



# HOPE & IGNITE

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



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## Unit 7 Overview

The people of God were called to be holy throughout both the Old and New Testaments, and this call to be holy remains true today. Though holiness is often misunderstood as moral perfection or flawlessness, it is more properly viewed as the connection between God and God's people and a measure of how much God's people take on the qualities of God. This unit invites one to encounter a holy God and to become God's people by pursuing holiness through prayer, service, and fasting.

## Unit 7; Lesson 4 Snapshot

From the moment when Adam and Eve first sinned and were expelled from the garden of Eden, God has been working to provide God's people a way to connect again. Throughout history, this reconnection has taken on many forms, yet prayer remains a consistent source for connection throughout the bible. If Jesus' death provides the road back to God, prayer is one of the primary vehicles on that road. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches his disciples (both past and present) how to pray and provides them with a template for how to connect with God. Ultimately, this connection is what God desires for us and people throughout history.

## Lesson 4 Take-Away

Prayer connects us with God, leading us toward holiness.

## Bible Lesson Fun-Fact

While Matthew appears first in the New Testament, it was not the first Gospel written. Most scholars agree that the Gospel of Mark was written first, sometime between 55 - 70 AD.

**Despite regathering in-person for church services, we will NOT be meeting in person for Elementary - High Sunday School through the end of May.**

**We will be trying to get together in small groupings for activities & event settings.**



**Brock Bourek**

Co-Directors of Christian Education

[christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:christianed@gracesiouxcity.org)



**Tamara Albert**

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

## Session 4:

# The Path to Holiness

### Engage

#### Connection Continuum

- Write your name in the middle of the space below. Around your name, write the names of people with whom you feel comfortable or safe, or people with whom you feel like you can be yourself.

## Scripture

<sup>14</sup> “If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you don’t forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, don’t put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward.

<sup>17</sup> When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. <sup>18</sup> Then you won’t look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

#### Do and Do Not

Read through the Bible Lesson again and circle the actions Jesus says to do and underline the actions Jesus says not to do.

#### Key Verse

**But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.**  
—Matthew 6:6

#### Matthew 6:5-18 (Common English Bible)

<sup>5</sup> “When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

<sup>7</sup> “When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. <sup>8</sup> Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. <sup>9</sup> Pray like this:

Our Father who is in heaven, uphold the holiness of your name.

<sup>10</sup> Bring in your kingdom so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us the bread we need for today.

<sup>12</sup> Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.

<sup>13</sup> And don’t lead us into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

## Personal Practice

With your group, work through each of the verses from Matthew 6:9-13 separately. Answer the following questions about each verse.

1. Why do you think Jesus included this example in his teachings on prayer?

2. How can we include this same idea in our prayers?

## Owning It

Use the Lord's Prayer as inspiration for writing a simple cinquain, using many of the same words and ideas. Use the following template to help you write your poem.

1. The first line is **one word** and is the title of your poem.
2. The second line contains **two words** which are adjectives that describe the title.
3. The third line has **three words** that express more about the subject of the poem or shows action and are often gerunds that end with "ing."
4. The fourth line has **four words**, may be individual words or a phrase, that show emotions about the subject of the poem.
5. The fifth line is **one word** that is similar to or a synonym of the title.

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## Practice



### Group Fast

Say the following prayer during your fast this week:

"God, you are present in our strength and in our weakness.  
Let us remember you and reflect you in all we do. Amen."

# PONTIUS PILATE

O Z K U M M E S K A Q U A Z Y T C I  
 T E N J Y S J Y S E T Q S X Y W L  
 B A R A B B A S L Z E L G U B B R X K  
 T E E R I T T S R Z O F W Q D E V Z D  
 A P R V I H T V S D A A E E J H P E W  
 E D N X O V S E S K Z L C S H A R O O  
 P X S O I U S S D X Q N I Z K U A F R  
 Y F T A M S I G R E Y A F S R E A C  
 Q Y I E O I V L V E O E R N E I C X J  
 E H Q J V E V E O R N E I E C E H X  
 B T D E P S S N U B S P Q R E E N F T N E  
 V F R O M A T I S O P M T V F P U S  
 C T N O I T I S O P M T V F P U S  
 Y U Y R Q L C L A I C I F F O G K D  
 Z M F B G H C Y H N M W T H C G A G

ROMAN	JUDEA	INNOCENCE	PASSOVER
OFFICIAL	OFFICER	CROWD	PRESSURED
PRAEFECT	JESUS	DECISION	RELEASE
GOVERNOR	TRIAL	BARABBAS	LEADER
DUTIES	BELIEVED	POSITION	THREAT



# JUDAS

L C O H P Z B I Y R E V I L E D U L  
 N R J H M L V S Q T W E S C H Y F I R C M R T Z V O W I A  
 V S Q M W E L V E O F M S I N Q N U X S I A  
 H O T W E S C H Y F I R C M R T Z V O W I A  
 U D M Y E F I R C M R T Z V O W I A  
 L I P U C H H W A P Y F P Y S Z V K O S I  
 H E R E X M R T Y J O T A U R I D D Z Q V  
 Z B S A I O B Y I G H H J I K E I G T I  
 B N S E D O B Y I G H H J I K E I G T I  
 S E H T D V E A E U R I N C T C Q Y Q D  
 G T A S I L V E R I G H H J I K E I G T I  
 S M J B W L F V G T F P G C B D R O  
 L A S T S U P P E R S X N H Z G E Z  
 M Z O A B V P I A I A P O S T L E I

BETRAY	APOSTLE	TEMPLE	TWELVE
PRIESTS	KISS	MONEY	IDENTIFY
SILVER	DELIVER	SUICIDE	NIGHT
THIRTY	LAST SUPPER	TREE	GARDEN
GREED	EVIL	ISCARIOT	SOLDIERS

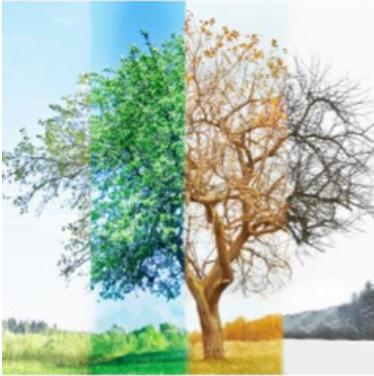


# Faith FAMILY CLUB



## March Spiritual Activities & Practices

The purpose is to enjoy spending quality time together through creative & intellectual projects, while sparking family & faith based discussions. These activities are just suggestions. We encourage your family to do at least two within a month's time span.



**Outdoor:** Tree Gazing— Here is a simple thing you can do anytime you are out and about with your family. Whether you're in the car, going for a walk or even just in the front or backyard. Look at the trees outside. Notice how they look. Either with or without snow on them. Are they starting to bloom? Discuss your favorite type of tree and why.

Outdoor spiritual connection: Consider the beauty in the small things in life. How trees are strong with roots that extend deep into the earth. Are *we* not like trees? Some of us may look much different than one another, yet we are strong when we dig our roots into our faith in God. Through Christ we are strong like trees and can withstand anything. Compare mankind with trees & the Christian connection.

**Artistic:** Appreciation Crosses— Each day during the month of March, draw a cross and have every member of your family write a word on/around the cross describing what they are appreciative of that day. You can certainly repeat what you are thankful for, more than once.



Artistic spiritual connection: The purpose of this is to acknowledge and give thanks to God every day during Lent for what we have in our lives. Each time you write a word, remember that you are thankful to Christ for giving up his life so that we may live sin free and able to do the things/be with the people in life we care about most.



**Movie:** The Wizard of Oz— During the month of green (St. Patrick's Day); why not watch the movie with an emerald city. This 1939 film is truly a classic, having been an influential piece of cinema and pop culture for over 80 Years. You are sure to be singing along with this merrily band of misfits as they stride on their way to see the 'Wonderful Wizard of Oz'.

Movie spiritual connection: After watching, think about where in this film you see God's work. Is it the man behind the curtain? The friendships made along the way? Discuss as a family your thoughts.

**Innovative:** Love Letters— As a family, write several letters to those whom you love, appreciate and have missed within the last year. This can be family, friends, church or community members. Write what you miss the most about them and how/why your family appreciates them. Feel free to provide any updates on your lives and to write a small prayer for them too.

Innovative spiritual connection: The reason for these letters is that people will be likely reminiscing on the last year, as it is coming up on one whole year since the pandemic has broken out and altered our way of living. These letters should allow you to connect with those that maybe you don't get to see or communicate with often, as well as offer a chance to provide insight into your family's life.

Please send our Christian Education Team ([christianed@gracesiouxcity.org](mailto:christianed@gracesiouxcity.org)) pictures of your family doing any of the Monthly Faith Family Club Spiritual Activities.

**Faith Family Club; Where Our Strength is United**

# Get Involved!

[okobojicamp.com/get-involved/](http://okobojicamp.com/get-involved/)



**LAKE OKOBOJI**  
UNITED METHODIST CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

## Apply for Summer:

Enjoy all that camp has to offer while pouring God's love into the lives of hundreds of campers.

Your summer is expense-free and PRICELESSLY rewarding. You'll learn new life skills, make new friendships and memories that will last a life time!

## Apply for Jr. Staff (16+)

Ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes at camp? Now's your chance!

Join the LOUMC family by signing up for our Jr. Staff program. Work closely with summer staff and gain valuable experience in leadership and communication. This position may even fulfill volunteer/service hours.

## Volunteer at Camp:

We can always use help during summer camp or other events throughout the year.

Come by yourself or bring a group! A list of work projects and specific needs can be found on our website (see link above).

## Donate to Camp:

Donations (monetary, goods, and services) help keep our ministry going! Need some ideas? Visit the links below:

[squareup.com/store/okobojicamp](http://squareup.com/store/okobojicamp)  
[amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/HHJT2IPUYDGO/](http://amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/HHJT2IPUYDGO/)



# Junior Staff Training At Lake Okoboji UM Camp

## About the Training:

Looking for a significant way to serve Jesus this summer? Than look no further than Lake Okoboji UM Camp's Jr. Staff program. Teens sixteen years of age or older are invited to attend an overnight training with the 2021 Summer Staff. Come learn and see how YOU can make a difference.

## Training Includes:

- Learn about Camp's Culture
- Be a part of the Camp Community
- Aquire New Leadership Skills
- Listen to Staff Testimonies
- Bond with Summer Staff
- Participate in Games & Activities
- Enjoy an Overnight Experience with Peers

## Additional Details:

- Must Be 16 Years of Age or Older
- Dates: Mon. June 14th-June 15th
- Location: Lake Okoboji UM Camp
- Cost: \$50.00

\* For Qustions - Please contact either Phil or Eric using the following information below:

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Spirit Lake, IA 51360
- ☎ +1-712-336-2936
- ✉ phil@okobojicamp.com  
eric@okobojicamp.com
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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



**GLOW-IN-THE-DARK**  
Easter Egg Hunt

**LIGHT IN A  
DARK TIME**

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL  
YOUTH GROUP**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31ST 2021  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

## **GLOW IN THE DARK EASTER ACTIVITIES**

"Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."  
For You, for Others, for GOD!

We invite our Youth Group Students and their friends to a fun evening of Light in a Dark Time; At the Center of Holy Week,  
**Wednesday, March 31st 7:00-8:30 PM.**

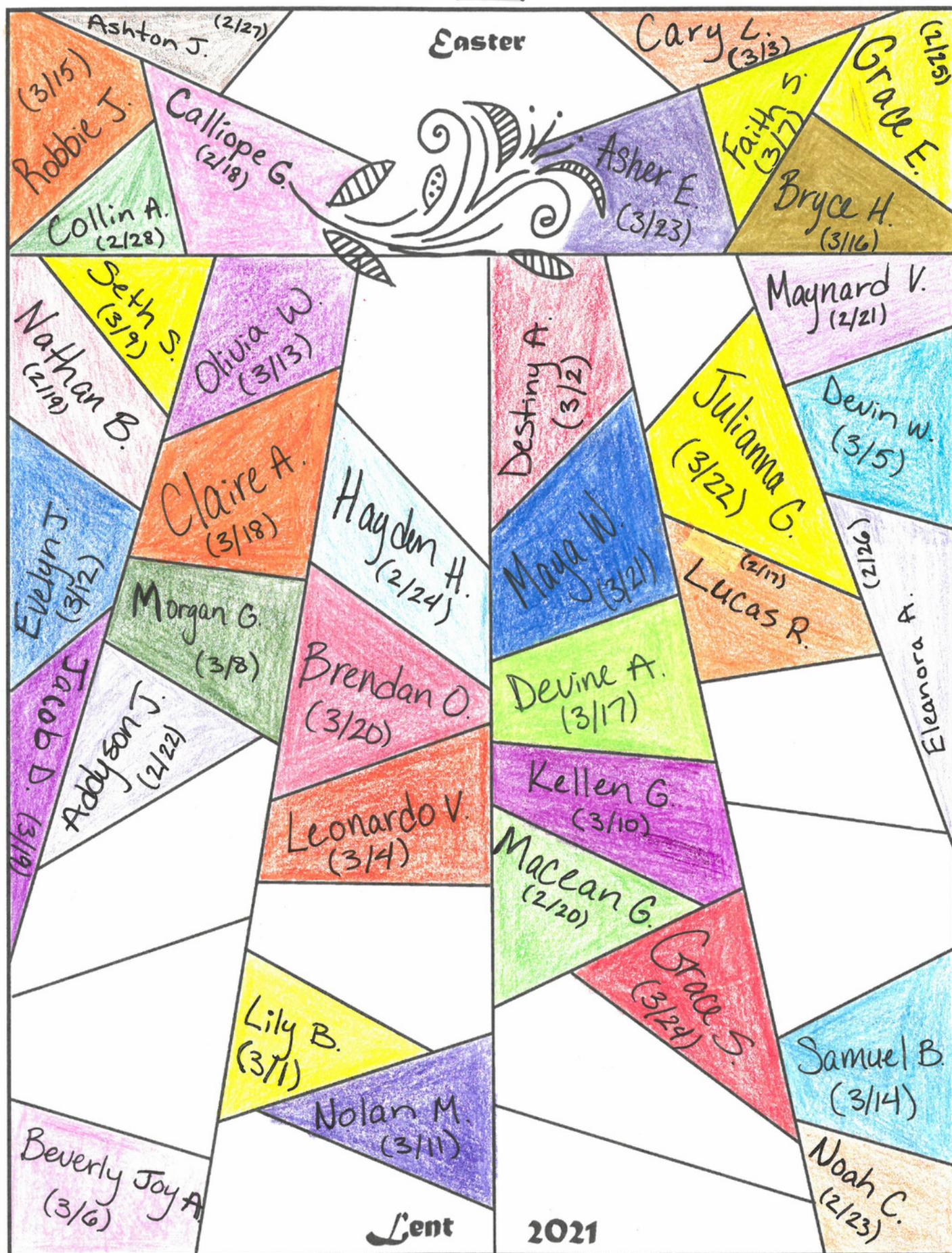
Take part in fun Glow in the Dark Easter outdoor Activities.  
We encourage you to wear bright colors and embellish any way you choose.

Glow Necklaces and Bracelets will be provided. Activities will take place on the **front Morningside Lawn by our parking lot with Masks required.**

**Register at:**

<http://www.gracesiouxcity.org/light-in-dark-times-easter-activities.html>

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 Calendar.



# Lent Daily Practices for the Week

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

## **Day 33: (3/26)**

1 Corinthians 15: 1-10

Write your faith story and what it means to you.

## **Day 34: (3/27)**

Romans 10: 11-15

Who can you invite to church? Pray for them, and ask God to give you an opportunity to invite them.

## **Day 35: (3/29)**

Psalm 22: 1-11

Write a prayer of lament.

## **Day 36: (3/30)**

Psalm 31: 1-8

Commit your spirit to God's hands.

## **Day 37: (3/31)**

Isaiah 53: 1-6

How has Jesus served you through his life, death, and resurrection.

## **Day 38: (4/1)**

Philippians 2: 1-11

Reflect on Jesus pouring himself out on the cross.

## **Day 39: (4/2)**

Luke 23: 32-43

Ask Jesus to remember you, using the thief's words as a starting point: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

## **Day 40: (4/3)**

Mark 15: 16-39

Contemplate the cross and Jesus' death on it-- divine drama enacted for us.



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& Grace UMC Youth on  
Facebook!

