

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

AGAIN & AGAIN, WE ARE SHOWN THE WAY

JOHN 2:13-22 | 1 CORINTHIANS 1: 18-25

Engage: Show a Sankofa image or several, such as [this one](#) by Ramel Jasir or [this one](#) selected as the symbol of the 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA. Ask, “What do you see in this picture? What do you think it’s about?” Accept their answers and thank them for sharing. Say, “This is a symbol called Sankofa. Let’s say that together: San... ko... fa. Very good!” (Note: you might also print out the word “SANKOFA” in a large font to point at the syllables.) Say, “In the Akan Twi language, ‘San’ means to go back, ‘ko’ means to go, and ‘fa’ means to look and take. So together, this word Sankofa means to go back and take what you need to move forward. And the Akan people of Ghana represent that with this image of a bird reaching back to take an egg from its back.”

Explain: In the Bible, we read that some people would ask Jesus for proof that he was God’s son, the Messiah that was sent to help them. But so many prophets and people like John the Baptist had already told them who the Messiah would be. Sometimes we need to go back and remember what we’ve already been given before we ask for something new. We might find that we already have what we need. God shows us the way we’re supposed to live. The prophet Micah says, “God has shown you what is good: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.” (*Micah 6:8, paraphrased.*) But sometimes we forget. Many of the things that are wrong in the world today have happened before because we forgot how to treat each other kindly. But we always have the Bible and our pastors and teachers and family to help remind us.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for the people who taught us how to be kind and showed us the way you want us to live. Help us to remember those lessons always. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Play: For an extension activity, children can paint, sculpt, or draw their own Sankofa with whatever materials they enjoy using. For younger children, you might create a simple outline to start. You might also print this detailed [Sankofa coloring page](#) for older children, teens, or adults.