



The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Department of Christian Education

MAKING DISCIPLES through "events that FORM and TRANSFORM"



Sunday School Lessons Unit One "A Fulfilled Covenant" June 2019

This quarter will teach how Jesus fulfilled the law in the sense that it was given full meaning. Jesus emphasized the deep, underlying messages of the gospel and this same message is continued through the apostle Paul and the writer of Hebrews. Relationships of faith empower us to live the covenant and spread the gospel message.

Unit I, "A Fulfilled Covenant," in four sessions, reveals a new sign of the covenant for Jewish and Gentile believers, as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, Hebrews, and Colossians. During the celebration of the Passover, Jesus explained to the disciples that he would initiate a new covenant through his death. Paul explains that the sign of the covenant is now a relationship of the heart between God and God's people, not circumcision.

Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield
General Secretary



Unifying Principle

All personal relationships encounter problems that result in division and strife. Who can heal the breaches and restore harmony? Mark describes how Jesus' crucifixion forges a new covenant and reconciles God and humankind.



Goals for the Learners

- ✓ To summarize Mark's account of the crucifixion of Jesus.
- ✓ To reflect on the amazing price Jesus paid to establish a new covenant between God and humankind.
- ✓ To pray for restored relationship with God in light of the reconciliation Jesus provides.

Challenges for the Week

- Use a harmony of Gospel texts to compare and contrast the crucifixion stories in all four Gospels. Which details are unique to Mark? Discuss the significance of the differences in the Gospels.
- Consult a variety of biblical commentaries to explore the meaning of Jesus' cry from the cross in Mark 15:34. What does it mean for Jesus, the Son of God, to feel abandoned by God?
- Explore hymns that describe a believer's participation or experience of Jesus on the cross such as "Were You There" or "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded." What details from Mark's Crucifixion story are reflected in these hymns? What message do these hymns communicate about the meaning of the Crucifixion for believers?

We are providing these notes from the Committee on Uniform Series that prepares associated Sunday School lesson outlines long in advance of their usage. Included in this Guide are thoughts that are reflected in the Lesson Development Guide for writers of Sunday school lessons and the recommended commentary of the Department of Christian Education, The New International Lesson Annual published by Abingdon Press Nashville, Tennessee. Send an email to: sundayschool@thecmechurchced.org to receive this guide electronically.

