



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S HANDBOOK

December 2020–February 2021

**FOR USE WITH CROSS/
Echoes Curriculum**



This Quarter's Church/Home Theme

Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

UNIFYING LESSONS AND LINKING CHURCH AND HOME

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:**

Echo this 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 guide-lines 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 Link to Next Week** 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.

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This Quarter's Church and Home Theme:

CHRIST JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

Cross/Echoes embraces the need for unity in the Sunday school program with this whole church theme. We thought long and hard, asking ourselves, *What is the best way to achieve meaningful unity?* Even if all classes study the same Scripture, *the lessons will, and should, be different.* Students of different ages will understand and apply the Scripture differently—and that is appropriate if we are to meet the developmental needs of each student. Some may suggest that we limit ourselves to Scripture passages that all ages will understand. But that approach would deprive older children and adults of the challenging Scriptures they need for further growth.

Cross/Echoes has chosen this unique course: We have selected age-appropriate Scriptures for each age level and have built appropriate lessons from those Scriptures for growth at all age levels. Then we unified these diverse lessons together with a quarterly Church and Home Theme. So, each class is age-appropriate, and all the classes revolve around the same Bible precept. This enables you, the Sunday school leader, to guide all your classes toward a common goal—age-appropriate, biblical discipleship.

This quarter's Church/Home Theme is "**Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.**" The Bible records, "Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they [the disciples] never stopped teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 5:42). This Handbook will help you and your teachers proclaim that truth and apply it to the life of each student this quarter.

Mention "**Christ Jesus Is Our Savior**" often this quarter. Talk about this truth and sing about it in Sunday school exercises. Emphasize it in your teacher-training meetings. Remind teachers to bring out this truth in their classes. Every Sunday, encourage families to talk about the theme throughout the week to help members ". . . grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Eph. 4:15b).

Highlights in Black History



The Tuskegee Airmen Fighting for Their Country and Their Rights

By Victoria McAfee

“The key to not retaliating was my faith in God; because if it had not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be?” —Tuskegee Airman John “Mule” Miles

For years, racist, stereotypical comments, even scholarly articles, said African Americans were incapable of piloting a plane. They were said to be mentally inferior, that their brains weighed less than a white person’s, and they didn’t have the mental capacity, aptitude, or reflexes to fly airplanes.

But in 1939, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) stood against the military policies blocking African Americans from serving in the Army Air Corps. Various media outlets and civic groups followed their lead, demanding the Air Corps be integrated. The War Department finally established a black flying unit in the Army Air Corps on January 16, 1941. In March of that year, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt showed her support for the new

program by flying with African-American chief instructor C. Alfred “Chief” Anderson.

A separate training unit for black pilots and ground crew was created near Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The NAACP and National Airmen’s Association opposed this action; they wanted full integration in the military, not a separate site. But some of the military brass such as Major General Frank O’Driscoll Hunter argued that “...racial friction will occur if colored and white pilots are trained together.” The prospective airmen trained at Moton Field and flew at a separate Tuskegee Army Airfield built for them. Between 1941 and 1946, thousands of men and women participated in the Tuskegee training.

Fighting Two Wars—Many whites thought that training black airmen to fly in combat would inevitably fail and reinforce their earlier statements about black inferiority. Airman Warren Eusan said the racist comments “made us stick together, and there was a pride in all of us that said we had to make it.” In spite of the odds, the Tuskegee Airmen exercised great restraint and self-control. Eyes were watching closely, and overseas they proved they were “a cut above.”

The 99th Pursuit Squadron was considered ready for combat in April 1943. Colonel Benjamin O. Davis (who would later become the first African American to achieve the rank of General) led this squadron and made sure his flyers participated in military action in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Later, the 332nd Fighter Group deployed to Italy and began serving as escorts for bomber missions.

The 332nd Fighter Group painted their aircraft tails red, making them distinctive and unified. The group became known as the “Red Tails.” White crews named them “Red-Tailed Angels” because they successfully fulfilled their mission.

Photo: Public Domain

Airman Harold Brown remembers, “We had the best record in terms of losing bombers to enemy aircraft of any other fighter group in the 15th Air Force. All of a sudden they said, ‘Boy, these are the greatest guys in the world,’ not knowing who was flying those airplanes. And they started calling us the Red Tail Angels; then they start requesting us. ‘Who’s our escort today? Is it the Red Tails? No, it’s not them. What? It’s not the Red Tails?’ They wanted the Red Tails.”

For several of the airmen, their faith kept them grounded while they fought to be in the air. William McDonald said, “When I went off to college, I was grounded well in faith, and I had the strength to combat the obstacles I had to face...Just being able to survive, to make it, and to keep my faith—those are the things I’m most proud of.” The Tuskegee airmen had a saying they lived out: “No matter how hard they make it, we can take it. There is no room for failure. We must succeed.”

Success—The pilots had over 10,000 support personnel including navigators, bombardiers, flight instructors, and mechanics. Around 1,000 pilots trained at Tuskegee, and over 300 of them flew 15,000 combat sorties in the European theater. Between them, they received many Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, and Purple Hearts. The 332nd Fighter Group received a Distinguished Unit Citation in March 1945 for “outstanding performance and extraordinary heroism.” They escorted a group of B-17 bombers over 1,600 miles deep into Germany and shot down not only regular German aircraft but three German ME262s—history’s first operational jet fighters—while never losing a bomber on that raid.

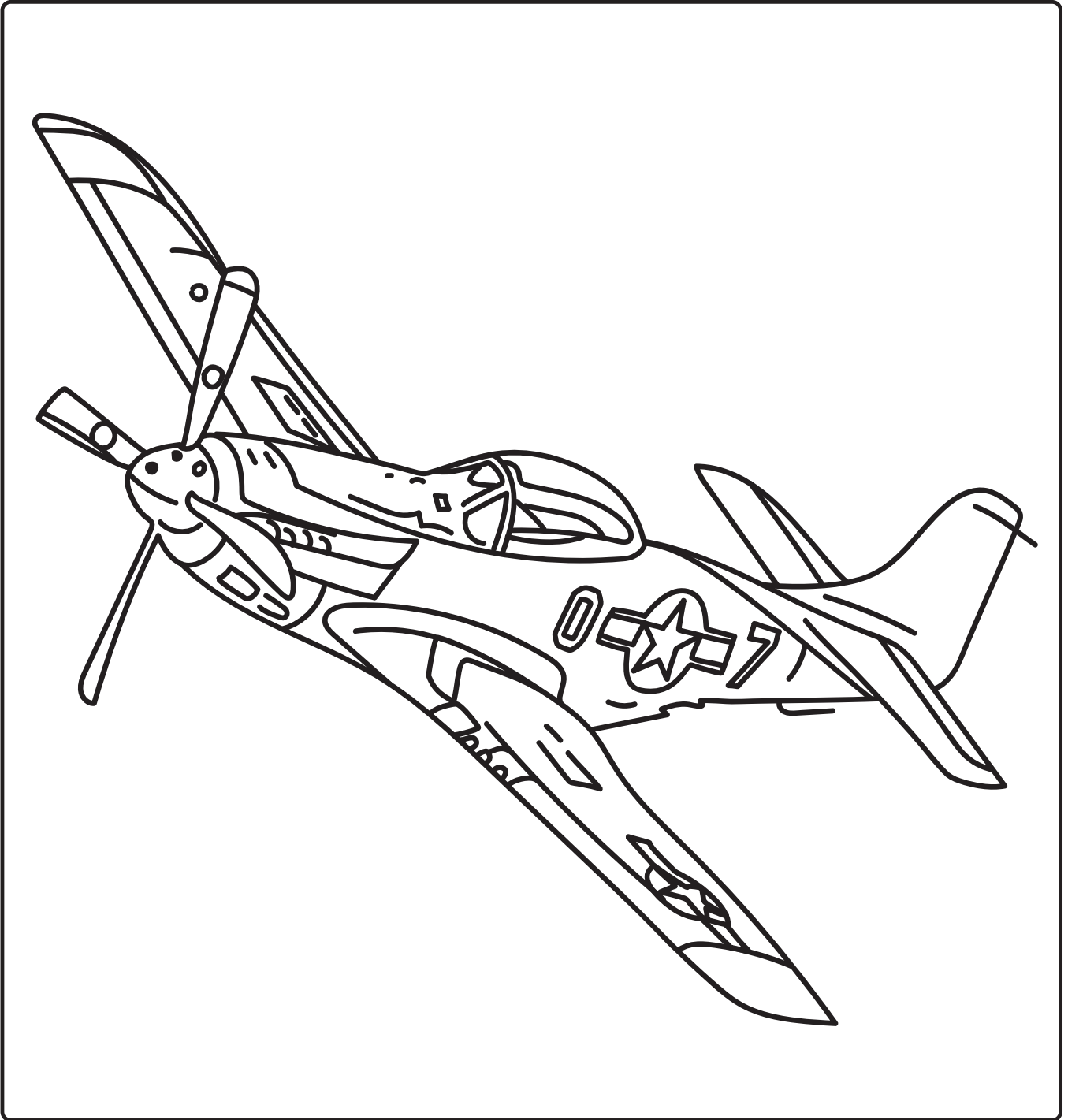
Again, the faith of some of the airmen was what helped them through the horrors of combat. Brown said, “Look what I just came through. You realize somebody, somebody had to be looking out for you; somebody had

to be taking care of you. And there’s only one somebody in the world who I know is capable of doing that—God. I don’t know how else it could have happened.”

Opening Doors—However, no matter how successful they were in the air, African-American pilots still fought racism on the ground. When the new 477th Bombardment Group of Tuskegee airmen came to Freeman Field in Seymour, Indiana, in the summer of 1945, the colonel there called the well-experienced pilots “trainees” and sent them to a separate, dilapidated officers club building. Defying that order, 60 pilots were arrested for attempting to enter a club used by white officers. Later, 101 black officers at the base were arrested for refusing to sign an order complying with segregation at the base. This “Freeman Field Mutiny” was one of the first civil rights protests in the military.

The excellent performance of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II also helped open the door for integration in the service. President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order finally ending segregation in the military. He saw the capabilities of these men and the racist lies. In 2006, Congress ordered a Congressional Gold Medal to be made in honor of the airmen, and President George W. Bush gave bronze replicas of the medal to many remaining survivors. Well over 50 chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen Association have sprung up all over the U.S. Now their history is being celebrated. Many of the organizations are committed to educating youth in math, science, and aviation.

Airman Gene Derricotte said, “Essentially no one knew there was such a thing as the Tuskegee Airmen. Now when I speak at schools, and in the community, people tell me how sorry they are for the way we were treated and tell me how proud they are of me—of us.”



The Tuskegee Airmen

Their heroic service in World War II opened the way for African-Americans to be integrated into the armed services.

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.

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.

Sunday
September 4
2011

Our God Gives

Church and Home Theme
 "Put your hope in God." (Ps. 42:5b). This week's lessons give many reasons to put our hope in God, who gives us all things.

OPENING

Opening Signal
 Theme-Related Songs: "Showers of Blessings"; "Wade in the Water"; "Ship of Zion"; "Blessed Quietness"; and "Near the Cross."

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

LESSON

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.

ADULT: John the Baptist prepares the way (Mark 1:1-8; Matt. 3:1-3). God gives us changed hearts when we repent.

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. 8:4-10, 19-22). Be wise. Follow God, not negative

peer pressure.

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 they are important to Jesus, even when they feel all alone.

Dismissal to Class: 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:
 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

Page 9

Theme Talk:

Use as an opening meditation before dismissal to classes; superintendent's part in review at reassembly; and 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.

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.

Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

Church and Home Theme

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matt. 3:2). John the Baptist’s words remind us how close we are to the Kingdom, thanks to the coming of Christ Jesus our Savior. This week’s studies are all about the coming Christ and how He changes lives as we surrender to Him.

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “I Surrender All”; “I Know It Was the Blood”; “I Give Myself Away”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5; Acts 17:22-24, 29-31

Prayer

Call and Response: Christ Jesus is our Savior.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Many of us have seen preachers on street corners preaching a word of repentance. For some, these evangelists are almost a cliché—not to be taken seriously. “Repentance? Hmmp!” some say. “That’s not what Christmas is all about.” Yet repentance is at the very heart of this season. Were it not for our sin, we would have no need of a Savior. His coming is what we celebrate during this season of Advent. Repentance is a way of making our hearts ready to “prepare Him room” as the popular carol “Joy to the World!” admonishes, “and heaven and nature sing!”

The angel Gabriel, John the Baptist, and the apostle Paul were messengers who proclaimed different aspects of the Good News of the Savior who came as the ultimate fulfillment of Old Testament covenants. Gabriel told of His upcoming birth, John told of the repentance needed to make one’s heart ready to receive Him, and Paul spoke of the changed lives and the calling we have through Him.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.*

ADULT: Jesus is the promised heir of David and the heir of all things as God’s Son (Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17; Hebrews 1:1-5) Jesus, our Savior, is the heir and ruler of all things.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul explains his calling (Acts 26:9-20) and urges Christians to walk worthy of their calling (Eph. 4:1-4). Christ Jesus, our Savior, calls each of the members of His Body to walk deeper with Him.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul teaches that no one can live a good enough life to be acceptable before God (Acts 22:3-4; Phil. 3:4-9). Christ Jesus, our Savior, offers us His righteousness—something none of us could earn through our own efforts.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Saul, the enemy, becomes Paul, the follower of Jesus (Acts 7:58; 8:1-4; 9:1-22). We can be thankful that Christ Jesus, our Savior, offers everyone a second chance.

ELEMENTARY: God sends Zechariah and Elizabeth a son who will help people get ready for Jesus (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80). We get ready for the birthday of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: God’s angel brings Mary and Joseph news of Jesus’ birth (Luke 1:26-38). Children can learn how God planned to send us a Savior.

PRESCHOOL: God’s angel brings Mary news of Jesus’ birth (Luke 1:26-38). Children can learn about God’s plan to send us His Son as our Savior.

Dismissal to Class: *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.* (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 found in step 4 of their lessons.)

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble

Reassemble Classes

Lesson Reviews by Classes

Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:

Next week we will study more about how Christ Jesus, our Savior, is able to change lives.

Closing Benediction

Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

Church and Home Theme

“I have been crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2:20). God sent Jesus to earth to bring deliverance from the grip of sin. Let’s be thankful that it is His blood that saves us. This week’s lessons remind us that Jesus has the unique ability to transform a life—any life, despite our faults.

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”; “Thank You, Lord”; “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Matthew 1:18-24; Romans 12:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Prayer

Call and Response: Christ Jesus is our Savior.

LESSON

Theme Talk: “There’s no way he can change.” Have you ever said or thought that about a person? Many times, we are indeed tempted to pass judgment on a life as if there are some souls that are beyond even God’s power to transform. We neglect to look beyond the here and now to believe what seems impossible. We can be thankful, however, that God does not share that point of view! As Paul told the Romans, “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). This means Jesus did not come to earth as a baby, live among men, die and be resurrected to help people who are “already fixed up.” He came so all of us could be transformed by His saving grace—grace that is completely undeserved, but unreservedly complete.

The apostle Paul’s life was never the same after He met his risen Savior, Jesus Christ. His conversion and commission showcase the power of God at work in a person’s life. God’s power, through Christ and His Holy Spirit, is at work in lives today.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.*

ADULT: An angel appears to Joseph and tells him Mary’s child is from the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18-25). Don’t be afraid to follow the directions of our God and Savior.

HIGH SCHOOL: God calls and empowers Paul for work (Acts 13:1-4). His Holy Spirit leads Paul into Europe, not Asia (Acts 16:6-10). Paul writes of the Spirit’s fruitful results

(Gal. 5:16-17, 22-25). God’s Holy Spirit guides us when we seek to walk like Jesus, our Savior.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul’s life and teachings demonstrate Christ’s ability to transform lives (Acts 9:15, 19b-22; 22:5b-15). Receiving Jesus, our Savior, redeems a life—any life.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Paul is willing to be a missionary (Acts 9:6, 20-31; 13:1-4). Christ Jesus, our Savior, calls us and empowers us to be bold in His service.

ELEMENTARY: Mary believes the angel’s message about Jesus (Luke 1:26-56). Like Mary, we can choose to express our belief in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: An angel tells Joseph that Jesus is coming (Matt. 1:18-25). God provided a family for His Son, Jesus, our Savior.

PRESCHOOL: Jesus is born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). Children can learn that we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, at Christmas.

Dismissal to Class: *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.* (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:

Next week we will study more about our Savior with more lessons on Christ’s birth and Paul’s work as a missionary of the good news of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Closing Benediction

Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

Church and Home Theme

As we celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world, let's rejoice in the fact that it was because He was born that we can have a resurrection to celebrate and a return to look forward to. This week's lessons reveal God's plan of salvation through the birth of His Son, Jesus.

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: "Away in a Manager"; "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; "We Three Kings"; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Luke 2:1-7

Prayer

Call and Response: Christ Jesus is our Savior.

LESSON

Theme Talk: We may not always believe it, but one person can make a difference. Our history resounds with the stories of innumerable individuals having their impact upon us. An anonymous author writes about Jesus, the God-man: ". . . all the armies that ever marched . . . all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that One Solitary Life." As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we can also celebrate the fact that God calls each of us to make a difference while we're here on earth. Maybe we're called to the mission field. Maybe we're called to pray for missionaries. Maybe we're called to display faith beyond reason through various trials. Whatever the call, through His grace and power, we can do wondrous things!

Abraham's faithfulness portrayed what Paul and the shepherds all learned: the miraculous coming of the Savior and the difference He would make in the lives of all people. We can rejoice with them that our Savior, Jesus, came to earth to make the difference.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today's lessons have the Church/Home Theme: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.*

ADULT: The wise men come and worship Jesus (Matt. 2:1-2, 7-15), God desires that we worship Jesus—His Son and our Savior.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul preaches about Christ, God's salvation (Acts 13:14-33, 38-39, 42-47). We know for sure that Jesus is the magnificent message of the Good News.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul explains God's magnificent plan of salvation (Acts 13:16-17, 21-23, 26, 38-39; Gal. 4:4-6). We can respond to God's plan of salvation with praise—He sent Christ Jesus as our Savior!

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Paul tells the people that Jesus is the promised Son of David and the Savior of the world (Luke 2:1-20; Acts 13:22-23; Rom. 8:3-5; Eph. 2:6-8). Christ Jesus is indeed our Savior, promised long ago.

ELEMENTARY: Shepherds share the Good News that Christ Jesus, our Savior, is born (Luke 2:1-20). We can plan to share the Good News of our Savior's coming.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Jesus is born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7). At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus, our Savior.

PRESCHOOL: Angels reveal to shepherds the good news of the Savior's birth (Luke 2:8-20). Like the shepherds, the children can rejoice that Jesus Christ, our Savior, came to earth because He loves us.

Dismissal to Class: *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. (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 in step 4 of their lessons.)*

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble

Reassemble Classes

Lesson Reviews by Classes

Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent's Church and Home Link:

Next week we will study more about our Savior by looking at the worship offered to Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Closing Benediction

Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

Church and Home Theme

“Teach and admonish one another . . . through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit”
(Col. 3:16). This week’s lesson reminds us to remind one another of the Good News
of Christ’s coming and to worship Him with fervency.

OPENING

Opening Signal

Theme-Related Songs: “Praise Him”; “He Is Lord”; “O Come Let Us Adore Him”; or a song of your choice

Scripture Readings: Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 17:11-19

Prayer

Call and Response: Christ Jesus is our Savior.

LESSON

Theme Talk: Why is it that we generally think of praise in times of good rather than bad? This is human nature. We sometimes like to praise God when we feel He’s done something to earn our praise. Yet the wise men who approached a small child and offered Him praise did so in acknowledgment of who He is—God with us—not for what He could do for them. A popular saying that echoes the journey of the wise men states, “Wise men still seek Him.” We can be wise people as we seek to worship Him, not just for what He does but for who He is—Christ Jesus, our Savior.

The wise men, Mary, Joseph, and Paul offered Jesus a gift of praise through songs and lives of obedience. We can offer Him the same gift today.

Age-Level Summaries: *All of today’s lessons have the Church/Home Theme: Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.*

ADULT: The wise men worship Jesus (Matt. 3:1-12). Worship of Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the heart of Christmas.

HIGH SCHOOL: Paul works at a trade while he preaches in Corinth (Acts 18:1-4) so that his ministry may be blameless and unhindered (1 Cor. 9:12-23). We can be bold and discerning witnesses for our Savior, Jesus.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Paul teaches that believers can look forward to Christ’s return and should seek to live godly lives in anticipation of that time (1 Thess. 4:14-17; Titus 2:11-14). Our obedience to God shows our

expectation of Jesus our Savior’s return.

UPPER ELEMENTARY: Paul preaches the truth in Lystra under difficult circumstances (Acts 14). Our Savior, Jesus, promises His help when doing the right thing is difficult.

ELEMENTARY: Wise men worship and bring gifts to Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). Worship is a gift that we can give to our Savior, Jesus.

EARLY ELEMENTARY: Angels tell the shepherds about the Savior’s birth (Luke 2:8-20). Students will plan ways to tell family and friends that Jesus has come to be our Savior

PRESCHOOL: God provides protection for His Son, Jesus (Matt. 2:7-23). Rejoice that God protects and saves us through Jesus.

Dismissal to Class: *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. (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 found in step 4 of their lessons.)*

CLOSING

Signal to Reassemble

Reassemble Classes

Lesson Reviews by Classes

Remarks by Pastor

Superintendent’s Church and Home Link:

Next week we will study more about our Savior by a look at the call our Savior offers to each one of us.

Closing Benediction

Links to Church and Home

CROSS/Echoes links your church Bible study with home Bible study with one Church and Home theme. This quarter's Church and Home theme is: **Christ Jesus Is Our Savior.**

Every age-level lesson, each Sunday this quarter, is linked to that theme at church. So every student carries that same theme home for unified family Bible study.

CROSS/Echoes links students' home experiences with God's Word—at the beginning and end of each lesson. When the lesson starts, students share their ideas about real-life issues. Teachers use the materials pictured on this page to show how God's Word applies to real life. **Then students take the Sunday school lesson home with devotions, stories, crafts, posters, and other links for home Bible study.**

Each *CROSS/Echoes* teacher's commentary clearly pictures and explains the Church and Home link. Teachers use four

steps that guide students to line up their lives with God's Word.

1. Life Need—Creative Teaching Aids, real-life stories, and relevant questions provoke discussion. This draws students into the Bible lesson because they can personally relate their needs to the study of the lesson in class.

2. Bible Lesson—Students' minds are now prepared to study age-appropriate Scriptures and Bible exposition.

3. Bible Application—Students examine how God's Word applies to *their* life needs.

4. Life Response—Students respond, "What will I do based upon what God has said?"

The Bible lessons are literally driven home—read-at-home stories, devotions, worksheets, crafts, email, etc.—a Church and Home learning link. **Teachers help make this link a solid connection with these student products:**

NURTURING CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD, THEIR CREATOR



CTA DisKit

Younger students' heads and hearts are opened to their Sunday school lesson when teachers present Creative Teaching Aids in class, like Bible art flannelgraphs and DisKit gospel songs for children to sing.

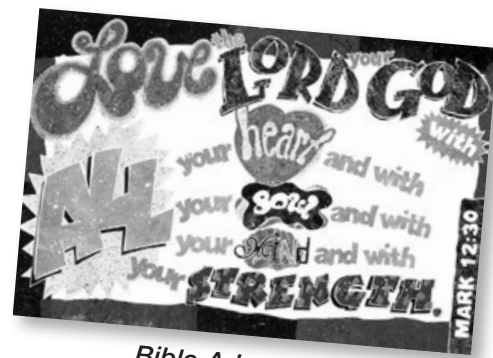
Preschool students review *My Sunday Pictures* in class. Early Elementary students use *Storytime* class worksheets. Children take these papers home with lesson-related activities for children and families. Adults receive special notes in these take-



Storytime Parents' Section

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.

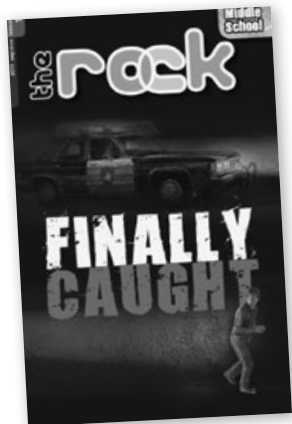


Bible Adventures Take-Home Study Poster

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 papers. They feature devotionals for study at home. Teachers can point out how these take-home papers 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.



The Rock



High School Blueprint

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.

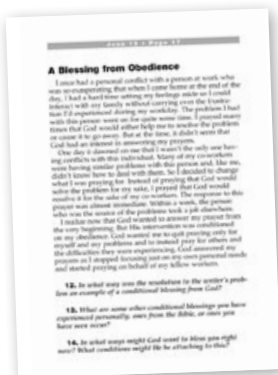
CROSS/Echoes provides *Adult Creative Teaching Aids* to reach the variety of learning styles present in adult classes.

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.



CBS Present-Day story



Quiet Hour Devotional



Power for Living

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. In His wisdom of dealing with others. 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.