

Dear Parents,

We hope your family is connecting and that you are feeling the presence of God here in the “Corona Crisis.”

A hope is these Family Sunday School classes may give your family some experience and a pattern for family worship and spiritual connection when life returns to normal down the road.

The following is lesson structure so that your family can have “Family Sunday School” together. Parents, I know this may be a touch intimidating, but it’s worth it. The following lesson plan should make it relatively easy to facilitate Family Sunday School as a group in thirty minutes or less. In case this is your first week to do Family Sunday School, some preparatory resources are at the bottom.

### **Step #1: Look Back**

Refer to the recommended practices in “Step #1 - Look Back” in the [linked PDF](#) above. In addition to prayer and sharing, this section includes option to sing songs, among others. Sometimes it can be awkward to sing a capella. Linked below are two familiar songs to Advent families with audio and lyrics on the video. Play it loud! It makes it less awkward to sing out!

Song #1 - [Abide with Me](#)

Song #2 - [Guide Me Oh Though Great Redeemer](#)

If you have younger children, here are some songs we sing in children’s chapel. We also have a playlist on Spotify with favorites from children’s chapel. [Link to Spotify Playlist](#):

Song #1 - [Ask Me Whooo: Questions 12](#)

Song #2 - [God Made Me \(link\)](#)

Song #3 - [Do Not Worry \(Ellie Holcomb\)](#)

### **Step #2: Look Up**

Over the next several weeks, we will start a new series called, “The 40 Days after Easter.” We will look at stories and events in the forty days from Jesus’ resurrection to his Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. For Family Sunday School, we want you, as a group, to read and analyze the passage.

Today’s story, John 21: 15-19, recounts a conversation between Jesus and Peter, as Peter is commissioned to feed God’s people. Use the video as an introduction and the questions on the right to dig into the content but use the questions Step #2 - Look Up - for personal application.

**Video #1:** The linked video will give an overview of this series and the passage, John 21:15-19.

**Video #2:** This [YouTube video](#) gives a short dramatization of this Bible passage, John 21: 15-19. Start at the **3:00** minute mark to skip forward to this section. (It helps visualize the Bible story and follows the John scripture almost verbatim.)

### **Acts 1: 1-11**

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### **Questions on the passage:**

V1 - How did Jesus appear to the disciples? What does Luke say that Jesus talked about during that time?

V4-5 - What do you think the promise of the Father is to which Jesus refers?

V8 - Where will the disciples' power come from?

V8 - What do you think Jesus means when he says that the disciples will quote "be [his] disciples" in all the world? Witnesses of what?

V9 - Where does Jesus go in verse 9?

V8-9 - What connection do you make between Jesus going up, the Holy Spirit coming down, and the disciples going out?

V10-11 - Who speaks to the disciples as Jesus rises into heaven?

V11 - What word of comfort do the men in white robes offer the disciples?

### **Step #3 – Look Ahead**

You can finish up the lesson with the content on Step #3 – Look Ahead – of the 3/3's Method.

### **Preparatory Resources**

- (1) **3/3's Method for Family Worship** (PDF link) - Canon Matt Schneider has provided this format to use as the structure for Family Sunday School. The first page provides some principles; the second page is the actual lesson. Obviously, you can pick and choose these elements you would like to use.
- (2) **Teaching on the 3/3's Method for Family Worship** - Canon Schneider taught two classes on family worship and the 3/3's Method in our Faith and Family in February. You can access these resources at the following links:

**Class #1 - February 9** (link)

**Class #2 - February 16** (link)

*As you go through Family Sunday School, refer to the linked PDF for the 3/3's Method. Below, I have included some helpful resources to supplement the method, such as music for the praise section and a video to introduce the Bible passage and series.*