cause dissension. And because they were not unified, they became ineffective in ministry. Whenever we as God’s people take our eyes off of Him and become self-focused, Jesus is no longer exalted and the people are no longer drawn to Him. As God’s people, let us each strive to glorify Him and serve one another so that our church stands strong for the purpose of glorifying God and not man.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: The glorious new creation (Isaiah 65:17-21, 23-25). God’s people rejoice in what He is doing now and in the future.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul instructs Philemon to receive a runaway slave into fellowship (Philem. 1-25; Gal. 3:28). God’s people are called to transcend cultural differences setting aside prejudice to treat one another with respect.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul charges the Corinthians to fulfill their commitment to help other churches in need (2 Cor. 8:1-12). God’s people pull together and help others.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: King Hezekiah instructs the people to bring their offerings for those who serve full-time in the temple (2 Chron. 31:2-21; Gal. 6:6). God’s people support full-time Christian workers.

ELEMENTARY: King Hezekiah leads Israel into worship with singing, hearing God’s Word, and giving (2 Chron. 29:20—30:27). God’s people worship God with gladness.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God provides water for Israel (Exod. 17:1-6). God nourishes and sustains His people.

PRESCHOOL: David expresses his trust in God’s care (Ps. 23). God takes care of His people.

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:
Over this week, think about relationships at home and in the church where you need to resolve differences. Ask God for wisdom and help to talk with those He brings to mind.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there’s just something about that name. . . . Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there’s something about that name.” The song reminds us that Jesus is Lord over His people and that, in time, all will acknowledge His Lordship.

OPENING

Scripture Readings: Philippians 2:9; John 5:22-23

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are God’s People

LESSON

Theme Talk: A man moved into a neighborhood with a church on his street. Before long, he noticed how loud the Christians were when they sang. He felt it was a disturbance of the peace and should be stopped. He got a petition drawn up. He thought he could canvas the neighborhood and get it filled with signatures to demand that the city council bring a stop to it. The first home he came to was that of a devout Jewish man. The Jewish man read the petition and said, “Sir, I cannot sign this. If I believed, as do these Christians, that my Messiah had come, I would shout it from the housetops and on every street. No one would be able to shut me up!” We are God’s people, and we have personally met the Messiah. His name is Jesus and He cleanses us from all our sins and gives us an eternal home. When you’re one of God’s people, there’s just no keeping quiet about it.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Joyful worship restored (Ezra 3:1-7). True worship requires sacrifice from God’s people.

HIGH SCHOOL: David’s prayer of adoration (1 Chron. 29:10-14). As God’s people, we adore God for who He is.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus prays for personal needs (Matt. 14:22-23a; Mark 14:32-36; Luke 6:12-16). When God’s people pray, we are conversing with a supernatural God who cares about natural needs.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus teaches about the danger of praying to be seen by others (Matt. 6:5-13). God’s people are to be sincere in their prayer and worship.

ELEMENTARY: Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray (Luke 11:1; Matt. 6:9-13; 7:7-11). God’s people can ask Him for what they need.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Isaac does not quarrel over the wells (Gen. 26:12-25). God’s people show they care by getting along with others.

PRESCHOOL: Isaac does not quarrel over the wells (Gen. 26:12-25). God’s people know that fighting doesn’t fix problems.

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: Discuss as a family what it means to be God’s people. Be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

There is a Negro spiritual that says, “Lead me, guide me along the way. For if You lead, I shall not stray.” We are God’s people and just as the song says, we need His guidance every step of the way.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Want to be a Follower of Christ”; “Lead Me, Guide Me”; “I Surrender All”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Proverbs 3:5-6; Exodus 33:12-15
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: There is a breed of goats in the Italian Alps that lives along the mountain tracks where it’s very narrow. It’s so narrow that only one goat can pass at a time. When two goats meet at a ledge, they can’t even turn around and go back without falling. So the goats developed a way of living in their community. When two would come to the same place yet going in different directions, one would lie down while the other walked over him. They both would then be free to proceed safely on their respective ways. If the church is to survive in a healthy way, we too must learn to give way to one another. This is exactly what Paul means when he says that we are to be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another (Rom. 12:10, KJV). As God’s people we must handle conflict with love, patience, and a willingness to deny ourselves.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: The temple restored (Ezra 3:8-13). In spite of the circumstances, God’s people give thanks.

HIGH SCHOOL: Daniel prays a prayer of confession (Dan. 9:4-19). God’s people are to humbly submit and confess to God when they have rebelled and sinned.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus teaches His followers how to pray (Matt. 6:9-13). God’s people gain strength and guidance through prayer.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Job maintains an attitude of submission and gratitude (Job 23:10-11; 40:1-4; 42:1-6). God’s people are to approach Him with thankfulness and submission.

ELEMENTARY: God uses Gideon to answer the Israelites’ prayers (Judg. 6—7). God answers the prayers of His people in many ways.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Joseph forgives his brothers (Gen. 37:27-28; 45:1-15). God wants His people to forgive those who hurt us.

PRESCHOOL: Jacob and Esau quarrel but then make up (Gen. 27:41a; 32:9-11; 33:3-11). God wants His people to get along with one another.

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:
Over this next week, focus on the people who are “hurting” in your life and prayerfully consider how to help them. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme
And the Lord spoke to Moses, “Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord: Let my people go, that they may serve me” (Exod. 8:1). God’s people must be free to love and worship Him.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Give Me a Clean Heart”; “Yes, God Is Real”; “Somebody Prayed for Me”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Psalm 33:1-3
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: A Christian man was looking for an opportunity to witness to a devout Muslim whom he knew. One day the chance came when the Muslim was preparing for prayer by carefully washing his arms and face and other parts of his body. When he was through, his Christian friend told him that he had forgotten one thing, washing his heart. The Muslim replied, “Don’t be silly. I can’t wash my heart!” The friend agreed, “That’s right, but Christ can.” Jesus is the only one who is able to cleanse us from our sin, thereby making us acceptable to God. Thus Paul wrote, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5). Praise God, we are His people and our hearts have been washed by the blood of the Lamb!

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Dedication of the temple (Ezra 6:13-22). As God’s people we are to dedicate our work to Him.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul teaches on intercessory prayer (Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 1:9-12). God’s people pray for the specific needs of others.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Prayer involves sincere confession of sin (Luke 18:9-14). As God’s people, we are called to evaluate ourselves honestly and confess our sins to God.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus honors the faith of a Gentile woman (Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14). God’s people are to pray with faith in Jesus’ name, believing He will answer.

ELEMENTARY: God answers King Hezekiah’s prayer for healing (2 Kings 20:1-11). God wants His people to pray when they are sick.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: King David cares for Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4:4; 9:1-13). God wants us to be kind to others—especially those who need special help.

PRESCHOOL: King David cares for Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4:4; 9:1-13). God wants His people to be kind to those with special needs.

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:
Make time this week to study God’s Word daily with your family using your take-home student books and leaflets.
Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“We are God’s people, and when he has given us eternal life, he is pleased to call us his children through Jesus Christ; this is what we call our new birth. We are God’s people, and he is our Father. If God is our Father, then we are God’s children, and if we are God’s children, then we are God’s heirs; together with Christ we are heirs of God and co-heirs with him. In case you have been wondering, “Who will get the inheritance? Who will live forever and be God’s people? Who will become God’s sons?” The answer is, “Jesus Christ will get the inheritance and we will live forever and be God’s people; we will become God’s sons.”

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

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: A little girl followed her daddy as he walked through a new garden. She stepped exactly where he stepped and said, “Daddy, if you don’t get mud on your feet, I won’t get any mud on me!” As God’s people we have been entrusted with the responsibility to disciple our children. The most effective aspect of discipleship is our example. We cannot tell our children, “do as I say and not as I do” and expect God to bless it. Though the Bible says the sins of the father impact our children to the third and fourth generation, thank God there is a legacy of mercy expressed to thousands for those who love God and keep His commandments (Exod. 20:5-6)! Our greatest challenge will not come in the church but in the home. For the sake of our children, we must strive to live a life where we don’t get mud on our feet.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Fasting and prayer (Ezra 7:25-28; 8:21-23). God calls His people to prepare for His service with fasting and prayer.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul rejoices over any weakness that brings glory to God (2 Cor. 12:7-10; Phil. 1:12-19). God’s people respond in thankfulness for all answers to prayer, even ones we don’t understand.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus teaches on faith, using the fig tree as an example (Mark 11:12-14, 20-24). Faith that God will answer prayer is essential for His people.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jesus teaches His disciples about forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-35; 6:12; Ps. 66:18). God’s people must forgive.

ELEMENTARY: A proud Pharisee boasts of his goodness, while a humble tax collector prays for forgiveness (Luke 18:9-14). God wants His people to humbly admit their wrongs to Him.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: A widow from Zarephath feeds Elijah (1 Kings 17:8-16). God wants His people to share what they have.

PRESCHOOL: Elisha’s friends provide him a room (2 Kings 4:8-11). God’s people share with others in need.

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:
Be purposeful in trying to see the steps you take through the eyes of your children. Illuminate the right path for them. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“It is well with my soul.” The chorus to this great hymn teaches us that, though difficult days may come in our lives, God supplies His people with an unshakable peace and trust in Him if we access it.

Scripture Readings: Psalm 23; Mark 4:35-41

Prayer

Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

Theme Talk: In 1873, a successful businessman by the name of Spafford lost all his material possessions in the great Chicago fire. Just a few weeks later his wife and children were on a ship destined for France. There was a collision with another ship and his family’s ship sank. The only member of his family who survived was his wife. When he received this terrible news, he had a ship immediately take him to the spot where the shipwreck occurred. Spafford was overcome with grief. While looking over the Atlantic Ocean, he suddenly felt an inrush of supernatural peace and comfort. With tears running down his face, he picked up a pen to record his feelings, and from his heart flowed these words: When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.” God gives His people a peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:6-7).

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Gifts for the temple (Ezra 8:24-30). God’s people consecrate their gifts to Him.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46). As God’s people we do not ask God to do our will, but desire to know His will and see it accomplished.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus prays for His followers (John 17:1, 6-9, 13-15, 20-24). God’s people are to pray for others.


ELEMENTARY: Only one of the lepers Jesus healed returns to give thanks (Luke 17:11-19). God deserves the appreciation of His people.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Elisha helps a widow (2 Kings 4:1-7). God wants His people to help others any way they can.

PRESCHOOL: Nathanael decides to follow Jesus (John 1:43-49). Jesus knows all about His people.

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: Adopt a special hymn that you and your family can listen to and sing together all throughout this week. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“We are God’s people; we love the Bible, believe it is God’s Word, and accept it as His special revelation to His people.” The hymn reminds us that as God’s people we serve the only true eternal God, whose love for us will never change.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”; “Standing on the Promises”; “God Is So Good”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Lamentations 3:22-23; Numbers 23:19
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: John Perkins—the founder of Voice of Calvary ministries—was born in New Hebron, Mississippi in 1930. His family members were sharecroppers and he grew up in grinding poverty, part of a system that preserved prejudice and racism. After his brother was killed, John moved to California where he found faith in Christ. He found better job opportunities there along with other forms of racism. John returned to Mississippi to share the Gospel and help his people find equality, justice, and economic independence. His progressive efforts were not received well by local whites. In 1970, John and other blacks went through a night of torture at the hands of white law enforcement officers. Beaten almost to death, John somehow survived and so did his work, which continues to bring glory to God. God’s people are called to endure hardship as soldiers (2 Tim. 2:3), pray for their enemies (Matt. 5:44), and always realize that Satan desires to sabotage the work of the Lord (1 Thess. 2:18).

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Festival of Booths (Neh. 8:13-18). God’s Word guides the worship of His people.

HIGH SCHOOL: General revelation in nature; special revelation in Scripture (Ps. 19:1-14). God’s people respond to His Word as a source of truth and meaning in life.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: God reveals His will to Moses at Sinai (Exod. 19:1-8, 20:1-3). The Bible is God’s special revelation to His people regarding His principles for acceptable living.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Moses writes down God’s Word (Deut. 5:1-7; 6:5-9; 28:1-14; 31:9—32:47; Jer. 30:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible is God’s unique revelation of Himself to His people.

ELEMENTARY: Moses writes down God’s Word (Deut. 5:1-7; 6:5-9; 28:1-14; 31:9—32:47). God’s people love the Bible and believe it is God’s Word.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus accepts Matthew—a tax collector (Matt. 9:9-13). God’s people know that Jesus cares for everyone even when they have done something wrong.

PRESCHOOL: When the disciples were afraid on the boat, Jesus stilled the storm (Mark 4:35-41). God takes care of His people.

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, pray together for those who have hurt you individually or as a family unit. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.
Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme
“Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God’s unchanging hand.” In an ever-changing world, this song reminds us that as God’s people we have Someone we can count on to never change.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “Victory Is Mine”; “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”; “I Will Trust in the Lord”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: John 3:16; Jeremiah 29:11-13
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: It has been said that when we fall prey to Satan’s temptations, Satan will always take us further than we want to go, keep us longer than we intended to stay, and it will cost us more than we are willing to pay. As God’s people, we must always remember that no matter how alluring temptation may be, it leads to death and destruction (Jas. 1:14-15). Satan is our enemy and he desires to devour us like a lion (1 Pet. 5:8). But we can thank God because He will not let His people be tempted beyond what we are able to bear, and will also provide a way of escape from any temptation that comes our way (1 Cor. 10:13). God has made a way for His people to have the victory in every situation! As God’s people, we can rejoice in the wonderful fact that our awesome God has given us all we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Confession as a community (Neh. 9:1-2, 6-7, 9-10, 30-36). Our faithful God calls His people to confess all unfaithfulness.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul instructs Timothy on how God inspired Holy Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14—4:2). The Bible gives God’s people the actual words of God.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jeremiah obeys God and delivers His message (Jer. 1:1-7; 7:1-7). Biblical prophecy is God’s special call for changing sinful ways. As God’s people, we use the Bible for correcting sin.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Jeremiah has God’s Word written a second time after Jehoiakim destroys the first scroll (Jer. 36). God preserves His Word for His people.

ELEMENTARY: Jeremiah has God’s Word written a second time after Jehoiakim destroys the first scroll (Jer. 36). God’s message to His people will always survive.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus teaches the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). God wants His people to show love to all people.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus heals the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15). We are God’s people and He cares when we 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:
Over this next week, pray and ask God for a way of escape from a common temptation. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.
Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“To God be the glory, great things He hath done!” This hymn goes on to proclaim how the greatest thing our God has done is to give His Son for our sins. It is because of Jesus that we are adopted into the family of God, and thus made His children. We are God’s people!

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Surrender All”; “Unity”; “I Give Myself Away”; or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 8:3-9
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Two men who were good friends went hiking in the mountains one weekend. Suddenly they spotted a mountain lion, and the lion spotted them. The first man froze in his tracks, but the other friend quickly tore off his hiking boots, pulled out a pair of running shoes and began putting them on. The first friend said, “You can’t outrun a mountain lion.” The other friend said, “I don’t have to outrun the mountain lion, all I have to do is outrun you!” Unlike the friend preparing to run, God’s people need to stick together. The Bible says of the first church, “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44-45, KJV). God’s people care about the well-being of one another.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.

ADULT: Dedication of the wall (Neh. 12:27-36, 38, 43). As God’s people we celebrate Him with music.

HIGH SCHOOL: God is committed to preserving His Word (Isa. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; John 14:25-26; 17:7-8; 20; 2 Tim. 2:2). God’s Word is eternal and has been transmitted faithfully to His people.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Jesus teaches us what it means to believe in Him (John 5:39-46). God’s people know Jesus personally as Savior.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: John’s letters give account of Jesus’ ministry and instruct His people (1 John 2:1-2, 12, 24-26; 4:9-10; 14-15; John 20:30-31). God calls all people to become His own through His loving sacrifice to provide eternal life.

ELEMENTARY: Ezra helps the people understand God’s Word and rejoice (Neh. 8). God’s people are called to be hearers and doers of His Word.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Ten lepers are healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). God is able to help His people when they are in need.

PRESCHOOL: Ten lepers are healed by Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). God’s people know that Jesus cares about everyone.

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:
This week, plan ways to help one another and stick together as a family. Please be mindful of your take-home books and materials.
Closing Benediction
We Are God’s People

Church and Home Theme

“The today, in every major city in America, a growing number of black churches are reflecting comprehensive ministry to the whole of humanity without compromising the Word of God.” Dr. Tony Evans’ statement affirms how God is using His people in the black church to make a difference in the Body.

OPENING

Opening Signal
Theme-Related Songs: “I Will Bless the Lord at All Times”, “When I’ve Gone the Last Mile of the Way”, or a song of your choice
Scripture Readings: Psalms 118:1; 136:1-9
Prayer
Call and Response: We Are God’s People.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Although my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well except for one of the keys. I have wished many times that it worked perfectly. It is true that there are 46 keys that function well, but just one key not working makes a big difference.

Sometimes it seems to me that churches can be somewhat like my typewriter—not all the key people are working properly. You may say to yourself, “Well, I am only one person. I won’t make or break the church.” But it does make a difference, because if a church is to be most effective it needs the active participation of each and every member. So the next time you think you are only one person and that your efforts are not needed, remember my typewriter and say to yourself, “I am a key person in this congregation, and I am needed very much.” Remember, we are all God’s people.

Age Level Summaries: All of today’s lessons link with the Church and Home Theme: We Are God’s People.


HIGH SCHOOL: Paul reminds Timothy to be faithful and accurate in his studies (2 Tim. 2:15). God’s people need to properly interpret His Word.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul teaches the Ephesians how to combat their spiritual enemy (Eph. 6:10-17). God’s people are engaged in a spiritual war.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Paul does the work of the ministry even while in prison (Phil. 1:12-13; 4:6-9; Acts 28:20, 30-31). God’s people seek guidance from the Bible to help them with thoughts and attitudes.

ELEMENTARY: An Ethiopian eunuch accepts Jesus as Savior (Acts 8:26-39). God’s people recognize the Bible as the source of good news about Jesus.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-26). God’s people know that Jesus cares for the lonely.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus cares for His disciples (John 21:1-14). We are God’s people and Jesus always cares for 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: Conduct your family devotions from 1 Corinthians 12. Help each other identify spiritual gifts/strengths and how those can benefit the church. Be mindful of your take-home books and materials.

Closing Benediction
Links to Church and Home

CROSS/Echoes links your church Bible study and home Bible study with our Church and Home theme. This quarter’s Church and Home theme is: We Are God’s People.

Each Sunday this quarter, every age-level lesson 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:

NURTURE 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. 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.