



# 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

Hatred toward others sometimes seems far easier to attain than love. How can we show love for others? The willingness of Jesus to die for us and his command that we live for others brings that confidence.

#### Goals for the Learners

- ✓ To Explore the many dimensions of loving others according to 1 John 3.
- ✓ To Embrace God's commandments to love with obedience and expectation.
- ✓ To Identify ways to grow in their faith in Jesus and their love for others.

#### Challenges for the Week

- Review a collection of recent news stories about acts of violence toward innocent people. "How do you explain the existence of hatred in the world today?"
- Research a summary of the proto-Gnostic religious philosophies of Docetism and Cerinthianism. Where do these ideas differ from the historic teachings of the church?
- Look for the phrase "we know" in the text and underline it each time it appears. "What are some things God wants us to know, and how does God make sure we know it?"
- Make a list of how one "loves with words or speech" and another list of how one loves with "words and actions and in truth."
- How do we counter hatred that comes from white supremacist groups with love?

