



African Methodist Episcopal Church

FOUNDER'S DAY

Adult Lesson

GOD CALLS: THE PEOPLE RESPOND

By Shirley Richards, Asst. District Superintendent South Philadelphia District

FOCUS: Following God's Leadership.

“FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST, THANK GOD ALMIGHTY, WE ARE FREE AT LAST!”

Words of this nature inspire people who have been enslaved or oppressed for years. Israel was in slavery, as well as, Richard Allen. It is not always easy to leave what you know and are comfortable with, to travel into unknown territory.

Moses and Richard Allen , both needed human and Devine leadership to break the bondage of slavery, as well as, the bonds of sin

KEEP IN MIND: When God gives the call, will we respond to His leadership, as Moses and Richard Allen did?

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 13: 1-22, (NIV Version)

KEY VERSE: Exodus 13:3 “ Then Moses said to the people, commemorate (Remember) this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand.”

BACKGROUND: Give a brief history of the Children of Israel in Egypt. Then give a brief history of the story of Richard Allen. Connect the two with the scripture lesson for today.

THE LESSON:

VERSES: 1 – 5; Try to have a student to read the verses first.

To dedicate, means to sacrifice or as belonging to God. This was to remind the people of God's deliverance out of Egypt.

APPLICATION: When you give your life to Christ, you are dedicating yourself to Him. When He calls, we are suppose to respond without complaining and grumbling because our purpose is to worship and praise God.

RICHARD ALLEN: Wanted all people to be able to serve God and to dedicate their lives to Him whether they were slaves or free. Richard Allen wanted everyone to be able to support themselves by working and serving God and living a life of freedom without being harassed.

VERSES: 6 – 9; The Festival of Unleavened Bread was a celebration of remembrance of their first fruits, which belong to God. Remembering the exodus from Egypt and giving unto God first.

APPLICATION: We should show love to one another and live in obedience to God. Jesus demonstrated this best of all, when He went to the Cross for all of our sins.

RICHARD ALLEN: He knew that God can change man's heart to demonstrate love if he is in Christ. Richard Allen preached to his slave owner and he was saved by Richard preaching God's word. Allen was able to purchase his freedom ,as well as, the rest of his family over time, because God changed the Slave owner's heart.

VERSES: 10 – 14; Shows how God spared the First-born of each family from the Angel of Death by having blood on the Door post of each home and the Death Angel passed by (you can explain in more depth).

APPLICATION: Eventually Jesus Christ came and died and arose on the third day. We, as Christian, have to die to our sins and trust God in His leadership of our Christian journey.

RICHARD ALLEN: He was converted and began to preach God's Word, people were being saved. He died to this world and God blessed him to do wonderful things in the community and to be able to start the African Methodist Episcopal Church. God bless those who are obedient to His Will.

VERSES: 15 – 18; God's ways are not always our ways. While leading the Israelites to the Promised Land, God Chose a round-about way. God avoided fighting with the Philistines. Because they were newly freed, they probably needed to prepare themselves for war.

APPLICATION: Because God chooses to take a different path to our goal, we should not grumble and complain. We need to trust Him and follow Him willingly to lead us safely through unseen obstacles. God sees our end before we even begin. He knows the best way we should go. He sent only begotten Son to teach the right way.

RICHARD ALLEN: Wanted his people to follow God. He chose Methodism for us, because it was methodical and practical for people with newly gained freedom. Allen thought this was the best way for us to learn about God and service to Him. God loved His people and wanted the best for us. Just as Richard Allen loved his people and wanted the best for us. We need to trust God as Richard Allen and Moses trusted God.

Joseph was sure God would make a way; that is why he requested that his bones be carried with them when they leave Egypt for the Promised Land.

VERSES: 19 -22; God provided the Children of Israel with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead the people to the Promise Land. This was to assure the people that God was always with them as they traveled.

APPLICATION: God has given us the same assurance in His Word (the Bible). We also have the Holy Spirit to remind and Guide us each day that God is with us. We can read God's Word day and night to help us on our Christian journey.

RICHARD ALLEN: He led the people from their wilderness journey at St. George Church to start the African Methodist Episcopal Church. God was with Richard Allen then and He is with us now because our journey is not over yet.

CONCLUSION: God calls all kinds of people to do His will, even people like you and me. No matter how the world situation is, God has a plan for each of us. No matter how you feel, God loves you and wants to use you in His plan. God's Salvation was available to Moses and Richard Allen, and it is available to you and I.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. God is looking for what kind of person?
2. Who can proclaim God's truth?
3. The only way to enjoy the favor of God is to do what?
4. When God calls, who should answer?

Submitted by Shirley B. Richards
Assistant Superintendent of South District Church School

African Methodist Episcopal Church
FOUNDER'S DAY
February 13, 2011
Junior & Intermediate Church School Lesson
Jeanne Chavious, Philadelphia Conference Church School Superintendent



God Speaks to Us

LESSON TEXT: Exodus 13: 1-22.

KEY VERSE: “And Moses said unto the people, remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place...” Exodus 13:3

In your class view the movie on the life of Richard Allen

LESSON:

Richard Allen was the Moses of his day. Moses people, the children of Israel, were slaves and Richard Allen himself was a slave. They both wanted freedom for their sisters and brothers. Moses escaped Egypt, but he went back to tell Pharaoh that God said “Let My People Go”. Allen wanted the men and women of color to be free to worship God and to stand up for themselves. Only God can touch the hearts of men. God touched the hardened heart of Pharaoh after the final plague of killing all of the first born. God touched the heart of young Allen’s slave owner. God spoke through Richard Allen’s preaching, and his slave owner accepted Christ as his Savior. When Richard Allen asked him if he could buy his and his brother’s freedom, the slave owner did allow Allen to work on his own and buy his freedom. Richard came to Philadelphia a free man and again through his preaching, many Africans were saved and joined him in attending at St George’s Methodist Church. Just as the Israelites grew in numbers in Egypt and became a perceived threat to the Egyptians, the Africans at St. George’s Church numbers grew and the members restricted them more and more in the worship service. Through the voice of God Moses and Allen were chosen to lead the people. The Children of Israel wanted freedom to leave Egypt and worship the one and only true God. The children of Africans wanted freedom to worship God in dignity and respect. God led the Children of Israel and the children of Africans out of their restrictive situations. Moses and Allen were faithful to God. They led the people with the power of God on their side as they listened to the voice of God. These were men chosen by God to carry out His will. By being a follower of God, they became leaders of men. As the Children of Israel were told

to always remember the Passover, we as Christians should remember the day that Richard Allen and the Africans at St. George's Church got up off their knees and walked out to begin a movement in America that has spread throughout the world, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The first Church for Africans founded in America.

LIFE APPLICATION:

God has chosen each one of us to lead our families and friends to Him. He speaks to us through His Word to step out of the bondage of following the crowd to following Jesus. Are we enslaved by situations in our lives? Are we enslaved to only getting by and not doing our best. Are we enslaved to money, things, television, the internet and video games? Are we enslaved by being a follower and not freeing our minds to do what God has called us to do. Like Moses and Richard Allen we must: 1) listen and talk to God through prayer and reading His Word, 2) be brave enough to follow God in using our gifts to His honor and glory, 3) encourage our family and friends to follow God. We can invite them to come to church with us. Most of all we should live a life of love, honesty, hard work, courage, and faithfulness to God.

QUESTIONS: 1) How were Moses and Richard Allen alike? 2) Give an example of when God spoke to Moses. 3) How did Allen get his freedom? 4) Give an example of a time when God spoke to you. 5) What can you do to show leadership in church, home or with friends? 6) What will you do to remember Richard Allen?

Conclusion: Have students write a rap or poem about Richard Allen. Start the first line, and have each student write a line that rhymes with the previous line. Ask the students to perform their rap.

Submitted by Jeanne Chavious, Philadelphia Conference Church School Superintendent

NAME _____ DATE _____

**African Methodist Episcopal Church
FOUNDER'S DAY
Beginners Lesson**

By Joetta Cryer, Superintendent at Mother Bethel AME Church

Richard Allen was a slave when he was born. While he was a slave, he went to church and learned about God. He became a Christian and also a preacher.

After a long day of doing slave work, Richard Allen would go to work at a place where he was paid. He saved his money and used it to buy his freedom. He was not a slave anymore.

Richard Allen became a preacher and helped to start a church where other black people could learn about God. They named the church Bethel. People from all over the world still go to Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church to learn about God and about Richard Allen.

God helped Richard Allen work hard so he could be free to help others.

Memory Verse
"Remember that God brought you
out of slavery"
(paraphrased Exodus 13:3a)



**BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Help Richard Allen get to Mother Bethel AME Church? Write the numbers 1, 2 or 3 next to the picture to show the correct order.



MOTHER BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

B I B L E L E S S O N

“You shall tell your child on that day, “It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.”

(Exodus 13:8 NRSV)

God Gives Freedom

The Children of Israel lived in Egypt but they were slaves. They had to work very hard, all day long. They prayed to God to help them.

God sent them a leader named Moses. Moses helped the Children of Israel leave Egypt so they could have their own place to live, work and worship God.

God told the people of Israel that they should always remember that He was the one who sent Moses to help them. God told them to teach their children and their children’s children about how He freed them from slavery.

Check for Understanding

- 1. Why did the Children of Israel pray to God when they were in Egypt?**
- 2. Who did God send to help the Children of Israel leave Egypt?**
- 3. What did God tell the people of Israel to teach their children?**

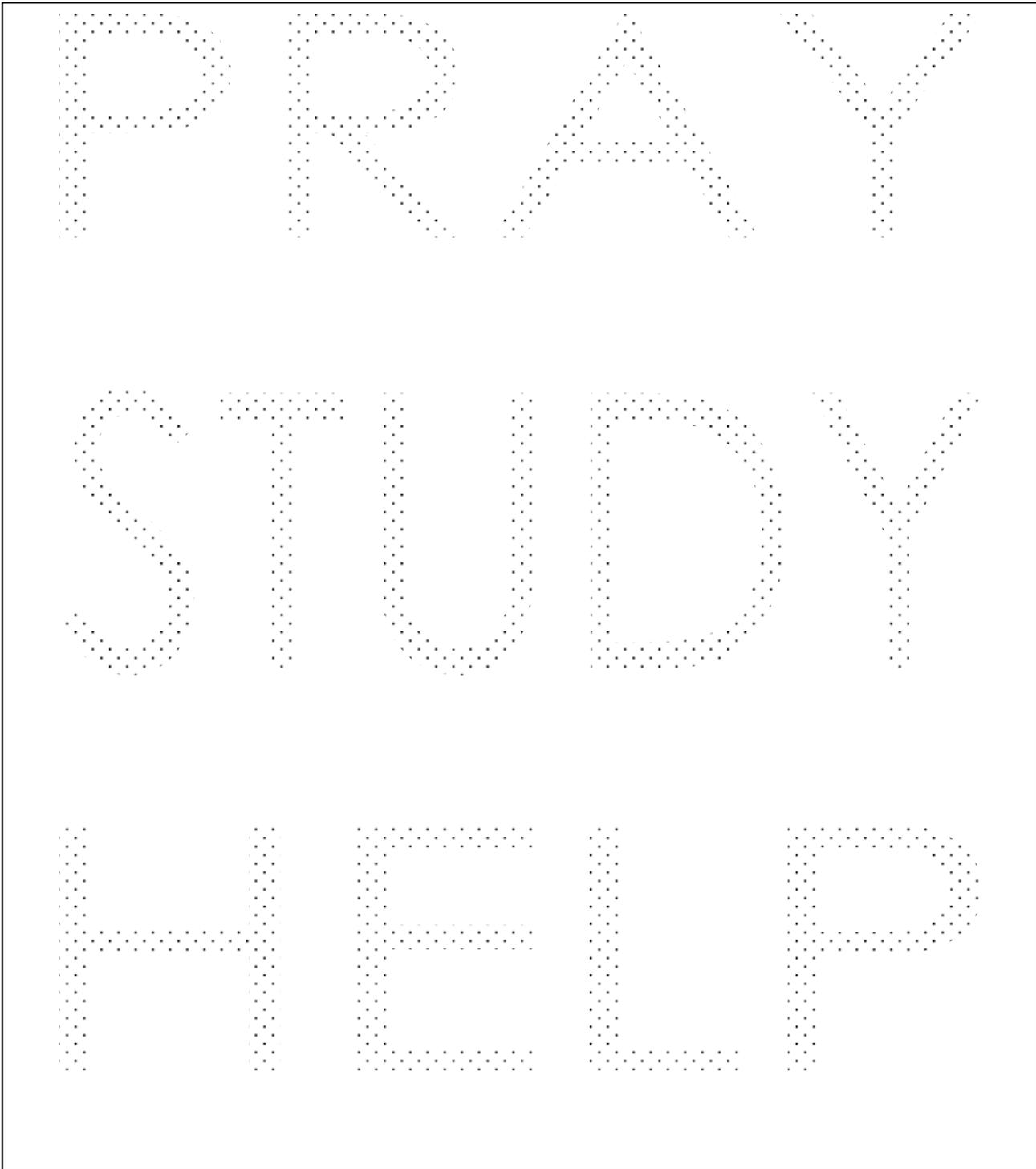
Song (In the tune of “Amen”)

Everybody say, Freedom!

Everybody say, Freedom!

Everybody say, Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

**What can we do to remember how God helps us to be free?
Color in the dotted letters to find out.**



NAME _____

DATE _____

African Methodist Episcopal Church FOUNDER'S DAY Primary Lesson

Richard Allen was a slave when he was born on February 14, 1760. While he was a slave, he went to church and learned about God. He became a Christian and also a preacher.

After a long day of doing slave work, Richard Allen would go work a job where he would get paid. He saved his money for many years and when he had enough, he used it to buy his freedom. God helped Richard Allen work hard so he could be free to help others.

In 1794, Richard Allen helped to start a church where other black people could learn about God. They named the church Bethel. Because he was a good leader, Richard Allen became the first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Bethel Church is still open today. It is now called Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. People from all over the world still go there to learn about God and about Richard Allen.



Memory Verse

“Remember that God brought you
out of slavery”
(paraphrased Exodus 13:3a)



**BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

Do you remember the story of Richard Allen's life?
Write the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 next to the statements to
show the correct order of events.

_____ Became a Christian and a preacher

_____ Became the first bishop of the African
Methodist Episcopal Church

_____ Bought his freedom

_____ Helped to start Bethel Church

_____ Born a slave



Song (In the tune of "Amen")
Everybody say, Freedom!
Everybody say, Freedom!
Everybody say, Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

BIBLE LESSON

“You shall tell your child on that day, “It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.”
(Exodus 13:8 NRSV)

God Gives Freedom

The Children of Israel lived in Egypt but they were slaves. They had to work very hard, all day long. They prayed to God to help them.

God sent them a leader named Moses. Moses helped the Children of Israel leave Egypt so they could have their own place to live, work and worship God.

God told the people of Israel that they should always remember that He was the one who sent Moses to help them. God told them to teach their children and their children’s children about how He freed them from slavery.

Check for Understanding

1. Why did the Children of Israel pray to God when they were in Egypt?
2. Who did God send to help the Children of Israel leave Egypt?
3. What did God tell the people of Israel to teach their children?

What can you do to remember how God helps you to be free?



At home: _____



At school: _____



At church: _____
