

LLC Sunday School Curriculum

GRADE 9

Draft 2004

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INTRODUCTIONJune 2004

Jesus commanded His disciples to go and “teach all nations, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” (Matt. 28:19-20) The children of God today want to observe this command. Sunday school is an especially important time for the sowing of God’s Word in the hearts of children. The Sunday school teacher willingly accepts this responsibility.

Using this document

Study the materials before Sunday School begins in the fall. Become acquainted with both the layout and content expectations. If you have questions about how your topics fit in with those being taught at other levels, you will find a summary of the lesson titles for all grades included in your binder. If you want to know the specific objectives for some grade level, there will be a reference binder in your congregation library with a summary of all this information. Ask your Sunday School Director for these materials if you would find them helpful.

Each grade-level binder is set up in the following order:

- table of contents
- general reference pages
- your grade’s lesson topic list
- your grade’s lesson pages

Each lesson page includes the following:

- the lesson title
- what you want the students to learn (objectives)
- Scripture references
- vocabulary
- examples of additional resources
- memory work
- notes or teaching suggestions to support the lesson

Most grades have 24 lessons, although some have 25. In most cases, lesson 25 was regarded as an optional lesson for those classes that have enough time.

The objectives are listed at the top of the page. In some cases, the objectives may include more than you think you can reasonably teach in one Sunday School class period. If so, feel free to choose those objectives you find most

important or interesting. It is not necessary to do everything. Remember that it's always better to learn less and learn it well than to cover more and walk away with little understanding.

Memory work

Included with each lesson in most grades you will find suggested memory work. There are several reasons for assigning memory work to students. Most important is that students acquire an intimate familiarity with Scripture and passages from books such as *The Small Catechism* that explain the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. During services, children will recognize Scripture portions from their memory work in Sunday School. Years later, words learned in Sunday School will come back to mind. The value of having these words deeply imbedded makes it worth spending the time on memory work.

Be sensitive to the varying abilities of children. If someone has difficulties with memorization, give that child options. One possibility is to have the child write out the memory passages.

There is a list summarizing the memory work for the grade toward the beginning of the binder. See the table of contents for the page number of this list. Although the memory work is assigned to specific lessons, the teacher is free to change the order or pace of the memory assignments.

There is a note of caution. The memory work is meant to be supplemental. With such a short period of time each Sunday, care must be taken not to use too much time on memory work. In younger grades, one possible way of dealing with this is to have students recite memory work in unison.

Remember to discuss the meaning of the words with the children.

Homework

Traditionally, the higher grades have been assigned homework to be completed for the next Sunday School class. Homework is important in that it provides an opportunity for students to study and consider God's Word during the week. This is important for young children as much as it is for older children.

It is also important to encourage parents to be a part of this work. Sunday School homework is not meant to be completed hastily in the car on the way to the church on Sunday morning. The reason for doing the homework and the importance of God's Word in the daily life of a believer is diminished by

this. Although life for most families becomes increasingly busier, God's Word should still remain our first priority. This lesson is learned best at home.

Forms of homework: There are many forms of homework to consider. The traditional question set is only one possibility. Sometimes it is more effective to have students answer two or three questions that require the student to consider the meaning of the lesson as opposed to a long list of questions. A homework question can be posed in more than one way. Consider the following approaches:

Who did Jesus see as he was walking by the sea of Galilee? What were they doing? (Matt. 5:18) What did Jesus say to them? (Matt. 5:19)

--OR--

In Matthew 5:18, we read that Jesus saw Simon and Peter fishing beside the sea of Galilee. What did Jesus ask of them? What do you think Jesus was actually asking them to do with their lives?

What did Jesus do in the ruler's house? (Matt. 9:25)

--OR--

Read Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26. This tells about a miracle in which a girl died and Jesus brought her back to life. How did the people react when Jesus told the crowd that she was not dead? What do you think the people learned from this?

Questioning: One type of question only requires lifting a word or basic information from the text without understanding. The other type of question causes the student to think about what it means. The questions can be worded in a way that gives the student some information to help begin interpreting the text. Poor questions can err in one of two ways: either it can be one that requires no understanding to give a correct answer, or it can ask for so much general interpretation or analysis so as to be overwhelming to the student. Not only is it important to carefully craft homework questions, but it is also important to think about what questions will be used during the lesson. Think about this in advance. Good questioning techniques take work to develop.

Reading: Sometimes a reading assignment, such as an article from a recent *Shepherd's Voice* issue, can be effective. For young children, the teacher could instruct the child to ask someone at home to sit down and read a particular article or story with him during the week.

Journals: An effective strategy for homework (and note-taking) is to require students to keep a journal or notebook. This strategy tends to be most effective for third grade and up. All homework (and notes) can be kept together in the journal. Assignments could include specific questions to be

answered, but they could also include writing a “journal entry” reflecting, for example, on what they learned from the previous lesson.

What to do with homework assignments: Keep in mind that homework assignments can be responded to in several ways.

- Often the teacher will go over the homework responses with the students at the next class.
- Sometimes the teacher can collect the homework, write responses for the students, and return them at the next class. (If the work is being kept in a notebook or journal, it is possible that the whole notebook would be collected.)
- Finally, it is possible that sometimes the homework is not shared with the class or read by the teacher at all. For example, maybe a lesson is teaching about prayer. A teacher may assign the student to write a personal prayer to God that will never be read by anyone else.

Use of the Bible: Encourage the use of the Bible. Remember that students need to be taught how to use the Bible. There are several ways to look up information, and students can be taught to use the reference section, concordance, and listing of the books at the beginning of the Bible. Students can be encouraged to follow along in their Bibles when the text is read during services. Auditory learners can use audio recordings of the Bible at home; many are available. After all, the Bible is the most precious of all books.

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TEACHING SUGGESTIONS
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Teaching involves many skills that can be practiced and improved each time a lesson is taught. Each teacher has his own unique style. We can learn from each other, but it is important to remember that God has given you the gifts He intended for you. Use those gifts for the honor and glory of His name. The work of teaching children about the Word of God and the gospel of the forgiveness of sins is a most precious task.

We want to teach children in meaningful ways that they can relate to their own experiences. The following suggestions are intended to help promote effective learning:

- Preparation is of utmost importance! Numerous resources are given for the lessons. Most of these are not intended to be read to students (nor by students) during class time; rather, they are intended to be used by the teacher in planning the lesson. Of course, during the lesson it is good to read some Scripture passages, excerpts from resource materials, or supportive stories. It is also good for the students to look up a main Bible reference that will be read together or by the teacher. We want all students to know that all lessons are based on God's Word. The lesson itself is not a story or Bible text, however. The teacher must plan the lesson in advance!
- Visual aids (e.g., pictures, simple drawings, objects, overhead transparencies, maps) make the lesson more meaningful and interesting. Adding visuals significantly increases retention of learning. Understanding increases when concepts are connected to familiar ideas/images.
- Plan for variety to help keep attention. Providing opportunities for students' interaction increases interest and attention. Responding to questions and relating personal experiences concerning the theme of the lesson are important. Writing is another mode of learning (e.g., students could keep a notebook in which they write main points from each lesson as well as personal thoughts or experiences). Making pictures or diagrams can be another effective learning mode. There are endless possibilities, but variety is a powerful way to strengthen a lesson.

- Clarify vocabulary. Having children see, say, and even show the meaning of new words aids comprehension and retention. Students might write special words in their notebooks.
- Asking questions is an important part of learning. All children need opportunities to ask and answer questions, not just the knowledgeable or outgoing children. Some children will need encouragement, perhaps easier questions to foster confidence. It is important to allow *wait time* (time and opportunity for the brain to process information) when asking for a response.
- Students should demonstrate a summary of the learning in some way at the end of the lesson. This greatly increases retention and enables the teacher to check whether the students have learned the intended concepts.
- Pleasant learning climate, enthusiasm, and reinforcement of desirable behaviors promote positive attitudes toward learning what God's Word teaches.

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LESSON PLANNING OUTLINE
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This lesson plan outline may be useful to the teacher when planning lessons. It calls attention to the important parts of a lesson.

There are always several stages to planning the lesson: preparation and gathering resources, building the lesson, implementing the lesson, and following up the lesson with homework and assessment of student learning.

Consider the following steps to determine whether each step is appropriate for the particular lesson or students, and decide whether it should be included in the lesson plan.

- I. Review of previous lesson: What concepts/memory work need to be reinforced?

- II. Objectives for new lesson: What learnings or key concepts do I want students to get?

- III. Procedures: What will I do to best help children learn this lesson?
 - A. Set: Lead into the new topic, get children ready to focus attention on the lesson
 - relate new learning to something students already know
 - involve all students
 - relate to the objective(s) of the new lesson

Examples:

- Show a wrapped gift and briefly discuss gifts prior to a lesson on the greatest gift.
- Have the children think about a time when they have seen a parade before discussing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- Discuss invitations and kinds of occasions the children might have received invitations for before a lesson on the parable of the man who sent his servant to invite guests to a wedding feast.

B. Objectives: Students are made aware of the objective(s) and the purpose of the learning.

- having objectives guides the teacher's planning for the lesson
- informing students of objective prior to lesson aids their learning
- students will know what they should have learned at the end
- answers "Why are we doing this?" and puts the learning in context

Examples:

- Today we will learn why God's Kingdom is sometimes compared to a flock of sheep, and we will be able to tell who is the shepherd of this flock and who are the sheep.
- Most of you have heard before of the Law and the Gospel; today we will learn what they are and which one belongs to the believer.
- We are going to hear what Jesus said about a widow who gave all her money; it will teach us how we are to give to the work of God's Kingdom.

C. Instructional Input: Students acquire new information about the knowledge they are to receive.

- main body of lesson
- think about what will be taught to the students, how the information will be taught, and how to check that they understand what is taught
- Question 1: What are the learnings?
- Question 2: What will the teacher do to provide the learnings?
- Question 3: How will the students show what they have learned?

Examples:

- I will tell you a story about two boys; think about which boy was walking in light and which in darkness. (teacher action)
- Look at this picture of a soldier; I will explain each of the pieces of armor that the soldier is wearing. (teacher action)
- Here are four possible reason for baptizing a child, numbered one through four; signal me which you think is the best answer by holding up that number of fingers. (checking students' understanding)

- Write down the three parts of repentance that we talked about today. (checking students' understanding)
- Turn to your neighbor and summarize what you just learned. (checking students' understanding)

D. Guided Practice: Students are given the opportunity to use new knowledge with guidance.

- The teacher sometimes needs to circulate among students, observing and helping them during practice or some activity.
- The teacher should clarify or explain something before the lesson has ended.
- Remember that this clarification is important when an assignment will be given for outside of class.

E. Independent Practice: Students are given the opportunity to use new knowledge and/or skills independently.

- usually involves work that is assigned to be done outside of class
- may include memory work, answering questions, writing about the lesson, or other exercises

IV. Evaluation: How will you know what the students have learned?

A. In summarizing the lesson, the students should summarize what they have learned, not the teacher summarizing what he thinks he has taught.

B. How will the teacher check whether students gained the intended learning (e.g., questions, summary by learners, written responses or illustrations, etc.)?

Examples:

- List on your paper the four kinds of ground that we heard about in the parable that we studied today.
- List as many names for the Kingdom of God as possible and illustrate one of them.
- I will give each of you the chance to tell one thing you learned in today's lesson.

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EFFECTIVE TEACHING SUMMARIES
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The Fundamentals

- Students really learn best by *doing* something with the intended learning.
- Students need to do their own thinking and exploration.

The Techniques

Initiating learning activities

- Relate new activities to student experience.
- When introducing “unique” materials, provide unstructured time.
- Introduce all new terms/vocabulary orally and in writing.
- Organize materials for quick and easy distribution.
- Keep teaching materials hidden until they are needed.
- Introduce each activity before distributing materials.

Managing Learning Activities

- At the start of each activity, check all of the students.
- Avoid “talking” over group noise. Insist on quiet attention.
- Separate “talk time” from “work time.”
- Avoid “telling” and concluding for students.
- Prompt student discussions by joining groups as an observer.
- Resolve differences by returning to the materials.

The Art of Questioning

- Don't ask “everyone questions.”
- Pause at least 3 to 5 seconds after asking each question.
- Avoid repeating student answers.
- Put student names at the END of directed questions.
- Turn student questions back to the students.

Instructions on Giving Instructions

- Make instructions as concrete as possible.
- Give instructions in “different ways.”
- Give instructions in “bite-sized chunks.”

Techniques for Concluding Learning Activities

- Alert students to the approaching end of each activity.
- Use a “group focus” to display information for discussion.
- Provide for “at-home” activities.

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ADDITIONAL TEACHING RESOURCES
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This collection of resources is only intended to give examples of possible materials that would be helpful in planning lessons. Some of them are included with the resources for individual lessons. Most of them are available in your church library or bookstore. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list.

According to These Words. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Available in congregation libraries)

Alexander, P., ed. (1978). *The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible.* Lions Publishing: Batavia, IL.

Alphabet Tablet. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Tablet of stories and pictures for kindergarten)

Anderson, K. (1996). *Where to Find It in the Bible.* Thomas Nelson Publishers: Nashville, TN.

Bible Stories Grade 1. (1982). Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Tablet of stories and pictures)

Burnick, M. (1968). *Children's Stories of the Bible from the Old and New Testament.* Playmore, Inc.: New York

By Faith. (1982). Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN.

Comay, J. and R. Browning. (1971). *Who's Who in the Bible: Two Volumes in One.* Bonanza Books: NY.

d'Aubigne, J., M. Sidwell, trans. (1996). *The Triumph of Truth: a Life of Martin Luther.* Bob Jones University Press: Greenville, SC.

Douglas, J., ed. (1982). *New Bible Dictionary.* Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, IL.

Dowley, T. (1986 & 1987). *The Moody Guide to the Bible and The Moody Guide to Bible Lands.* Moody Press: Chicago.

Drane, J. (1983). *The Old Testament Story.* Harper & Row, Publishers. San Francisco: New York.

Freeman, J. M. (1972 reprint). *Manners and Customs of the Bible.* Logos International: Plainfield, NJ.

Gardner, J. (1981). *Reader's Digest Atlas of the Bible*. Reader's Digest Association, Inc.: Pleasantville, NY.

Gross, A. (2001). *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis, MO.

Halley's Bible Handbook. (1965). Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI.

Lepisto, E. (2002). *In the Footsteps of the Sheep*. Laestadian Lutheran Church: Plymouth, MN.

Luther, M. and K. Leinberg. *Small Catechism & Bible History*. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN.

Meyer, F. (1981). *Great Men of the Bible Volume 1* and *Great Men of the Bible Volume II*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI.

Piri, E. (1988). *I Am the Good Shepherd: A Sunday School Guide*. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN.

Reinikainen, E. (1990). *The Storms Will Cease*. Laestadian Lutheran Church: Plymouth, MN.

The Shepherd's Voice. Laestadian Lutheran Church: Plymouth, MN.

Sixth Grade Sunday School Stories. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN.

Smith, M., ed. (1993). *Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions*. Broadman & Holman Publishers: Nashville, TN.

Stories for Young Children. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Tablet of stories and pictures for preschool)

Stories of the Old Testament I. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Tablet of stories and pictures)

Stories of the Old Testament II. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN. (Note: Tablet of stories and pictures)

Sunday School Stories Grade 5. Association of American Laestadian Congregations: Plymouth, MN.

Visalli, G., ed. (1992). *After Jesus: the Triumph of Christianity*. Reader's Digest Association, Inc.: Pleasantville, N.Y.

The Voice of Zion. Laestadian Lutheran Church: Plymouth, MN.

Uljas, J. (2003). *The Treasure Hidden in a Field*. Laestadian Lutheran Church: Plymouth, MN.

Witter, E. (1980). *In Jesus' Day*. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis, MO.

Sunday School Lesson Topics OVERVIEW BY GRADE

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PRE-SCHOOL

Theme: Familiar Bible Stories & Home and Family

- Lesson 1 God's Word and the Holy Bible
- Lesson 2 Sin—Adam and Eve
- Lesson 3 Conscience
- Lesson 4 Forgiveness
- Lesson 5 Prayer—Three Men in the Furnace
- Lesson 6 Respect and Obedience for Parents and Siblings
- Lesson 7 Obedience to Rules
- Lesson 8 Listening—Behavior in Church as God's House
- Lesson 9 Singing—Angels at Jesus' Birth
- Lesson 10 The Christmas Story
- Lesson 11 Sharing
- Lesson 12 Shepherd and Sheep
- Lesson 13 Trust—David and Goliath
- Lesson 14 Thankfulness and Faith—Ten Lepers
- Lesson 15 Temptations
- Lesson 16 God Is Always With Us—Jacob in the Wilderness
- Lesson 17 The Easter Story
- Lesson 18 Honesty—Cain and Abel
- Lesson 19 Kindness—Woman at the Well
- Lesson 20 Patience
- Lesson 21 God Provides for Our Daily Needs
- Lesson 22 Jesus, Friend of Children
- Lesson 23 Friendship and Love
- Lesson 24 Faith as a Gift from God

KINDERGARTEN**Theme: Familiar Bible Stories & Home and Family**

- Lesson 1 Faith
- Lesson 2 Kingdom of God—Jesus Blesses the Children
- Lesson 3 God’s Word—Creation
- Lesson 4 Respect for Elders and Authority
- Lesson 5 The Devil—The Fall into Sin
- Lesson 6 God Cares for Us—Moses and the Red Sea
- Lesson 7 False Gods—Golden Calf
- Lesson 8 God’s Care and Protection—Joseph Being Sold into Slavery
- Lesson 9 Prayer—Jonah and the Whale
- Lesson 10 The Lord’s Prayer
- Lesson 11 The Benediction
- Lesson 12 Obedience to God
- Lesson 13 Angels
- Lesson 14 Giving—Wise Men
- Lesson 15 Trust—Noah
- Lesson 16 Forgiveness of Sins
- Lesson 17 Salvation—Good Friday
- Lesson 18 Easter Sunday
- Lesson 19 Singing—David and the Psalms
- Lesson 20 Thankfulness
- Lesson 21 Being a Light Through Our Behavior in School
- Lesson 22 Responsibility and Helping at Home
- Lesson 23 Home and Family—The Miniature Congregation
- Lesson 24 The Gospel
- Lesson 25 Heaven

GRADE 1**Theme: Familiar Bible Stories & Home and Family**

- Lesson 1 Faith—Jesus Calms the Storm
- Lesson 2 Being a Light
- Lesson 3 Care of the Conscience—Adam and Eve
- Lesson 4 Listening to God’s Word—Jesus in the Temple
- Lesson 5 Respect for People and Differences
- Lesson 6 Kingdom of God
- Lesson 7 Love—David and Absalom
- Lesson 8 Thankfulness—Noah
- Lesson 9 Prayer
- Lesson 10 Sabbath
- Lesson 11 Peace—The Christmas Story
- Lesson 12 Diligence—Joseph in the Pharaoh’s House in Egypt
- Lesson 13 Making Choices—Solomon’s Faith and God’s Word
- Lesson 14 Obedience to Authority
- Lesson 15 Temptations
- Lesson 16 Being Our Brother’s Keeper
- Lesson 17 Forgiveness—Thief on the Cross
- Lesson 18 Power of God—Tower of Babel
- Lesson 19 God’s Care and Protection—Elijah, King Ahab, and the Raven
- Lesson 20 Friendship—Jonathan and David
- Lesson 21 Trustworthiness
- Lesson 22 Music in God’s Kingdom
- Lesson 23 Christian Reading Material
- Lesson 24 Respect for Nature as God’s Creation

GRADE 2**Theme: People & Christian Values**

- Lesson 1 Abraham and Sarah—Trust, Faith and Obedience
- Lesson 2 Moses' Birth and Childhood—God's Care and Protection
- Lesson 3 David, the Shepherd Boy—Trust and God's Care
- Lesson 4 Elisha and Naaman—God's Power
- Lesson 5 Ruth and Naomi—Friendship, Kindness and Faithfulness
- Lesson 6 Daniel and His Friends in the Furnace—Faith
- Lesson 7 John the Baptist, Forerunner to Jesus—Humility
- Lesson 8 Mary and Joseph—Trust and Obedience
- Lesson 9 Simeon and Anna See Jesus—Faith and Patience
- Lesson 10 Jesus Feeds the 5000
- Lesson 11 Disciples of Jesus—Love, Learning God's Word, Service
- Lesson 12 Peter, James and John—Fishers of Men
- Lesson 13 Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant—Faith
- Lesson 14 Zaccheus—Repentance and Forgiveness
- Lesson 15 Mary and Martha—Service and Love, Listening to God's Word
- Lesson 16 God Knows Our Needs—Trust in God's Care
- Lesson 17 Jesus Teaches to Love Your Neighbor
- Lesson 18 The Good Samaritan—Service, Love and Kindness
- Lesson 19 The Widow's Mite—Giving
- Lesson 20 The Daughter of Jairus—Faith and God's Gift of Life
- Lesson 21 Judas Iscariot—Greed vs. Love for God
- Lesson 22 Thomas—Doubts and Wrong Values
- Lesson 23 Conversion of Paul—Faith Through Hearing and God's Call
- Lesson 24 Timothy and the Apostle Paul—Friendship and Relationship of Believers

GRADE 3**Theme: Stories of the Old Testament (Part 1)**

- Lesson 1 The Fall into Sin—God’s Punishment and Promise
- Lesson 2 The First Children—Cain and Abel
- Lesson 3 Noah and the Flood
- Lesson 4 The Tower of Babel
- Lesson 5 God’s Promises to Abram
- Lesson 6 Lot—Sodom and Gomorrah
- Lesson 7 God Tests Abraham’s Faith
- Lesson 8 Isaac and Rebekah
- Lesson 9 The Sons of Isaac
- Lesson 10 Jacob and His Wonderful Dream
- Lesson 11 Jacob Wrestles with God
- Lesson 12 Joseph—Service and Imprisonment in Egypt
- Lesson 13 Joseph—Ruler in Egypt and His Brothers’ First Visit
- Lesson 14 Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers
- Lesson 15 Jacob Moves to Egypt
- Lesson 16 The Call of Moses—The Burning Bush
- Lesson 17 The Plagues of Egypt
- Lesson 18 The Passover and the Israelites’ Departure from Egypt
- Lesson 19 The Israelites’ Journey in the Wilderness
- Lesson 20 The Giving of the Law—The Ten Commandments
- Lesson 21 The Golden Calf—The Tables of the Law
- Lesson 22 The Israelites’ Complaints and Punishment
- Lesson 23 The Last Days in the Wilderness—The Death of Moses
- Lesson 24 Saved by Faith

GRADE 4**Theme: Stories of the Old Testament (Part 2)**

- Lesson 1 The Israelites Enter Canaan
- Lesson 2 The Sun and the Moon Stand Still
- Lesson 3 God Helps His People Through Gideon
- Lesson 4 Samson, Judge of Israel
- Lesson 5 Eli and Samuel
- Lesson 6 Israel Wants a King—King Saul
- Lesson 7 The Sins of King Saul
- Lesson 8 David and Goliath
- Lesson 9 David and Saul—A Battle of Spirits
- Lesson 10 King David's Fall Into Sin
- Lesson 11 Absalom, the Disobedient Son
- Lesson 12 King Solomon
- Lesson 13 The Holy Spirit
- Lesson 14 The Dividing of the Kingdom (optional lesson)
- Lesson 15 Elijah, a Great Prophet
- Lesson 16 Elijah at the Altars of Baal and Elijah Goes to Heaven
- Lesson 17 The Prophet Elisha
- Lesson 18 The Prophet Jonah
- Lesson 19 Isaiah and the End of the Kingdom of Israel
- Lesson 20 Jeremiah and the Fall of Jerusalem
- Lesson 21 Daniel Interprets the King's Dreams and God humbles King Nebuchadnezzar
- Lesson 22 Daniel and the Lions' Den
- Lesson 23 The Return Home and the Rebuilding of the Temple
- Lesson 24 The Old Testament Overview and Righteousness by Faith
- Lesson 25 Our Responsibility for Nature

GRADE 5**Theme: The Life, Miracles, and Teachings of Jesus**

- Lesson 1 Old and New Testament Prophecies of Jesus' Birth
- Lesson 2 Jesus' Birth—Shepherds, Wise Men, and Circumcision
- Lesson 3 Jesus' Childhood—His Family and His Discussion with Elders
- Lesson 4 John the Baptist
- Lesson 5 Baptism of Jesus
- Lesson 6 Jesus' Temptation in the Wilderness
- Lesson 7 Jesus' Disciples and Friends
- Lesson 8 Jesus' Ministry—His Teaching about the Kingdom, Forgiveness, and Love
- Lesson 9 Jesus' Miracles—Healing and Feeding the Multitude
- Lesson 10 Jesus' Miracles—Calming the Storm
- Lesson 11 Jesus' Miracles—Lazarus Raised from the Dead
- Lesson 12 Jesus' Parables—The Prodigal Son
- Lesson 13 Jesus' Parables—The Sower and Four Kinds of Soil
- Lesson 14 Jesus' Parables—The Good Samaritan
- Lesson 15 Jesus' Parables—The Ten Virgins
- Lesson 16 Jesus' Parables—The Good Shepherd
- Lesson 17 Jesus' Parables—The Vine and the Branches
- Lesson 18 Transfiguration
- Lesson 19 Palm Sunday—Entry into Jerusalem and a Prophecy Fulfilled
- Lesson 20 Passover—Establishment of Holy Supper
- Lesson 21 Good Friday
- Lesson 22 Easter Sunday and Resurrection
- Lesson 23 Jesus Appears to His Disciples
- Lesson 24 The Power of the Resurrection Victory and the Keys of the Kingdom

GRADE 6**Theme: The New Testament Church and the Epistles**

- Lesson 1 The Book of Acts
- Lesson 2 Ascension Day
- Lesson 3 Pentecost Day
- Lesson 4 Martyrdom of Stephen and Persecution of Christians
- Lesson 5 Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch
- Lesson 6 The Apostles Peter and John
- Lesson 7 Conversion of Cornelius
- Lesson 8 Conversion of Paul
- Lesson 9 Paul's Missionary Trips
- Lesson 10 Romans—The Gospel Is the Power of God unto Salvation
- Lesson 11 Corinthians—The Holy Spirit Unites the Children of God
- Lesson 12 Galatians—Freedom Through the Gospel
- Lesson 13 Ephesians—Be Strong in the Lord and the Power of His Might
- Lesson 14 Philippians—The Joy of Salvation
- Lesson 15 Colossians—A New Life in Christ
- Lesson 16 Thessalonians—Watchfulness and the Second Coming of Christ
- Lesson 17 Timothy—Caring for the Needs of the Congregation
- Lesson 18 Titus—Sound Doctrine & Believing According to the Word and Spirit
- Lesson 19 Philemon—Forgiveness and Brotherhood in Christ
- Lesson 20 Hebrews—The Priesthood of Christ
- Lesson 21 James—Living Faith Has Fruits
- Lesson 22 Peter—A Royal Priesthood
- Lesson 23 John—Little Children, Love One Another
- Lesson 24 Jude—Beware of False Teachers
- Lesson 25 Revelation—Heaven and the Marriage of the Lamb

GRADE 7**Theme: The Old Testament**

- Lesson 1 The Bible—The Word of God
- Lesson 2 The Old Testament—Its Content and History
- Lesson 3 Creation of the Universe
- Lesson 4 The Fall
- Lesson 5 Cain and Abel
- Lesson 6 Noah and the Flood
- Lesson 7 Abraham—Justified by Faith
- Lesson 8 Isaac—The Child of Promise
- Lesson 9 Jacob—Elect by Grace
- Lesson 10 Joseph
- Lesson 11 Israel in Bondage—Moses
- Lesson 12 The Passover
- Lesson 13 The Exodus—Crossing the Red Sea
- Lesson 14 The Wilderness Journey—The Way to Sinai
- Lesson 15 The Wilderness Journey—The Way to the Promised Land
- Lesson 16 Joshua
- Lesson 17 The Conquest
- Lesson 18 The Judges
- Lesson 19 Gideon
- Lesson 20 Samuel
- Lesson 21 Ruth
- Lesson 22 Esther
- Lesson 23 Job
- Lesson 24 In the World but Not of the World
- Lesson 25 Our Responsibility for Nature

GRADE 8**Theme: The Old Testament and Current Topics**

- Lesson 1 Who We Are—Laestadianism
- Lesson 2 The Church Calendar
- Lesson 3 Kings of the Old Testament—Saul
- Lesson 4 Kings of the Old Testament—David, Son of Jesse
- Lesson 5 Kings of the Old Testament—David, King of Israel
- Lesson 6 Kings of the Old Testament—Solomon
- Lesson 7 Kings of the Old Testament—The Divided Kingdom
- Lesson 8 Overview of the Home Congregation
- Lesson 9 The Psalms
- Lesson 10 The Proverbs
- Lesson 11 The Prophets—Servants of God
- Lesson 12 Elijah & Elisha
- Lesson 13 Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah & Jonah
- Lesson 14 Isaiah & Micah
- Lesson 15 Jeremiah, Nahum, Habukkuk & Zephaniah
- Lesson 16 Ezekiel & Daniel
- Lesson 17 Daniel
- Lesson 18 Haggai, Malachi & Zechariah
- Lesson 19 Prophecies of Jesus
- Lesson 20 The Old & New Testament—One Completeness
- Lesson 21 The Righteousness of Faith & the Righteousness of Life
- Lesson 22 Tobacco & Intoxicants
- Lesson 23 Your Congregation as a Member of a National Organization
- Lesson 24 Being Our Brother's Keeper

GRADE 9**Theme: New Testament Topics and Others**

- Lesson 1 God the Father—Creator
- Lesson 2 God the Son—Redeemer
- Lesson 3 God the Holy Spirit—Sanctifier
- Lesson 4 The Four Gospels
- Lesson 5 Jesus' Teachings—Parables
- Lesson 6 Jesus' Teachings—The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant
- Lesson 7 Jesus' Teachings—The Parable of the Rich Fool
- Lesson 8 Jesus' Teachings—Keys of the Kingdom
- Lesson 9 Jesus' Teachings—The Church Law of Christ
- Lesson 10 The Congregation of God
- Lesson 11 The Early Congregation—Acts of the Apostles
- Lesson 12 Repentance
- Lesson 13 Baptism
- Lesson 14 Holy Communion
- Lesson 15 Confession
- Lesson 16 Prayer
- Lesson 17 The Apostles—Disciples of Jesus
- Lesson 18 Luther and the Reformation
- Lesson 19 Heresies
- Lesson 20 Courtship
- Lesson 21 The Christian Wedding
- Lesson 22 Marriage and Family Life
- Lesson 23 Death and Resurrection
- Lesson 24 Preparation for Confirmation School

LLC Sunday School Curriculum

MEMORY WORKDraft 2004

- Grade 2:** Scripture verses
- Grade 3:** Creed (bold print) from Luther's catechism
Ten Commandments (bold print) from Luther's catechism
Scripture verses
- Grade 4:** Ten Commandments and meanings from Luther's catechism
Scripture verses
- Grade 5:** Creed and meanings from Luther's catechism
Names of the books of the Old Testament
Scripture verses
- Grade 6:** Baptism and meanings from Luther's catechism
Names of the books of the New Testament
- Grade 7:** First three parts of confession from Luther's catechism
Sacrament of the Altar and meanings
- Grade 8:** Lord's Prayer and meanings from Luther's catechism
- Grade 9:** Review the entire catechism

Sunday School Lesson Topics and Objectives
GRADE 9
Draft 2004

Theme: New Testament and Doctrinal Topics

The focus of the 9th grade is the New Testament and doctrinal topics. The objectives and teaching information are given for each lesson.

- Lesson 1 God the Father—Creator
- Lesson 2 God the Son—Redeemer
- Lesson 3 God the Holy Spirit—Sanctifier
- Lesson 4 The Four Gospels
- Lesson 5 Jesus' Teachings—Parables
- Lesson 6 Jesus' Teachings—Parables
- Lesson 7 Jesus' Teachings—Parables
- Lesson 8 Jesus' Teachings—Keys of the Kingdom
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- Lesson 21 The Christian Wedding
- Lesson 22 Marriage and Family Life
- Lesson 23 Death and Resurrection
- Lesson 24 Preparation for Confirmation School

Lesson 1: God the Father—Creator

- A. The student will understand that God, as our Father, is our Creator and also provides our spiritual and bodily needs.
 - B. The student will understand that although there are three forms or persons in God, He is still one indivisible unity.
 - C. The student will understand that according to Jesus' teaching, God is our Heavenly Father, who loves His children like a good father does.
 - D. The student will understand that God the Father has created everything by His Word.
-

Scripture: Gen. 1:26-31, 2; Matt. 1:18-20; 3:11, 6:13, 6:33-34, 12:32, 22:43-45, 28:10-20; Mark 12:36, 13:11; Luke 1:35, 3:22; John 8:19, 8:58, 10:30, 14:9-16, 16:28, 20:22; Acts 1:8, 4:31, 7:51, 10:38, 13:2, 16:6, 28:25; Eph. 2:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:12, 5:6-7; 2 Pet. 1:21; Ps. 103:11-18; Rom. 15:16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 3:7, 9:8, 11:3; 1 John 5:37

Vocabulary: creator, unity

Resources: *By Faith*, pp. 18, 59; *The Book of Concord*, The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed; *Luther's Large Catechism*, pp. 79-83; *The Voice of Zion*, November 1998 "The Triune God"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 2: God the Son—Redeemer

- A. The student will understand the purpose of Jesus' life and work.
 - B. The student will know the main events and phases of Jesus' life: birth, childhood, public ministry, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension.
 - C. The student will understand that God's salvation work climaxes in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
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Scripture: Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:21, 5:17-18, 10:34, 13:54-56, 24:29-31, 28:19-20; Mark 14:36; Luke 1:26-33, 2:21-24, 2:34-35, 2:41-49, 4:1-15, 4:40-44, 22, 23, 24; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

Vocabulary: redeem, Redeemer, resurrection

Resources: *By Faith*, pp. 59-70; *Voice of Zion*, September 1994 "Redemption," April 1995 "Resurrection", November 1998 "The Triune God"; LLC *Bible Reference Material* binder, Life of Jesus section; *The Book of Concord*, the Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed; *Luther's Large Catechism*, pp. 83-87

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 3: God the Holy Spirit—Sanctifier

- A. The student will understand that although the Holy Spirit was present in Old Testament believers, it came upon His disciples with power.
- B. The student will understand that the office of the Holy Spirit is that of Sanctifier.
- C. The student will understand the work of the Holy Spirit as it is explained in Scripture, the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, and Luther's explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed.

Scripture: Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 2:37-41, 9:36-41, 10:44-48, 13:6-11, 19:11-12, 20:9-12

Vocabulary: sanctify, Sanctifier

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 72; *Voice of Zion*, May 1994 "The Holy Trinity," May 1995 "The Holy Spirit", November 1998 "The Triune God"; *The Book of Concord*, the Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed; *Luther's Large Catechism*, pp. 87-95

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 4: The Four Gospels

- A. The student will know when the gospels were written and who wrote them.
- B. The student will understand that the main message of the gospels is the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our redemption.
- C. The student will understand that Matthew, Mark, and Luke all present the same description (synoptic) of the life and ministry of Christ.
- D. The student will understand that while the Gospel of John differs in content from Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it conveys the same message about Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Matthew 3:11-17, 26:1-56, 28:9-20; Mark 1:1-11, 14:10-42; Luke 3:16-22, 24:44-53; John 1:29-34, 10:7-18, 13:31-38

Vocabulary: historical, synoptic, gospel, evangelist

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 43; *Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*, pp. 468-548

Memory Work: Catechism review

Note: Following is an outline of some key information that may be helpful to the teacher.

- A. Gospel of Matthew
 - 1. Matthew is the author. (Matt. 9:9, 10:1-3; Mark 2:13-14; Luke 5:27-32)
 - 2. Written after the Gospel of Mark around the third quarter of the 1st century
- B. Gospel of Mark
 - 1. Mark, disciple of Peter, wrote Peter's memories of Christ. (Acts 12:12, 12:25, 15:37; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:13)
 - 2. Written after the martyrdom of Paul and Peter, about 70 A.D.

C. Gospel of Luke

1. Luke, a doctor, traveled with Paul on many of his missionary journeys.
2. Luke also wrote the Book of Acts while traveling with Paul.
3. Luke recorded Paul's memories of Christ. (Acts 16:10-17, 27:1-37, 28:1-14)
4. Written after 70 A.D.

D. Gospel of John

1. John is the author. (Matt. 4:18-22, 17:1-2; Mark 14: 33-34; Luke 22:8; Acts 12:1-2; Rev. 1:1)
2. Written near the end of the 1st century
3. John wrote this gospel after most witnesses of Christ's life had died.
4. John was more concerned with the spiritual meaning of Christ's life because he was writing for believers who were believing without seeing.
5. John was now writing for all people of the world; he refers to Christ as the Son of God, not a messiah only for the Jews.

Lesson 5: The Teachings of Jesus—Parables

- A. The student will understand that a parable uses a picture or real-life example to illustrate a concept or event.
- B. The student will understand that Jesus used parables to reach people who closed their ears and hearts to other forms of preaching.
- C. The student will understand that Jesus used parables to teach about many things, including God’s kingdom, forgiveness, love for our neighbor, coveteousness, vigilance in faith, steadfastness in prayer, God’s love for lost sinners, spiritual wisdom, etc.

Scripture: Matt. 7:24-29; 13:10-16, 18:23-25; Isa. 6:9-10; Jer. 5:21-24; Ezek. 12:2-11; Mark 8:14-19; Luke 10:25-37, 18:1-8, 15; John 12:37-41

Vocabulary: parable, coveteousness, vigilance

Resources: LLC *Bible Reference Materials* binder, Parables of Jesus section; *Voice of Zion*, January 1991 “Parables of Jesus”; *Eerdmans’ Handbook to the Bible*, p. 665

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 6: The Teachings of Jesus—The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

- A. The student will become familiar with the parable of the unmerciful servant.
- B. The student will understand that God is the king and men are His servants.
- C. The student will understand that man's sin debt with God is so great that he has no possibility to pay it.
- D. The student will understand that God is merciful and forgives us our great debt of sin.
- E. The student will understand that even though our neighbor may have offended us, his sin debt is very small when compared to our debt with God.
- F. The student will understand that just as God has graciously forgiven us our sins, we should also forgive our neighbor his offenses. If we do not forgive our neighbor, neither will God forgive us.

Scripture: Matt. 18:21-35

Vocabulary: mercy, debt, offend, gracious

Resources:

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 7: The Teachings of Jesus—The Parable of the Rich Fool

- A. The student will become familiar with the parable of the rich fool.
- B. The student will understand that the purpose of man's life is not to gain wealth but to fulfill God's will and to gain eternal life.
- C. The student will understand that temporal success or material wealth does not bring the gift of eternal life.
- D. The student will understand that the desire for material wealth presents many temptations for a child of God.
- E. The student will understand that man is rich in God's eyes when he has the treasure of Jesus Christ in his heart.

Scripture: Luke 12:15-21; Matt. 6:19-21, 13:44, 16:26; Gen. 1:26-27; Eph. 1:4, 2:10; Tit. 2:14; Prov. 11:4, 11:28; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Rev. 3:18; 2 Cor. 4:6-7

Vocabulary: temporal, fulfill, treasure

Resources: *The Voice of Zion*, July 1999

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 8: The Teachings of Jesus—Keys of the Kingdom

- A. The student will understand what is meant by the concept “keys of the kingdom.”
 - B. The student will know the Scripture portions that establish and support the concept of the keys of the kingdom.
 - C. The student will understand that there are two keys: the key of loosing and the key of binding.
 - D. The student will understand who has the keys of the kingdom.
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Scripture: Matt. 9:2-6, 16:13-19; 18:15-20; John 20:21-23

Vocabulary: binding, loosing

Resources: *Voice of Zion*, May 1994 “The Holy Trinity”; *By Faith*, pp. 72-73, 79-81; *New Testament Homework Questions*, lesson 6

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 9: The Teachings of Jesus—The Church Law of Christ

- A. The student will understand three steps in the church law and how they may be used in practice.
- B. The student will understand that the “church law of Christ” is not truly a law, but rather a principle that Christ has given for care of men’s souls. The foundation of the law is the love of the undying soul.
- C. The student will know where this teaching is found in the Bible.

Scripture: Matt. 5:29-30, 18:7-9, 18:15-20

Vocabulary: law or principle

Resources: *Bible Class Book I*, lesson IX; *Voice of Zion*, April 1978
“Church Law of Christ”; *New Testament Homework Questions*, lesson 6

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 10: The Congregation of God

- A. The student will understand that the congregation of God is the body of Christ; and like a natural body, the members of Christ's body throughout the world are joined together and to its head Jesus Christ.
- B. The student will understand that Jesus has taught that in order to be saved a person must find and enter the congregation or kingdom of God.
- C. The student will understand that because the Holy Spirit teaches and guides that congregation, it is the pillar and ground of truth.
- D. The student will understand that the Scriptures teach us to listen to and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit in God's congregation.

Scripture: Col 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:11-16; Rev. 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29; 3:6, 3:13, 3:22

Vocabulary: congregation

Resources: *Voice of Zion*, August 1993 "The Teaching of the Kingdom of Heaven", March 1998; *By Faith*, p. 74

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 11: The Early Congregation—Acts of the Apostles

- A. The student will learn that the Acts of the Apostles, written by Luke, is a record of the early congregation in the beginning of the New Testament time.
 - B. The student will study examples in the Acts of the Apostles that illustrate the operation of the Holy Spirit in the congregation.
 - C. The student will learn that there are parallels between the early congregation and the time we are living as believers today.
-

Scripture: Acts 1:1-26, 2:1-47, 3:1-9, 3:19, 4:11-12, 5:1-11, 5:17-20, 10:34-35, 26:15-18, 28:28

Vocabulary: apostle, Pentecost, persecution, martyr, gentile

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 45; LLC *Bible Reference Materials* binder, Acts of the Apostles section

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 12: Repentance

- A. The student will understand the three parts of repentance.
 - B. The student will understand the difference between repentance from unbelief and putting away sin.
 - C. The student will understand that a change of life follows the change of heart.
 - D. The student will understand that it is not for man to determine if the repentance was true.
 - E. The student will be familiar with examples of repentance from the Bible.
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Scripture: Ezek. 14:6; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-42, 8:36-39, 9:10-17; 26:20; Luke 17:3; Heb. 6:6; Rev. 2:5; Matt. 3:6-10, 7:16-27; Rom. 14:1

Vocabulary: distress, penitence, absolution, unbelief, remorse

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 79; *Voice of Zion*, February 1994 "Repentance," June 1998 "Repentance"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 13: Baptism

- A. The student will know what a sacrament is and its benefit.
 - B. The student will know the elements of the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
 - C. The student will understand that the sacraments are to be treasured and revered as God's gifts.
 - D. The student will understand the personal aspect of baptism where one is brought to the sacrament by name to form this covenant with God.
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Scripture: Acts 8:36-38, 10:44-48, 16:1; Matt. 3:1-6, 19:14; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6

Vocabulary: covenant, sacrament

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 84; *Luther's Small Catechism*, p. 13; *Luther's Large Catechism*, p. 124; *The Storms Will Cease* by Erkki Reinikainen, pp. 216-220; *Voice of Zion*, January 2000, September 1998

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 14: Holy Communion

- A. The student will know what a sacrament is and its benefit.
 - B. The student will know the elements of the sacrament of Holy Communion.
 - C. The student will understand that the sacraments are to be treasured and revered as God's gifts.
 - D. The student will understand that it is a meal of celebration, unity and strengthening of faith.
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Scripture: Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-34; John 1:14, 6:48-58

Vocabulary: sacrament, elements

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 87; *Luther's Small Catechism*, p. 17; *Luther's Large Catechism*, p. 140; *The Storms Will Cease* by Erkki Reinikainen, pp. 216-218, 220-221; *Voice of Zion*, July 1998 "What Is a Sacrament?", October 1998 "Communion"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 15: Confession

- A. The student will know from memory and also understand the first two parts of Luther's explanation of confession in his Small Catechism.
 - B. The student will understand that we are saved by believing the gospel, not by our confession; but that confession is a grace privilege that helps us to care for our conscience and preserve faith in our hearts.
 - C. The student will understand who has the power to forgive sins.
 - D. The student will understand the responsibility of a confessor father or mother.
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Scripture: Rom 4:5; Matt. 16:19, 18:21; Luke 5:20-24, 6:31, 6:37, 17:3-4; John 8:10-11, 20:21-23; Ps. 25:7; Col. 3:12-13

Vocabulary: absolution, sealed vessel, grace-privilege

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 91; *Luther's Small Catechism*, p. 14; *The Storms Will Cease* by Erkki Reinikainen, pp. 221-222; *Voice of Zion*, November 1998 "Confession"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 16: Prayer

- A. The student will know what prayer is and will be able to pray as God's Word teaches.
- B. The student will be able to say the Lord's Prayer and Benediction and understand their meanings.
- C. The student will understand that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ make intercessions on our behalf.
- D. The student will understand that God hears our prayers but may delay in fulfilling them or may give us that which is more needful for us.

Scripture: Ezra 6:10; Ps. 55:16-17; Matt. 5:44, 6:5-13, 6:26-27; Luke 18:10-14; Num. 6:23-27; Rom. 8:26-27, 11:2-5; Phil. 4:19

Vocabulary: intercession

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 92; *Voice of Zion*, October 1993 "Jesus' Teaching of Prayer," April 2002 "The Life of Prayer"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 17: The Apostles—Disciples of Jesus

- A. The student will know who the apostles were.
- B. The student will understand the role of the apostles.
- C. The student will understand that the apostles were selected by Christ.

Scripture: Matt. 10:1-15, 28:18-20; John 6:70, 15:16; Acts 1:4-8

Vocabulary: apostle, disciple, called

Resources: *By Faith*, p. 51; LLC *Bible Reference Materials* binder, Disciples section

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 18: Luther and the Reformation

- A. The student will understand who Luther was and his repentance.
 - B. The students will know about the separation from the Catholic church.
 - C. The student will understand that Luther was used by God to do His work; it was not the work of Luther himself.
-

Scripture:

Vocabulary: Reformation, indulgence

Resources: LLC Calendar 1990; *The Triumph of Truth: a Life of Martin Luther* by J. H. M. D'aubigne; *Voice of Zion*, October 2003
"Reformation Day"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 19: Heresies

- A. The student will understand that a heresy is a schism that separates from the Kingdom of God.
- B. The student will understand that heresies have happened since the early time of the Old Testament and have still occurred in recent times.
- C. The student will understand that a heresy happens due to a false spirit and generally is evidenced by doctrinal errors as well.
- D. The student will become familiar with some of the heresies of the last century that have affected North American Christianity and some of the features of those heresies.

Scripture: Acts: 24:14; 1 Cor. 11:19; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 Pet. 2:1; Judg. 3:1-4; Num. 16:1-50; Deut. 13:1, 18:20-22; 1 Kings 18:19-40; 2 Kings 10:21-28; Matt. 7:15-20, 14:5; John 5:43; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim. 2:16-19, 3:1-2, 3:5-9; Tit. 3:10-11; 1 John 2:18-19; 2 John 7, 9-11; 1 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18-23

Vocabulary: heresy, schism, doctrine, false spirit, time of visitation

Resources:

Memory Work: Catechism review

Note: Following is an outline that can be incorporated into the lesson or can be used as a resource for the teacher.

A. Old Testament References

1. Why must heresies exist (Judg. 3:1-4)
2. Heresy of Korah (Num. 16:1-50)
3. Avoid heretics (Deut. 13:1, 18:20-22; 1 Kings 18:19-40; 2 Kings 10:21-28)

B. New Testament References

1. Why heresies exist (1 Cor. 11:19)

2. Avoid heretics (Matt. 7:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 2 Tim. 2:16-19, 3:5-9; Tit. 3:10-11; 2 John 10-11)
3. Heresies during the times of the Apostles (1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:15, 2:17-18; 1 John 2:18-19; 2 John 7)
4. Heresies during the last times (Matt. 24:5, 24:24; John 5:43; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 3:3; Jude 18-23)

C. Points to note

1. Heresies have been experienced already from the Old Testament time.
2. Heresies were experienced during the time of the Apostles.
3. Luther writes of heresies during his lifetime.
4. According to God's Word, heresies will also exist during the last times.
5. Heresies have been experienced during this time of visitation.

D. What is a Heresy?

1. A heresy is a belief that is contrary to the doctrines of living faith.
2. References: 2 John 9-11; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1-2

E. Some Heresies of Recent Times

1. The Large (Great) First Born (Iso esikoisuus): 1894
2. The "New Awakening" (Uusherännäisyys): 1894
3. Pollarism (Höllöläisyys): 1924
4. The Small First Born (Pikku esikoisuus, Kirkkokunta): 1930
5. The Ministers' Heresy (Papin eriseura): 1960
6. The Torola Heresy: 1973

F. Some Doctrinal Issues

1. The Large First Born
 - extremely legalistic
 - ascetic (self-denial and abstinence)
 - spirit of self-righteousness
2. The New Awakening
 - law applies to believer (as a guide for good works and sober life)
 - public confession of sins
3. The Small First Born
 - combination of previous two
 - law applies to believer to reveal sin and as a norm for a good life
 - today a very ecumenical group

4. Pollarism
 - extreme leniency, freedom of the flesh
 - admonitions and exhortations do not belong to the gospel
 - one blessing suffices for a believer
 - rejected the confession of sins
5. The Ministers' Heresy
 - wrong doctrine of the sacraments
 - wrong doctrine of the congregation
 - zealous approach to mission work
 - acceptance of all confessional writings (Book of Concord, etc.)
6. The Torola Heresy
 - leniency towards world and sin (e.g., music, television, worldly activities, etc.)
 - greeting of heretics
 - God's Kingdom, the spiritual mother, can and does err
 - wrong doctrine of the congregation
 - wrong understanding of the Church Law of Christ
 - wrong understanding of Peter's denial of Christ

Lesson 20: Courtship

- A. The student will understand that sexuality is part of God's creation work and a gift that He blesses when it is used in faith and obedience to His Word.
 - B. The student will understand that as God's creation, man and woman are different but nevertheless equal.
 - C. The student will understand what kinds of sexuality are wrong in the light of God's Word.
 - D. The student will understand the purpose of courtship and how a believer conducts him/herself during courtship.
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Scripture: Gen. 1:26-28, 21:6-8; Ps. 127:3-5; Eph. 5:1-5, 5:21-33; Acts 15:2; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 5:13, 7:9; Gen. 24

Vocabulary: courtship, adultery

Resources: *From Victory to Victory*, p. 75-82; "Christian Courtship," 1996 Outlook Summer Services Youth Discussion, presentation by Dan Rintamaki; *Voice of Zion*, March 2003, April 2003, June 2003

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 21: The Christian Wedding

- A. The student will understand that marriage is a holy institution established by God.
- B. The student will become familiar with Scripture portions that teach about marriage as a union between a man and a woman and about the permanence of marriage.
- C. The student will understand that a Christian wedding is the joining of a husband and wife together.
- D. The student will understand that a Christian wedding reflects Christian values and traditions and good Christian taste.
- E. The student will become familiar with some aspects of the Christian wedding ceremony and Christian traditions.

Scripture: 1 Cor. 10:32; 1 Tim. 2:9; Phil. 4:5

Vocabulary: prosperity, adversity, mutual, union

Resources: *Pastors Guide to Christian Weddings*; "The Christian Wedding," 1992 AALC Phoenix Winter Services, presentation by Jon Bloomquist; *Luther's Small Catechism*

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 22: Marriage and Family Life

- A. The student will understand that God has established marriage as the basic relationship for mutual life, for the protection of love between man and woman, and to provide a secure environment for the life and development of children.
- B. The student will become familiar with Scripture portions that teach about marriage as a union between a man and a woman and about the permanence of marriage.
- C. The student will understand that marriage is a permanent union that endures through good times and difficult times and is severed only by death.
- D. The student will understand that children are God's gifts to the parents.
- E. The student will understand that birth control and abortion are against God's Word.

Scripture: Eph. 5:22-29, 6:4, 6:1-4; Gen. 1:27-28, 2:18, 2:24, 3:16; Matt. 18:6, 19:5-6; 1 Peter 3:1, 3:6-7; Col. 3:19; Prov. 18:22

Vocabulary: union, birth control, abortion, nurture

Resources: *Pastors Guide to Christian Weddings*; *Siionin Lahetyslehti*, No. 11, 1997; "The Sanctity of Marriage," 1999 LLC Detroit Summer Services, presentation by Walt Lampi; *Luther's Small Catechism*; *Voice of Zion*, March 2004, October 2003, September 2003, June 2003, January 1999

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 23: Death and Resurrection

- A. The student will understand that a Christian does not need to fear death because Christ has overcome death. His second coming will be a day of joy and victory for those that believe in Him.
- B. The student will understand that there are three types of death: temporal, spiritual, and eternal.
- C. The student will be able to describe the difference between the three types of death.
- D. The student will understand that in death the earthly body returns to dust and in resurrection the child of God is raised with a new, immortal body.

Scripture: Matt. 25:31-46; Gen. 3:1-19; John 5:24-30; Rom. 5:12-14, 6:3-11; 1 Cor. 15:19-26, 15:54-56; James 1:12-15; Rev. 2:11

Vocabulary: temporal, spiritual, eternal, wages of sin

Resources: *By Faith*, pp. 95-100; *In the Footsteps of the Sheep*, pp. 155-156; *Voice of Zion*, April 1993 "Dead—Resurrected"

Memory Work: Catechism review

Lesson 24: Preparation for Confirmation School

- A. The student will understand the purpose for confirmation school and the correct state of mind.
- B. The student will understand the basic expectations for behavior, class participation, and materials.
- C. The student will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss confirmation school and preparation for it.

Scripture: Prov. 1:1-9, 3:1-12; Phil. 1:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:15

Vocabulary: confirmation

Resources: *Congregational Study Booklet; By Faith*, p. 8; *Voice of Zion*, June 1999 “The Right Heart and Mind for Confirmation”