

Sunday School Program

Grade 2

Class of Archangel Gabriel



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

Preface To The First Edition

The sole aim of Christianity is that people should know the Redeemer and live with him as pure sons. The church education aims at helping people to live in purity. So the Servant has to make lesson and the child's activities an integrated part of the church life and the typical Christian life in society.

Any course, however perfect it may be, and however well prepared it is, needs a good Servant to teach it. Every Servant must prepare his lessons well.

This guide, together with the Book, "How to serve the Elementary Stage is an attempt to help the Servant to prepare his lessons. The Servant has to make use of it as the need arises, but not to depend entirely upon it.

Publishing and Editing Committee
Diocese of Beni Sweif

Preface To The Second Edition

The Lord of Glory came down to earth to change the way people live: from submissions to sin to enjoyment of righteousness. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10: 10). So, Christianity aims at the new virtuous life. It is worthy of note that the church, through her various services, and the preachers, through their various preaching services have one aim; i.e. people must recognize this new life and enjoy its grace and grow in it through practicing virtues. The church education deems it its duty to serve children in the domains of education and preaching so that they may grow in Christian life and become faithful to the Lord and bear true witness to Him: "I have written to you, young men because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14).

Servants of Church Education are the deacons of the Church who are devoted to instructing young people in religion. Their service is part of the church pastoral work. So, the Servant's interest in both the child and the lesson and the spirit of his dedication constitute the basis of his service. That is why he has to prepare his lessons very well.

This guide, together with another book, "How to serve the Stage of Childhood" is an attempt aiming at helping the Servant to prepare his lessons.

The Lesson

Church Education Service is divided into:

- A lesson full of prayer, knowledge, hymns and group interaction.
- Assignments in the form of Scripture Studies, answering questions, drawing, etc.
- External social activities in which parents, pastors and children meet.
- Partaking all types of public worship, teaching and various occasions.
- Deacon Servants should commit themselves to attending to the children with interest.

This Book

We have combined the Church Education Course set by the Bishopric of Education with the Religion Education Course set by the Ministry of Education. The fifth syllabus is distributed over the months of the year and the regular school lessons are added and distributed over the first and second periods as alternative lesson by the end of each period. It is for the Servant to choose which lesson to give. It is he that should decide, as the whole matter depends on the circumstances of his service.

In this “Guide”, some lessons are prepared in detail while others are briefly prepared. This is done on purpose, as we do not want the Servant to rely entirely on this “Guide”. We have set some verses, scripture items, extracts and hymns for each grade. Such items integrate with the lessons and are, necessary for the children.

Home Assignment

We have issued illustrated lessons with this second edition. They are to be distributed among the children. Children should keep a private notebook in which they can write notes about these lessons and do their homework and activities.

May God the Almighty guide us to serve the children of the church and to bring them up in the life of grace, holiness and the fellowship of saints.

Glory be to God forever and ever, Amen.
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The Second Elementary Grade

A Child of Seven:

The child of this age suffers, sometimes, from psychological inability and whether people love them or not. These children begin to recognize the action of the Spirit in the universe and the Spirit opens their heart and strengthens their talents. Thus, the experienced Servant who feels the work of God in the universe is that who is able to transfer these matters to the children. The work of the Holy Spirit in life delivers such matters to the children. The children, then, are pleased and satisfied, as they understand what they learn.

Instructions to the Servant:

1. Observe, explore, find out, study, think, go on doing these things so that the child can understand, grow, feel and enjoy. Thus we know that the learning process needs observation on the part of the Servant and growth on the part of the children.
2. You have to arouse their interest, as this age is curious by nature and like to inquire about things. They speak about matters that are interesting to them. They learn from nature more than they learn from you. When the Servants bear this in mind, they realize that this is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the children.
3. Recall your experience when you were a child of seven as in doing this, you can help the children to enjoy what they learn.
4. Hold meetings with Servants who teach children of this age to know what the children learn in this age. When you met a Servant who is fond of teaching the children of this age discuss everything with him.
5. The children apply the lesson to their everyday life. For example:
 - a. They like to have fellowship with angels and saints.
 - b. At the table: During meal times, they help in preparing the table; they pray before eating, they practice cleanliness so they do not stretch their hand to take anything which is put before others. They thank God for what is there before them and after eating, and they gather the broken pieces of bread.

Kinds of activities that children practice:

1. They relate the story to their brothers and sisters.
2. They draw scenes of the story.
3. They stick pictures.
4. They act the story.
5. They pray using the hymn.
6. They speak to the characters of the story, angels, saints, etc., and make fellowship with them.

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THE FIRST PERIOD

(1) The Coptic New Year (Nyrouze): The Class Patron Saint Party

To the Servant

Think how many times you did not introduce Christ to the world: It is written, “But he who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God” (Luke 12:9)

The Lesson

Aim

Honoring martyrs and saints. Emphasizing some of the good qualities of their characters so that the children may follow their example.

Verse

“You crown the tear with your goodness” (Psalm 65:11)

Hymn

+ Come, righteous people, come, Let us go to heavenly Jerusalem. [Arabic Song]
+ Hasten O righteous [Praise the Lord, Page 31]

The Servant asks the children to bring some flowers and candles with them. The Servant brings a picture of the class Patron Saint, decorated with flowers. Candles are to be lit round it. If the picture of the class patron saint is not available, the Servant can bring a picture of Lord Christ blessing the children.

The Servant should look happy during the lesson. He should bear in mind that distributing dates, fruit and presents among the boys makes them happy. Both the Servant and the children are to sing the Nyrouze hymns with enthusiasm.

The Servant asks some questions to check the children’s information about the saint. Then he explains the story of his life, dividing it into stages; each stage should be followed by questions, hymns and the verse. At the end of the lesson, the children make the procession, and then the presents are to be distributed, the children pray and intercede with Virgin Mary or one of the saints.

Instructions

1. Explain the meaning of the word “martyr” from the Christian point of view.
2. Do not concentrate on the pains that the martyr suffered, but concentrate on his firm stand, and the power of his faith, and the miracle that the Lord performed through him.
3. Explain that the Lord Christ stands beside them during the pain and that the martyrs saw Lord Jesus, heaven and the saints.
4. Develop the sincerity attitude in declaring faith as we sometimes mix between humbleness and cowardice.

Activity

1. Color the picture.
2. Write down the names of the Coptic months.

(2) The Coptic New Year's Day (Nyrouze): St. Stephen and the Vision

References

+ Acts 7:54-60

To the Servant

Earnest prayer and honesty in work should accompany your toil and sacrifice for Christ. By so doing, the Lord will be with you.

St. Stephen saw the glory of God in heaven when he was on earth.

Stephen was a deacon, and you, as a deacon in the church, offer your service honestly through teaching. Always worship and contemplate and be a good example for the children.

The Lesson

Aim

Honoring saints and praising their firm stand in faith.

Verse

“Lord, do not charge them with this sin” (Acts 7:60).

Hymn

+ The previous one

+ Holy is our Church [Praise the Lord, Page 124]

Questions

1. Who was the first martyr in the church?
2. What is the meaning of the name “Stephen”? (The Crowned)

The Christian faith spread by the hands of the apostles whom the Lord Christ appointed. Christians had all things common. They needed supervisors to devote themselves to serving widows, orphans and poor people. They chose seven deacons who were filled with the Holy Spirit. For this purpose Stephen was one of them. He served the poor and the needy and distributed gifts and alms among them. He also preached in the church and convinced non-Christians. The number of non-believers increased.

Who is Stephen? What does “deacon” mean? How did the early Christians live?

One day a large number of Jews met. They discussed religious matter with Stephen. He answered them using verses from the Scriptures explaining to them that Christ is the only Savior

through whom we can enter heaven. His words did not appeal to them. They took him away to the Synagogue to Judge him.

- What is your name?

+ I am Christian.

- Do not mention this name

+ I love Christ

- We shall kill you.

+ I do not fear death... If we live we live to the Lord.

- We crucified Christ.

+ You crucified him and he was buried. He stayed in the grave for three days; but then he rose and ascended to heaven and I am going to him.

Review Questions

Who answered him?

What will you say if anyone asks you about your Christian religion?

Let us repeat together: "Lord, do not charge them with this sin".

Who can repeat the verse?

The Jews were angry with him because he told the truth. They wanted to kill him so they accused him of blaspheming against God and Moses. They rushed at him, dragged him into the streets and when they were out of the city, the men stopped. They took off their clothes, they looked around to find a man to guard their clothes and they saw a man named Saul. That man Saul, approved the killing of Stephen. They dug a hole and threw him in it. They took big stones and threw them at his head, his legs, his back and his arms. His body was broken. He fell to the ground. The Lord strengthened him. He knelt down and prayed lifting his eyes up to heaven... heavens opened. He saw Jesus surrounded by angels in great glory... and a host of angels dressed in white and shining with bright light. They were coming down one by one saying: "Holy, holy, holy". Stephen rejoiced on seeing the vision. One of the angels was holding a crown. The people stood in great surprise because Stephen was happy in spite of the stones thrown at his body. They asked one another: Why does Stephen look at heaven? What does he see? They threw the stones at his head. The stones were thrown at him but he was happy. He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). They threw the stones at his mouth to prevent him from speaking. Stephen said, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin". Stephen could see demons keeping away from him, as they could not draw near him. The angels were driving them away. His face shone like the face of an angel, then he fell asleep.

Activity

1. Who taught Stephen to forgive those who stoned him?
2. Can you forgive a boy who calls you names, beat you up without cause or vexes you while you play?
3. Let us repeat the verse together: "Lord do not charge them with this sin".
4. If a person asks you about your religion, what do you say? (I am Christian).
5. If anyone insults you, what do you say? (May the Lord forgive you).
6. Draw a picture of a deacon reading the Gospel in the church.

Exercises and Instructions

1. Explain what the job of a deacon is in the church.
2. It is possible for a Servant to use a means of illustration (a veil) of wood or cloth to cover a beautiful picture of Jesus and the children cannot see the picture unless the veil is raised. The Servant can raise the veil while talking about stoning Stephen.
3. This lesson is better taught through acting.
4. Emphasize the spirit of love and forgiveness that Stephen showed towards those who stoned him.
5. Advise the children to be brave and not to fear those who ask them about their religion.
6. Concentrate on the activities while giving the lesson and connect Stephen's forgiveness to those who insult us or vex us.
7. Make use of pictures of angels or a wing of an angel to connect martyrdom with heaven.
8. Pay a visit to the audio-visual center and check "The life of Paul the apostle" films and other means of illustration.

(3) God Calls Abraham and Cares for Him in His Expatriation

References

Genesis 12; the Life of Abraham by F.B. Mayer

To the Servant

The Lord said to Abraham "Leave your country, your relatives and your father's home, and go to the land I am going to show you..." and Abraham obeyed the Lord. So, if the Lord calls you to serve him, you have to obey without bothering about troubles, as the Lord will be with you. If you walk with God, you will be a blessing and you will attain the Divine and the eternal life as well. Abraham heard the voice of God. Do you remember the prayers that the Lord answered? Repeat them in your mind and contemplate their effect on your faith.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care for us when we go from one place to another

Verse

- + "For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord" (Romans 14:8)
- + "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22)

Hymn

- + God always care for us... God always care for us
- + The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Means of illustrations

- + Pictures of the sky and the stars
- + Pictures of animals and clothes

Review Questions

- + Who is the father of all believers?
- + What is the name of his wife?

Abraham lived in the land of Chaldeans in Haram with his relatives and family. He owned a large property and had slaves, servants and cattle. The natives were wicked people who worshipped idols but Abraham worshipped God. Who do you worship? Who do you love?

The Lord called him: “Abraham, leave your country, your relatives and your family and I will send you to a new land”.

This is difficult, isn't it? Will Abraham leave everything? Where will we go? Abraham did not know even the name of the city? Will the Lord leave him alone?

No, the Lord will bless Abraham and will give more than what he expects. The Lord said to him, “I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you and will make your name great”.

- + Whom did the Lord call to leave his country?
- + What is the name of the country?
- + What did the inhabitants of the land worship?
- + Who helps you when you are tired?

Abraham obeyed God. He gathered his slaves and servants and said to them, “Be ready to depart this land”. The men and women asked, “Where to?” Abraham said, “To a new land”. They asked him, “Where is the land?” He said, “I do not know its name but the Lord is with us and He will show us the land”. The servants asked one another what happened to father Abraham. But Abraham was a believer. Abraham believed in God and said, “If we live, we live to the Lord”. Abraham took Sarai and Lot his nephew and left his country and family. Abraham arranged for procession. The cattle, the slaves and the servants went ahead. They were praying on their way. The Lord protected them from fierce animals, hunger and disease. They thanked the Lord and praised him saying, “You and your angels”.

- + Who of Abraham's relatives went out with him?
- + Who remembers the verse? “If we live, we live to the Lord”

Abraham arrived at the Land of Canaan. The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “I will give you this land .I am with you”. Abraham was happy because the Lord was with him. To express his thanks, he built an altar. He gathered big stones, put them in order one upon the other. prepared a sacrifice and put it on the altar. The natives knew that Abraham worshipped God and did not worship idols.

- + What is the name of the Land?
- + What did he offer to the Lord?
- + Let us repeat together; “If we live, we live to the Lord”.

Activity

- + He prayed and said, “Lord, I thank you because you care for me”. When you pray, sing the hymn “You and your angels are with me O Lord”.
- + Draw a picture of a tent and an altar.

Instructions

Emphasize God’s love for Father Abraham and his care for him in his expatriation. Explain that blessing is the outcome of obeying God.

Recitation

The psalm “Blessed is the man who...” suits this lesson. Children begin to use it and the Servant makes competitions.

(4) God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

References

- + Genesis 16; The Life of Abraham by F.B. Mayer

To the Servant

The Lord cares for sparrows and young ravens. Do not worry then as he surely cares for you. When Sarai planned to have a child from her maid Hagar the result was bitter to her, but when the Lord gave her a child in her old age the result was completely different (Contemplate the difference between God’s plan and man's plan).

The Lesson

Aim

God cares for servants and slaves.

Verse

“Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters” (Ephesians 6:5)

Hymn

- + All your children, O Lord ... [Arabic Song]
- + Little Children [Praise the Lord, Page 147]

Questions

- + What is the name of the believers’ father? Show that he is rich.
- + What is the name of his wife?

Abraham believed in God. The Lord promised to give him children from Sarai. Many years passed and Sarai did not give birth to a child. She was tired of waiting. The two became very old. Abraham was over eighty. Sarai said to Abraham “I have an idea. Take Hagar my maid and marry and the child she will give birth to will be mine”. This may be God’s purpose. But the Lord said, “The promised son will be Sarai’s son”. So Sarai’s plan will have a sad and bitter result. Abraham obeyed Sarai and married Hagar... and Hagar became pregnant with a child. She

would give birth to a child. Hagar despised Sarai her mistress. Sarai became furious. She complained to Abraham and he said to her, “Hagar is your maid... and she is under your control: do whatever you want with her”. There were many quarrels between Hagar and Sarai. Sarai treated Hagar cruelly. She deprived her of food. Abraham was not pleased. Abraham realized that he had made a mistake because he did not wait for God’s promise.

- + What is the name of Sarai’s maid?
- + What is the mistake made by Sarai and Abraham?

Hagar was afraid that Sarai might take her son. She ran away but the Lord loves all the people whether rich or poor. The Lord sent an angel to Hagar. Hagar was thirsty. She wept. The angel guided her to a well and she drank and sat under a tree to have rest and then the angel said to her “Hagar... The Lord sent me to you... go back and submit to your mistress and be her slave”. The Scripture says: Servants be obedient to those who are your masters”. Hagar said “I shall never go back. Sarai beats me”. The angel said, “Do not be sad... God will bless your descendants. God will give you so many descendants that no one will be able to count them. You are going to have a son and you will name him Ishmael... Come with me and be patient”.

- + Why did Hagar run away?
- + Who met her in the desert?
- + Where did she sit?
- + Where did she find water to drink?
- + What did the angel say to her?
- + What is the name of her baby?
- + Let us repeat together, “Slaves be obedient...”

The words of the angel comforted Hagar... She went back to Sarai. She said to Sarai, “Forgive me”. She sat and told Sarai and Abraham what happened to her in the desert. All those who heard the story were amazed. They all realized that the Lord cares for all the people. He also cares for us.

- + What did Hagar say to Sarai?
- + Who shows kindness to the poor?
- + Who gives us food and clothes?

Activity

- + The children can draw the angel and Hagar sitting sadly under a tree or they can only draw the tree and write the names: Hagar, Sarai, and Isaac.
- + Study Psalm 2:2.

Instructions

1. In this lesson you can cure the children’s deep fear of dark places or of being alone. Make them feel that their guardian angel is beside them all the time.
2. Encourage the child to befriend his guardian angel and to address him in his prayer and ask his protection and love.
3. The children are to act the conversation between Hagar and the angel.

4. You can replace the lesson verse with the following verse “Trust in him at all times” (Psalm 62:8).
5. While introducing the lesson, give the children an idea about water, about our need for it, and about angels and their service to men.

Means of Illustration

- + Water skin or anything like it such as a cup of water
- + The wing of an angel and a large picture of the guardian angel

(5) The Lord and Two Angels Visit Abraham

References

- + Genesis 18
- + The Life of Abraham by F.B. Mayer

To the Servant

Abraham was one hundred years old. He had many tents. He had 318 slaves serving him besides several hired ones. He sat at the entrance of the tent at noon and it was very hot. He sat there to invite the strangers who passed his tent.

The Lesson

Aim

God cares for us and visits us

Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers” (Hebrews 13:2)

Hymns

- + Abraham was standing at the entrance of the tent [Arabic Song]
- + The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Means of Illustration

- + Make a tent of hard water: Bring a loaf of bread and water in a basin for washing the feet.
- + What did the angel do to Hagar?
- + Who of you had a guest last week?

One day, when it was very hot at noon, Abraham was sitting at the entrance of the tent in the shadow of a big tree. Three men were walking near his tent. Abraham ran towards them to meet them and he forgot that he was an old man and had a high status. He thought of entertaining the strangers, as the Scripture says “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers”. He went towards them and bowed before them as a sign of respect greeting and inviting them saying: “Honor me by having dinner with me”. The three men agreed and accepted his invitation. They sat under the tree, in its shadow, waiting for dinner.

Abraham brought water and a towel for them and washed their feet.

- + How many men were there?
- + Why did he wash their feet?
- + Where is this custom followed now?
- + What does the verse say?

Abraham entered his tent and ordered Sarai his wife to hurry and bake some bread, and then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat and gave it to a servant who hurried to cook it. He took some butter, some milk and the meat, and set the food before the men. The men prayed before they ate. There under the tree he served them himself and they ate. Then they said; “Thanks Abraham for your hospitality”.

- + Why didn't Abraham let a slave serve the strangers?
- + Who can recite the verse “Do not forget to entertain strangers”.

Activity

1. Define the things you can offer to a guest or a stranger when any of them visits you. Entertain a stranger this week. Write a report about this.
2. Study Psalm 1:3.
3. Make a tent of hard paper.

Instructions

Ask children to apply this lesson to life. Ask them to pray before having a meal and help in preparing dinner. They should collect the left over and remember the stranger, the traveler, the orphan, the needy and the poor. They should think of them as brethren of Christ.

You may ask children to bring some sweets or simple kinds of food to entertain a poor person during next class.

(6) God cares for the child Moses

References

Exodus 2

To the Servant

1. God cares for the birds and the flowers of the field. Aren't you worth much than the birds? (Matthew 6:26-34).
2. The Lord says that even our hairs are counted. Doesn't then deepen our trust in God?
3. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; or whom shall I be afraid” (Psalm 27:1).
4. God cares for us more than we care for ourselves.

The Lesson

Aim

God loves children and cares for them.

Verse

“For He cares for you” (1Peter 5:7)

Hymn

- + Lord take hold of my hand [Arabic Song]
- + When I feel tired [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

The Servant checks the homework and asks this question: How does a mother care about her children?

Pharaoh the king of Egypt feared the power of the great number of the people of God so he ordered that all the children, especially the boys should be killed immediately after their birth. In those days, there was a man living with his wife and his son Aaron and his daughter Miriam. The Lord gave them a fine child. The family refused to throw the child into the river. Has the Lord given us this fine baby to throw into the river? Surely no! The Lord loves the children and he cares for them. The Lord will care for our child. His mother hid him for three months. Nobody heard him nor did anyone hear his voice. The matter was kept secret.

Moses grew up and his cries were heard and it was impossible for the matter to be kept secret. They were afraid of the king. The mother thought, “O Lord, What shall I do? OK. I have got an idea”, she said. She made a basket in the form of a little boat. She made it of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put a little mattress for Moses to sleep on then she put the boy in the basket. She carried it to the river and put it in the tall grass at the edge of the river. Nobody saw her doing this. She told Miriam his sister to stand some distance away to see what would happen to him. “The Lord will care about him, I am sure. He will not die”, she said. She went back home singing “You and your angels”.

His sister kept watching him near the edge of the river. The Pharaoh’s daughter came down to the river to bathe. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave girl to get it. The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying and putting his finger in his mouth. The princess was sorry for him. The servant girls looked at the face of the princess, they looked at the face of the child... The princess said, “This is one of the Hebrew babies”. The Hebrews live among us. Pharaoh was very cruel when he decided to kill the Hebrew babies. What a pity! I’ll take this child and bring him up and he will be my son. The maids said, “And who will nurse him for you your majesty?” The princess said, “That is the problem... Who will nurse him and bring him up?”

- + Where did the mother place Moses her son?
- + Who was guarding the child?
- + What was Pharaoh’s daughter doing at the edge of the river?
- + Who were with her?

Miriam, Moses' sister, was listening to their conversation. She said to the princess, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to act as a wet-nurse. The princess said to her, "Please do and I will pay you".

Miriam ran and came back with her mother and the mother stood before the princess: "Will you nurse this child and bring him up?" the princess said. "With pleasure", said the mother. The princess said, "Take him, and care about him and I will pay you and when he grows up bring him to me. I will call him Moses as I have pulled him out of the water". The mother, her daughter and her child went back home and they praised the Lord. The Scripture says, "For he cares for you". I thank you, Lord, because you care for everyone even children. The father and the mother were happy because God rescued the child and kept him. When the child grew up and began to understand, his mother instructed him in religion and the commandments of the Lord. When Moses became a man, the Lord chose him to be a great leader and Moses helped the people of God.

- + What did Moses' mother believe in?
- + Where was Moses brought up?
- + Who nursed him?
- + How did Moses know the Lord?
- + What does the word, "Moses" mean? Say the verse... For He...

Activity

- + Thank the Lord for his care of you and say, "Bless the Lord, O my soul"
- + Review Psalm 1:1-2
- + Read Exodus 2 with your family

Instructions

1. Children can make models to illustrate the story. Girls of this age like to make dolls and they also like to make dresses for their dolls so they can elucidate the Story in a practical way. They can bring a small basket beside the stream of water in the church garden and the boys can act the scenes of the story such as the dialogues that ran between Pharaoh's daughter, the maids, Miriam and the mother.
2. The story of Moses can be explained through a series of pictures. You can make use of this big group of pictures and the children can color these pictures as a sort of competition.
3. A small basket or the like can be used. The youngest child in the class is asked to sleep in the basket. This will make the children happy and they will never forget the lesson. Soldiers carrying spears or sticks and a piece of paper to be cut in the form of a crown for the princess when the children act the lesson.
4. Emphasize the Lord's care of Moses. Moses did not stay for a long time in water. Pharaoh's daughter saw him and took him. His mother also was near him.

(7) God sends a Raven with Food to Elijah

References

+ 1 Kings 17-19,21

+ 2 Kings 1-2

To the Servant

1. Elijah was a man of like nature with us and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain.
2. Does our prayer have a great power in its effects?
3. The Lord cared about Elijah when the land became dry and you also should not fear the troubles of the world.

The Lesson

Aim

God cares about us. It is He that gives us food.

Verse

“Bless the Lord O my Soul” (Psalm 103:1)

Hymn

When I am thirsty, to whom shall I go? You quench me O Lord I kneel and pray to you.
When I am hungry, to whom shall I go? You feed me O Lord I kneel and pray to you.

Means of Illustration

- + A picture of a raven
- + A loaf of bread
- + Who remembers the verse of the previous lesson?
- + How did the lord keep the child Moses?
- + Whose picture is this?

Elijah spent all his time in prayers, fasting and reading the Scriptures. So he became a great Saint and prophet.

One day, the Lord said to him, “Elijah, go to Ahab the wicked king and say to him: Repent and refrain from the worship of idols, or else I will hold back the rain”. Elijah said, “All right, I’ll go”. Then he began to think of the matter “The king is wicked. He may kill me. I am afraid. But the Lord ordered me to go and He is with me. I’ll go now”. He arrived at the palace. He made an attempt to enter but the guards prevented him from doing so. He said to them, “I have a message from the Lord and I have to deliver it to the king”.

They asked him, “Who is the Lord?” and he answered, “He is the Lord of heaven and earth”. They said to him, “We do not know the Lord. We worship idols”. “Idols are not gods”, he said. His words filled the guards’ hearts with fear. A guard entered the king’s room. He bowed to the ground “Your majesty, there is a man outside. His body is covered with hair and his clothes are very simple. He wants to meet you”, the guard said. “Let him in”, the king said. Elijah was

brought to the king. He said, “O king, repent and refrain from your sins. Stop worshipping idols, or else there will be no rain until I say so”. The king was surprised “who are you?” he asked. “I am the prophet of God”, Elijah said. “Who is God?” asked the king. Elijah said, “God the Creator of heaven and earth”. But the king said, “There are no gods other than these idols”. Elijah went out of the palace. He prayed to the Lord... “O Lord, let there be no rain” and no rain came. Plants faded and dried. The leaves and the trees fell down. Men and animals became hungry. There was no food. The king realized that what happened was the desire of the Lord.

- + What is the name of the king?
- + Was he a good king?
- + What was his sin?
- + What were the words of God by the mouth of Elijah?

But the Lord cares about his children. He cared about Elijah. He said to him, “Go and hide yourself near the Brook of Cherith. I have commanded ravens to bring you food there”. “The Brook of Cherith? This is a small brook and it is often dry. Ravens? Can ravens support man or snatch what they see in man’s hands?” he thought. Very strange... Elijah obeyed the words of God. He went to the brook and there he sat at the edge. While he was praying, he saw a big black bird coming towards him “Oh! What is that?” he asked himself.

The raven threw bread and meat into Elijah’s lap. That was in the early morning. Elijah shouted, “Bless the Lord, O my soul”. He drank water from the brook and sang the hymn, “When I am thirsty”.

In the evening, the raven came back with food to Elijah. Elijah ate, drank and was satisfied, while severe hunger spread in all the cities. That state continued till rain came again and the natural way of living returned.

- + What is the name of the brook near which Elijah stayed?
- + How did the Lord care for Elijah during the famine?

Activity

When you sit at the table to have your meal, thank God for the food that is put before you and do not desire the food that is put in front of others.

Draw a picture of Elijah while he is praying and the raven carrying bread and meat for him.

Join the points together to make the picture clear.

Instructions

Explain that the Lord can change the nature of men, birds, anything. He changed the nature of the raven that snatches things into the raven, which obeyed the words of God and carried the bread to Elijah.

(8) Elisah and the Jars of Oil

References

+ 2 Kings 4

To the Servant

Have you experienced the Lord's blessing in your life?

Our hearts are empty vessels so let us pray that the Lord may fill them with his grace.

The Lesson

Aim

God cares about us and blesses the little that we have.

Verse

"Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2)

Hymn

+ When I am thirsty ...

+ The Lord is my shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

+ How did the Lord support Elijah during the famine?

Elijah had a disciple named Elisha who was also a prophet of God. The Lord performed miracles by the hands of Elijah and also by the hands of Elisha. One day a poor widow came to Elisha complaining her state and weeping. She said, "Sir, my husband has died. He was a God-fearing man but now a man he owed money to come to take away my two sons as slaves in payment for my husband's debt" (2 Kings 4:1).

+ What is the name of the prophet?

+ Why did the woman go to him?

Elisha prayed to God "O Lord, guide me. O Lord solve the problem of this widow. You support the orphan; and the widow". Then Elisha said to the woman "What shall I do for you? Tell me what have you got at home?" "A jar of oil", she said. "Thanks be to God. The problem can be solved. Do you believe that the Lord can do a miracle with that jar of oil?" Elisha said. "I believe, Sir", the woman answered him. He said, "Go, quickly... to your neighbors and borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then go into the house... you and your son... close the door and start pouring oil into the jars. Set each one aside as soon as it is full. The woman did not doubt Elisha's words. She obeyed him and did exactly what he told her to do. She did not ask him she could not find that oil to pour in the vessels... she was sure that the Lord would bless the oil... a great faith. The woman went to her house (closed the door, etc). When they had filled all the jars, the woman said to her son, "Are there any more?" But her son said, "No, there are no other vessels". And at that moment the oil stopped flowing... The Lord blessed the jar of oil. The woman was glad. She took her son and went to Elisha. On their way to him they sang: Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits.

The woman told the man of God about what she did, and he said to her, “Sell the oil and pay all your debts, and there will be enough money left for you and your sons to live on”. The woman did so and the Lord blessed her family and she lived in peace.

The Servant chooses a child and asks him to relate the story and if he desires, the boys can act the story and repeat the verse: “Bless the Lord O my soul”.

Exercises

1. During the lesson you can introduce topics as, “Thanking the Lord for the food when we eat, being kind to the poor, God’s care of us”.
2. The introduction to the lesson should include an idea about the blessings of the Lord when you go to houses and countries. You can also give an idea about the situation in any country when there is no rain and how famine affects people’s ways of living. In this way you can show how important and how powerful the miracle was in the life of the widow and her son.

Means of illustration

A vessel containing little oil; a nylon packet containing a little flour; empty vessels and a piece of yellow clay in the form of pastry

Activity

Pray before and after having your meal.

Instructions

1. Explain the meaning of the word “Prophet”.
2. Explain that when we face any problem or any dispute in the family, we have to raise our prayers to the Lord or we ask the priest to take part in solving the problem.

(9) God cares for Daniel in the Lions’ Den

References

+ *Daniel 6*

To the Servant

1. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Romans 8:35).
2. Do you apply to the commandments of the Lord in your practical life or do you become lenient because of men's inducements and threats? Examine yourself carefully before the Lord and pray the Lord to help you.
3. Carrying the cross may deprive you of good worldly things such as jobs, promotions and other privileges in general. Are you ready to carry the cross and express your love for God bearing in mind that He died for you? Are you ready to sacrifice your life for him?

The Lesson

Aim

God keeps us out of danger if we rely on Him.

Verse

“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths” (Daniel 6:22)

Hymn

- + Come O righteous people... [Arabic Song]
- + Hasten O righteous hasten [Praise the Lord, Page 31]

- + What will you do if you meet a big dog in the street?
- + Who of you saw a lion? Where do lions live?
- + What do lions eat? What do they do when they are hungry?

Daniel was one of the beloved children of God. He used to pray and fast regularly. He was also honest in his work. King Darius appointed him governor. Daniel became distinguished above all the other governors. They tried to find something wrong with the way Daniel administrated the empire, but they couldn't. They accused Daniel of something in connection with his religion. They went to see the king and said, “Give orders that for thirty days no one be permitted to request anything from any god or from any man except from Your Majesty. Anyone who violates this order is to be thrown into a den filled with lions”. The king signed the order. He did not know that order was a plot against Daniel because he prayed to his God.

- + What is the name of the king?
- + What is the name of the governor?
- + To whom did Daniel pray?
- + What was the plot planned by those who hated Daniel?

When Daniel learned that the order had been signed, he opened the window of his room and knelt down and prayed to God three times a day. When Daniel's enemies observed him praying to God, they went to the king to accuse Daniel. They said, “Your Majesty, you signed an order that for the next thirty days anyone who requested anything from any god or form any man except you, would be thrown into a den filled with lions”. The king said, “Yes”. Then they said to the king, “Daniel does not obey the order you issued. He prays to his God three times a day”. The king looked at their faces and understood that they planned a plot against Daniel. But what should he do? A royal order issued by the king could not be changed. The king was upset.

- + How many times did Daniel pray? When do you usually pray?
- + To whom do you pray? Make the sign of the cross.

They arrested Daniel, tied him with chains and brought him to the king. Daniel stood before the king politely and bravely. The king said to him, “Have you heard the order I issued?” “Yes, Your Majesty”, Daniel answered. “Then why didn't you obey my order?” the king asked and Daniel said, “Because we must obey God rather than men”. The king said, “The punishment is that you

will be thrown into a den filled with lions. Daniel, may your God rescue you”. Daniel was taken to the den filled with lions and on his way to the den he was singing the hymn, “Come O righteous men...”

Daniel was thrown into the den filled with lions... The lions were fierce and hungry. A stone was put over the mouth of the den and the king placed his own royal seal on the stone. The men were very happy and went back to their houses but the king was sad. He spent a sleepless night without food. He wept. At dawn, the king hurried to the den. When he got there he called anxiously, “Daniel, servant of the Living God, was your God able to save you from the lions?” Daniel answered, “God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they would not hurt me”. The king was overjoyed and gave orders for Daniel to be pulled up out of the den. So they pulled him up and saw that he had not been hurt at all. The people were astonished. Daniel told them the story. The king and his men believed in Daniel’s God.

- + Why didn’t the lions hurt Daniel?
- + What did the king do?

Activity

- + During this week recite the verse and repeat its words when you pray, when you enter your house, when you go out of your house and when the light is off.
- + Pray three times a day.

Instructions

1. You can use some pictures to represent the events of the story: Daniel praying, the king and his men, Daniel in the den, etc.
2. Do not concentrate on the anger of the governors and how much they hated Daniel so that the children may not learn how to envy others.
3. The Servant should emphasize God’s care about Daniel and the fact that those who trust in God live in peace and no one can hurt them. Do not give the details of how Daniel was thrown into the den.

Means of Illustration

1. A picture of a lion, an angel’s wing when acting the story, a picture of an angel shutting some of the mouths of the lions.
2. Children can be told not to be afraid of the animals they meet in the street. They are advised not to hurt such animals but they should make the sign of the cross over the animals so that they may not hurt them.
3. You may teach the following verses if you like “I will fear no evil; for you are with me” (Psalm 23:4) or “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1).

Recitation

Psalm 113 suits this lesson: “Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord...”. Children begin to use this Psalm in their prayers till Lesson 16. This can be handed out and the Servant can make competitions.

(10) God Cares for Daniel's Three Friends in the Blazing Furnace

References

+Daniel 3

To the Servant

Refer to the previous lesson

The Lesson

Aim

Refer to the previous lesson

Verse

“I will fear no evil; for you are with me” (Psalm 23:4)

Hymn

The previous one

- + Why did king Darius order that Daniel would be thrown into the den filled with lions?
- + How did the Lord rescue Daniel?

King Nebuchadnezzar had a gold statue made. He ordered all the people to bow down and worship the statue as soon as they heard the sound of the trumpet. Anyone who would not worship the statue would be thrown into the blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not worship the statue. When the king knew that the three young men refused to worship the statue, he flew into a rage and threatened that he would throw them into a blazing furnace. But the three young men said that their God whom they worshipped was able to rescue them from the blazing furnace and save them from his power. Each one prayed: I fear no evil.

- + What is the name of the king?
- + What did he do? What was his religion?
- + What are the names of the three young men?
- + To whom did they pray? Let us say together: I fear no evil.

The Servant explains this situation, which expresses their courage and their loyalty to God, and the children can act it.

The king lost his temper and his face turned red with anger at the three young men because of their frankness and the way they answered him. He ordered his men to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual. And he commanded the strongest men in his army to tie the three men up and throw them into the blazing furnace. The flames burnt up the guards who took the men to the furnace. The men were not tied. They were four men walking about in the fire. The king was amazed... the king and his men heard the three men singing a hymn of praise. And we sing with them, “Come O righteous people... Come...” The king ordered them to go out of the furnace.

The three men came out. The fourth man was like a Son of God... Their hair was not singed. The king glorified the Lord.

- + Why did the three young men refuse to worship the statue?
- + What did they say to the king?
- + How did the king punish them?
- + Did the fire affect them?
- + Who was walking with them in the furnace?

Activity

Do not imitate the wicked people but stick to the Lord. When anyone annoys you say, "I will fear no evil; for you are with me".

Instructions

Let your introduction be about the fire and its effect so that the children may realize the power and greatness of the miracle in the blazing furnace.

For the children to act the story bring a candle, a picture of an angel, a wing, and a picture of three men.

Explain that the three young men were brave and were not afraid of fire because they were sure that the Lord would rescue them and turn the flames into coolness.

We have to stick to the Lord and sing hymns of praise to him even when we suffer from severe tribulation.

(11) Jesus Calms a Storm

References

- + Matthew 8

To the Servant

The sea was rough, the wind was stormy and the waves were high. In the sea of this life, we walk with God. The winds of temptation must blow and cause the small boats of our life to face danger.

The disciples were very happy because of the Lord's miraculous deeds but they faced the trouble of being in the middle of a rough sea. The Lord may sometimes deprive us of spiritual comfort so that our souls may long to him more and more with humbleness.

The ship will never be destroyed so long as Jesus is with us, in his church and in our hearts. We must not be upset Let us have faith in the Lord so that we may not fear.

The Lesson

Aim

God saves us from temptations and troubles if we depend on him.

Verse

“It is I, do not be afraid” (Mark 6:50)

Hymn

- + They sent the people away and took a boat...
- + It is I, have no fear...

Introduction

- + Talk about winds, boat and fishing
- + Who of you have ever been in a ship? A sea journey (voyage) is enjoyable.

The disciples were in the ship... A storm blew...They were afraid. The disciples prayed the Lord Christ to save them. The Lord Christ rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

- + What did the Lord Jesus say to the sea...to the winds?
- + What should you do if you walk in a dark place? What should you say?
- + Mention the occasions on which the Lord cared about you... Mention the verse “It is I, have no fear”.

Instructions

The Servant solves the problem of the children’s fear and asks them why they are afraid and discusses with them the importance of faith in the Lord Jesus who drives their fear away.

Bring two pictures; a picture of a ship suffering from the waves and winds, and the other picture of the same ship when there is calm and the Lord stands pointing with His finger.

Color the picture if it is not colored.

Means of Illustration

1. A sailing boat of wood or paper.
2. A net.
3. Plastic fish.

(These things are needed for many lessons so they should be available).

(12) Jesus feeds four thousand People

References

- + Matthew 15
- + Mark 8
- + John 6

To the Servant

God does not perform a miracle unless it is necessary. The Jews asked him once to perform a miracle but he did not answer them... but when they were in the wilderness and were in need of a miraculous deed... Christ gives us enough food to eat and be satisfied and have some food left

The Lesson

Aim

God cares about our needs.

Verse

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)

Hymn

+ This is the day... this is the day... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

+ I'll tell you a nice story about my Lord Jesus... Jesus took his disciples and went to Bethsaida.

Introduction

+ What is the miracle we spoke about last week?

+ What must we do before we have our meal?

+ Who gives us food?

A little boy went on a journey with Jesus... His mother gave him five loaves and two fish. Jesus talked to the crowd and his words were sweet. By the end of the day, the people became hungry... Jesus wanted to feed those people... but there were no potentialities.

The Lord blessed the five loaves and the two fish. The disciples gave the people. They all ate and were filled. They took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces left over.

Questions

+ Why didn't the Lord send the people away?

+ What did the disciples say?

+ How many loaves and how many fish were there?

+ How many baskets were filled with broken pieces?

+ Mention the verse: It is more blessed to give....

Activity

Make the sign of the cross before you eat... draw a fish on a piece of paper, trim the paper and color it

Instructions

1. Concentrate on the principle of order and let the children be trained on order and cleanliness. Draw their attention to the fact that every thing in the church should be done in order.

2. The Lord Christ gave food to the disciples and the disciples gave the people. Draw the children' attention to the fact that we should respect and honor the priests and that the children should kiss the priest's hand.
3. Bring a model of two fish and five small loaves... You can draw them on any piece of paper.

(13) The Orbana Hymn

References

- + Genesis 4:4,5
- + Number 31:50
- + Matthew 5:23,24

The Lesson

Aim

The value of the Orban (Orban is the plural of Orbana), how it is used, the meaning of “Eulogia”, the Orbana and its drawings

Verse

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood, has eternal life” (John 6:54)

Hymn

I have an Orbana...nice, big Orbana	I got it from the church...I love the Orbana
I give the Orbana to those who are sick	and to those who are absent. I love the Orbana
I have an Orbana...holy delicious Orbana	I eat it every Sunday. I love the Orbana

Means of Illustration

1. An Orbana: the Orbana stamp (this can be borrowed from someone who makes the Orban).
2. Color a big Orbana to make the drawing clear.

Notes

How Orbana is made...reciting the psalms. Explain the Orbana’s drawing: the round shape for God has no beginning or end, 12 crosses for the 12 apostles, and five holes for Jesus’ body wounds (4 nails-2 for hands and 2 for legs - and spear).

Exercises

Our homes must take part in offering the oblation. When we leave the church, we take an Orbana for blessing for those who could not come to church. We give it to the absent and the sick. We should not eat Orban during prayers.

Activity

Give an Orbana to a child and ask him to distribute it by giving a piece of it to the members of his family, to those who are absent, etc.

(14) Review

To the Servant

1. Have you seen honest and sincere during this period? How many chapters have you studied and how many I times have you received communion? Do I feel that I was with God?
2. Have you been honest as a person in charge of those children? (A shepherd)! How many times did you mention their names in your prayer? Did you prepare the lesson well? Did you visit the children? The Servant reads Ezekiel 34:11, 34:6, and Ephesians 25:16.

The Lesson

Aim

To remember the spiritual benefits of this period

A review of the different lessons, the verses (text), and the hymns, which the children have studied them, some questions are to be asked. For example:

1. How did the Lord care about the child Moses? How did the Lord care about Elijah? How did the Lord care about Daniel when he was in the pit of lions? How did the Lord care about the three young men?
2. Where was Moses brought up?
3. Who visited Abraham? How did Abraham entertain them?
4. Complete the following:
 - a. My God sent his _____ and _____ the mouths.
 - b. Do not neglect to _____ to strangers.

Instructions

You can bring all the previous means of illustrations that were used in the previous lessons to remind the children of the story. Connect each lesson with its hymn and its verse... as this will be a review of hymns and verses too.

It is not necessary to review in the form of questions only. The Servant can give the question and the answer as a sort of review. The means of illustration reminds the children of the lesson.

- When the Servant lights a candle and says “Whom did they throw into fire? What did the fire burn? The children will remember the lessons.
- Show them the picture of lions.
- A child can play the part of an angel, thus you can revise the lessons about the coming of an angel.
- Five loaves and two fish.
- Moses’ basket and so on.

(15) God sends an angel to Zechariah to announce the Birth of John the Baptist.

References

- + Matthew 3:1-12
- + Luke 5-23, 1:57-80
- + Luke 7:27

To the Servant

1. A sin committed by a minister or a priest is more serious than the sin committed by ordinary people. So beware of sins.
2. Do we believe the promise of God when we teach them to our children or are we like the Scribes and the Pharisees? Let's test ourselves.

The Lesson

Aim

Explain how John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Lord Christ.

Verse

“Make His paths straight” (Luke 3:4)

Hymn

O Lord come...and rescue all people
Zechariah prayed...to the Merciful Lord
Zechariah, Zechariah...the Lord has answered your prayers

Means of Illustrations

- + Bring a placard to write the angel's announcement of John's birth to Zechariah, a censor to stand for service in the temple.
- + For acting the story, bring a picture of an angel (a wing - vestments).

Zechariah and Elizabeth raise prayers and supplications to the Lord so that the Lord may give them a child. The Lord answered their prayers when they were old.

Zechariah sees a vision in the sanctuary while offering his service. The Lord has promised and answered his prayers. The angel announces the birth of John. Zechariah was silent because he did not believe the angel.

Zechariah left the Sanctuary and was silent... people were amazed... Zechariah went home... Zechariah told Elizabeth about his vision through writing on a placard.

Questions

- + What are the names of the priest and his wife?
- + What did they pray for?
- + What did the angel say to Zechariah?
- + Why did Zechariah not believe?

+ How could Zechariah tell his wife about the good news?

Let us repeat together: Make his paths straight.

Write the names of the Archangels.

Activity

Study the Annunciation to Zechariah (Luke 1:13-17)

Instructions

1. The children act this scene: Zechariah and the angel.
2. Resort to gestures - Students should study the Biblical texts necessary for important situation.
3. Do not concentrate on Zechariah's mistake so that the children may not have an idea that priests always make mistakes.
4. Do not concentrate on Zechariah's silence, as he did not believe the angel lest the children should be afraid of angels and punishment. You can mention that situation in a joyful way.
5. Instead of the verse taught in this lesson, you can give the following verse, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John".

(16) God sends an angel to the Virgin to announce the Birth of Jesus

References

+ Luke 1

+ Matthew 1:20,21

+ Isaiah 7:14

To the Servant

+ The Lord looked at the virgin because of her humility

+ Contemplating the Virgin when she says: Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord.

The Lesson

Aim

Glorifying the Lady, Virgin Mary because she is holy

Verse

"Rejoice, highly favored one" (Luke 1:28)

Hymn

+ To Mary came Gabriel...to a virgin in Galilee [Praise the Lord, Page 135]

Means of Illustration

Explain the story through acting.

Characters

- + The virgin, Joseph the Carpenter and an angel
- + The necessary clothes and instruments are to be prepared
- + Two wings of white thick paper
- + The virgin prays... a lit lamp is put in front of her
- + A bible on a table
- + The virgin keeps silent. When angel Gabriel enters, a bright light shines in the room.

The Virgin is wondering... keeps silent... submits... expresses happiness... The annunciation... Hail O favored one, the Lord is with you... the dialogue between the angel and St. Mary... the angel goes out... the virgin kneels down for prayer... then she sits calmly... Joseph enters carrying his instruments (a saw... a hammer)... the Virgin takes permission and goes out to visit Elizabeth.

Instructions

1. Do not mention anything about the relationship between the Lady Virgin and Joseph and the Carpenter or how the Virgin became pregnant as this is too difficult for the children to understand.
2. Be merry when you present your lesson. Let the children sing hymns and enjoy the lesson.
3. If the lesson is short you can give the children an idea about the childhood of the Virgin and her birth.

Activity

1. Make the nativity Cavern and be ready for Christmas. Arrange its content - Canon paper -straw - clay models of the manger and animals.
2. Distribute the word among the children, give them clay so chat they may make the models at home.
3. Children are to study the Annunciation to the Virgin. (Luke 1:28) or “Through the intercession of St. Mary, the Theotokos.

Recitation

The Hymn “We honor you, Mother of True Light...” is suitable for this lesson. The children are to study it, recite it in their prayers by the end of the period... Competitions are to be made.

(17) Mary visits Elizabeth: The Birth of John

References

- + Luke 1:39-56

To the Servant

1. Contemplate the humility of Mary and her love for Elizabeth. When she heard that she was pregnant, she went to her and visited her to congratulate her although she

- became the Mother of the Lord. Do you congratulate her although she became the Mother of the Lord? Do you congratulate the children on every happy occasion?
2. Contemplate John who was filled with the Holy Spirit when he was in his mother's womb... He lived as a holy man... You, too, have been filled with the Holy Spirit since your childhood, so have you chosen the fellowship with God for a long time and can you speak of the good things the Lord has given you?

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord honors the Lady Virgin for her holiness

Verse

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (Luke 1:47)

Mary left Nazareth for a town in Judea to greet Elizabeth. When Mary entered her room the baby moved in Elizabeth's womb... Elizabeth rejoiced because of Mary's visit to her, as Mary was the Theotokos (The Lord's Mother). Mary went back home.

Elizabeth gave birth to a baby child. The relatives and neighbors asked Zechariah what name he would like the boy to have and Zechariah wrote on a writing tablet: “His name is John”.

Notes

1. The Servant should draw the children's attention to the importance of sympathizing with others, i.e. to feel other's presence and to respect the feeling's of others. When a neighbor celebrates his birthday we should rejoice and when there is a death in my neighbor's family or a relative is in trouble we should not play or be merry.
2. The children may study the underlined sentences and the Servant should give simple explanation to these sentences.
3. Make use of a picture of Mary greeting Elizabeth. If the picture is not available the Servant can draw it or the girls can act the scenes of the lesson in simple sentences after the lesson has been explained.

The texts of this period are:

- Make his paths straight, (Luke 3:4), Lesson 15.
- My God send his angels and shut the lions' mouths, (Daniel 6:22), Lesson 9.
- I will fear no evil; for you are with me (Psalm 23:4), Lesson 10.
- If we live we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord (Romans 14:8), Lesson 3.
- Lord, do not charge them with this sin (Acts 7:60), Lesson 2.
- It is I; do not be afraid (Mark 6:50), Lesson 11.
- Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters (Ephesians 6:5), Lesson 4.
- Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits (Psalm 103:2), Lesson 7 & 8.
- My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior (Luke 1:47,48), Lesson 17.

- Hail, O favored one (Luke 1:28), Lesson 16.
- You crown the year with your goodness (Psalm 65:11), Lesson 1.
- Do not forget to entertain strangers (Hebrews 13:2), Lesson 5.
- For he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7), Lesson 6.
- Have faith in God (Mark 11:22), Lesson 5 & 3.
- It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35), Lesson 5 & 3.
- Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life (John 6:54), Lesson 13.

Recitation designed for this period:

- Psalm 1: Blessed is the man...
- Psalm 113: Praise O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
- We honor you, mother of True Light...

THE SECOND PERIOD

(18) Christmas

References

- + Matthew 1:18-24
- + Luke 2:1-20

To the Servant

1. *Contemplation:* Let us receive the Lord Christ with deep love inside us so that he may change the dark sides of our life into a bright light. The Lord has risen to His heavenly seat and the heavenly creatures as well as creatures on earth glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. *Instructions:* The Servant should emphasize the fact that the Lord Christ has the power to be born on a bed made of silk and in the most magnificent place but he chose to be born in a manger so that the poor might feel his love for them and his kindness to them.

The Lesson

Aim

To rejoice and be glad in the day of Jesus our Savior

Verse

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)

Hymn

+ Our Lord...Our Lord...Came for us our Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 137]

Means of Illustration

The children are to act the Nativity play: a small basket, a towel and a little child seated in the basket.

You may also arrange a visit to the church manger. The Nativity Story is well known, so when you visit the manger explain the story in a simple way and in this way the lesson is practically shown.

Activity

1) Visit the poor and give them sweets and presents. 2) Give a part of your feast pocket money to the poor.

(19) The Magi “Wise men” Visit The Child Jesus

References

+ Matthew 2:1-12

To the Servant

1. It was not only a Nativity story but it was also perpetual life. The Magi saw the star and followed it so that they might witness the Lord's Nativity.
2. Now let us look at the Redeemer's cross, and receive communion so that we may practically know the newborn.
3. Refer to the symbols of the Magi's gifts.

The Lesson

Aim

Our gift to Christ is to please him through our work.

Verse

“For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2).

Hymn

+ We three kings [Praise the Lord, Page 93]

+ Away in a manger [Praise the Lord, Page 96]

Means of Illustration

1. A picture representing the Magi and their gifts.
2. Make a Christmas party and get the necessary instruments; three different crowns made of paper and decorated with colors.

Activity

1. Give presents to the Lord's brothers; the poor.
2. Ask the children to bring the tools necessary for the party.

Instructions

The servant asks the children to draw a star on a piece of cardboard paper, color it...then they choose the biggest star and consider it the star that appeared to the Magi. The Servant fixes it among the rest of the stars as a means of illustration for the manger.

(20) Epiphany: Baptizing children

References

+ Matthew 3:13-18

To the Servant

1. Contemplation: Read Romans 6.
2. Contemplation: Through baptism we took part in the journey of Salvation that Christ offers us.
3. How great the Lord's love for us is. He has made us partners so that we can die with him and when we die with him, we shall also live with him.

Instructions

Emphasize the fact that baptism should be through immersion.

The Lesson

Aim

Explain the Baptism rite in a simple way to children.

Verse

“Repent and let everyone of you be baptized” (Acts 2:38)

Hymn

+ Step by step with Jesus...

+ We went there on the Baptism Sunday...

+ My Church ...my church ...my church...is my home...is my mother...

Means of Illustration

1. A visit to the Baptistery.
2. A vessel containing water; a doll, a towel, white clothes, and a girdle.

Miriam and Marcos used to rejoice on Sundays because on that day they go to church in the early morning and enjoy listening to the Mass prayers. But today, they are much happier as their father has told them that their youngest brother John will be baptized to become a Christian like them... Marcos' mother prepares the white clothes, which John will be dressed in after baptism.

+ Why is the baptized dressed in white clothes? (as a sign of godliness)

In the early morning the family went to church, to the baptistery. The priest prayed to sanctify the water. He consecrated it with chrism (Myron). Mother looked to the west, held John in her left hand and said, "I renounce you O Satan, all your evil deeds and all your wicked powers.

This is a declaration of our enmity to the devil that wants us to do evil.

Then she looked towards the east and carried John on her right arm and said, "I acknowledge thee O Christ my Lord and all your sincere laws and all your commands, deeds and work that give life.

This is the manifestation of Christian faith.

+ What did the mother say towards the west and towards the east?

The priest immersed John three times in the baptism font saying: "John, I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit". Then he took the Chrism bottle (Myron) and anointed John 36 times: the head, the chest, the heart, the back, the hands, the top of the shoulders, and the palm of his hand and the back of his hand, then he anointed the lower half of the body saying: John, I anoint you with the Holy oil in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

After having anointed John, the priest prayed "May you be blessed with the blessings of the heavenly creatures and the heavenly angels". Then he breathed into his face saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit and be a pure vessel through Jesus Christ our Lord".

+ How many times did the priest immerse John?

+How many times did he anoint him?

Then the priest dressed John in white clothes and tied his neck with a red ribbon called a girdle which refers to the power and deep joy and that John has become a soldier in the army of salvation which belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ.

+ What is the girdle? What does it stand for?

Now mother is considered John's godmother who is responsible for handling John the teachings of the church and for teaching him to take part in the church sacraments. All the members of the family received communion with John then they went back home full of joy because John was baptized.

+ What does a godmother do?

+ Why were all the members of the family happy?

Activity

+ Always receive the Holy Communion.

Instructions

1. The Servant should direct the children or send a letter with them asking his family to read him the lesson from the Holy Bible.
2. Divide the prayer of Thanksgiving into four sections and ask the children to study a quarter each week.

The Unit of God's Love

(21) God Guides Eliezer to choose a wife for Isaac

References

- + Genesis 24
- + The life of Abraham - Translated by Archpriest Marcos Daoud

To the Servant

1. *Contemplation:* We must seek God's advice before we do anything especially if what we are going to do is essential for choosing our career.
2. *Contemplation:* Man must not be upset because of future matters so long as he submits his will to the will of God (Thy will be done).

Instructions

1. The Servant must emphasize the effect of the prayer and seeking the will of God and his help.
2. Be confident of the choice of the Lord.
3. Explain the Story with all its feelings and events.

Aim

Trust in the Lord and pray.

Verse

"Seek and you will find" (Luke 11:9)

Hymn

- + God always cares about me [Arabic Song]
- + I love you Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Means of Illustration

A small doll and a jug of water.

Notes

1. Abraham walked with God and always prayed. He wanted to choose a wife for his son Isaac from his land and tribe. Abraham called Eliezer and said to him, "I want you to make a vow in the name of the Lord that you will choose a wife for my son from my land and tribe".
 - a. What is the name of Abraham's son?
 - b. What is the name of the servant?

- c. Where would he choose a wife?
2. Eliezer stood and prayed the Lord to guide him to fulfill his master's desire. He said: (The Servant repeats the servant's words).
3. Eliezer saw a beautiful girl. He asked her to give him water to drink. She gave him water to drink and brought water for his camels. Eliezer was happy and he thanked the Lord. He asked the girl about her name and family. He knew that her name was Rebecca. He went with her and gave presents to her and to her family and asked them to give him Rebecca to be a wife of Abraham's son, and they agreed because the Lord says: "Seek and you will find".
4. Isaac was pleased to have Rebecca as a wife and he thanked the Lord because he heard the prayer of his father.
 - a. Who gave water to the camels?
 - b. What is the name of Abraham's son, Rebecca's husband?
 - c. Who remembers the verse?

Activity

Pray three times a day.

Recitation

Children are to study the Prayer of Thanksgiving till lesson 25. This is one of the texts designed for the Elementary School, Second Grade.

(22) God appears to Jacob and helps him in his expatriation

References

+ Genesis 28

To the Servant

Contemplation: In times of trouble, do not fall into despair, but be confident that God is near.

Instructions

The Servant can cure the cases of children's fear, when they are alone, in a dark place, when they go to bed, etc. by telling them that the Lord's angel is sent to help and guard them and that they should make the sign of the cross.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care of his children

Verse

"I am with you and will keep you" (Genesis 28:15)

Hymn

The previous one

Means of Illustration

1. The picture of the lesson.
2. A small ladder, vestments, wings of angels to be fixed at the two sides of the ladder (going up and down) and pictures of Christ are to be put at the top of the ladder.

Jacob left his father's house after he had taken the blessing of his father in a cunning way. He went to places that were unknown to him. He found himself alone in a barren land at night, so he prayed so that the Lord might send his angels to guard him and keep him safe in that wild place. He put a stone under his head and slept. He remembered his father, mother and brothers and prayed for them saying...(here the Servant asks the children to imagine Jacob's prayer).

- + Where did Jacob go?
- + Where did he sleep?
- + What did he do before he slept?

Jacob saw a strange vision in a dream. He saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven with angels going up and coming down on it. And there was the Lord standing beside him. The Lord said to him, "I am with you and will keep you". Jacob got up. The dream he saw made him happy. The Lord did not remind him of his sin. He comforted him and gave him confidence. So anyone who loves God can sleep calmly and the angels guard him.

- + What did Jacob see in a dream?
- + What did the Lord say to him?

Jacob woke up and realized that the Lord was with him. He said, "This place is holy". Jacob took the stone that was under his head and set it up as a memorial. He poured oil on it to dedicate it to the Lord. Then he made a vow to the Lord...and promised to give the Lord and tenth of everything the Lord gives him.

- + What was Jacob's vow? Mention the verse.

Activity

1. Before you go to bed pray to the Lord that he may send you his angels to guard and keep you.
2. Draw the picture of an angel.

Instructions

Follow the children up to see whether they have studied the prayer of thanksgiving.

(23) God loves young Joseph and gives him sweet dreams

References

- + Genesis 37
- + The life of Joseph -Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud

To the Servant

1. Have you been tested by the troubles Joseph went through?
2. Have devil's arrows been directed towards you?
3. Have you been suffering from depressing troubles?
4. Have you fallen into despair?

Take heart and be brave. You have to know that this is the way that many people walked through. Remember that Jesus Christ your Lord was treated in the same way and those to whom he belonged treated him badly. Go on doing good to people. Do not fear anything. Your enemies can do nothing. Show you back to those who strike you. Do not take revenge but be patient and keep your temper.

The Lesson

Aim

Obey your parents.

Verse

“I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things” (2 Corinthians 2:9)

Hymn

+ Bless, Bless...[Arabic Song]

+ The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Means of Illustration

1. The illustrated story of Joseph: a piece of beautifully colored cloth, ears of corn, and spike.
2. A picture of stars, sun and moon.

Questions

- + Where was Jacob going to?
- + What did he see in a dream?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Time passed quickly and Jacob married and brought forth ten children. They grew up and became men. There were two other younger children. Joseph and Benjamin who was a little child. Jacob's elder children kept their father's sheep. The members of the family did not live in peace because the older brothers did not love I Joseph as Joseph sometimes told his father about their bad deeds. He brought bad reports to his father about what his brothers were doing. They also believed that Jacob their father loved Joseph more than all of them. He bought him a colored robe as a reward for his obedience. Joseph was not pleased, as his brothers would not speak to him in a friendly manner. But Joseph forgave them and prayed for them. He loved them, served them and obeyed them. He studied the verse and kept it: Yon are obedient in all things.

- + How many sons did Jacob have?

- + What are the names of Jacob's two younger children?
- + Why did Jacob love Joseph?
- + What did he buy to him?
- + Why was Joseph not happy?
- + What does the verse say?
- + What was Joseph's brother's work?

The Lord loved Joseph because he loved his brothers, obeyed them and prayed for them so he gave him sweet dreams. One day Joseph had a strange dream and he related it to his brothers in the early morning. He said: We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat, when my sheaf got up and stood up straight, yours formed a circle round mine and bowed down to it. Then Joseph had another dream. This time he related the dream to his brothers and to his father. He said, "I had a dream in which I saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to me". Joseph's brothers and his father never forgot those two dreams.

What is the meaning of the first dream...the second dream? Who remembers the verse? Let us sing the hymn together: "You sin if you disobey your father".

Activity

Draw the picture of Joseph and his eleven brothers and contemplate Joseph's love. Imitate him and obey your parents and your brothers.

Instructions

1. Emphasize Joseph's love and do not concentrate on his brothers' hatred and envy.
2. Concentrate on the fact that although Joseph was the youngest, yet the Lord was with him and saved him. Draw the children's attention to the fact that they should forgive those who mistreat them.
3. Use a colored picture of Joseph dressed in a colored robe and relating his dream to his brothers.
4. Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers and gave him a colored robe. This robe placed an important role in the story as his brothers envied him. Rewards should be given to those who deserve them. They should be used to encourage children to study and be creative and learn that the spirit of love should prevail.

(24) God rescues Joseph from his brothers, sends him to Egypt and blesses him there

References

- + Genesis 39
- + The life of Joseph -Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud

To the Servant

1. The Lord was obedient till death; the death on the cross. Do I obey my parents at home?
2. Do I obey my servants in the church?
3. Do I obey my superiors at work?

Joseph's brothers' hatred did not prevent him from showing kindness to them and checking for safety and comfort.

The Lesson

Aim

Obey your parents.

Verse

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1)

Hymn

+ Bless, Bless...[Arabic Song]

+ The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Joseph's brothers were taking care of their flock at Shechem. Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers to see if they were safe. Joseph took some food for them and chose for each of them the sort of food he likes best. He faced a lot of difficulties and troubles on his way to them.

He was alone on a long way full of dangers. His brothers hated him and they might hurt him. Joseph obeyed his father and went after his brothers. He did not go back when he did not find them. He asked about them at Shechem. When he could not find them there, he went to Dothan, to see if they were safe. His brothers plotted against him. They threw him into a dry well. Reuben, their brother suggested that they should sell him to a group of traders. They sold him to a group of traders who took him to Egypt. They lied to their father. They killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. Then they took the robe to their father and said, “We found this. Does it belong to your son? Some animal has killed him”. But the Lord was with Joseph. Joseph came to Egypt and dwelt in Potiphar's house. Potiphar was one of the king's officers. Joseph was successful in Potiphar's house. He worked in the field, supervised the servants, appointed servants, and built houses. God blessed Joseph and made him successful.

+ Where was Joseph taken?

+ Why was he successful?

Activity

Rearrange the words of this verse: ...are...everything...you...in...obedient

Instruction

1. The Servant can refer to Joseph's brothers' enmity to him but in such a way that the children may not understand that was the result of Joseph's obedience to his father but they should understand that was the way to happiness.
2. The Servant should ask the children some questions to help them deduce the following:
 - a. Obedience is very important. Imagine a house where the children do not obey their father.

- b. How to obey without murmuring or apologizing or finding excuses or argument when someone asks us to do something.
 - c. To what extent should we obey - to the end and never to go back in the middle of the way?
 - d. The result of obedience – People’s love and God’s blessing.
3. The hymn: the verse and questions are given during the lesson.

(25) God is with Joseph in prison and rescues him

References

- + Genesis 39,40
- + The Life of Joseph -Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + Tales and Stories from the Holy Bible, Beirut

To the Servant

1. O Lord, choose for us the good things you desire to give us, as when we choose for ourselves, we may lose the good things you intend to give us.
2. O Lord, choose for us as Your wisdom never makes mistakes but we make mistakes and lose sight.
3. Let us continue our struggle patiently and with self denial enduring hardships without fear of loss as glory lies beyond suffering and the throne lies beyond the cross.

The Lesson

Aim

Honesty

Verse

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10)

Hymn

- + The Lord always cares for us...
- + The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Means of Illustration

A big chain of keys

Notes

- + Who sold Joseph...to whom?
- + What did Joseph’s brothers say to their father concerning Joseph?
- + What did he do?

The Verse says: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much”. The Lord blessed Potiphar’s household because of Joseph, but Joseph’s happiness did not last long. Potiphar’s wife

was an evil woman. She asked Joseph to commit a sin, but he refused so she told her husband false tales about Joseph. Her husband believed her and put Joseph in prison.

To whom was Joseph sold? When did his mater appoint him as the chief servant? Why did Potiphar put him in prison? Let us repeat together: He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.

Joseph was innocent but he was put in prison. This is something unusual but did the Lord leave Joseph or neglect him? No, the Lord was with Joseph in prison. The jailer noticed that Joseph was not like the other prisoners. He prayed and sang hymns “The Lord always cares for us...” The jailer loved him and because he loved him, he put him in charge of all the other prisoners. The Scripture says: “He who is faithful in what is least...” He made him responsible for everything that was done in the prison. Joseph interpreted the dreams of the wine steward and the chief baker and it all happened just as Joseph had said (Genesis 40). Joseph requested the wine steward to remember him when everything was going well for him and to mention his name to the king, as he didn’t do anything to deserve being put in prison. But the wine steward never gave Joseph another thought, but the Lord never neglects his children.

- + Whose dreams did Joseph interpret?
- + Did what he said come true?
- + What happened to the wine steward?
- + What happened to the chief baker?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Activity

Honesty in spending money on the house needs (Kitchen, buying, other’s needs). Be faithful and honest in your homework.

Recitation

Children study Psalm “God is my Shepherd”. This is one of the texts designed for the second grade in Elementary School. This will go on till lesson 27.

Instruction

Let children know the meaning of honesty in doing homework and also when a child visits his relatives or neighbors. The must keep everything as it is, not break anything, and that he can help in doing anything.

(26) God Gives Joseph favor in the sight of Pharaoh, who appointed him minister

References

- + Genesis 41
- + The Life of Joseph -Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + Tales and Stories from the Holy Bible, Part 3, Beirut

The Lesson

Aim

Honesty

Verse

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10)

Hymn

- + The Lord always cares for us...
- + The Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

- + To whom did Joseph interpret dreams?
- + Where was Joseph?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Joseph spent two years in prison. One day there was something unusual in Pharaoh’s palace. What happened?

Pharaoh had two dreams in one night. He sent for all the magicians and wise men in Egypt. He told them his dreams but no one could explain them to him.

The wine steward remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about him. The king sent for Joseph and he was immediately brought from the prison. He shaved and changed his cloths and came into Pharaoh’s presence. He stood bravely before the king and saluted him and they started talking:

Pharaoh: I heard you interpret dreams!

Joseph: It is God’s gift to me.

Pharaoh: Can you interpret my dreams?

Joseph: I myself know nothing but the Lord explain it to me.

Pharaoh: I dreamt that I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the river and began feeding on the grass. Then seven other cows came up which was thin and bony. Then the thin cows ate up the fat ones, but they looked as bad as before. Then I woke up. I also dreamt that I saw seven ears of corn, which were full and ripe. The seven ears of corn sprouted, thin and scorched by the desert wind, and the thin ears of corn swallowed the full ones. I told the dreams to magicians, but none of them could explain them to me. Can you explain them?

Joseph prayed and said: The two dreams mean the same thing. The seven fat cows are seven years and the seven full ears of corn are also seven years; they have the same meaning. The seven thin cows which came up out of the river and the seven thin ears of corn scorched by the desert wind are seven years of famine. There will be seven years of plenty in all the land of Egypt followed by seven years of famine. Now you should choose a man with wisdom and insight and put him in charge of the country. This man should collect food during the years of

plenty and store it so that people may find food to eat during famine. You must also take a fifth of the crops and store it in the first seven years of plenty to be used as food during the seven years of famine.

Pharaoh saw that the idea is great and said to Joseph “I will never find a better man than you to do this job. I will put you in charge of my country and all my people will obey your orders because you are faithful in the very little. The king removed from his finger the ring engraved with the royal seal and put it on Joseph’s finger. He put on him the robe of great men. He gave him the second royal chariot to ride in.

Joseph who was sold as a slave, and put in prison without reason, went out of prison and became a governor and at that time he was 30 years old... How wonderful is God’s care of Joseph!

- + Why did Pharaoh appoint Joseph governor?
- + What did he give him?
- + What does the verse say? He who is faithful ...who can complete?

Activity

When you pray with your parents say the Prayer of Thanksgiving.
Do your homework and do not postpone doing it

(27) God saves Jacob and His Children from Famine

References

- + Genesis 42
- + “The Life of Joseph” Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud

To the Servant

Does your life now suffer from famine?
Are your resources about to run out?
Do you lose heart when you see the difficulties, which threaten you?

Take heart and be brave. There are the movements of the current, which will carry you to Christ and to a better life... The time will come when you will thank God for all the pains and troubles you have suffered from. You will say, “Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I keep your word” (Psalm 119:67).

The Lesson

Aim

God cares about us. It is He that gives us our food.

Verse

“Bless the Lord, O my soul” (Psalm 103:1)

Hymn

- + All your children O my Lord...
- + Jesus loves the little Children [Praise the Lord, Page 49]

Who interpreted Pharaoh's dream? What work was Joseph in charge of? Who can say the verse?

The famine was severe everywhere outside Egypt. People were ready to travel to Egypt to buy corn. People ate everything... leaves, plant roots so that they might not starve... Jacob and his sons lived in the Land of Canaan... (How many are they now?) And they needed food. Jacob learnt that there was corn in Egypt. He sent his sons to Egypt to buy corn but he did not send his youngest son. (Who remembers his name?)

Jacob did not send Benjamin with them because he was afraid that something might happen to him. The ten brothers arrived in Egypt. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but they did not recognize him. He remembered his first dream. (Who remembers that dream?) His brothers bowed down to him. Joseph desired to know something about his old father and younger brother. He acted as if he did not know them and spoke harshly to them but we know that he loved them. The following conversation ran between Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph: Where do you come from?

Brothers: We have come from Canaan to buy food.

Joseph: You are spies.

Brothers: No, sir. We have come to buy corn. We were twelve brothers in all, sons of the same man. One brother is dead and the youngest is now with our father.

Joseph: This is just as I said; you are spies. This is how you will be tested. One of you must go and get your youngest brother.

Joseph kept them for three days then he said to them: I will spare your lives on one condition. To prove that you are honest, one of you will stay in the prison where you have been kept; the rest of you may go. Then you must bring your youngest brother to me.

Jacob's sons were afraid. They said to one another, "now we are suffering the consequences of what we did to our brother; we saw the great trouble he was in when he begged for help, but we would not listen. That is why we are in this trouble now.

Reuben said, "I told you not to harm the boy, but you wouldn't listen... Joseph understood what they said, but they did not know it. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him; they did not notice that he understood what they said and that he knew about whom they were talking.

- + Where did Jacob live?
- + How many children did he have at that time?
- + How many of them left for Egypt?
- + Why did Joseph treat them harshly?

Joseph wept. He picked out Simeon, and had him tied up in front of them... Joseph gave orders to fill his brothers' sacks with corn, to put each man's money back in his sack and this was done. The brothers loaded their donkeys with the corn they had bought, and then they left at the place where they spent the night, one of them opened his sack and found his money at the top of the sack. "My money has been returned to me"; he called to his brothers. The other brothers opened their sacks and they also found their money. When they came to their father Jacob in Canaan, they told them all that had happened to them. Jacob was sad. Simeon was in prison... and Benjamin must go to Egypt and Joseph is lost... No, Benjamin will not go to Egypt. Reuben said to his father, "Put him in my care and I will bring him back". When the family had eaten all the corn, Jacob said to his sons, "Go back and buy corn for us". Judah said, "We cannot go to Egypt without Benjamin". And Jacob said, "Why did you tell the man that you have a younger brother?" Judah said, "You can hold me responsible for Benjamin, my father I will bring him back to you safe and sound". Then Jacob said to them, "If that is how it has to be, then take a present of pistachio nuts, almonds, and take with you also twice as much money, because you must take back the money that was returned in the top of you sacks. May Almighty God cause the man to have pity on you, so that he will give Benjamin and Simeon back to you. And I will bless the Lord and say: Bless the Lord, O my soul..."

- + Whom did Joseph keep in Egypt?
- + When did Jacob agree to let Benjamin go to Egypt?

Let us say together ...Bless the Lord... Who can complete?
Let us sing a hymn together: Bless...Bless...

Activity

Pray for your family.

(28) Joseph Forgives his Brothers because he loves them

References

- + Genesis 45
- + The Life of Joseph, Translated by Marcos Daoud

To the Servant

A selfish man loves himself only, and a kind man loves his neighbor as himself, but the son of grace loves his beloved and his enemies. The Lord loves the good people and the bad people, and his sun gives its light to all people. How great this love is!

Notice Joseph's love for his brothers who sold him and envied him. And notice Jesus' love for his enemies. "Forgive them, Father" and Stephen says "Lord, do not charge them with this sin".

The Lesson

Aim

Teach the children to forgive those who mistreat them

Verse

“Be kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32)

Hymn

+ O Lord we are... [Arabic Song]

+ Jesus loves the Little Children [Praise the Lord, Page 49]

Can you forgive a boy if he insults you?

Can you forgive a boy if he strikes you without intending to do so?

Can you forgive a boy who teases you when you play?

Joseph’s brothers went back to Egypt to buy corn...They took Benjamin with them...They bowed down to Joseph...They gave him the gift...He asked them about their old father...He saw Benjamin...His heart was full of tender feeling for his brother...He wept...He said to them: “I am your brother”. They were terrified... but Joseph said, “Do not be upset... Come closer to me”. He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and cried.

He kissed all his brothers. Simeon, and Reuben... even those who had tied his hands and he said, “Be kind to one another”. They learnt an important lesson; to love one another and their way of living changed.

+ What was Joseph’s work in Egypt?

+ How did Joseph treat his brothers when they came to Egypt?

Let us say together: Be kind to one another... Who can say?

Let us sing a hymn together: Our Lord, we are...

Activity

If anyone insults you, say to him, “May the Lord forgive you”.

Instructions

Explain that forgiveness does not mean weakness so that the child may not keep away from people out of fear.

(29) Lord Christ Accepts Zacchaeus’ Invitation

References

+ Luke 19

To the Servant

1. God cares about us more than we care about ourselves.

2. Jesus our Lord sits by the well to speak to the Samaritan woman. It is He who passes under the Sycamore tree to invite Zacchaeus and to stay at his house.

The Lesson

Aim

Lord Jesus Christ's love for sinners

Verse

"Seek and you will find" (Luke 11:9)

Hymn

- + All your children O Lord [Arabic Song]
- + Zacchaeus was a very little man [Praise the Lord, Page 51]

Means of Illustration

- + Cups and dishes for the banquet
- + Who remembers the previous lesson? And the verse!
- + Who remembers the name of a man who desired to see Jesus and he saw him and that man was short?

Zacchaeus was a rich short man. He longed to see Jesus. He entered his office and was thinking deeply. They asked him, "What is the matter Uncle Zacchaeus? You are thinking deeply today". He said to them, "I desire to see Jesus". They all laughed, "Do you want to see Jesus? Is it possible?" He said, "Why?" and their answer was, "Because you love yourself only. Jesus says: Love one another". He said, "Well, I am ready to change my way of living. I am sure that I will see Jesus; he said: Seek and you shall find". We heard that he would enter Jericho today. When Zacchaeus heard this, he ran quickly out of his office after putting the files and sheets of paper in the drawers... He saw a crowd of people coming from a distance... "What is the matter?" he asked. He was told that Jesus was coming. He thought for a while and said, "Now, I am very short, how can I see Jesus among the crowds". He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Who would be going that way? It was a difficult climb... he made a great effort to climb that tree. He made the attempt many times and at last he managed to climb the tree.

- + What is the name of the man?
- + Why was he busy thinking?
- + Where was Jesus?
- + Why did the man climb the sycamore tree?
- + What does the verse say? Seek...

The crowds came near...children, women, men, young people, surrounded Jesus. They loved Jesus so much that they walked with Him. The crowd passes the sycamore tree. All the people stopped walking...why? Jesus looked up...Zacchaeus saw Him and recognized Him. He thought that Jesus was lifting up His eyes to pray but Jesus was looking at him...how wonderful! Jesus said to him "Hurry down Zacchaeus". How did He know my name?" Zacchaeus happily

wondered and hurried down. Then Jesus said “I will stay in your house today and supper with you”.

Zacchaeus welcomed Him with great joy. He made a banquet (describe it). Zacchaeus served Him (explain how he welcomed Jesus, his joy and happiness to receive Jesus at home, etc.).

What is the name of the town?
How did Zacchaeus see Jesus?
What did Zacchaeus say to Jesus?

Let us say the verse; Seek... Who can complete the verse?

Activity

If a guest or a stranger visits you, how will you treat him?

Instructions

Explain how the children can honor and respect guests and strangers when they visit them. They have to show love and kindness to them and make them happy. They have also to pray for them and for their safe arrival.

(30) A woman pours perfume on Christ's feet

References

+ Luke 7

The Lesson

Aim

Our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and his love for us

Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers” (Hebrews 13:2)

Hymn

+ We love Christ [Arabic Song]
+ I love you Lord... [Praise the Lord, Page 51]

Means of Illustration

A bottle of perfume

Questions

+ What is the name of the man who made a feast for Christ?
+ How did you entertain your guest last week?
+ What is the name of Zacchaeus' town?

Jesus was in a town called Bethany. A man called Simon invited Jesus to have dinner with him. Jesus accepted his invitation. Simon invited his friends and his neighbors and made a great feast (Describe it). Jesus came and he was happy to sit among those good-hearted people. While they were sitting, a woman carrying a jar of expensive perfume entered Simon's house. She desired to express and show her love for Jesus, so she poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. (This action was normal in those days, and it was evidence that the host desired to honor and entertain the guest). The sweet smell of the perfume filled the house. The woman dried Christ's feet with her hair and kissed them. Jesus was pleased with her because what she did was good.

- + Do you love Christ?
- + How can you show your love for Christ?

Who can complete the verse: Do not forget... Let us sing a hymn together: We love Christ...

Activity

1. Give a hand in laying the table and collect the broken bread.
2. Together with your family, always go to church and receive the Holy Communion.

You can ask the children to bring some sweets or simple food to entertain a poor man next lesson.

(31) Using the Cross

References

- + 1 Corinthians 1:17,18; 2:2
- + Galatians 6:14

The Lesson

Aim

To teach the children to love the cross and to be proud of it

Verse

"But God forbid that I should glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14).

Hymn

- + My cross, my cross... [Arabic song]
- + This is the Day ...[Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Means of Illustration

A cross made of colored paper to be stuck on cardboard paper, or made of reeds, or palm leaves, or of postage stamps, or of snails or the stones of fruit... according to the environment.

We start the lesson by making the sign of the cross (The Servant checks the drawing made by every children).

- + Where do you usually see the cross?
- + Why do Christians make the sign of the cross?
- + Why do they carry the cross?
- + When do we make the sign of the cross?
- + Who of you have ever visited a monastery?
- + Who lives there?

A new monk entered one of the monasteries. The custom was that he should be tested first so that the abbot might decide whether he would be fit as a monk or not. The new monk was very simple, sweet-tempered, clean and tidy. He went to church as soon as he heard the church bell. He received the Holy Communion once a week. He kept silent during the mass prayers. He neither looked right or left... He loved his brothers the monks and served them... He cleaned the Monastery courtyard and watered it... He was very active and energetic but he could not study anything... They tried to make him study the psalms or any prayers but he could not... He could not study the Lord's prayer "Our Father who art in heaven". But he knew how to make the sign of the cross. He used to say: "the power of the cross protects me". The Abbot was perplexed. He said, "This brother is unfit". He decided to drive him out. He slept and had a dream. The room was filled with wonderful bright light. From the middle of the light came Jesus. The abbot bowed down to Jesus. Jesus said to him "Why do you think of driving the new monk out? Do not dismiss him. Come and see the devils how they are".

- + Why did the abbot intend to drive the monk away?
- + What did he see in a dream?
- + What did he say to him?

The abbot saw a group of devils holding a meeting and they were all discussing a serious problem. What is the matter? They were plotting against the new monk. They wanted to make him fall but they could not do that... how? he heard the following conversation:

- Who will go to cause this silly monk to fall?
- + I shall go.
- If you make him commit sin I'll give you a wonderful crown.
- + Yes, your majesty

The devil ran quickly...He tried to enter the monk's cell but he could not... He came back ashamed with his face to the ground. He said, "I am sorry I cannot". The chief devil was furious and cried loudly, "Who will go?" Another devil said, "I shall go, your majesty".

Another devil ran...went up and tried to come down to him but he could not do that because he saw the sign of the cross in flames of fire... He could not stay, he ran away. "I cannot", he said. The chief devil cried more loudly, left a chain and sat on another, struck his hands together and asked them how they couldn't cause the fall of a silly monk...why ...What does he do? ...He sent a big group of devils and they all came back ashamed of themselves and said, "We could not

enter the monk's cell". He said to them, "What does he do? Does he pray?" and they said, "he does not know the Lord's Prayer even... Does he recite the psalm? No, neither can he read the Bible. He does not know how to read or how to write". The chief said, "Then this monk is an empty vessel. Why cannot you defeat him?" They said, "He is all the time making the sign of the cross over himself, his face, his heart...before he does anything, he says, "The power of the cross protects me and keeps me safe. Before he sleeps, he makes the sign of the cross up, down, on his right side, and on his left side and says the same words". The chief shook his head and said, "Ah, this is an empty vessel but it is sealed". The abbot woke up and knew the meaning of his dream. He kissed the new monk, accepted him, put the monk's robe on him and gave him the cross.

+ Why couldn't the devils defeat the new monk?

+ What did the abbot do when he woke up?

Let us repeat together: But God forbids that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can say it?

Activity

1. Color the picture of the cross at home and hang it on the wall or draw a picture of several crosses. This can be done according to the ability of the child.
2. Sing the hymn "My cross...my cross" when you pray before you go to bed.

Notes

1. Give the children some crosses of any kind.
2. Draw the children's attention to the way of using the cross in their practical life and how to benefit of its power.

(32) Easter: The Angel Appears to the Maries

References

+ Matthew 28

+ Luke 24:1-12

To the Servant

1. O death, where are your players?
2. O Sheol, where is your destruction?
3. This is the voice of Victorious Jesus: Do you follow His example to win victory over sin?

The Lesson

Aim

The joys of Resurrection

Verse

“He is not here; but is risen” (Luke 24:6)

Hymn

+ O Children, Christ has risen [Arabic Song]

+ Ekhristos Anstity.... Alethos Anstity

Means of Illustration

1. The picture of Christ rising from the dead; Cymbals, triangle, and head coverings for the Maries.
2. The Lord Christ was risen from the dead on the third day (early on Sunday at dawn).
3. The Maries went to the tomb and they did not find the Lord inside it. The angel told them saying “Do not be afraid for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified, He is not here; for He is risen” (Matt 5&6).
4. Mary Magdalene was weeping at the tomb. She looked backwards and saw a young man. She thought that He was the gardener (The gentle worlds between them).
5. Mary was happy. She went to the disciples to inform them of the good news.

Instructions

All classes can give the lesson in the form of a party in which sweets and rewards can be distributed, and some simple parts of the resurrection can be acted and the children can greet one another with the feast greeting:

Ekhristos Anstity...Alethos Anstity... Christ is risen... Truly He is risen.

The party is ended by the resurrection hymns.

The Second year elementary class can invite the children of a second year elementary class from the neighboring town or one of the poor districts to enjoy the feast with them and eat sweets with them. Some children can visit the poor children in their houses. The Servant can go with them to share their joy and happiness. You can visit a Sunday School class in a town or a poor district or an orphanage to share them the joys of Resurrection. The Servant should notice and read the chapter of: How to celebrate Christmas p .50 of the Book, “How to serve the stage of childhood”.

Activity

Read Matthew 29 with your family.

Take part in delivering food and clothes to the poor.

(33) Recitation

Review texts of the First Period. These are:

Psalm 1: Blessed is the man...

Psalm 113: Praise O servants of the Lord...

We magnify you O Mother of Light...

The servant should encourage the children and make sure that they have studied them and that they use them in their prayers. Those who have not studied them should be followed up till they study them.

Activity

When you pray with your family, use psalms... the prayer of Thanksgiving... We magnify you O Mother of Light...Do this every night.

Instructions

Try to recite and make the children recite the texts of the first and the second periods. Collect verses and encourage the children to perform this activity.

(34) The great power of God: “Peter the jeweler” (A story)

Aim

Glorifying God

Verse

“Praise Him in His mighty firmament” (Psalm 150:1)

Hymn

+ The sweet word I say... [Arabic Song]

+ This is the day... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Means of Illustration

Peter is a Christian pious man. He was a jeweler who makes articles of gold. He makes rings, chains, crosses, and engraves names on rings. Peter always went to church and received the Holy Communion. He never swore and whenever he did anything, he said; “The power of the Lord is great and full of wisdom”.

There was a pagan who was his enemy. Whenever he heard Peter say: “The power of God” he became furious and said, “Where is God... I want this man to stop talking in this silly way”.

That pagan was a secretary to a minister. That minister had a very precious ring. He called the pagan and said to him, “Fetch me an honest jeweler who can set a gem in this ring... Take care not to lose it, otherwise your head will be cut off”. The pagan was happy and seized the chance to test uncle Peter and to see how he would benefit from the power of God... He went to Uncle peter and said: “Good morning Uncle Peter”. “Good morning, my son”, Peter replied. “How are you today?” he asked. “I am very well. Thanks be to God whose power is great”, Peter replied. “I want you to set a gem in this ring. Do you know whose ring is this? This is the minister’s ring. Take care not to lose it. He wants the ring as soon as possible. When shall I take it back?” he said. “The power of God is great. You can take it after three days”, Peter replied and took the ring and put it in front of him. He was busy working and there were many things on the table. The Pagan made a trick and stole the ring and said to Peter “All right Uncle peter... Shall I come after three days?” “All right my son, the ring is on the table. I shall not forget to set the gem in it

God willing”, Peter replied. “O.K. goodbye Uncle peter”, he said. “Goodbye my son. The power of God is great”, Peter replied.

- + What was Peter’s work?
- + Who brought the ring to him?
- + What did the pagan do?

The pagan went home and the ring was with him. He was afraid as the minister might accuse him of stealing it or someone might see it with him. “The best thing to do is to throw it into the sea”, he thought. He threw it into the sea and went to his office. The minister said, “Where is the ring?” and the pagan said, “I put it in a Jeweler’s shop of an honest and clever man called Uncle Peter”. “When will you bring it?” “After three days”. Uncle Peter searched for the ring but he did not find it. He searched everywhere...pushed things away, and put them back in their place... The ring was not in the shop... In the name of the cross... the name of the Father and the Son... What shall I say O Lord... The power of God is great...He closed the shop and went sadly home. His wife asked him why he was looking sad and he said to her, “I have lost a very precious ring. If I do not give it back after three days, they will cut my head off as they will accuse me of stealing it as it is the minister’s ring”. His wife said, “Do not be afraid. May the Lord be with you”. The second day, uncle Peter went sadly to the shop. Any customer who came to him that day could not buy any thing as Peter said to all those who came “I am sorry, I won’t work today. A fisherman brought him some fish and said “Good morning Uncle Peter”. “Good morning my son” Peter replied. “I have a big fish. Would you like to buy it?” “I have no desire to buy anything”. “No one else will eat this fish Uncle Peter”. “You have to take it”. “I don’t want any fish today... I am very sad today. Please leave me alone”. Please take the fish. I’ll take no money now”.

The man did not want to leave him alone so, to get rid of him, he said, “Take it to the house”. The fisherman rejoiced. He knew the way to Uncle Peter’s house. The man gave the fish to Peter’s wife and said to her “Cook it so that uncle Peter may eat fish at dinner”. The lady took the fish and said “In the name of the cross”. She opened it and something came out of it. What is it? “A very beautiful ring as that of a king”, she rejoiced... She ran to uncle Peter’s shop. “Look, I found this ring in the fish”. Peter could not believe his eyes. The Power of God is great. Thanks be to God. He set the gem in the ring. The pagan came on the third day and asked, “Have you set the gem in the ring?” Peter said, “Yes, sir. God’s power is great”. The pagan was shocked. The power of God! What happened? Tell me what happened and how this happened. He told him what happened. Is God whom you worship so powerful? The pagan said to uncle Peter: From now on I am a Christian. He became Uncle Peter’s best friend. The pagan was baptized and he kept going to church, attending the Holy Mass and the spiritual meetings till the end of his life.

Some children relate the story and repeat the verse: Praise the Lord.

Activity

Relate the story to your mother, sisters and brothers. Pray three times a day. Pray before you have your meal. Make the sign of the cross on the cup of water so that the Lord may bless it.

Instructions

Depending on the power of God gives power to believer. Make this point clear to the children.

The Verses of this Period are:

- Seek and you will find (Luke 11:9), Lesson 21, 29.
- He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much, (Luke 16: 10), Lessons 25,26.
- The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want (Psalm 23:1), Lesson 24.
- I am with you and will keep you (Genesis 28:15), Lesson 22.
- Bless the Lord O my soul (Psalm 103:1), Lesson 27.
- But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Galatians 6:14), Lesson 31.
- Praise him in his mighty firmament (Psalm 150:1), Lesson 14.
- For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him (Matthew 2:2), Lesson 19.
- Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32), Lesson 28.
- Do not forget to entertain strangers (Hebrews 13:2), Lesson 30.
- He is not here; for he is risen (Matthew 28:6), Lesson 32.
- Repent and let everyone of you be baptized (Acts 2:38), Lesson 20.
- For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11), Lesson 18.
- That I might put you to the test whether you are obedient in all things (2 Corinthians 2:9), Lesson 23.

Recitation texts of this period are:

- Revision of recitation texts of the first period.
- The prayer of Thanksgiving.
- Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd.

These are the texts designed for the Second Year Elementary Schools.

The Servant should make sure that the children have studied them and used them in their prayers.

The Servant should follow them up.

THE THIRD PERIOD

(35) St. Mark's Feast: The Saint and the Lion

References

- + Synexarium 30 Baramoda
- + The Precious Gem (Al-khareeda Al-Nafeessa, Part 1, Page 58)
- + The Story of the Coptic Church (Iris Habeeb)
- + Al-Keraza Magazine August 1965

To the Servant

St. Mark not only preached his father in words but he also resorted to prayers and trusted in the power of God. Have you tested this with those whom you find it difficult to convince?

The Lesson

Aim

Love – God’s love.

Verse

“The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?” (Psalm 27:1)

Hymn

- + All your children My Lord [Arabic Song]
- + I love you Lord...[Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Means of Illustration

1. A picture of St. Mark, flannel board, a lion and two men.
2. The pictures of the saint are to be distributed among the children. The Servant asks them to examine the picture.
3. What is the name of that man? The Servant repeats the question till the children study the name.
4. What is the name of the animal beside his feet?
5. What do you know about the lion?
6. Why did the lion submit itself to the saint?

St. Mark traveled with his father to Jerusalem. His father worshipped idols! Mark used to go with children to Jesus to listen to his sweet words and to look at him, to see the patients whom Jesus healed, and to see the miracles that Jesus used to perform every day. Jesus was calm and gentle. Jesus used to spend the whole night praying. Mark loved him and became his disciple. He was not sure that his father’s religion was wrong, and that Christ whom we worship and to whom we pray is God. The children used to gather around Jesus because they loved him. They used to say: All your children my Lord...

The Scripture says: You shall love the Lord your God.

What was Mark’s father's religion?

When did Mark believe that Christ is God?

Let us repeat the verse together...Who can say it?

One day his father was traveling and he took him with him. When they left the city, two lions appeared before them roaring and running towards them and their mouths were open. The lions wanted to devour Mark and his father. The father was afraid. He wept and said to his son: “Leave me here for the lions to eat me and get back home”. But Mark said, “Do not be afraid, my father. Jesus is able to do everything... I saw him performing miracles”. Mark knelt down, shut his eyes and prayed: “Jesus rescue us, keep us safe, protect us, protect my father. Rescue us from the

lions”. When he ended his prayer, he made the sign of the cross, opened his eyes and saw the two lions fall on the ground suffering from sever pain and they could not move.

His father was amazed and said: “Christ is the Lord”. He kissed Mark his son because his prayer rescued him. He said to his son, “From now on, I am Christian”.

When Mark grew up, he came to Egypt and evangelized Christianity. We love St. Mark and we ask him to intercede for us.

Who taught Mark to pray?

What happened to the two lions?

Why did St. Mark come to Egypt?

Who can say the verse?

Activity

1. Put a lit candle before the picture of St. Mark.
2. Accompanying your parents to the church.

Instructions

1. Emphasize the greatness and Divinity of Christ so that the child may not think he is an ordinary man.
2. Explain that St. Mark imitated Christ and followed his example.
3. Explain that we are thankful to St. Mark, as it was he who guided us to the light of knowing Jesus Christ.
4. You must show the children the picture of a lion, as most children have not seen a lion. Draw the lion properly, because if it is too little, it may look like a dog.
5. Exercises should go side by side with the lesson.

Notes

1. Mark was true to Christ although he lived in a pagan family. Let us be true to Christ.
2. St. Mark preached the name of Christ in our country. Let us preach our brothers and our neighbors and invite them to enjoy the honest Christian life.

(36) The life of Fellowship: The Church of the Apostles is a Church of love

References

- + The Precious Gem (Al-Khareeda Al-Nafeessa), Part I
- + The Story of the Coptic Church
- + A brief summary of the History of Christianity
- + Acts 4:32-37

To the Servant

Have you been kind to the poor and the needy? Have you shared them their way of living and felt the same as they feel in the morning. Have you made them happy by giving them your gifts? (We rejoice with those who rejoice... and we give all those who need).

The more man keeps away from the love of the world, the more he is filled with love for God.

The Lesson

Aim

Love – Believers' love for one another

Verse

“They had all things in common” (Acts 4:32)

Hymn

+ All your children My Lord [Arabic Song]
+ I love you Lord...[Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Aids

1. A picture showing the apostles receiving the believers' gifts and distributing them among the needy.
2. An Orban and some sweets.

How many disciples did the Lord choose?

How many apostles did the Lord choose?

What did they do after the Lord had risen to heaven and after the Holy Spirit had come down upon them?

The disciples met people in the streets, in the market and on the roads and they spoke to them about Christ. They said that Christ came from heaven and lived on earth and that he died for us so that we might not die, that he was buried in the tomb and stayed there three days and that he rose and they were witnesses, that he who lived with the Lord Christ would be happy and glad.

+ Why did Jesus leave heaven and come down to earth?

+ Who deserves death: people or Jesus?

+ Why did Jesus die for them?

The Jews were annoyed when they heard that many people believed in Christ... They arrested the disciples and struck them severely. But the disciples were happy and preached more and more. They said, "Christ died for us and we must die for him. Christ loves us and we love Christ. The Scripture says: You shall love your neighbors as yourself. The disciples were put in prison, in dark places, tied with chains of iron, but they prayed, sang hymns and rejoiced because they loved Christ. They endured everything for him. When they went out of prison, they preached Christ again to people.) Did the people give them their wage?

Why did they accept beatings, insults and prison?

Let us repeat together: You shall love your neighbor ...Who can complete?

If a Christian believer had a field and wanted to gather its crop, what would he do? He takes some of the crops to the houses of the poor and the needy in secret without being seen by anyone. In this way a poor man finds his food and thanks God. That is why no believer said that he was poor because the rich gave the poor out of love.

Do we love our brothers, the poor?

When a believer sold his field, he gave the price to the disciples. He did not keep anything for himself. The disciples gave the poor, each one according to his need.

- + Why were the believers neither poor nor rich?
- + Why were Christians happy?
- + What did the apostles do?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Activity

1. The children should collect some money for the next time to be given to the poor.
2. Study Psalm 70: ...Make haste to help me O Lord.

Instructions

1. This lesson is full of useful information but we are going to explain a few points. The Servant can choose the following points or some of them according to the circumstances.
 - a. Everything should be done in order. (The miracle of feeding the crowds).
 - b. Specialization (priests and people).
 - c. Way of distribution (The believers sell their property and give the price to the apostles).
 - d. Everything was in common.
 - e. They ate together with joy and with a simple heart.
 - f. The apostles supervised the financial matters.
 - g. The deacons helped the disciples. 8- The apostles did not store many.
2. The Servant can change these stories and ideas into conversation or a play between the characters of the story instead of presenting it as events of history or making the children listen in a passive way. An example: Lord Christ says: "Peter, arrange the children... so and so, bring the food and the fish etc. ...and son on".
3. Explain that the basis of all these principles is the deep love for the brothers and complete confidence in God.
4. The Servant should divide Psalm 70 between lessons 36-41 for the children to use it in their prayers. Competitions should be given.

Love for the Church and People Unit

(37) The Lord Calls Peter: The miracle of Catching big amounts of Fish

References

- + Luke 5

+ The Life of Peter -The most precious treasure

To the Servant

Did you give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ (Your heart, your body, your senses, your thoughts...). Do you obey the commandments of the Lord even if they are beyond your experience and understanding?

The Lesson

Aim

Love...To obey the Voice of God

Verse

“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8).

“Do not be afraid; from now on you will catch men” (Luke 5:10).

“Lord, what do you want me to do” (Acts 9:6).

Hymn

+ All your children My Lord [Arabic Song]

+ I love you Lord...[Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Means of Illustrations

The picture of Peter catching fish... a net or a piece of cloth...models of fish made of cardboard paper.

+ How many disciples did Christ choose? Such as...?

+ Do you know how did Peter become Christ’s disciple?

Peter was a fisherman. He had a ship and a net. He went to the lake each morning after sunset to catch fish as he could catch a lot of fish at night as the fish cannot see the net and it can be caught quickly. He was catching fish near the shore because the water was calm there and there was a lot of fish. He sang a hymn - while fishing, “All your children my Lord”. One night, Peter threw the net and waited for a long time, then he drew the net but there was no fish in the net.. He repeated this many times. He was tired and in the morning, he washed the net and left it to dry .He decided to go home and thank the Lord.

+ What is the name of the disciple?

+ What is his job?

+ Did he catch any fish?

Peter saw many people coming towards him... Jesus was among them. The people were very happy. They wanted to listen to his sweet words. Some of them were sick but Peter saw them walking with him and shouting . and they were happy. Jesus got into Peter's ship, and spoke to the people who were very happy to hear him. . Peter was happy.. He desired to live with Jesus... After the sermon, Jesus said to Peter, “Peter” and Peter said, “Yes, Master” Jesus said, “Push the boat out further to the deep water and let your nets down for a catch”. “What does he know about

fishing?” Peter thought. Then he said, “Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets”. Peter let the nets down and caught such a large amount of fish that the nets were about to break. He called his partners in the other boat to come and help him. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees saying “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man O Lord”, for he was astonished at the amount of fish that they caught. Jesus said to him, “Do not be afraid from now on you will catch men”. Peter said, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Would you please let me live with you?” And the Lord Jesus said, “Come and be my disciple”. Peter left the ship, the nets and everything and became Jesus' disciple.

Who ordered fish to go to the net and fill it?

Why did Peter become Jesus’ disciple?

Let us repeat the verse together...

Activity

1. Obey your parents at home.
2. Attend the Mass Prayers and pray three times a day.

(38) Ascension Day

References

+ Acts 1:9-14

+ The Most Precious Treasure

To the Servant

Contemplate Christ ascending to heaven. He will come down again in the same way. Lift up your heart to him. Always lift up your eyes to heaven where you can find “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”.

The Lesson

Aim

Our love for Christ who ascended to heaven

Verse

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you” (John 14:27)

Hymn

+ Let us Praise the name of the Lord... [Praise the Lord, Page 28]

Means of Illustration

1. A big colored picture of the Ascension... Cotton to represent the clouds... Four wings for two angels...

Notes

Who rose from the dead?

What did he do after the Resurrection?

After Christ had risen from among the dead he appeared to the disciples... He encouraged them during the period of forty days before his ascension... He spoke to them about the kingdom of God and about the church system. They said to him "Lord, what do you want me to do?" He commanded them to stay in Jerusalem till the Holy Spirit came upon them.

The disciples were together.. Christ blessed them. Suddenly he saw Jesus rising up... He went up to heaven as you see in this picture. They are looking upwards to him, "Praise the Lord". They saw two angels in white standing. The angels said to them, "Why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven". The apostles went back to Jerusalem. They were happy because of Christ's ascension. They sang a hymn: He went up to j the highest heaven and sent to us the Paraclete.

+ For how many days did Jesus Christ appear after the Resurrection?

+ What did he say to his disciples?

+ What did the two angels say to the disciples and apostles?

+ Will Christ come a second time?

+ Let us repeat the verse together.

Activity

1. Pray in the morning and in the evening.
2. Draw the children's attention to the fact that we pray with our faces toward the east because the Lord Christ went up to heaven towards the east and will also come from the east.

(39) Christ calls Nathanael when he was under the Fig tree

References

+ John 1:47-51

+ The Most Precious Treasure

+ The Twelve Disciples - by Habeeb Saeed

To the Servant

Do you really feel that Christ has called you to perform this service? If there are hindrances to the call, search for them I and remove them. Do you usually search for new disciples to Christ such as Philip?

The Lesson

Aim

Love To know Christ and to attract others.

Verse

“You are the Son of God” (John 1:49)

Hymn

+ My children...My children [Arabic Song]

+ Little Children ...[Praise the Lord, Page 147]

Means of Illustration

A flannel board with a tree on it and some persons in motion

Notes

Who attended the Divine Liturgy last week? Encourage the children to answer...

What is the name of the disciple whom Jesus called last week?

What was his Job?

Philip was another disciple of Jesus... He was very happy to know Christ. He sat by Him and listened to his words. He saw him when he healed the patients.

Who will be happy and successful? That who lives with Jesus, or that who does not live with him? Philip said to himself: “I desire that all people should know Jesus and love him so that they may be happy and glad. Philip met one of his friends called Nathanael. He said to him, I have a secret and I want to impart it to you. They were sitting together under a fig tree... He whispered to him: “We have found Jesus the Savior, the Sweet, the most wonderful... You have to come to see him”. Nathanael asked him: "Where have you found him?" He said,

“He is from Nazareth”. But Nathanael said, “I know that all the people of Nazareth are bad people... Jesus can not come from Nazareth”. Philip said, “Come and see and you will believe my words...” (The children act the dialogue between Philip and Nathanael). Nathanael saw Jesus and was astonished at his great beauty. When he approached him and came nearer to him, Jesus said to him, “Come Nathanael!” “How does he know my name? You are true Jew. How have you known me, Lord? How do you know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you when you were under the fig tree, before Philip called you”. “How can you see through all this distance?”

Nathanael worshiped Jesus, he bowed down to him and said, “My Lord and my God... You are the Son of God”. He became a disciple to Christ all the days of his life.

Questions

Who called Nathanael?

Who can say the verse?

Activity

1. Pay a visit to your neighbors who were absent?
2. Invite a child to see Christ and meet him in the church.

Instructions

The success of this lesson depends on emphasizing the beauty of knowing Christ. The Servant should do his best to present the qualities of Christ clearly so that the child may love him.

(40) Entertaining Strangers: Anba Abraam the Bishop of Fayoum

References

+ The Life of Anba Abraam, Al-Mahaba Bookshop

To the Servant

1. He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.
2. Do you give the tithes to the Lord like the Jews or do you give more like the children of God.

Aim

Love for strangers and entertaining them.

Verse

“Do not forget to entertain strangers” (Hebrews 13:1)

Hymn

+ My Lord, we are [Arabic Song]

+ I love you Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Means of Illustration

A picture of Anba Abraam - What will you do if you meet a poor man? What will you give him? There was a holy man named Anba Abraam. He was the Bishop of Fayoum. He loved all people rich and poor. One day, a poor woman begged him to give her some money but at that time he had no money. One of his children had given him a new shawl. Anba Abraam gave the shawl to the poor woman. He said to her, “Take this shawl, sell it and buy what you need”.

This virtue was one of the good qualities of Anba Abraam.. He loved the poor and the strangers and he entertained them, and he gave them food and served them and sat down with them and ate With them. Once the poor people complained that the cook did not give them their share of meat so he dismissed him, and appointed another cook and ordered him to give them what they wanted.

One day a poor man came to him and begged him a pound (like a dollar) to buy his needs. Anba Abraam had no more than one pound in his pocket; he gave it to him and stayed without money.

Questions

What did Anba Abraam give to the poor woman?

How did he treat the strangers?

Why did he dismiss the cook?

Activity

Arrange for a visit to a poor family. Help them by giving them some money and what they need.

Instructions

The servant tries to develop the virtue of love for the poor and strangers in this lesson and the next lessons, by arranging visits to the needy and he should take with him two or three children each time.

(41) The brotherly love: The story of the two brothers and wheat

References

+ The brotherly love

To the Servant

Contemplate God's love for us when he endured all the pains for us.

Anything you do out of love even if it is very little is useful.

Your heart should not be filled with any hatred, otherwise how can your lesson reach the child's heart which is full of love.

The Lesson

Aim

Love for brothers

Verse

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18)

Hymn

+ My Lord we are...[Arabic Song]

+ I love you Lord [Praise the Lord]

Means of Illustration

1. A picture can be drawn by the Servant, in which the story can be explained in a simple way.
2. If possible bring some wheat, and put it in two piles so that the lesson may be practical.

Notes

If your friend asks you to give him a pen, a ruler, or a rubber, will you give it to him with pleasure?

If your brother took your handkerchief or used your shirt, would you be annoyed or would you be pleased?

If you found that your brother was in need of money or a piece of chocolate, would you give him?

Once there were two brothers one of them was married and the other was single. The married man had children. Each one of them had a field and each one of them reaped wheat and made it into a big pile. They both loved each other and one thought that the other needed money more. The elder brother said, "My younger brother needs money to spend on his clothes and be pleased". And the younger brother said, "My elder brother wants to bring up his children and needed money to spend on his family". Each one of them decided to carry some of his wheat to the other because they deeply loved each other.

The elder brother took some wheat and walked on his tiptoes. While he was walking he prayed, "O Lord, bless my brother." It was night and the moon was shining and the people were asleep. The brother went to the land and poured the wheat there calmly.

- + What did the elder brother do?
- + Who remembers the verse?

The younger brother did the same thing. He took some wheat from the barnyard and carried it into the barnyard of his brother. He was very happy and sang: "O Lord we are all happy". The second morning, they got up and each went to his own barnyard and each found the same amount of wheat as no pile decreased. It looked as if he had not taken anything from it. They were amazed and did not know what happened. They did the same thing each night. One night while each of them was walking towards the other's barnyard to pour the wheat; they met each other and each one was carrying the wheat. They understood why their piles of wheat did not decrease in their amount. They kissed each other. Their love was deep. They thanked God who filled their hearts with love for each other. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Questions:

- + Why did the younger brother give his elder brother some of his wheat?
- + If one of them did not love the other, what would happen?
- + Did the Lord love those two brothers?
- + What does the verse say? Who can say it?

Let us sing a hymn together: O Lord we are all happy.

Activity

We should give our brothers some of what we buy or own.

Instructions

1. Children should be encouraged to love their brothers at home and their colleagues in the school. (They should eat together and play together). It is known that the child in his early years is selfish and we want him to show love for others.
2. Advise the children to give some of what they buy to one another.

(42) Love for others and serving them: Anba Sarabamun

References

The Biography of the great Saint Anba Sarabamun by Iskandar Fahmy

To the Servant

Do you love your brothers? Do you love all people?
What did you give your brothers the poor and the needy?

Did you help them in time of need?
Is your love for your brothers a practical love or mere words? Ask yourself.

The Lesson

Aim

Love for the brothers and serving them

Verse

ever fails (I Corinthians 13:8)

Hymn

+ My Lord we are... [Arabic Song]
+ I love you Lord [Praise the Lord page 44]

Means of Illustration

The picture of Anba Sarabamun

Introduction

What do you give your brothers when you buy anything?

The picture in your hands is the picture of Anba Sarabamun. Before he became a monk, his name was Saleeb. He used to sell oil on his donkey. Because he was pious and worshipped God honestly and sincerely. They chose him to be Bishop of Menoufya. He loved his poor brothers and all people. He used to carry a basket full of wheat and many other things (rice, meat, soap, oil, clothes, etc.) He gave them to the needy that could not go out to beg. He used to cover his face with a shawl so that no one would recognize him.

Why was Anba Sarabamun given the name of the man with the shawl (Abu Tarha)?

What was his name before he was ordained a monk?

What was his most important quality?

One day a man named Hanna the carpenter saw him and he thought that he was a thief. He did not recognize him. He saw a man whose clothes were strange. His clothes covered his whole body except his eyes. He thought that he was a thief and followed him from lane to lane. He was carrying a basket on his head. When he arrived at a certain house, he knocked at the door and a poor woman opened the door. He gave her the basket without speaking to them then he went back. Hanna the carpenter ran after him and saw his face and knew that he was Anba Sarabamun. The Bishop warned him not to follow him again and ordered him not to mention

what he saw to anyone. That was what he used to do. May the blessing of his prayer be with us. Amen.

- + Why did the saint cover his face with a shawl?
- + Why did the saint ask Hanna the carpenter not to tell anybody about his service?

Activity

Study three verses about love. Put your alms in the plate or the church box so that the church can give the needy.

(43) The Church serves the sick people

References

- + James 5:14-16
- + Pastoral Love: The Unction of the Sick

To the Servant

To be healed and to restore our health, we have to confess our sins.

The Lesson

Aim

Love our church because she prays for us and we restore our health.

Verse

“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church” (James 5:14)

Hymn

- + I was sick and lean...
- + We rejoiced...
- + There is a lamp in the eastern side of the sanctuary.
- + O God have mercy on us [Praise the Lord, Page 13]

Means of Illustration

A plate, oil, and cotton

Introduction

Ask the children about those who are absent, why they are absent then speak about sickness and ask them what they will do when there is a sick man.

A lady from Assiut was sick. They called the doctor. He examined her and then said to her husband, “Her leg must be cut off”. The lady understood that her leg must be cut off. She wept bitterly and said, “My leg will never be cut off... I am confident of God’s power... Jesus will heal me... Send for the priest Father (name) to perform The Unction of the Sick Prayer, and anoint me with oil and will be healed... The Scripture says: Is any among you sick?... The doctor left them

and her husband went to the church and accompanied the priest back home. A deacon came with them carrying a small bag containing the Book of the Unction of the Sick Prayer, a censor and some incense. They entered the lady's room. The woman got up.. greeted the priest and kissed his hand. He said to her, "You will be healed. Christ will heal you". He brought a plate, some oil and cotton. He lit a piece of cotton, then another. He prayed... All the members of the family prayed... He anointed her... The lady said: "I have become well. She moved her leg... She stood up and walked... They were all happy... They prayed and thanked God... I was sick and lean.

What did this lady suffer from?

What did the doctor say?

How did the lady become well?

The Scripture says: Is any among you sick? Let us sing a hymn together: I was sick and lean.

Activity

1. Tell the priest about the sick children whom you know.
2. Let us pray for (name) who is sick.

(44) Prayer: Anba Shenouda

References

+ The Precious Gem (Al-Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part I

+ The Biography of the great Saint Anba Shenouda the Archimandrite, i.e. "The Head of Anchorites" by Abdul Nur

To the Servant

1. Do you feel that you are in need of the power or prayer, and that prayer to your soul is like food for your body?
2. Do you contemplate the prayer when you recite it?
3. Pray earnestly to God.

The Lesson

Aim

Love of prayer

Verse

"That men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1)

Hymn

+ Our light must shine before the people... [Arabic Song]

+ Little children... [Praise the Lord, Page 147]

Means of Illustration

A picture of Anba Shenouda

+ Do you like to pray?

- + How often do you pray?
- + Do you pray with your brothers and your family?

The picture in your hand is the picture of a great holy man whose name is Anba Shenouda. He was born in Souhag and his father owned many sheep. Some shepherds asked his father to let Shenouda go with them to take care of the sheep. He was seven years old at that time. His father agreed on condition that his son would spend the night at home. Shenouda took all that he needed. food, water, etc. and went out in the morning and spent the whole day outside with the sheep and shepherds. He used to give his food to the shepherd and to fast for the whole daytime. At sunset he went home but he arrived late in the night. When his mother asked him why he was late, the shepherds told her that the boy left them at sunset. One day, a shepherd followed Shenouda from a distance and watched him. The boy turned to the edge of a pool near the village and stood there to pray. "The boy's fingers were shining like candles" the shepherd said. The scent of incense filled the place.

- + What is the name of the saint?
- + What was the work of his father?
- + Where did he go after sunset?
- + To whom did he give his food?
- + What did the shepherd say?

Let us repeat together: They ought always to pray... who can complete?

Shenouda became a father to many monks as he loved the Lord and he loved to pray.

Activity

1. Pray three times a day and sing the hymn: Our light must shine...
2. Light a candle before the Icon of the Saint.

Recitation

Students study Psalm 122: "I was glad when they said to me: Let us go to the house of the Lord". This psalm can be used when the children pray till lesson 49. Competitions encourage the children to study.

(45) The Apostles Day: Lord Christ appears to Paul

References

- + Acts 9
- + The Life of Paul: Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Beirut

To the Servant

Saul's life changed when he saw Jesus. Have you met Jesus? He might have knocked at the door of your house several times? Did you beg him to enter?

The Lesson

Aim

Celebrating the Apostles' Day.

Verse

"Lord what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

Hymn

- + Paul the apostle evangelized...
- + Peter and Paul the two apostles
- + The Lord is my shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Notes

- + Who defends and protects the Christians?
- + What was the name of Paul the apostle before he met the Lord Christ?

There was a man called Saul. He hated the Christians and persecuted them. He searched for them everywhere to kill them. One day, he heard that there was a great number of Christians in Damascus. He quickly rose and took with him some horses and some strong men who hated Christians and said to them, "Let us go to Damascus to kill all the Christians there". They rode the horses and were on their way to Damascus. As they came near the city a light from the sky suddenly flashed all around them. The light was stronger than the light of the sun.

Saul and those with him could not look at the strong light. Saul fell to the ground and could not move. The men were afraid. They fell down from their horses and their faces were to the ground. They all heard a voice coming from heaven saying: "Saul.. Saul.. Saul... Why do you persecute me?" Saul could not lift himself up. He was trembling out of fear. He said, "Who are you, Lord". "I am Jesus whom you persecute", the voice said "He who persecutes Christians persecutes me". Saul's wicked power weakened and faded and changed into a new man; meek and humble. He said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

- + What is the name of this saint?
- + Whom did he persecute?
- + Where was he going to?
- + Why? Who were with him?
- + What did he see on his way to Damascus?
- + What did the voice say?
- + Let us say together: Lord, what wilt... Who can complete?

Jesus said to him: "Get up and go into the city , where you will be told what you must do. There is a man called Ananias, he is my disciple. He will pray for you and will tell you what to do". The voice disappeared. Saul felt this way. He said to the men, "I see nothing... I cannot see a thing... " They led him into the city taking him by the hand, and they asked about the house of Ananias. They found it...they entered... Ananias welcomed them. Ananias placed his hand on Saul and prayed. Saul was able to see once more. He preached him about Jesus. He baptized Saul

and his men and Saul became a Christian. He loved the Christians and defended them. He preached the name of Christ until the Romans killed him.

Each year we remember Saul's Story whose name became Paul. We rejoice and say: "Paul the apostle preached".

- + What is the name of the apostle who preached Saul about Christ?
- + When did he baptize him?
- + Who killed Saul?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Activity

1. Invite your brothers and friends to come to Sunday School to know Jesus and love him.
2. If anyone does not answer your invitation, pray for him.
3. Pray also for the enemies of the church.

(46) Showing reverence for the House of God: Jesus drives the merchants out of the Temple

References

+ Mark 11

To the Servant

1. But I through the abundance of your steadfast love will enter your house. I will worship toward thy Holy temple In the fear or thee. When we stood in the House of God, he gives us his blessing. Standing in the House of God, he gives us his blessing. Standing in the House of God is in itself a blessing.
2. Contemplate how God sends his Holy Spirit to sanctify the Holy Sacraments that are practiced in the church at a time when you may be absent-minded.
3. Note that only the pious and those who repent and confess their sins are allowed to enter the church. Sinners who enter the church will be judged for this on the Day of Judgment.

The Lesson

Aim

Showing reverence to the House of the Lord

Verse

"That men always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18: 1)

"My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Mark 11: 17)

"I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy. In fear of you, I will worship towards your holy temple" (psalm 5:7)

Hymn

- + Our church there are...
- + In your house, in your house...
- + Holy is our Church ...[Praise the Lord, Page 124]

The Servant asks the children: “Whose House is this church?” The Lord loves His church or His house. Describe the church: Tidy, clean, people sit calmly...

Items

Suppose that a king made a feast and invited some of his friends to come. Is it reasonable for the guests to leave the king alone, speaking to them and they would not listen to him, and each one of them speak to the other without being concerned with what the king says?

When the Lord Christ entered the temple, He found some merchants selling goods. He drove them out and said “My house shall be called a house of prayer”. God is pleased with the polite boys who sit calmly in His house. God sees you when you are in the church and wants you to pray quietly. You will not please God if you do not do so.

You have heard the story of the angels who were pleased with the boy who sat properly in the church and performed what he was asked to do (Mention this story) and the angels gave him a crown of light. Other boys did not sit quietly so the angels refused to give them the crowns of light and when they sat quietly the angels gave them the crowns of light.

Method

1. This lesson can be given in a practical way. Give some presents to the children who carry out these instructions.
2. Children in Sunday School should be trained on how to enter the church. They should sing a suitable hymn if possible: In your house...in your house...

Activity

Go to church with your parents.

Instructions

1. Do not dictate instructions concerning how to enter the church. The child should deduce the way from the spirit of the story or imitate the Servant who is supposed to be a model. So encourage the whole class to attend the Holy Mass on Sunday. Accompany them and be their model and watch them.
2. The children should make the sign of the cross when they enter the church and say: “Our Father who art in heaven...”
3. The children should make room for old people and the sick people.

(47) The Church Loves All People: Cornelius Receives Faith

References

- + Acts 10

To the Servant

+ Read Acts 9:10-17, 8:26-39

The Lord who plans a suitable way for its salvation and sends the suitable person for it rescues the soul that is thirsty for salvation. Are we prepared to let the Lord make use of us for His glory?

The Lesson

Aim

The church loves all people.

Verse

“And be rejoiced having believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:34)

Hymn

- + My Lord...we are...
- + All your children my Lord...
- + Holy is our church... [Praise the Lord page, Page 124]

When you grow up, what job do you like to hold?
If you were an officer, what would you like to hold?

The Romans ruled the Holy Land. They worshipped idols, which could neither feel nor speak. But a Roman officer named Cornelius heard of God and loved Him. He used to pray, fast and help the poor.

- + What is the name of the officer?
- + What did the Romans worship?
- + Whom do you worship?
- + Whom do you love?
- + To whom do you pray?

One day while he was praying, the Lord’s angel appeared to him and said: “Cornelius, the Lord accepted your prayer and works of charity. Send for Peter the apostle to guide you to the way of Salvation. Peter was praying in another town when Cornelius messengers arrived. Peter went with them and preached Cornelius and his household about Jesus Christ the only Savior. Cornelius said “I believe... baptize me”. Peter the apostle baptized Cornelius and his household and they all became Christians and he rejoiced with his entire household.

- + What did the angel say to Cornelius?
- + Where was Peter the apostle at that time?
- + Who guided Cornelius to the way of Salvation?
- + What was Cornelius? Who was Peter?

Do you think that the life of Cornelius became better after he believed in Christ? Why?

Let us repeat together... And he rejoiced... Who can complete?

Activity

Ask your brothers and friends to go to church.

Instructions

Explain that God accepts all people and that He does not differentiate between them.

(48) The Church loves Children: Jesus makes a child stand in front of His Disciples

References

+ Mark 9:35-37

+ Studies of the New Testament

+ The Series of Spiritual stories for children by Siliman Nisseem

To the Servant

Christ loves children because they are meek and their hearts are pure. Be babes in evil, but in thinking be mature.

The Lesson

Aim

The church's love for children

Verse

“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God”
(Luke 18:16)

Hymn

+ My children...my children...

+ I love you Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 44]

+ Who is your friend?

+ Who is the best friend to the children?

One day, Christ was standing in a spacious place. There were crowds of people around Him. They came from different places to listen to His sweet words. He cured those who had need of healing. The twelve disciples were always with Jesus. They went with Him everywhere; they prayed with Him and served Him. While Christ was sitting preaching people, a young boy of your age ran to Jesus and said, “I want to see Christ”. The boy saw Christ's bright face shine like the sun. Christ's voice was deep and effective. Christ took hold of the boy's hand and said, “Stay with me”. Jesus asked His disciples, “What were you arguing about on the road?” (How many disciples are there?) But they would not answer Him because on the road they had been arguing

among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus paused for a while then He said to the child, "Come here". When the boy drew near Jesus, Jesus said: Assuredly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter It". His disciples listened attentively. They desired to study every word He uttered. But the child asked Jesus to explain this to him and Jesus said, "My heart is filled with love for the children. The angels surrounded them and guard them". Then he said to his disciples, "Let the children come".

How many disciples did Jesus have?
Describe Jesus' face.

Why didn't the disciples answer Jesus' question?
What does the guardian angel do?
Let us say the verse: Let the children...

Activity

Pray and say: O righteous Jesus.. the friend of children... help me and protect me. Amen.
Draw a picture of an angel and color the picture and trim.

(49) Showing Reverence for the Priests

References

- + The story of Jesus for Children
- + The Bibliography of the Great Saint Anba Sarabamun

The Lesson

Aim

Showing love and reverence for the priests.

Verse

"He who receives you receives me" (Matthew 10:40)
"He who hears you hears me" (Luke 10:16)

Hymn

I love Abouna the priest [Arabic Song]

Means of Illustration

Invite the priest to visit the class. Children welcome him and greet him

Introduction

Hold a discussion about the job the children like to hold when they grow up. Then ask: Who would like to be a priest?
How would you welcome the priest when you meet him?

In lesson 42 we learnt a part of the biography of Anba Sarabamun the Bishop of Menoufya and how he showed love and kindness for the poor and the needy. One day when he was on a visit to some towns, a black slave who was the head of a bank of robbers attacked him and prevented him and his donkey from going on his way. He said to him, "Give me the money you have or get down and take off your clothes". The bishop said, "I have no money...let me go". The slave raised his hand to strike the bishop and the bishop said, "Keep your hand raised as it is and let me go". Then he left and went away.

Where was the saint going?

Did he have any money?

Who attacked him?

Why did the highwayman raise his hand?

When the bishop was on his way back the next day, he found the man still raising his hand and suffering from great pain. When the man saw the bishop he asked him to forgive him. Anba Sarabamun said, "How great my sin is. Go my son. May God bless you" and he forgave him. The slave repented and never robbed anybody after that. He became a good man.

We love our fathers the priests because they made us Christians when they baptized us... and through their authority, our sins are forgiven. In the Holy Mass they offer the Sacrifice of Christ's body and blood, and when we are sick, they come to us and pray and anoint us with oil and thus we are healed. We respect them because Jesus said: He who receives you receives me.

+ Why do we love our fathers the priests?

+ What would you do when you meet our father the priest in the street?

Activity

1. If you see our father the priest run towards him and kiss his hand and say to him, "Pray for me".
2. Review the recitation texts as a preparation for the revision lessons next week.

(50) Review

Review the recitation texts of this period and encourage the children who have studied them. Those who have not studied them yet should be followed up by the Servant The children should use these texts in their prayers in the church and at home and also in the class.

(51) The Feast of the Virgin: Her Childhood and her life in the temple

References

+ Synexarium 3 Kiahk

To the Servant

Contemplate the Lady Virgin's meekness and purity...

The Lesson

Aim

Beautifying the Lady Virgin.

Verse

"For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48)

Hymn

+ 'Through the Intercession of the Theotokos St. Mary
+ O St Mary...
+ Shere ne Maria ...[Praise the Lord, Page 21]

- + How does the Lord honor those who love him?
- + What is the name of the church book that contains the life history of the holy men?
- + Who is the Mother of the Lord?

There was a man called Joachim and his wife Anna. Joachim was a shepherd and he had no children. Joachim and Anna prayed to the Lord to give them a son or a daughter. "O Lord, if you give us a son or a daughter, we shall send the child to the temple to serve you".

- + What is the name of the Virgin's father... Her mother?
- + What was the vow they made?

The Lord answered their prayers and gave them a daughter and they called her Mary. When Mary was three years old, her father took her to the temple and left her there in charge of the priest to serve the Lord. She stayed in the temple till she was 12 years old. During this time, her father and mother died. Mary was a gentle girl. She obeyed the priest and followed his advice. She served in the temple. She cleaned the temple. She made beautiful napkins. She polished the censor and prepared everything when the priest prayed. She used to pray while working... at night... in the morning... at noon... The priest loved her because she was calm and meek... The angels fed her... Because of this the Lord chose her to give birth to Christ and He sent her an angel to announce the birth of Christ She said: For behold, henceforth...

Questions

- + Why did the Lord choose the virgin to be born of her?
- + What did she do in the temple?

Let us say together: For behold, henceforth... Who can complete? Let us sing a hymn together: Through the Intercession of the Theotokos...

Activity

When we need anything, let us pray to God and ask the Virgin Mary to intercede for us.

(52) Review

Aim

Review of the previous aims and emphasize them.

To the Servant

1. Check and review your service concerning lesson preparation, visiting the children, prayer, children's life and way of living.
2. You can make use of the means of illustration that you used in the previous lessons and they are the best means to remind the child of the story. Try to connect each lesson with its hymn and verse. Also review the hymns and verses. For example:
 - a. The Servant raises the picture of St. Mark and the lion and asks the children to say the name of the saint and chooses one of them to relate the Story and the Servant asks some questions.
 - b. The Servant puts two piles of wheat and asks about the title of the story and one of the children can relate it.
 - c. The Servant can cover himself with a shawl. Only his eyes can be seen. He can carry a basket on his head and ask about the saint mentioned in the story.
 - d. A dish full of oil can be brought. A wick can be lit. The Servant asks about that sacrament and one of the children can relate the story. The same thing can be done with all the lessons.

The Servant should also review the recitation texts that the children have studied. The Servant should encourage the children to study them. He should bear in mind that the process is not complete unless the child prays and uses them in his prayers at home.

The Verses of this Period are:

- Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord (Luke 5:8).
- But as for me, I will come into your house in the multitude of your mercy in fear of you I will worship towards your holy temple (Psalm 5:7), Lesson 46.
- The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear (Psalm 27:1), Lesson 35.
- You are the Son of God (John 1:49), Lesson 39.
- My house shall be called a house of prayer (Mark 11:17), Lesson 46.
- You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31, Leviticus 19:18), Lesson 41.
- Let the children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God (Luke 18: 16), Lesson 48.
- For behold, henceforth all generations will call be blessed (Luke 1:48), Lesson 51.
- Do not be afraid; from now on, you will be catch men (Luke 5:10), Lesson 37.
- Do not forget to entertain strangers (Hebrews 13:1).
- He who hears you hears me (Luke 10:16), Lesson 49.
- He who receives you receives me (Matthew 10:40), Lesson 49.
- And be rejoiced having believed in God with all his household (Acts 16:34), Lesson 47.
- Lord what do you want me to do? (Acts 9:6), Lesson 37,45.
- Men always ought to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1), Lesson 44.

- Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church (James 5:14), Lesson 43.
- Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8), Lesson 42.
- Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you (John 14:27), Lesson 38.
- They had all things in common (Acts 4:32), Lesson 36.

The recitation texts of this period are:

Psalm 70: Make haste God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalm 122: I was glad when they said to me: Let us go to the house of the Lord.

The children should study them...the servant can encourage them through competitions to make sure that they have studied them.