

Middle School Sunday School Lessons

January 2025 forward

January

5

Junior Church

12 **Modern Testimonies of Faith: “A Little Brother’s Prayer” (p.5)**

Preparation: Read through the testimony. Recall any similar ones that you may have heard or experienced and be ready to share those with students.

- Begin by asking students what a testimony is: a telling of an event that is true, in the church setting it includes ways that God has blessed, protected or guided us.
- Go on to discuss who can have a testimony, leading them to understand that it is not only adults.
- Ask students to explain what they know about faith.
- Read Hebrews 11: 1,3,&6 and discuss.
- Have students copy verse one in their journals.
- Ask if they have ever used faith to meet a challenge or problem.
- Tell them that we are going to be studying about real life experiences with faith and that we will be reading testimonies of faith, many of which come from children.
- Read “A Little Brother’s Prayer.”
- Ask how this demonstrates the definition of faith given in Hebrew 11:1.
- Have students write their thoughts about this in their journals.
- Share any similar experiences you know of and let students share any that they are aware of.

19 **Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Healed of Polio” (p,9)**

Preparation: Read through the testimony. Look up information about polio and be prepared to explain it to your students.

- Review the concept of faith using the Hebrews 11:1 verse.
- Read D&C 46:7c and discuss what it means with students.
- Have them copy this verse into their journals.
- Give them an outline of polio and what it meant 60 or 70 years ago to children who contracted the virus.
- Read “Healed of Polio”
- Go back to the D&C verse and have students apply it to this testimony.
- Discuss what it means to make a promise to God.
- Have students write in their journals some of the thoughts they have about making promises to God and/or having faith to be healed.

26 **Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Their Faith Is Sufficient” (p.8)and “Gathered in Prayer”(p.10)**

Preparation: Read through these two testimonies. Think of examples you know of where the prayers of two or three gathered (or agreeing) together have made a difference.

- Read Matthew 18:19 and discuss, especially the points that there must be agreement and that those praying do not ask amiss.
- Have students copy this scripture into their journals.

- Read the two testimonies. Discuss how the children in these two testimonies met the criteria described in Matthew 18:19.
- Share any similar experiences you may have had or ask if students have been aware of any.
- If there is one, have students make a note of it in their journals so you can refer to it next week. Remind the class to pray about this during the week.

February

2

Junior Church

9

Modern Testimonies of Faith: “S’Mores in the Rain” (p.6-7)

Preparation: Read through the testimony. Consider the statement: “If it matters to you, it matters to God” and recall any instances of God’s answers to prayers of seemingly small issues. Find a picture or other example of the size of a mustard seed.

- Read through Matthew 17: 15-21. Discuss what Jesus was teaching his disciples about faith. Go into the size of the mustard seed and explain the size of the plant that can grow from it. Point out that the Master said there must also be fasting and prayer.
- Discuss the meaning of “miracle”: an event showing the power of God.
- Tell students that today’s story/testimony involves two miracles, one that kept a family safe and one that fulfilled a little girl’s wish.
- Read the testimony, explaining that the author is the mother, not the child.
- Discuss what the two miracles were in the story.
- Discuss the miracle of the fire in a rainstorm and how it increased the little girl’s faith.
- Ask students if they have ever asked God for some small help and received a blessing.
- Have them copy the statement from above into their journals, reminding them that faith is strengthened by prayer and fasting.

16

Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Evelyn”(p.11) and “Healed Broken Bone”(p.12)

Preparation: Read the two testimonies. Recall any testimonies of miraculous healings that you know of. If any are written down, prepare them as extra stories for this lesson.

- Begin by asking students to think of times when they have been afraid or when they’ve experienced an accident that led to injury. Ask them just to think of these things for a few minutes, rather than discussing them.
- Then ask what we are to do in times of fear or injury.
- Read Isaiah 41:10 and then ask students to read it aloud together. Tell them that many people memorize this verse to help them in frightening times.
- Discuss ways this assurance can help strengthen our faith.
- Ask them to copy the verse into their journals.
- Read the two testimonies and discuss the miraculous healings they report.
- If you have others, share them, or if students know of any, let them share.
- Remind students that injuries are not often immediately healed, but that God is still there to bless those who hurt in His way and in His time. Have them write some thoughts about this in their journals.

23

Modern Testimonies of Faith”: “Faith for a Kitten”(p.13) & “Penny the Pug” (p.35)

Preparation: Read the testimony. Recall any that you have of God’s provision for His creatures.

- Ask students if they have ever prayed over the needs of a pet or other animal. If they do, let them share for a few minutes.

- Read through the words of the first verse & refrain from the hymn, “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” (A copy is included.)
- Discuss our love for animals and ask if students feel that God loves all His creatures.
- Have them copy the refrain from the hymn into their journals.
- Read the testimony.
- Discuss what Marie’s first response to the veterinarian’s prognosis was and how she included others in the prayer process.
- How did prayer fit into both of these stories?
- Ask students to write some thoughts about this or about God’s care for his creatures in their journals.
- Share other experiences of God’s care for pets and other animals.

March

2 Junior Church

9 **Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Pray About Everything” (p.17) & “As Easy As Riding a Bike” (p.28)**

Preparation: Read the two testimonies about the same little girl. Consider something that you had difficulty as a child learning to do. Be ready to share this experience with your class.

- Begin with a discussion about all the things we have to (or want to) learn to do as we grow. Remind students that when they were tiny, they had to learn to walk, talk, dress and feed themselves, etc.
- Share your story about struggling to learn something when you were a child.
- Ask students to write three things in their journals that they either had trouble learning to do or that they are wanting to learn but haven’t yet started.
- Read Alma 14:12 and Moroni 10:17 and Philippians 4:13. Discuss what these three scriptures are telling us.
- Have students copy the verse from Philippians on the same page in their journals where they have written the three things they struggled (or are struggling) with.
- Read the two testimonies, telling students that they are about the same child.
- Discuss how faith and prayer made a difference in the learning process.
- Ask students to write some of their understandings in their journals.
- Encourage students to remember these the next time something seems too difficult to do.

16 **Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Bless Your Enemies” (p.24) “A New Attitude” (p.26)**

Preparation: Read the two testimonies. Recall times when you have been left out, bullied, or in a completely different setting. Decide if one of your experiences would help enforce the lessons in these testimonies.

- Begin by asking students if they have ever been bullied or been the new student in a different school.
- Ask them to write about their feelings in those situations in their journals. Allow a few minutes for them to write. Tell them they don’t need to share what they’ve written; this is just an exercise to help them understand the feelings of the children in today’s testimonies.
- Read the first testimony and discuss the verse from Matthew at the end.
- Have them copy this verse on the same page they wrote their own experience(s) on.
- Read the second testimony and discuss how Margaret overcame her sadness at leaving her old school. How was she blessed by trusting in God?

- Encourage students to make their fears and sad feelings part of their own prayers and tell them to have faith that God will be with them.
- Let them put some of those down in their journals.

23 Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Everything Is Going to Be All Right” (p.29-30) & “God Told Me What to Do” (p. 33)

Preparation: Read the testimonies. Seek other examples of those hearing a voice speaking to them and be ready to share with your students.

- Read D&C 131:1c and discuss the concept of God’s still, small voice speaking to us.
- Ask students to copy this verse into their journals.
- Tell them that the testimonies they will study today involve that very thing, God’s still , small voice.
- Read the testimonies.
- Have students write their reactions to these two stories in their journals.
- Discuss the similarities and differences in the two. (Especially that in the first, the voice was for reassurance and in the second, it was to direct her actions.)
- Share other examples you know about and allow students to share, also.

30 Modern Testimonies of Faith: “In the Name of Jesus” (p.31-32)

Preparation: Read the testimony. Find or recall other testimonies of people who have be confronted by Satan and have called on the Lord. Reread Joseph Smith’s testimony of his experience in the grove when he went the first time to pray.

- Discuss with students the very real possibility of Satan tempting us to do things that are not pleasing to God, and also that the evil one will try to discourage us from doing good.
- Briefly retell the story of Joseph Smith going to the woods to pray and the evil spirit that tried to overcome him.
- Lead them to understand the need for discernment and that it is something they are old enough to pray to have.
- Read Mark 16:16-17. Discuss that Jesus gave us the key to overcome Satan: we must cast him out by saying, “In the name of Jesus.”
- Have students copy verse 17 in their journals.
- Tell them that even little children can speak Jesus’ name for protection.
- Read the testimony. Discuss what Andrew had been taught that helped him, even in a dream.
- Ask students to write this teaching in their journals. “If confronted by Satan, I must...”
- Share any other testimonies that you know about on this theme.

April

6 Junior Church

13 Modern Testimonies of Faith: “Multiply the Loaves and Fishes” (p.21-22)

Preparation: Read the testimony. Consider if you know of any similar experiences. (I have one.)

- Read John 6:1-13 and discuss the story.
- Read Matthew 21:20 and have students copy it in their journals.
- Explain that the miracle of the loaves and fishes has been repeated many times, in many different ways.

- Read the testimony. Explain that the McLean family was singing in many places in the 1990's, and that they were a church family with 9 children.
- Discuss how the McLeans' experience was like the one described in the book of John and why it was important that day.
- Have students write or draw their reaction to this story in their journals.
- Share other "loaves and fishes" testimonies.

20 Combined classes for Resurrection Day activities

27 Modern Testimonies of Faith: "Something Better" (p.37)

Preparation: Read the testimony. Consider like circumstances and experiences that you could share.

- Ask the question, "Does God answer our prayers?"
- Then ask, "Does He always answer them in ways that we expect?"
- Read D&C 100:7a
- Have students copy this in their journals, also asking them to explain in their own words in their journals what they think this scripture means.
- Read the testimony.
- Discuss what Brother Schmidt's original prayer request was and how he felt when it wasn't answered.
- Discuss the last line in the story and what it could mean in our lives.
- Have students write in their journals their ideas on this last discussion: if God's answers aren't always what or when we expect, should we despair?