



The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Department of Christian Education & Formation

MAKING DISCIPLES through "events that FORM and TRANSFORM"



Church School Lessons Unit Three "Godly Love Among Believers"

November 2020

God commands us to love one another as God loves us. This quarter begins with a widely known story about Joseph, which deals with love within Jacob's family. From the Joseph story we proceed with God's laws requiring care and concern for the poor and needy, loving and embracing of the stranger, and the demands of love for one another in the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. These sessions elaborate on themes of love for one another in the epistles of Paul and James and the expressions of love in the early formations of the church in Acts.

Unit III, "Godly Love among Believers," contains five sessions. John elaborates on how believers love by serving and portrays Jesus' explanation of the intertwining love of God for Jesus and for those who abide in Christ. First John clarifies the abiding love of God through the Holy Spirit, which makes it possible for us to love one another. Acts reveals the expression of the love of God in the formation of the early Christian community by the workings of the Holy Spirit. James tells of the love of neighbor as the fulfillment of the law of God.

Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield
General Secretary



Unifying Principle

We try to love, but we feel beaten down by the world's greed and jealousy. How can we love one another in the face of the world's selfishness? Jesus declares that we will be able to love one another if we abide in him, keep the commandments, and abide in his love as the Holy Spirit abides in us.

Goals for the Learners

✓ To Comprehend how the metaphor of the vine and the branches applies to Jesus and those who follow him.

✓ To Yearn for a more intimate, life-giving relationship with Jesus..

✓ To Commit to keeping Christ's commandments and so abide in his love..

Challenges for the Week

How does a gardener measure success? How can a gardener ensure success?

- Compare what Jesus says about being his friend with what the Bible says about Abraham (James 2:21-24) and Moses (Exodus 33:7-11) being friends of God.

Reflect on this statement:

- "Remaining in Christ is accomplished by being part of the church."

Look in a hymnal on the Internet to find the words to "Abide with Me." What does this hymn say to us about living in Christ?

