



The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Department of Christian Education

MAKING DISCIPLES through "events that FORM and TRANSFORM"



Sunday School Lessons

Unit One

"God Is Just and Merciful"

June 2018

The study this quarter focuses on justice as presented in the New Testament. Justice is portrayed as a primary characteristic of God's nature. Human beings are called to emulate God's justice toward one another.

Unit I, "God Is Just and Merciful," has four lessons that remind us that human interpretations of the Law must not conflict with mercy and justice as acted out in our daily lives. The lessons from Matthew look at conflicts between Jesus and the Pharisees on questions of mercy and justice. The lesson from Luke looks at how God dispenses justice and mercy.

Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield
General Secretary



Our justice system was established to provide equity. What should we do when certain interpretations of the law interfere with responding to human need? Two events in Jesus' life, plucking grain and healing a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, illustrate the priority of responding to human need.

Goal for the Learners

- ✓ To explore Jesus' approach to questions of how properly to observe the Sabbath.
- ✓ To affirm the importance of responding to human needs.
- ✓ To identify ways believers can prioritize compassionate service over external religious obligations.

Lesson Challenges for the Week

- Research Jesus's instructions about the Sabbath and what he says in Matthew 5:17-20. What contrast do you see?
- List some customs and rituals that you hold dear.
- Read Romans 14:5-6 and Colossians 2:16, and note the implications of these verses on Christians' observance of the "Sabbath" today.

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 each week.

