



HOPE & IGNITE

A Weekly Middle & High School Newsletter
Sunday School Lessons with Other News & Updates for Youth



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Unit 6 Overview

This four-session unit invites us to think about what it means to be the people of God and ways to pursue a holy life. During these lessons, we will explore what faithfulness looks like in the midst of differences, what faithful actions look like, how to fast in a way that's spiritually healthy and, finally, how to act with faith when tensions are high. This unit spans the period of Lent and provides students an opportunity to learn more about how fasting shapes our faith.

Unit 6; Lesson 4 Snapshot

The story in Matthew 21 is one of the most deeply emotional stories we ever hear about Jesus. In this instance, we don't see Jesus as the calm, loving, meek teacher that so many of us envision, but instead as the aggrieved, angry, and frustrated human with whom so many of us can identify. Yet to focus only on the cleansing of the temple leads us to overlook the remaining two-thirds of the story as Jesus goes on to heal the people who are blind and lame and gives authority to the voice of children in the face of a religious leader.

Lesson 4 Take-Away

Our faithful action is defined by the way we show God's love during difficult circumstances.

Bible Lesson Fun-Fact

- The children crying out praise for Jesus in verse 15 echo the story two chapters earlier in Matthew 19 when Jesus invited the children to come to him.



The corresponding videos for each lesson are available through our Grace UMC Youtube channel



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Contact our Co-Directors of Christian Education with any Questions or Ideas you have for our Youth Programming.

Session 4:

Jesus Clears the Temple

Engage

Scramble

In the amount of time allowed and using the following letters, create as many words as possible in the space below. You will receive one point for every word you create that doesn't appear on anyone else's list.

S R E V S P O A

Scripture

Behind the Scene

- What does the Bible Lesson say about who God accepts and protects?

Matthew 21:12-16 (Common English Bible)

¹² Then Jesus went into the temple and threw out all those who were selling and buying there. He pushed over the tables used for currency exchange and the chairs of those who sold doves. ¹³ He said to them, "It's written, *My house will be called a house of prayer.* But you've made it a hideout for crooks."

¹⁴ People who were blind and lame came to Jesus in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and legal experts saw the amazing things he was doing and the children shouting in the temple, "*Hosanna* to the Son of David!" they were angry. ¹⁶ They said to Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," he answered. "Haven't you ever read, *From the mouths of babies and infants you've arranged praise for yourself?*"

- Why would reminding temple leaders of these words from the Scripture be useful for Jesus?

Key Verse

He said to them, "*It's written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you've made it a hideout for crooks.*"
—Matthew 21:13

- By quoting this passage, do you think Jesus was trying to criticize the temple leaders or make a more important point?

- Why would Jesus criticize them, or what point was he trying to make?

FOCUS

Another View

What group of people were you assigned? _____

Using the space below, make notes to retell the story from the perspective of someone in your assigned group. Consider the following in your retelling of the story:

- If your character had to describe this to someone who was not there, what are the moments your character might think were most important?
- How did Jesus' actions make your character feel?
- How did Jesus' actions change what your character thought they knew about God?

- How does considering Jesus' actions from a different perspective influence your thoughts about this story?

Distraction

1. One step to overcoming what distracts you from worshipping God is admitting the things that take away your attention from God. What prevents you from connecting with God?

Connect

2. What can you do to help yourself avoid this distraction and focus more on connecting with God?

Practice



Breathe and Pray

Below are a few examples of breath prayers. Read them and then, in the gray box, write a breath prayer to help you focus on serving God, seeing others, or being thankful for your blessings.

- Grace in. *Breathe in, opening yourself up to grace.*
Grace out. *Exhale, allowing grace to flow through you into the world.*
- When I call, *Breathe in, focusing on God's presence.*
The Lord will answer. *Breathe out. Exhale, listening for God's direction.*

JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Matthew 21:12-27;

Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-16



Jesus cleanses the Temple

Jesus went to the Temple in Jerusalem. When he saw people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and people trading with money-changers- right there in the Temple - he was upset. "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" he cried out! In these drawings of Jesus cleansing the Temple, can you find 10 things that are different?



Across

2. People wondered who Jesus was, and what _____ he had to do the things he did in the temple.
5. Jesus made the _____ and scribes jealous and mad.
8. What holiday were the people celebrating?

Down

1. Jesus didn't like that people had turned the house of God into a _____.
3. Jesus made a _____ to drive the animals out of the temple.
4. Jesus flipped over _____ and benches.
6. Jesus was angry, and shouted, "Do not turn my Father's house into a den of _____."
7. The temple was supposed to be a place to _____ God, not a place to sell things.



Lent Daily Practices for the Week

Read the daily bible passage, then do the spiritual practice.

Day 9: (2/26)

Psalm 150: 1-6

Five times today, remember and give thanks for the blessings in your life.

Day 10: (2/27)

Romans 12: 1-3

Five times today, offer yourself to God. Ask God to make you a living hallelujah.

Day 11: (3/1)

Psalm 19: 1-6

How do you hear God's voice through nature?

Day 12: (3/2)

Exodus 31: 1-11

How does God speak to you through the arts?

Day 13: (3/3)

1 Corinthians 12: 12-20

Pray for the Holy Spirit to open you to hearing God through other people.

Day 14: (3/4)

Matthew 5: 1-12

Choose 2 or 3 verses from Matthew 5: 1-12 and turn their words into prayer.

Day 15: (3/5)

Psalm 119: 105-112

Give thanks for God's word, and pray for insight and understanding of Scripture.

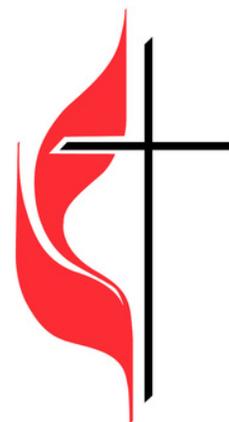
Day 16: (3/6)

Luke 24: 1-12

How do you hear God speak through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?



Follow GUMC on Instagram
& Grace UMC Youth on
Facebook!



WEEK TWO

Coloring Prayer

Warm up by drawing some doodles, squiggles, lines, circles, dots, etc. on a piece of blank paper.

When ready follow these directions:

- Take a deep breath and slowly exhale. Repeat a few times. You may want to light a candle (or turn on a battery candle) as a visual reminder to be quiet and in prayer.
- Write God or a favorite name for God (i.e. Gracious God, Loving God, Creator, etc) somewhere on the paper and doodle around the name.
- Take turns sharing a prayer request or praise. Set a timer for about 3 minutes (you can adjust the amount of time depending on age or attention span).
- Write down the praise/prayer either with words or a picture and then doodle around it while praying or praising God for the request.
- Repeat step 3 as many times as desired.
- When you are ready to end, write Amen or your favorite prayer closing somewhere on your paper.
- To learn more about Praying in Color, visit prayingincolor.com

Praying with Photos

View the Photos Handout and choose one to look at while you listen to Psalm 23. Wonder together.

- I wonder what part of the Psalm you can relate with.
- How does your image relate to the scripture?
- How do you see God in your image?
- If you could choose a different image, what would it be?
- What do you learn about yourself in this scripture?
- What do you learn about God in this scripture?

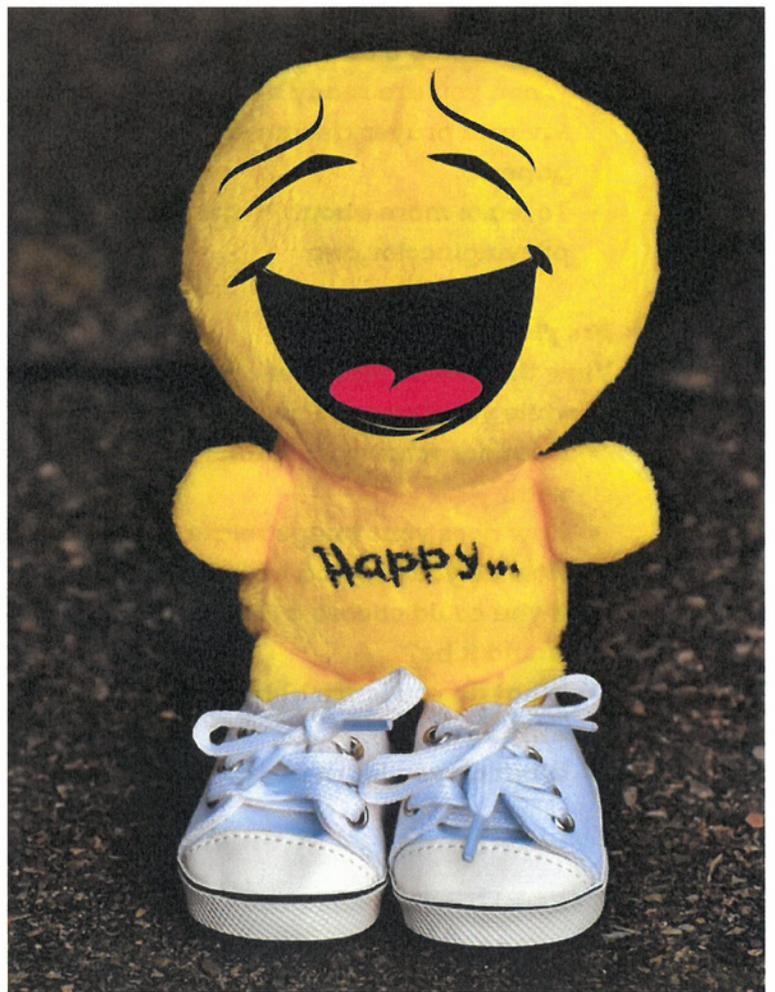
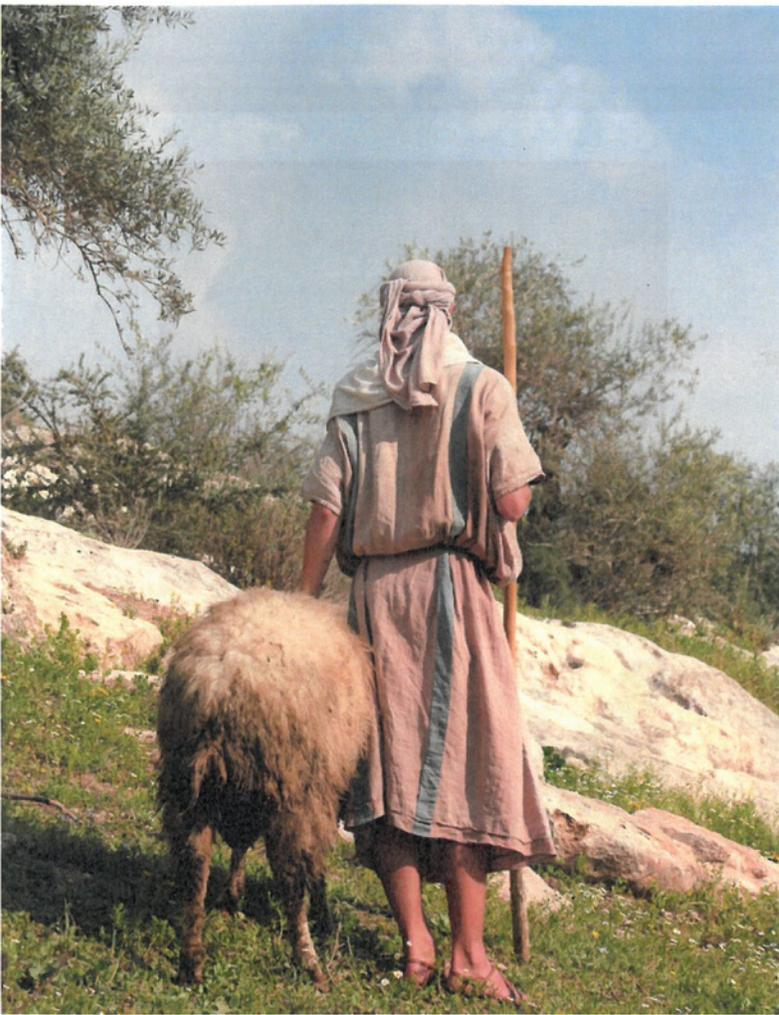
YOU WILL NEED:

- *Coloring Prayer Handout*
- *Crayons, markers, colored pencils*
- *Timer*
- *Photos Handout*

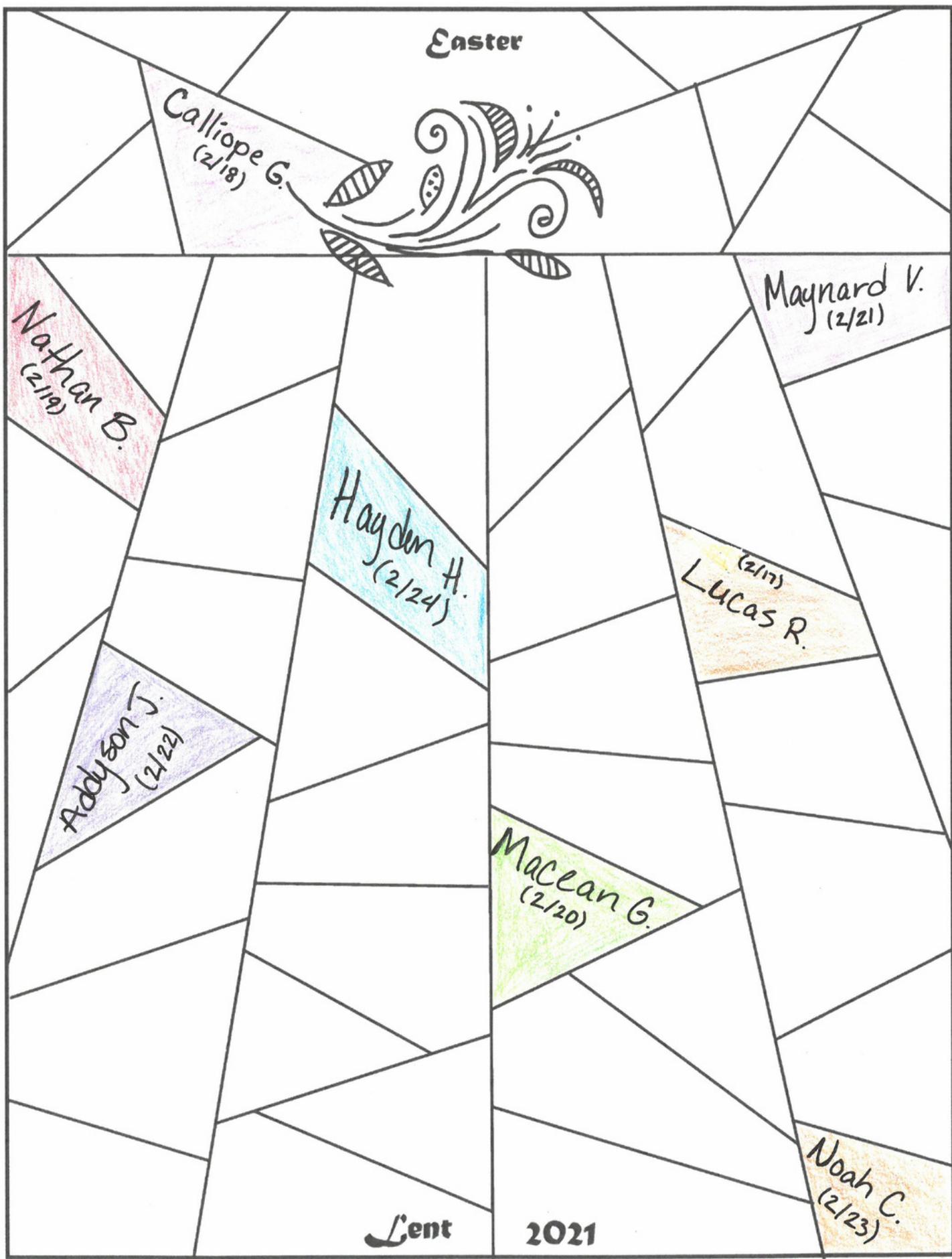


Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Psalms that remind us that you are close to us no matter what is happening in life. Thank you for photographs that capture different emotions and scenes. Help us remember that you are close when we are feeling happy, sad, or afraid. Thank you for your goodness and faithful love. Amen.

Thanks to Michigan & Great Plains UMC Confrencee for these materials



The Co-Directors of Christian Education are praying each day of Lent for our Youth. Each week, you'll find an updated version of our Calendars.



**Join us out in the parking lot after Easter Sunday Worship
to release together.**

You will be notified when they are ready for pick up and your prompt response to pick up is necessary as these are live animals and will need immediate TLC. With your love and attention, the caterpillars will transition through their life cycle before your eyes and will be ready for an Easter release (April 5 @ 11:15 AM) no matter where you are to celebrate.

Order Form for Butterflies

\$20 per kit

IN YOUR ORDER YOU GET:

5 caterpillars, caterpillar food, Mister, butterfly feeder, sugar, eye dropper, easy instructions, life cycle coloring page. EVERYTHING including a 12 inch Mess NET CAGE.

Name the best way to contact you when the caterpillars arrive:

Name: _____

Number: _____

Email: _____

Number of Kits Wanted: _____

Total : \$ _____

Checks payable to Grace UMC, earmark 'butterflies'.

Caterpillars to Butterflies

Both a symbol of transformation and resurrection, the butterfly is a mesmerizing creation that captures the beauty of God's creative power. This year, you are invited to see for your own eyes this transformative power through purchasing caterpillars and raising them to butterflies for an Easter morning release! Don't worry! It's simple and plenty of instructions will be provided!

Transformation 2021



**Order your caterpillars by
Wednesday, March 3rd, and watch them
transform into butterflies by Easter**

**All Orders Must be Placed by Wednesday, March 3rd
in order to have the butterflies at the proper stage for
an Easter Morning Release!**