

Sunday School Program

Grade 3

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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Diocese of Beni Sweif

The Third Elementary Grade

A Child of Eight

The child of this age is characterized by the following:

1. Mental, physical energy and activity, perpetual movement in the environment of both children and adults.
2. Children cannot keep quiet for a long period of time. They move, speak, work and play at a great speed and they would rather be with people than being alone.
3. Concerning their relationship with their parents, they like to be treated as friends not as children and not being controlled.
4. They like to speak to adults and they are deeply interested in people and friends outside the family circle. They are interested in all that is great and exciting, they are very curious and they like to know the difference between themselves and others.
5. They can do and arrange teamwork with their colleagues and they love all. They also like people of other countries, other languages, and people living at present and people of the future.
6. They like to possess materialistic things but they are somewhat generous and hospitable.

For all these reasons we have to see to it that:

- a) There should be types of activities for children of this age as activities are very important for them.
- b) We should allow the children to choose what they want to do under our supervision.
- c) We can carry out short-term collective projects.
- d) Children like to be introduced to others so they should be allowed to visit or to be visited by others.

Ability to evaluate

Children begin to compare themselves with others, hence they like to people to treat them as grown ups and not as children. Here, they begin to love their servants because of their emotions and here also starts the time of criticism. That is where serving this age becomes very challenging where you can really influence the life of a child. The challenge also comes from the fact that this age combines concrete with abstract and adventure characteristics. The servant then must take the following into considerations:

1. The servant must satisfy the children's needs and fulfill their desires by offering them ideas rather than instructions.
2. Introduce the factor of role-playing in the lesson and ask the child to participate in the story from time to time. The child must not get bored.
3. The servant presents to them the love of God for all people.
4. The servant should draw his child's attention to recognize the relationships among people.
5. Participating in devotions and worship.

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THE FIRST PERIOD

(1) The Coptic New Year's Day (Nyrouze): St. Refka the martyr and her five sons

References

- + "Martyrdom in Christianity" book
- + "Women Martyrs in Christianity" book
- + Synexarium, 7th of Tute, Part 1

To The Servant

1. Martyrdom is love; love of Jesus Christ, love of all men, love of those who persecute us for the sake of Jesus who offered Himself for our redemption from death.
2. Would you like to be a martyr? You will have to bear many crosses, you will have to endure sleepless nights, hunger and afflictions, without complaints; you have to endure these troubles with satisfaction, pleasure, gratitude and great joy.

The Lesson

Aim

Standing firm in faith till death

Verse

"Fear not, I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10)

Hymns

- + Our martyrs are righteous...our martyrs are pure [Arabic Song]
- + Shine on us...St George

Aids

1. Candles, dates, pomegranates, guava, flowers, a crown made of cardboard (in case there is any), a picture of the Saint to be fixed in the middle. If the servant cannot get a picture of the Saint, he can use a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ blessing children, instead.
2. The children go around carrying candles and flowers and chanting one of the above hymns.
3. Set the candles onto a table in the middle of the room and ask the children to sit around the table.

Setting the scene

1. What do you know about the Nayrouze feast?
2. What does the word "Nayrouze" mean?
3. Who can give me the names of some martyrs?
4. Why do we buy red dates and guava?
5. What are the types of affliction received by martyrs?
6. How can we honor Saints?

St. Refka the martyr had five sons, Aghathon, Peter, John, Amon, and Amona. They were living in a village near Luxor in Upper Egypt. Once, the angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "You will receive the crown of martyrdom in one of the districts of Damanhour, in a place called Quous near Alexandria". They were very happy and they said to the angel "We love God...we do not fear death". Then the angel disappeared. St. Refka encouraged her sons to stand firm in faith and to be ready for martyrdom.

1. What is the mother's name?
2. How many sons did she have?
3. What did the angel of the Lord say?

They distributed their money and property among the poor and the needy, then they went to Quous for martyrdom. They stood bravely before Dionessus and said:

ALL: "We are Christians".

LEADER: We punish and torment Christians.

ALL: We do not fear punishment. God is for us. The Lord says "Fear not, I am with you".

LEADER (speaks to Refka): Woman, forget about these things, burn incense to the gods and worship them.

REFKA: Don't try to convince me for I shall not worship your gods.

LEADER: Save your life and listen carefully to what I say to you.

REFKA: What do you want to say?

LEADER: Burn incense to the idols.

REFKA: Go away servant of Satan.

LEADER: I will cut off your head.

REFKA: I am ready. Do whatever you want. The Lord strengthens me.

LEADER: Swordsman, cut off her head.

REFKA: Please wait a while till I pray to my God. (Refka and her sons pray: O Lord, I thank you because you have made me a Christian. I shall offer my life and my sons as a sacrifice to you...Amen.)

LEADER: To whom were you praying?

REFKA: To my Lord and my God Jesus Christ.

LEADER: Ha... swordsman cut off her head.

REFKA: Before you cut my head off, cut off the heads of my sons first so that I may be assured that they will receive the crown of martyrdom before me.

LEADER: Your sons will burn incense to the idols.

ALL: No this will never happen.

LEADER: I'll think of other types of punishment.

ALL: We are ready to die in the name of Jesus Christ.

LEADER: What is your name? You answer my question because you are the oldest.

AGHATHON: I am a Christian.

LEADER: What is your name?

AGHATHON: told you I am a Christian.

LEADER (speaks to one of the soldiers): strike him on his mouth and tell him not to give a roundabout answer (The soldier strikes Aghathon on his mouth).

AGHATHON: Do whatever you like. I am ready to bear any affliction.

LEADER: Come and burn incense to the idols.

AGHATHON: This is godlessness.

LEADER: I'll put you in boiling oil.

AGHATHON: You have authority over my body, but not my soul.

LEADER (to the soldiers): Strip of his shirt, strike him with hot rods then throw him into boiling oil.

LEADER: My son, deny Christ.

AMONA: I'll never deny my Redeemer and Savior Jesus Christ.

LEADER: {Gets a gold statue out of his pocket} worship this statue.

AMONA: I worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (he crosses himself).

LEADER: I'll give you many gifts.

AMONA: I do not want anything.

LEADER: Obey me... you cannot bear punishment.

AMONA: I am not afraid. Jesus said "Fear not, I am with you".

The leader and the soldiers were greatly amazed. The leader ordered the soldiers to cut their heads off and to throw their bodies into the sea, but one of the natives gave the soldiers a lot of money and thus he took their bodies. While he was on his way to bury them he heard a voice saying, "This is the dwelling place of the righteous", so the native buried their bodies in that place. When persecution came to an end, a Church was built on their bodies in the town of Sinbat. Thousands of people visit this Church in August every year.

1. If someone asks you "Are you a Christian?" How do you answer?
2. What are the types of punishment that St. Refka and her five sons received?
3. Where is St. Refka's Church?
4. When does the Church celebrate St. Refka's martyrdom day?
5. What is the name of the book that includes the stories of martyrs and Saints?
6. Who can say the verse?

Notes

1. Children should act out dialogues in a lively way and to indulge completely in the action or situation.
2. Concentrate on the spirit of love and bravery shown by St. Refka the martyr and her sons.
3. Distribute dates and guava among the children.
4. Children pray holding candles in their hands.

(2) God Calls Moses And Gives Him Miraculous Power

References

- + Exodus 4
- + The life of Moses; translated by Fr. Morcos Daoud
- + Interpretation of Exodus by St. George Coptic Church Sporting

To The Servant

1. What is my motive for partaking in the service of the Church?

2. Is the motive to satisfy the instinct of ostentation?
3. Is it because I want to please one of my friends?
4. Is it because I want to be famous?
5. Or is a responsibility and a duty? “For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel”.

The Lesson

Aim

The spirit of reverence and humbleness (which were the characteristics of Moses when God called him)

Verse

“May God be gracious to us and bless us” (Psalm 67)

Hymns

- + Our martyrs are righteous...our martyrs are pure [Arabic Song]
- + Shine on us...St George

Notes

- + Children begin their prayer and repeat the Psalm in their prayers.
- + They should study this Psalm and repeat it till lesson five (The Psalm is to be printed and distributed or the children get it out of books as a competition).

We are going to listen to a story about the people of God in ancient times when they were in Egypt.

Moses fled into the land of Median. In this country he came to a priest called Jethro. He lived with him for forty years, and fed his flock. One day he drove his sheep to the inner parts of the desert to take care of them near the mountain of Horeb. There, the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire, which was in the midst of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, and yet was not burnt. It was a strange sight. He intended to go closer and see. When he went closer, the Lord called him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses”. Moses answered, “Yes, here I am”. The Lord said to him, “Come near, take off the shoes from your feet; for the ground upon which you stand on is holy. I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (these were the heads of Moses family they loved God and obeyed Him and He loved them)”.

Moses hid his face. The Lord said to Moses, “I’ll send you on a mission. Go to Pharaoh and say to him: The God of my fathers has sent me... let my people go out of this country to worship me”. Moses said, “Who am I that should go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” The Lord said, “I will be with you”. Moses said, “The people may not believe that you have sent me. If they ask, what is His name what shall I say to them?” The Lord said, “Tell them that my name is “I am who I am. I know that Pharaoh will not let my people go unless he sees my miracles”.

1. Where was Moses?
2. What was he doing?

3. How did the Lord appear to Moses?
4. What was the Lord's message to him?

The Lord gave Moses miraculous power so that the people might believe that the Lord sent him. He gave him three signs.

The First Sign

The Lord said to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" Moses said, "A rod". The Lord said, "Cast it on the ground". So Moses cast it on the ground and it became a serpent. Moses fled from it. But the Lord said to Moses, "Put out your hand and take it by the tail". So he put out his hand and caught it and it became a rod in his hand. Moses rejoiced and said, "When people see this miracle they will believe that you have sent me. Now here I am send me".

The Second Sign

The Lord said to Moses, "Put your hand onto your bosom" and Moses obeyed and put his hand onto his bosom and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, as white as snow. Then God said, "put your hand back onto your bosom", and when he took it out behold it was restored like the rest of his flesh. The Lord said, "Are you pleased...do you believe that the people will believe you?"

The Third Sign

If they will not believe you or heed your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it upon dry ground, and the water, which you shall take from the Nile, will become blood upon the dry ground. In spite of this and because Moses was modest he said to the Lord, "Lord I am a poor speaker. I am not eloquent". The Lord encouraged him and said to him "I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak", but Moses said, "O my Lord, send, I pray some other person". The Lord said, "Obey me...go and I will send Aaron, your brother with you". This time, Moses obeyed and went with Aaron to Egypt, and they held a meeting with the elders of the people to inform them of the message of the Lord.

1. What are the first, second and third signs?
2. Who can say the verse?
3. Who can draw a picture of a tree with green roots and branches in spite of the burning fire in it (competition)?

(3) God's care for His people in Egypt

References

- + Exodus Chapter 8,9.
- + The life of Moses translated by Rev Marcos Daoud.
- + Interpretation of Exodus, St. George Church Sporting.

To The Servant

1. The Lord delivered His people from the plagues when they were in the same land with the Egyptians. In the same way, the Lord cares for us in the midst of this world. The Egyptians were severely punished because Pharaoh hardened his heart. So, the

- same thing happens to us. If we harden our hearts, the Lord leaves us and we are no more.
2. The servant should always contemplate that God's people at present are members of the Church everywhere.

The Lesson

Aim

Showing the power of God and His care for His people.

Verse

"Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8)

Hymns

- + Our martyrs are righteous...our martyrs are pure [Arabic Song]
- + Shine on us...St George

Setting the scene

1. Who commanded Moses to go to Egypt?
2. Who went with him?
3. What are the three miraculous deeds, which the Lord provided Moses with?

Moses went with his brother Aaron to meet Pharaoh to the command of the Lord. They said to him, "Thus said the Lord, let my people go out to the wilderness to worship me". Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord that I should heed his voice. I do not know the Lord and moreover. I will not let the people go".

1. Who said, "I do not know the Lord, and I will not let the people go?"
2. Mention one of Pharaoh's characteristics?

The Lord afflicted the Egyptians with ten plagues {the children study the following plagues: blood, frogs, flies, the plague of cattle, boils, hails, locusts, darkness, and the death of the first born). The servant mentions that Pharaoh always asked Moses to pray to the Lord that He might deliver him and the Egyptians out of the plagues, and that he would promise to let the people go, but when the plagues were taken away he broke his promise. God was patient with Pharaoh. The servant concentrates on the positive aspect, i.e., the Lord's care for His people, and tells the children that the ten plagues were directed to the gods of the Egyptians. So we must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our minds.

1. How many plagues were there?
2. Who were the people afflicted with these plagues?
3. How did the Lord show His care to the people?

The servant elucidates how the Lord cares for His people through questions, e.g., who give us the rays of the sun, crops, food, clothes etc?

Notes

- + Pray each morning and evening.
- + Study the Ten Commandments.
- + Children act the conversation between Moses and pharaoh.

Elucidating the punishment received by those who make the Lord angry.

(4) Crossing the Red Sea

References

- + Exodus 14

To The Servant

The Lord rescued His people from the land of bondage and slavery, and liberated them. The Lord brought them out of Egypt and led them by the hand of Moses. The Lord Jesus liberated us from the bondage of Satan and allowed us to share the glorious freedom of the children of God. We have died to sin, how then can we go on living in it?

The Lesson

Aim

Showing God's great care for His people.

Verse

"Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord" (Exodus 14:13)

Hymns

- + The Lord always cares for us, the Lord always cares for us, in the morning and also at noon, He is with us at night.
- + Joy...joy... joy [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

A rod and an angel holding a sword

Setting The Scene

1. The servant sets the scene. He asks the children to show him their homework and if possible ask them to, recite the Ten Commandments.
2. During the last night when the Lord chose to send the last plague, He said to Moses, "every family shall kill a lamb. You shall take its blood and with it, you shall sprinkle the two door posts and the lintel of the houses for on that very night, my angel shall slay every first born of the Egyptians. But when I see the blood of the lamb on your doors, I shall pass by".
3. At midnight the angel of the Lord passed through Egypt and slew every first born from the king's first born to the first born of the laborer. So, Pharaoh freed the people. The Israelites left Egypt. They took their cattle, and money with them. They also took

the bones of Joseph with them. The Lord's angel went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, by night in a pillar of flame, to give them light.

1. What is the tenth plague?
2. What does blood stand for?
3. When did pharaoh free the people?

It was not easy for the people to have complete trust in the Lord. They thought what should we do if the Egyptians follow us? The Red Sea is holding us back, how can we go on our journey? As soon as the people left Egypt Pharaoh began to regret letting the Israelites depart. So he went after them with chariots, horsemen and his whole army. When the people of the Lord heard the chariots of pharaoh they cried to God for help, they all cried young and old, Pharaoh is coming with his army towards us, where shall we go? Moses calmed them saying: "Fear not. Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still". The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel to go forward". Moses answered, "How can it be Lord, the Red Sea is before us". And the Lord said, "Lift up your rod, stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. There will be a road in the water. The people will go on dry ground through the sea". Then the anger of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved before them. To the Egyptians it made the night darker; to the Israelites it gave light. Moses stretched out his rod over the sea, and immediately the waters divided and stood like a wall on either side.

There was a dry road in the sea. The whole matter was strange and unusual. The people believed. They were encouraged and marched through the midst of the sea.

1. Why did pharaoh follow the people?
2. How were the people rescued? Recite the verse: "Fear not"
3. Who can recite the verse?

At the dawn of the next day, the Egyptians reached the sea. They did not imagine that their enemies marched through the dry land between waters "why don't we march through this way too?" They thought. Pharaoh ordered his soldiers to pursue the Israelites and went in after them in the midst of the sea. The Lord looked down upon the host of the Egyptians and threw them into a panic. He made the wheels of their chariots get stuck so that they moved with great difficulty. The horsemen could not go forward. The Egyptians cried. Let's get out of here. The Lord is fighting for the Israelites against us. When the Israelites passed peacefully to the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the water came back over the Egyptians who drowned. Not one of the Egyptians was left. The people glorified God and they stood in awe before the Lord who saved them.

1. Who discomfited pharaoh and his army?
2. What does Pharaoh stand for?

Notes

Pray to the Lord and say, "My Lord Jesus, I thank you because you care for me".

Instructions

The servant shows the children beautiful means of illustrations such as a picture of the divided sea and another picture of the pillar of light, which gave light to the people.

In this lesson we have some symbols such as, Paschal Lamb, blood, and Pharaoh. Each one of these stands for something. What does each symbol stand for?

The servant and the children discuss the Christian faith and patristic issues. The servant elucidates that the Jews were the people of God in the past because they worshiped Him while the rest of the world worshiped idols but nowadays we see the opposite... the Jews still believe that the Lord stands by them as if they were the children of God but this is wrong. War now is a patristic issue. We have to defend our country as many Saints did. All the Christians were honest when they fought. The servant mentions examples such as St. George and St. Mina. The servant points out such issues from time to time so long as he is dealing with lessons from the Old Testament, which while explaining it, we refer to the Christian Church and the Christian faith.

Try to convince the children to take part in the lesson by acting parts of it every now and then. As an example take the character of the angel with his sword, while passing each house. How does he look like? Describe the angel, the sword, etc.

(5) The Cloud And The Pillar Of Light

References

+ Exodus 13

To The Servant

1. Lord who raised us from the depth to see light, who gave us life out of death, who liberated us from slavery, who made the darkness of the fraud in us shine through the appearance of your only Begotten Son in flesh.
2. O Lord, our King, give us light to our hearts and purify us so that we may be perfect in ourselves, our bodies and our souls. So that we may with a pious heart and pure lips, dare pray to you O Lord, our Holy Father who is in Heaven and say "Our Father who art in Heaven".

The Lesson

Aim

Showing the great care of God to His people.

Verse

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

Hymns

+ The Lord always cares for us, the Lord always cares for us, in the morning and also at noon, He is with us at night.

+ Joy...joy... joy [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

Some cotton around a rod to symbolize a cloud

Setting the Scene

1. Who led the people?
2. How did the Red Sea divide?
3. How were the people rescued from pharaoh and his armies?
4. Who can recite the verse? "Fear not..."

The people of God lived in the land of Egypt for more than four hundred years then the day came when the Lord gave them freedom. They hastily went out of the land of Egypt carrying with them their clothes and their dough, their silver, and their gold. The Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so they let them have what they asked. They got out of Egypt with a large fortune. They were six hundred thousands in number besides women and children. They all set out on foot. This means that the whole number of the Israelites was about two million. First they journeyed to Succoth where they stayed for one night.

Moses explained to them the meaning of the Paschal Lamb, the Pascha and the passage of the Red Sea. This day shall be for you a memorial day and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord. Throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance forever. This very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt, so you shall observe this day. Remember this day in which you came out of Egypt, out of the land of bondage. Remember that the angel of the Lord passed over you because the blood, which you put on your doorposts and lintels, was the sign that discriminated between you and the Egyptians. You are the people of God.

In the same way, the blood of Christ shed for us rescued us and saved us from our sins. His Blood purified our hearts and gave us a new life. He discriminated us and regarded us as His people.

1. How many years did the Israelites stay in the land of Egypt?
2. How many men were there?
3. What does blood stand for?
4. How long did the Israelites stay at Succoth?

The Israelites moved from Succoth and encamped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness. They were on their way to Canaan. The Lord was before them in great cloud that protected them from the strong heat of the sun and a pillar of fire appeared by night to guide them. That was one pillar of light and of cloud. Do you know the symbol of this one pillar? It stands for the Lord Jesus Christ in flesh, the light of the world. He said, "I am the light of the world".

1. How did the Lord care for His people in the wilderness?
2. Why didn't the Lord lead them by way of the land of the Philistines?
3. Who can recite the verse?

Notes

Pray and say, “Lord Jesus, I thank you because you care for me”.

Instructions

1. Contemplate the stage of the journey in your mind, think of them and remember them and review them.
2. The children should know that the Lord loves us and cares for us all the time. The Lord subdued nature for us.
3. He made the pillar of cloud cover his people with its shadow by day and the pillar of light guide them by night.
4. Children participate in discussion about situations in which the Lord helped the children of Israel.

Extracts

The Ten Commandments suit this lesson. So the children begin to study them by heart till lesson II. These Commandments are to be distributed on printed cards or the children get them out of books as a sort of competition.

(6) The Manna And The Quails

References

The lessons we learn from the manna are useful and valuable. The people of God were exposed to hunger in the wilderness, so is the case with us, we are exposed to hunger. The life given to us by the Lord does not find satisfaction in this wicked world. It longs for Heavenly things and is hungry for the love of God. Such things are strange to the new man. We have to be cautious lest we should feed on the ancient and neglect the new.

The Lesson

Aim

Showing the Lord’s great care for His people.

Verse

- + “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matt 6:11)
- + “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35)

Hymns

- + My children...my children, O you young children come to me...come to me
O righteous, Jesus...Jesus our Lord...our Lord
We love you...we love you, our God...our God.
- + Joy...joy... joy [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Setting the Scene

1. The servant sets the scene by asking some questions about how the Lord cared for His people in the wilderness.

2. In the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt, all the food they had brought with them ran out. The people complained to Moses saying that they had no food to eat and that they would starve to death. “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt”.
3. Moses was sad because the congregation of the people of Israel murmured against him. Moses prayed to the Lord, “Lord, these people arouse your wrath” but the Lord said, “I love these people so I will forgive them”.

Moses said, “They have no food”. The Lord said, “I will send them food. I am the bread of life”. Moses said, “I thank you my Lord”. In the same evening, the Lord sent them quails in great number. These birds came into their camp and they were very happy because of the new food. They thanked God. Moses said to them, “Take and eat of it you all”.

1. Why did the Israelites murmur against Moses?
2. Why did Moses pray to the Lord?
3. What did the Lord say to Moses?

In the early morning, while they were still asleep, there was dew all round the camp. When the dew evaporated, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. It was white in color. It fell on the sands but it was not contaminated. They did not know it and the people did not have a name for it. Moses woke the people; the people got up to see the care of God, and the new food. They tasted it; it had a sweet taste like flour mixed with honey. It was “Manna”. It is the food of the angels. Moses said to them, “Gather as much of it as you need and be cautious it will melt in the heat of the sun. It should be gathered daily every morning, otherwise it will be full of worms and it will smell rotten. The people were very happy and they went out to gather it. Some of them were greedy they wanted to take more than they needed and they did, others gathered what they needed. When we pray, we say, give us this day our daily bread. It was surprising that all the people did not find any difference. When they measured the food, they found that those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no lack, each gathered according to what they could eat.

1. What is the name of the birds?
2. What is the name of the new food?
3. Who gives us food, clothes, etc?

On the sixth day the people went out to gather manna as usual to their surprise they found twice as much food. They called Moses. He told them that the Lord wanted them to keep holy the Sabbath day (the seventh day}. He ordered them to gather what they need for the second day. Some obeyed but the disobedient went out as usual but they did not find any manna. The Israelites ate manna for the next forty years. The Lord sent it to them every morning. They did not exert any effort to get it. The Lord sent His people food because He loved them and because they were in the wilderness, which contained no food.

1. Who fed them in the wilderness?
2. How long for?
3. On which day did the Lord send double the amount of food?

4. What is our Day of rest?
5. What do we usually do on Sundays?
6. What do we say in the Lord's Prayer about food?
7. What does manna stand for?

Notes

Pray before and after the meals saying, "Lord I thank you for this food. We pray to you for the poor and the needy. O Lord give them food to eat".

Instructions

1. Revise the stages in your mind and speak in detail about God's love and care for His people.
2. The Lord loved His people although they complained and murmured against Moses. This shows that the Lord loves us and cares for us and gives us our daily needs although our deeds are wicked.
3. Concentrate on keeping holy the Lord's Day.
4. Children should be accustomed to the life of thanksgiving. We have to thank God every day for what He gives us. We have to give alms to the poor and the needy our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.
5. The servant explains that manna is like coriander seed and the taste of it was like wafers, made with honey.
6. Explain that the Lord loves His children in spite of their sins and murmur against Him. He attracts them by His love and numerous gifts. A father loves his son even if he is a naughty child.

(7) Water From The Rocks

References

- + Exodus 17
- + Psalms 42:2

To The Servant

1. "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 42:2)
2. "God, You are my God; early will I seek my soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for You in dry and thirsty land, where no water is" (Psalm 63:1)
3. These are the signs of Saints and men of God in the wilderness and a satisfaction of a true believer. The soul born from above longs for a personal direct share with God, "As a heart longs for a flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God".
4. It breaks any threshold of the powers of darkness to achieve its aim. This is the sign, which characterizes the children of God who live in this world. This sign distinguishes them from the sons of the world. In the roads of God, one can find a rock out of which living water flows.

The Lesson

Aim

Showing the Lord's care for His people.

Verse

“Let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price”
(Revelation 22:17)

Hymns

+ When I feel tired to whom shall go... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

Setting The Scene

1. How many commandments are there?
2. How many plagues were there?
3. What do the cloud and the pillar of light and manna stand for?
4. How long did the Lord feed His people in the wilderness?
5. Is there water in the wilderness?
6. Where did they find water to drink?

The people continued their journey... they felt thirsty they searched the desert but they did not find a drop of water. They grew thirstier. They murmured and complained. They went to Moses and cried, “We don't have water. Do you wish us to die of thirst? Give us water so that we and our children may drink, and our cattle need water also, or else we will stone you”.

Moses said to them, “Your complaint arouses the Lord's anger and wrath, but I will pray for you”. Moses went out to pray, “O Lord what shall I do to these people they will stone me after a short time, they need water”. The Lord said, “I will quench their thirst. Let him who is thirsty come”.

1. Where were the people?
2. Why were they angry with Moses?
3. Describe Moses?
4. Complete, “Let him who is thirsty come...”

The Lord commanded Moses to take the elders and the heads of the people and accompany them to the rock in the mount of Horeb. The Lord said to Moses, “I will stand before you. Take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile. You shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it. Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. With the same rod with which he changed the water of the Nile into blood, he struck the rock in mount Horeb, and fresh water flew out of it. People rushed to drink. Thousands of thirsty people quenched their thirst and their cattle also drank water.

This rock is a figure of Christ who was pierced in His side on the cross for us.

1. Where was the rod?
2. What did Moses do that made water flow out?
3. What did Moses do with this rod in the land of Egypt?

4. Who gave them water?
5. What does the rock stand for?

Notes

Thank God for anything even if it is little.

Instructions

- + Draw the children's attention to the miracle that took place because of Moses' prayer to the Lord.
- + Review the previous extracts chosen for recitation

(8) Moses at the Mountain Receiving the Ten Commandments

References

- + Exodus 19:20

To The Servant

1. The people of God had to pass through the way of wilderness with all its troubles and difficulties to reach the wilderness of Sinai. There, before the mountains they learned important lessons.
2. Such stages form the history of the people of God. As individuals or groups we have to erect our tents and listen to the voice that speaks to us. Here service and war will cease, and in isolation greater than the isolation of Mount Horeb, the world of law and grace comes with great power to the souls of the people of God. But these words do not come with terror and fear because we know very well that the speaker does not speak in anger but as a father speaking to his sons for their happiness and blessing.

The Lesson

Aim

Keeping the commandments of the Lord.

Verse

"Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8)

Hymns

- + The burning bush seen by Moses [Praise the Lord, Page 133]

Setting The Scene

A model of the two tables of the testimony:

1. What did the people of God ask Moses to do?
2. What did the Lord say to Moses when he prayed to him?
3. What happened when Moses struck the rock?
4. Where did the people of God go?

Three months after leaving Egypt, the people of God arrived in Sinai. At the mountain which lies to the east of the Red Sea, the Lord had told Moses in the land of Egypt that the people had to go to Sinai to meet the Lord. They reached the mountain. The Lord said to Moses, "Come to the top of the mountain" and Moses ascended the mountain and the Lord said to him, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine..."

So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words, which the Lord had commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken, we will do".

1. What is the name of the mountain?
2. What did the Lord say to Moses?
3. What was the people's answer?

Moses told the people to be ready for meeting the Lord by washing their clothes and purifying themselves. They must not do any wrong and be ready by the third day. The people obeyed and confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness. Disputants reconciled with each other. Could you forgive a child who insulted you...or a child who struck you without intention...or a child who has trodden on your foot...or a child who plays tricks on you in playing? Are you in dispute with anyone? (The servant must encourage those in dispute to reconcile and forgive one another.

When the people of God got up on the third day, they saw the mountain covered with smoke, thunder and lightning and a thick cloud, and a very loud trumpet blast. The people trembled they knew that the Lord was in that place. They feared the Lord because they knew that He is holy and righteous. Moses said to them, "Follow me", and they followed him to the foot of the mountain and stood there. The whole mountain quaked greatly and it was all covered with smoke, and the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln. The sound of the trumpet grew louder. At last they heard Moses when he spoke to the Lord. The Lord said to him, "come up to the mountain come alone. You are my servant and apostle". Moses went up the mountain, and said to the Lord, "here I am, send me". The Lord said to him, "Tell the people not to touch the mountain lest they should die. Go down and come up bringing Aaron with you". Moses went down and told the people about the Lord's commands and went up the mountain bringing up Aaron with him. The Lord gave him the Ten Commandments: Four commandments about our love of God and six commandments about our love to our relatives.

1. How were the people prepared?
2. Who received the Law?
3. How many commandments did Moses receive?
4. Say the verse.

Notes

If anyone sins against you, say to him "may the Lord forgive you", and if you sin against any person say to him "forgive me".

Instructions

Revise the stages completely in your mind. Tell the children that the Lord God who appeared to Moses on the mount of Sinai in ancient times, in a flame of fire, and the mountain was covered with smoke, and they heard the sound of lightning, thunder and thick clouds, and loud sounds of a trumpet, and the people were terrified. Tell the children that the Lord who appeared to Moses is the same Jesus Christ who appeared in flesh because of His love to us. He was born in the manger, He is near us, He is in our hearts and in our lives, He always says, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16). The Lord Jesus greatly loves the children. Being ready to meet Jesus in the Church by purifying the heart of evil and sins and through reformation and forgiveness. The servant concentrates on keeping the Lord’s Commandments and the words of God. Always repeat and recite the words of God till the Lord’s love abides in our life.

If there is anyone in the class who is in dispute, the servant must reconcile them.

(9) The Lord’s Care For His People Before The Walls Of Jericho

References

- + Joshua 5&6
- + The life of Joshua translated by Rev. Marcos Daoud

To The Servant

Fear not... this is the Lord. The fortified, high walls of Jericho, were pulled down by no more than marching around the city seven times in the service clothes and blowing the trumpets in the name of the Lord

The Lesson

Aim

God’s care for His people

Verse

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days” (Hebrews 11:30).

Hymns

- + The Lord always cares for us, the Lord always cares for us, in the morning and also at noon, He is with us at night.
- + Joy...joy... joy [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Setting the scene

The servant discusses with the class who are the people of God nowadays, and how the Lord cares for the Church. Then the servant speaks about the ancient people and explains that the

lesson is a story about those people, but the story tells us about the Lord's deeds with His children who are the members of the Church now.

1. Which land did the Lord promise to give his people?
2. Who led the people after the death of Moses?

The Canaanites heard that the people of God are coming to take Canaan into their possession so they were infuriated. They wondered how could those people cross the river of Jordan while it was full of water. They were afraid as they thought those people would force them to leave their land. The king of Jericho gave an order that the gates of Jericho should be closed so that no body could enter the city. The people of God continued their journey under the leadership of Joshua. Joshua looked and saw that the walls of Jericho were high. The gates of Jericho were kept shut and guarded to keep the Israelites out. No one could enter or leave the city. While Joshua was near Jericho, he suddenly saw a man standing in front of him, holding a sword, he thought, is this man a friend or an enemy? He asked him "are you one of our soldiers or an enemy?" "Neither", the man answered, "I am here as the commander of the Lord's army. Joshua threw himself on the ground in worship and said, "I am your servant, sir what do you want me to do?" And the commander of the Lord's army said to him, "Take your sandals off, you are standing on holy ground". And Joshua did as he was told.

1. Who can think of a person who heard words like these?
2. Who can think of a person who has such outward appearance?

Joshua knew that the Lord was with him... then all things were possible. The Lord said to Joshua "See I have given Jericho to you, there is no need for fighting...just do what I tell you". "You shall march around the city, and all the men of war shall go around once. Thus shall you do for six days. And shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark, and on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets and when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout, with a loud voice, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, Jericho shall fall down and the men shall take Jericho. This passes all understanding going around the City seven times causes the high walls to fall down! And as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets went forward with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. And the armed men went before the priests. They went about the city once, and then they went back into the camp and spent the night in the camp. The Canaanites were looking from above the walls of their city mocking the Israelites saying, ha, ha... these people are foolish. What are they doing? They are going round the high walls of our city.

1. What did the Lord say to Joshua?
2. How many times did they go round the walls of Jericho?
3. Who blew the trumpets?
4. What did Joshua do?
5. What did the people do on the first day?

On the second day the people did the same thing they did on the first. They did the same thing for six successive days. Their march was long and tiring but the people did not complain. On the

seventh day, they had to go around the city seven times. They got up early on that day, the task was hard, and the people were faithful and obedient. The priests blew the trumpets. The people looked at the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, which was a symbol of the presence of God among them, then the people, shouted, and the miracle took place, the walls of Jericho fell down. The gates of the city opened, the people entered, and the Lord gave them the city as He promised.

1. What did the people do on the seventh day?
2. What happened?

Instructions

Let's repeat together, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down". Review the steps completely in your mind and concentrate on the issue of faith, which characterizes Joshua's life.

The people went around the walls of Jericho for six days; they marched around the city once each day. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times and the walls of the city fell down. We also go around inside the Church on the Resurrection Day; three times inside the Sanctuary around the Altar, then three times outside the Sanctuary, and the seventh time inside the Sanctuary. This indicates that the death of Christ and His Resurrection, the kingdom of Satan fell down and was destroyed and all its walls fell down.

1. Send a letter with the child to his parents and ask them to help the child to study the psalm and the Ten Commandments. After studying them by heart, the child should copy them.
2. Encourage the children to grow in the simplicity of faith through elucidating the work of faith in the fall of the walls of Jericho.
3. Encourage the children to go early to Church to receive the Holy Communion, which will help us to destroy the walls of sin that stand between us and the Lord, and deprive us from looking at His glory.

(10) A Memorable Day: The Sun Stood Still For Joshua

References

+ Joshua 10:12-14

To The Servant

"O Lord, our Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth. You whose glory above the heavens is chanted, by the mouth of the babes and infants, You have founded a bulwark because of Your foes to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at Your sky, the work of "Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have established; great are the works of the hosts. The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. The Lord sustains the universe with His powerful word. The universe reveals the supreme of God. The Lord, in His great love to His faithful and sincere children can change the system of the universe which He created according to a certain system, and subdued it for their benefit, so we are not afraid of anything because the Lord is always with us. We repeat the words of David the prophet,

“Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though war should rise against me in this will I be confident”.

The Lesson

Aim

The power of God and His authority over the universe

Verse

“The Lord fight for you, and you shall hold your peace”.

“The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still” (Exodus 14:14).

Hymns

+ The Lord always cares for us...the Lord always cares for us in the morning and also at noon, He is with us by night.

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

Aids

The picture of the lesson, a white ball to stand for the moon, a yellow ball to stand for the sun, and another brown ball to represent the earth. The servant explains how the sun stood still without motion.

Setting The Scene

1. What is the name of the town, which fell in the hand of Joshua?
2. What did the Lord order Joshua to do?
3. What did Joshua say to the people on the seventh day when the priests blew the trumpets?
4. When does the sun rise...and when does it set?
5. Who created the sun?

Gibeon was a great city and the people of Gibeon were Joshua's friends. They were also the friends of the people of God. When Adonizedek, the king of Jerusalem heard that the people of Gibeon had made peace with Joshua, he was greatly alarmed and sent a message to five Amorite kings. He said to them, “Come and help me attack Gibeon because its people have made peace with Joshua and the Israelites”. The five Amorite kings, joined forces, surrounded Gibeon, and attacked it.

1. What is the name of the city, which made peace with Joshua?
2. Complete the following: The name of the king of Jerusalem was...
3. How many kings did the king of Jerusalem send a message to join him in attacking Gibeon?

The servant draws the attention of the children to the fact that Joshua did not break his promise to Gibeon.

The people of Gibeon sent to Joshua and said to him, “Do not relax your hand from your servant, come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in

the hill country are gathered against us”. So Joshua and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men went up and the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands”. The Lord threw them into a panic before Israel who smote them and while they were running down the ascent of Bethoron, the Lord threw great stones from heaven upon them, and they died. The Lord will fight for you, you have only to be still.

1. What did the people of Gibeon do to Joshua?
2. Say whether these statements are true or false:
 - a. Joshua went up, with all men of war when the people of Gibeon sent to him?
 - b. Joshua did not go up with all men of war when the people of Gibeon sent to him.
 - c. When the people of Gibeon asked Joshua for help, he did not answer them.
3. What did the Lord say to Joshua?
4. What happened to the Amorite kings?
5. Who can say the verse?

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to them of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: Sun, you stand still at Gibeon, and you moon in the valley – “Ai’jalon” and the sun stood still, and the moon stayed until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. There has been, no day like it before or since, when the Lord hearkened to the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel. For the Lord says, “The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace”. (The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still).

1. What did Joshua say to the Lord when the Lord gave the Amorites into Joshua’s hands?
2. Did the Lord answer Joshua? And what happened?
3. Why did Joshua join Gibeon in fighting the Amorites?
4. What should we do when we are in trouble?
5. Who can say the verse?

Instructions

We should always pray for God’s help to us repeating David’s words, “Make haste, O God, to deliver me, make haste to help me, O Lord”.

The servant explains and elucidates to the children the Lord’s great love to man whom He created and subdued every thing to him. The servant shows that we must fulfill our promise. We have to be honest and sincere. We have to keep our promise following Joshua’s example.

The Lord answers us if we ask him with faith. “Have faith in God, truly, I say to you whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”. We must trust in God all our life. “Cast all your anxieties on him, for He cares about you”. The Lord answers us in the appointed time because the Lord who promised is faithful. The Lord says “I am with you always even unto the end of age”.

(11) Jesus Heals A Centurion’s Servant

References

+ Luke 7:1-10

+ “Interpretation of St. Luke’s Gospel” translated by Rev. Morcos Daoud

To The Servant

Jesus Christ is the true physician who heals our souls and bodies. He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil. He himself said, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”.

Let’s pray faithfully to Him to give us all that we need. We have to pray earnestly and without ceasing to receive what we ask for, believing that the Lord will give us every thing we ask for and more.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord heals our diseases.

Verse

“Say the word, and let my servant be healed”

Hymns

+ I was sick and weak, the priest anointed me with oil
+ O God have mercy on us... [Praise the Lord, Page 13]

Setting the scene

1. How did the Lord sustain Joshua in the previous lesson?
2. What should I do when I feel ill?
3. What does the Lord give the sick person after he is examined?
4. Give the names of some of the sick people that the Lord healed?
5. How did the Lord Jesus Christ heal those sick people? Did he give them medicine?

Setting The Scene

1. The Lord Jesus in Judea talks about the Kingdom of God, and heals the sick people.
2. Where was the Lord Jesus Christ? What was he doing?
3. Jesus enters Capernaum...the centurion’s request.
4. What are the names of the cities, which the Lord Jesus Christ entered?
5. What did the centurion do?
6. What did the elders request Jesus to do?
7. What did the Lord say to them?
8. Jesus healed the servant because the centurion was faithful and modest. When the centurion's friends went to his house they found that servant was healed. They rejoiced and praised God.

Questions

1. Why did the Roman officer send his friend to the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. What did he ask them to tell the Lord Jesus Christ?

3. What did the Lord Jesus Christ tell the people who followed him?
4. What did friends find out when they returned to the house?
5. Who can say the verse?

Notes

- + This week we shall pray for the sick.
- + Explain that when we pray with faith, the Lord will answer our prayers.

Extracts to be studied by heart

Gloria in the Agbia: "Let us sing with the angels saying, Glory be to God in the highest, on earth peace, and goodwill to men. We praise you, we bless you we worship you, we confess to you, and we proclaim your glory". This prayer suits this lesson so the children must study and recite it and use it in their prayers till the end of this period. It should be printed and distributed or the children are to get it out of books as a sort of competition.

(12) Jesus Heals A Blind Man At Bethsaida (Two Stages)

References

- + St. Mark 8:22-26
- + "Interpretation of the Gospel of St Mark" translated by Rev. Morcos Daoud
- + "Contemplations and studies of the Gospel of St. Mark" by the Virgin's Church, Fagala

To The Servant

Jesus Christ is the true light that enlightens every man. He said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Let us follow Him with our hearts so that He might enlighten our way and insight. Let us repeat David's words, "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out thy law". May the Lord give us that simple eye with which we can contemplate the Lord's commandments all the time.

The Lesson

Aim:

The Lord heals our diseases.

Verse

"I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12)

Hymns

- + I was sick and weak ...
- + O God have mercy on us... [Praise the Lord, Page 13]

Aids

A picture to illustrate the subject of the lesson

Setting the scene

1. What did the elders sent by the Roman officer request Jesus to do?
2. What was the story of the previous lesson?
3. Why did the Lord Jesus praise the centurion's faith?
4. What do you usually do if you see a blind man crossing the road?
5. Who can give me the name of a blind man whom the Lord Jesus healed?

Jesus used to walk everywhere healing sick people and teaching people. He was once inside the ship with his disciples and they sailed to the village of Bethsaida. The Lord Jesus and His disciples left the ship. The Lord Jesus was teaching people in the city. They brought Him a blind man and requested Him to touch him. The Lord Jesus led the man outside the village. The Lord talked about the Kingdom of God and about his life.

1. Who were with the Lord Jesus in the ship?
2. What was the name of the city, which the Lord went to?
3. What did the people bring to him?
4. What did the people request him to do?
5. What did the Lord Jesus do to the blind man?

“And they came to Bethsaida and some people brought to Him a blind man, and begged Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the village, and when He had spat on his eyes and laid His hands upon him, He asked him, do you see anything? And he looked up and said, I see men, but they look like trees, walking. Then again He laid his hands upon his eyes, and he looked intently and was restored and saw everything clearly and He sent him away to his home, saying, do not even enter the village” (Mark 8:22-26).

So the blind man could not see anything but no sooner did the Lord spit on his eyes then the blind man opened his eyes and saw everything clearly.

1. What did the Lord Jesus lay on the blind man’s eyes?
2. What did the Lord say to the blind man?
3. What did the blind man say?

The Lord Jesus Christ laid His hands once more upon the blind man’s eyes, and said to him, “Look and see” and the man was healed and saw every man clearly. Then the Lord sent the man home and said to him, “Do not enter the village and do not tell any body in the village”. The man went home praising God.

The children sing the hymn: The priest called at our home and anointed me with oil

Questions

1. What happened when the Lord laid His hands once more upon the blind man’s eyes?
2. What did the Lord Jesus Christ say to the blind man?
3. What did the blind man see?
4. Who can say the verse?

Notes

1. When you meet a blind man in the street give him a hand and help him to cross the street.
2. The priest is called to minister Unction for the children in the middle of the week and the servant elucidates the aim of that sacrament and how to prepare us to receive it.
3. Concentrate on studying some extracts from the Bible and encourage the children by giving prizes to those who study them by heart.

(13) Peter And The Stater

References

+ Mathew 17:24-27

+ “Interpretation of the Gospel of St Mathew” by The Diocese of Beni Sweif

+ Studies in the Gospel of St Mathew

To The Servant

1. Jesus Christ said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”. The Bible says about him, He will not wrangle or cry aloud nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets... he will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick...The Lord teaches us to obey the government and the authorities. We must be honest and faithful. He says, “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev 2:10).
2. The Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us, teaches us when He says, “Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls”.

The Lesson

Aim

Complete obedience.

Verse

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21).

Hymns

+ I was sick and weak, the priest anointed me with oil

+ O God have mercy on us... [Praise the Lord, Page 13]

Aids

A model of a fish, a hook, and a string

Setting the scene

1. How did Jesus Christ heal the blind man?
2. What happened when the Lord Jesus laid His hands upon the eyes of the blind man?
3. Who can say the verse of the previous lesson?

4. Who collects taxes?
5. Why are taxes collected?

Items of the lesson

The Lord Jesus came to Capernaum...the collectors of the temple tax asked Peter to pay the temple tax; Peter went into the house to bring the money to pay the tax for himself and for the Lord Jesus. Peter goes to the sea and casts a fishhook, and takes the first fish coming up and when he opens its mouth, he finds a stater in it. Peter pays the tax.

1. What is the name of the city?
2. What did the tax collectors ask for?
3. Where did Peter go?
4. What is a stater?
5. Who can say the verse?

Notes

1. It would be better if the children could act the dialogue that took place.
2. The servant talks to the children about the importance of almsgiving in the Church.
3. One of the children collects alms and another one distributes pictures.
4. Children visit those who are absent and give them presents.

(14) Anba Barsoum Al-Iryan And The Power Of The Cross

References

- + The authority of the Saints -The Deacons' house
- + Synexarium 5th Nissy
- + The Saint Anba Barsoum Al-Iryan

To The Servant

Those Saints whose hearts are full of love of God sacrificed all that they owned because they loved the Lord with all their hearts and the love of God moved with their real feelings. They left everything and followed the Lord. For the Lord's sake, they threw everything away, they considered it all as mere garbage, so that they might gain Christ, and be completely united with Him. They crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. They took up their cross and presented their life upon it as a sacrifice of love and a thanksgiving offering to the Lord Jesus Christ. Glory be to Him who redeemed them. They looked at the cross as a symbol of victory and power. Through the sign of the cross they could overcome all the powers of the enemy.

Aim

The power of the cross, and the power of God with us

Verse

“Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14)

Hymns

- + My cross...my cross is made of wood.
- + Hail to you the Holy Cross... [Praise the Lord, Page 128].

Aids

The servant distributes crosses.

Setting The Scene

1. What is that in your hands?
2. What do we usually do when we begin our prayer?
3. What do we usually do when we go to Church?
4. What do we usually do when we are afraid or when we are in the dark?
5. What do we usually do when we see a snake or a serpent?

We shall see one of the Saints who won victory over (overcame) a snake with the power of the cross.

Anba Barsoum was born in a rich family. His parents were very very rich and were pious people. They brought him up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord and true Christianity. He devoted himself to prayer, reading the scriptures and receiving the Holy Communion. His parents died when he was young. His uncle took all the property and possessions that belonged to Barsoum's parents. Anba Barsoum hated money and property and despised all possessions. He did not want to quarrel with his uncle about such trivial things.

1. What is the name of the Saint?
2. What do you know about his parents?
3. Who took possession of his parent's possessions?
4. What was the Saint's attitude towards his uncle?

The Saint left home and everything and went outside the city. He devoted himself to prayer day and night. He used to fast for long times. One day Anba Barsoum went to St. Abu-Seifein Church in Old Cairo. When he arrived at the Church gate and was about to enter the Church, the servant did not allow him to enter the Church and the following dialogue ran between them:

Servant: Where are you going gentleman?

The Saint: I am going to the den

Servant: You are not allowed to go there.

The Saint: Why?

Servant: Don't you know what is in there?

The Saint: What is in there?

Servant: There is a very big snake in the den and no body can enter there.

The Saint: I shall enter the den and the Lord Jesus will be with me so the sight of the snake will not frighten me...The Lord has given us authority to trample on serpents, scorpions and envy power of the enemy.

Servant: May the Lord be with you.

1. Where did the Saint go?

2. Why did the servant prevent him from entering the Church?
3. What did the Saint say to him?
4. Why wasn't Anba Barsoum afraid of the snake?

The Saint was not frightened. He was sure that the Lord Jesus was with him. When he entered the den, he found a big serpent there. He crossed himself with the sign of the cross and prayed.

Instructions

The children and the servant cross themselves with the sign of the cross.

The Saint went towards the serpent and when he was close to the serpent he crossed it with the sign of the cross and said to it. "Stand still where you are". The serpent subdued immediately to the Saint. The Saint lived inside the den and the serpent kept itself within the limits of its place and did not do the Saint any harm. All the people came to that place to receive its blessing and to visit the Church and Anba Barsoum Al-Iryan.

1. What should we do before starting our prayers in the morning and in the evening?
2. What did the Saint do when he met the serpent?
3. Who can recite the verse?
4. Who can act the conversation, which ran between Anba Barsoum Al-Iryan and the servant?

Notes

1. The children cross themselves with the sign of the cross in the morning, in the evening, before meals, on their way to school, in the street, before going to bed so that they may enjoy sound sleep.
2. The children act the story in a lively way.
3. The servant can use a plastic serpent or a picture of a snake as illustration.
4. The servant tells the children that the cross has a great power over serpents and scorpions and that with the power of the cross nothing can harm us.

(15) The Temptation Of Jesus

References

+ Matthew 4:1-2

+ Luke 4:1-12

+ The interpretation of the Gospels of St. Mathew and St Luke translated by Rev. Marcos Daoud and Virgin Mary church, Fagala

To The Servant

Jesus Christ who loved us gave Himself up for us, always teaches us saying, "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls... He took what belongs to us and gave us what belongs to Him... He fasted to teach us that we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers against the rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly place, and that this kind

cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting. And as He won victory in His fight with the devil, He will give us the life of victory if we commit our way to Him. Let us be vigilant. Let us arm ourselves with all the spiritual arms and pray to the Lord and sing with David the prophet, “Be pleased, O God to deliver me, O Lord make haste to help me”.

The Lesson

Aim

The power of the Lord is with us.

Verse

“You shall not tempt the Lord your God”

Hymns

- + When the time of fasting comes...I always fast with my family... the days of fasting have no like, in their beauty and sweetness.
- + To Mary came Gabriel... [Praise the Lord, Page 135]

Aids

A picture about the subject matter of the lesson

Setting the scene

1. What is the name of the Saint we spoke about last week?
2. How did the serpent submit to the Saint?
3. With what can we win victory?
4. Why do we study verses from the Bible?
5. What makes the devil run away from us?

Items of the lesson

The Lord Jesus Christ in the wilderness. He fasted forty days and forty nights. He was hungry. He was tempted by the devil.

Question

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. How many days did He fast?
3. When did the devil come to him?
4. What are the three temptations: bread, the pinnacle of the temple, and the high mountain?
5. Questions about the three temptations should be given by the servant

Instructions

1. Children recite the verse.
2. Children repeat and study the three verses.
3. Reciting “The Gloria” in the Agbia and encouraging children to study it through a follow up and by giving prizes.
4. Practice making the sign of the Cross.

(16) Extracts For Recitation

The servant review with the children the extracts allotted for this period and encourages the children to study them and recite them. The children are to be prepared for review.

Instruction

1. Encourage the children who have studied the Psalms by heart and recited them and who have been punctual for the Church lessons and who go to Church punctually by giving them valuable prizes and visiting them in their houses. Convince their parents to help the children in their study and prayers. Give them a simple present to connect the child's family with the Church.
2. Pray for the children at least once a week.

(17) Review

Aim

Revise the previous aims.

To The Servant

- + Have you been earnest and honest as a servant?
- + Have you performed your duty well?
- + How many times did you pray for them?
- + Have you been punctual in giving and preparing your lessons?
- + Have you visited the children to find out how they are getting on?

Setting the scene

Give the children some questions. Here are some examples.

1. Rearrange the words of the following verses:
 - A. the -Lord -God -your -tempt. not. shall. you.
 - B. The light -am -I -the word -of.
 - C. Be -healed. say -my servant. and. let -the word.
2. Match the following columns:
 - A. The Lord called Moses and gave him with his rod.
 - B. Moses divided the Red Sea on manna and quails.
 - C. In the wilderness, the Lord fed His people miraculous power.
3. Answer the following Questions:
 - A. What are the Ten Commandments?
 - B. What are the most important miracles studied this period?
 - C. How did the Lord care for the ancient people?
 - D. How does the Lord treat us and care for us as his children?
 - E. We want to listen to two or three of you singing the hymns:
I was sick and weak...
My cross, my cross...

The verses we studied during this period are:

- A. "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt 22:21), Lesson 13.
- B. "The Lord will fight for you and you have only to be still" (Exodus 14:14), Lesson 10.
- C. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), Lesson 6.
- D. "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), Lesson 5&12.
- E. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days" (Hebrews 11:30), Lesson 9.
- F. "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14), Lesson 14.
- G. "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11), Lesson 6.
- H. "Say the word and let my servant be healed" (Luke 7:7), Lesson 11.
- I. "You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Matthew 4:7), Lesson 15.
- J. "Fear not" (Exodus 14:13), Lesson 4.
- K. "Fear not for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10), Lesson 1.
- L. "Let him who is thirsty come. Let him who desires take the water of life without price" (Revelations 22: 17), Lesson
- M. "Here am I send me" (Isaiah 6:8), Lesson 2,3 & 8.

Recitation for the period

Psalm 67 "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us".

The Ten Commandments

The Gloria in the Agbia

THE SECOND PERIOD

(18) The Christmas Feast: Christ was Born in a Manger

References

+ Matt 1:18-24

+ Luke 2:1-20

+ Contemplations on nativity, His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

To The Servant

The Lord humbled Himself, and emptied himself, taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. He came into the world quietly. His mother was a poor orphan. He lived in Nazareth. People did not believe that something good could come out of Nazareth. Can anything good come out of Nazareth? He was called a Nazarene. Let us empty ourselves so that the Lord may come and fill our life with His grace and find comfort in our hearts, and we will rule with him in the everlasting life.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord is enthroned in our hearts (Christ rules in our hearts).

Verse

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

Hymns

Away in a Manger...

Aids

Icon of nativity surrounded by candles. The children go around carrying candles. The servant uses the bell and they all sing the hymn: Away in a Manger. A model of a small Manger.

1. What is today's feast?
2. Whose birthday is it?
3. Where was Christ born?

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the entire world should be enrolled, and all went to be enrolled, each to his own City. And Joseph went up from the City of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with St Mary, his betrothed, who was pregnant. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her Son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. The children sing the hymn: Away in a manger.

1. Who issued the enrollment degree?
2. Where did Joseph and St Mary go?

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”. The shepherds asked the angel “what is the sign?” The angel said, “This will be a sign for you, you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and laying in a manger”.

1. What were the shepherds doing?
2. Who appeared to them by night?
3. What happened when they saw that scene?
4. What did the angel say to them?
5. What was the sign? Let us repeat together, “To you is born...”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying, “Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased”. The shepherds were happy. The strange and wonderful sight filled them with delight. When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us”. And they went haste, and found St. Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.

1. What did the shepherds see?
2. How were the angels praising God?
3. What did the shepherds say?
4. What did they see when they went to the place the angel told them about?

After the shepherds had seen that great sight, they returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

1. What did the shepherds tell the people?
2. What was the result?
3. Who can say the verse?

Homework

Write the verse in beautiful handwriting.

Instructions

1. Relay the feelings of joy for the birth of the Savior to the children.
2. Show the children the great love of the Lord for them and that He wants the heart of each one of us to dwell in it.

(19) Herod's Persecution And The Flight To Egypt

References

- + Matthew 2:7-22
- + Contemplations on Nativity, H.H. Pope Shenouda

To The Servant

It is surprising that when the Lord Jesus Christ was a child He did not use His power. He fled to Egypt although he had authority over Herod's soul.

The Lesson

Aim

Keep away from evil.

Verse

“Out of Egypt have I called My Son”

Hymns

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

Aids

- + A picture showing the visit of the wise men to the Lord Jesus
- + A picture showing the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt

+ Another picture of the pyramids of Egypt

1. Where was Christ born?
2. Who visited Him at the manger?
3. Who gave them the sign?
4. Who can recite the verse?

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea". Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared, and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him..." and the wise men went their way and lo, the star which they had seen in the east went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. The children sing the hymn"
My Lord My Lord.

1. Where did the wise men go at first?
2. What did Herod do when he heard about the birth of Christ?
3. What did Herod order the wise men to do?
4. How were they guided to the place of the child?

When the wise men saw the star they rejoiced extremely with great joy and going into the house, they saw the child with St. Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

1. Who are the wise men?
2. What did they see when they went to the place over which the star rested?
3. What did they offer the child?
4. What do these gifts stand for?
5. What did they see in their dream?

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him". And he rose and took the child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt. It was a very long journey. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son". The children repeat the verse.

Instructions

1. The servant shows the children the great love of the wise men that came from a far country.
2. The servant elucidates the symbols of the gifts and shows the children what each gift stands for.
3. The servant explains that the flight of Jesus Christ was not because of fear but it was to fulfill the prophecy, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son".

Recitation

Ask the children to study the gospel of Matthew 7:7-12. These are the extracts designed for the third grade in the formal schools. The servant continues doing so till lesson 25.

(20) John The Baptist Baptizes Jesus Christ

References

+ Matthew 3:13-17

To The Servant

It is surprising that the Lord humbles Himself and empties Himself and asks John the Baptist whom He created to baptize Him. By baptism we are born anew and we put on the robe of righteousness and purity, which we lost, and the Holy Chrism establishes us in Christ so that we may lead a life of holiness.

The Lesson

Aim

The effect of baptism in our lives

Verse

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”

Hymns

+ Epiphany feast... Epiphany feast...

+ We see wonder... [Praise the Lord, Page 136]

Aids

The icon of baptism surrounded with candles. The children carry the icon and go around singing: Epiphany feast... Epiphany feast... while holding candles in their hands. A vessel full of water and small statue and the servant shows the children how baptism is practiced.

1. What is the feast we are celebrating today?
2. What do you usually see in the baptism room?
3. How does the priest baptize the children?

John the Baptist baptized people in the River Jordan “Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. He said to the people: I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”.

1. Where did John the Baptist baptize people?
2. Who went out to him?
3. What did he say to the people?

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John the Baptist, to baptize him. St John would have prevented him saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him “Let it be so now for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”. Then he consented and they went down into the Jordan.

The children repeat, Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist.

1. Where did Jesus Christ come from?
2. What did he request John the Baptist to do?

And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him, and to a voice from heaven saying, “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased”.

The children repeat, “The heavens were opened...”

1. What happened when Jesus went up from the water?
2. What did John the Baptist see?
3. What did the voice say?
4. Who can say the verse?

Homework

Complete the following: This is...with whom I am...

Instructions

1. Show how modest Jesus was when He went to John the Baptist to be baptized by him.
2. Note how gentle and quiet Jesus was when he talked with John.
3. The servant shows the children that the rite of baptism is performed by immersion three times.
4. The Epiphany feast is also called the feast of the Divine manifestation, because of the manifestation of the Holy Trinity. When the servant says, “A voice from heaven, saying: This is my beloved Son...” he must say the verse with reverence and awe changing the tone of his voice so that the children may know that when we stand in the presence of the Lord, we must stand with reverence and awe. The servant should advise the parents of the children who have not been baptized to haste and baptize their children so that they may receive salvation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(21) Adam Is Sent Out Of The Garden (An Angel Guards The Garden)

References

+ Genesis 3:22-24

To The Servant

Through the first Adam we were sent out of the Garden of Eden, and through the first Adam, sin came into the world, and through the second Adam, salvation was achieved. The Lord who loved

us and gave himself up for us to restore us to our first rank attracts us to him so we follow him with all our hearts and subdue ourselves to His will.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord hates sin

Verse

“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread”

Hymns

- + The love of our Father...
- + Our angels...our angels...
- + All through Christ's life...

Aids

Picture of Adam in the Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve

1. Where was Jesus Christ baptized?
2. Who baptized Him?
3. Who can say the verse?
4. When was Adam created?
5. How did the Lord create Eve?
6. Where did the Lord keep them?

The Lord God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and commanded them saying, “You may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but of the tree which is in the midst of the garden you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die”. The serpent came and said, “You will not die”. The woman took of the fruit of the tree and ate and she gave some to Adam and he ate. They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden. The Lord God called to Adam, and said to him, “Where are you?” And Adam said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked” and the Lord said, “Who told you that you are naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” Adam said, “The woman whom You gave me, she gave me fruit of the tree and I ate”. Then the Lord said to Eve “What is this that you have done?” and Eve said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I ate”. The Lord sent them out of the garden.

1. Where did the Lord put Adam and Eve?
2. Who beguiled Eve?
3. Are we to obey the words of Satan or are we to obey God?

The Lord God made for Adam and for Eve garments of skins, and clothed them. The Lord God sent them forth from the Garden of Eden, to the ground from which Adam was taken “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread”. And at the east of the Garden of Eden, the Lord placed the Cherubim, and a flaming sword turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

1. What did the Lord make for Adam and Eve?
2. Why did the Lord send them out of the garden?

Let us say together, “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread”

Let us sing the hymn together: Our angels...our angels...

Instructions

1. Show the children that the Lord God put man in the best place because He loved him.
2. Describe the Garden of Eden and show the children that the Lord God gave Adam the freedom of carrying out the commandment.
3. Because of His great love, the Lord did not leave them without clothes. He made for them garments of skin.
4. Discuss with the children the work of the angels and their role in guarding us.
5. Tell the children that the Lord Jesus is our Redeemer who delivered us from our sins, and who rose from the dead and raised us with Him and restored us to paradise.

(22) Cain Is Punished For Killing His Brother Abel

References

+ Genes is 4:11-16

To The Servant

Abel offered to God an acceptable sacrifice believing that his sacrifice was a symbol of the sacrifice of Christ, offered for salvation. Cain did not offer his sacrifice according to the rules, but he offered the fruits of the earth.

“By faith, Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain” (Hebrews 11:4).

“And we are justified by faith” (Romans 5:1).

“And our hearts are cleaned by faith” (Acts 15:9).

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith” (1John 5:4).

Where is Abel your brother? The voice of God is still calling us. Where are our brothers? Do you search for those who died in sin? Are you indifferent to them rejecting the blood of Jesus shed for them? What is your responsibility towards your family and your colleagues who are far from God?

The Lesson

Aim

God’s hatred of sin

Verse

“In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life” (Genesis 3:17)

Hymns

- + The love of our Father...
- + Our angels...our angels...
- + All through Christ's life...

Aids

The picture of the lesson and another picture or drawing of Cain and Abel

1. Where did the Lord put Adam and Eve?
2. Why was Adam sent out of paradise?
3. What are the names of Adam's sons?

Adam had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain became a husbandman and Abel a shepherd. God blessed the sheep and the land. In the course of time, Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering but Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master".

But Cain did not follow the Lord's advice. He seized the chance when Abel was out in the field. At first he spoke to him gently then he rose up against him and killed him.

1. What was Cain's occupation?
2. What was Abel's occupation?
3. What did the two brothers offer?
4. Whose sacrifice was accepted?

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother?" Cain said, "I do not know, am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord asked him (and the Lord knows everything). "What have you done?" the voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth in toil you shall eat of it". Cain grieved and said, "A fugitive and a wanderer? And whoever finds me shall slay me? Forgive me Lord". The Lord put a mark on Cain lest anyone who came upon him shall kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

1. What did the Lord say to Cain after he had killed Abel?
2. What did Cain say?
3. What did the Lord say then?
4. Do you forgive those who call you names...those who strike you...anyone who may trample on your foot without intention?
5. Let us say the verse together: In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life...who can say the verse?

Instructions

Test the love of God in this lesson so that this may be reflected on the children who love the Lord with all their heart. The sacrifice we offer is prayer with a pure heart. The children must pray three times a day.

(23) The Tower of Babylon

References

+ Genesis 1:1.9

To The Servant

Pride and arrogance are the major sins, which deprive us from grace. Through pride and arrogance Satan and Adam fell, and the language of the people was confused, thus they formed nations and different societies.

The Lord confused their language so that they may not do evil. The confusion of the language was a punishment to them for their pride and arrogance, but at the time the Lord changed this for the benefit of the human race and made them form peoples that fill the world. Arrogance divided humanity into nations and languages, and the Holy Spirit made the disciples talk in other languages and they will gather together in complete unity before the Lord Jesus (Revelation 7:9).

The Lesson

Aim

Do not be arrogant

Verse

“Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29)

Hymns

+ Our Lord exists...

Aids

A picture of the tower of Babylon

1. What sacrifice did Cain and Abel offer to God?
2. What did Cain do to his brother Abel?
3. What was the result of that?
4. How many languages did Noah and his sons know?

The whole earth had one language and the people used the same words. And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come let’s make bricks, and burn them thoroughly”. And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar, then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we should be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of

men had built. And the Lord said: Behold they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech".

1. Where did the people go?
2. What did they say to one another?
3. What are bricks made of?
4. What did they aim at?
5. What happened after the building had been raised?
6. Why did the Lord confuse their language?
7. Did they understand each other's language?

They stopped work and they could not complete the building, and the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth.

1. Is it possible to build a tower the top of which can reach heaven?
2. Why did the act of building stop?
3. Why was the city called Babel?
4. Let us say the verse, "Learn from me".

Instructions

Draw the children's attention to the fact that after the great flood, the people thought of running away from the Lord by building a tower, but the Lord exists everywhere. You can describe the situation of the people after confusing their language through examples of the people who speak different languages; English, Arabic, etc.

You can perform the scene and the dialogue before the children.

(24) Pharaoh's Opposition And The Ten Plagues

References

+ Exodus 9:10

To The Servant

Moses was not afraid of Pharaoh the king of Egypt. He was sure of his success because the King of heaven and earth sent him. Pharaoh allowed them to offer their sacrifices to their Lord in the land of Egypt.

This might have been the magicians' trick so that there might be confusion between the worship of the pagans and the worship of the Lord God. But we have to go out from the world and be separated from the people of the world because we are the temple of the living God. We have to know how to worship the Lord (2Corinthians 6:17,18). Go to the men among *you*, and serve the Lord, for that is what you desire (Exodus 10:8-11). This means that the elders warship the Lord

in the wilderness and the sons worship the Lord in the land of bondage. Our holy duty towards those whom we love is to show them the way of God so that they may live in the Lord's fear and worship him in the same way we do (Ephesians 6:4).

The Lesson

Aim

The punishment of sin

Verse

“For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test whether you are obedient in all things” (2Corinthians 2:9).

Hymns

+ The Lord always cares for us.

+ Our Lord exists...

1. What happened when the people wanted to build the tower?
2. Who can say the verse?
3. How did Pharaoh treat the people of God?
4. Through whom did the Lord deliver and rescue them?

The Lord's will was for His people to go out of Egypt from among the Egyptians but Pharaoh refused to let the people leave the country. The Lord sent Moses. The Lord provided Moses with miraculous deeds. Pharaoh was stubborn and obstinate. He persecuted and humiliated the people of God. The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Pharaoh that the water will become blood and the fish will die”. But Pharaoh's heart remained hardened and refused to listen to the voice of Moses. Frogs came and covered the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Pray to the Lord to take away these frogs...” But he hardened his heart when he saw the frogs taken away. The dust of the land became gnats, then came flies in such great number, that the whole country and all the houses swarmed with them. Then a sickness destroyed all the animals belonging to the Egyptians. Next boils and swelling blisters came upon men and beasts. After this a terrible hailstorm struck down herbs and trees, and all that was green in the fields. The heavy hailstorm was so great that Egypt had never known in all history.

1. What did the Lord say to Moses?
2. What was the first, second, third, etc. plague?

Then clouds of locusts came upon the land, and devoured all that the hail had left. At last it became so dark for three days that the Egyptians could not see one another nor move about. These plagues struck Pharaoh and his people but the people of God remained out of danger. Pharaoh called for Moses and asked him to pray for him and promised to let the people go, to worship the Lord. But then he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. Finally, the Lord sent a very severe plague. It was the death of the first-born. Then the people of God were able to leave the country and go out into the wilderness.

1. Was Moses afraid of Pharaoh the king?
2. What was the last plague?
3. Let us repeat the verse.

Instructions

Tell the children that Pharaoh was the king of Egypt and that the people of God were in Egypt suffering from bondage. The people of God prayed to the Lord and the Lord answered them and when we pray the Lord answers our prayers. The children practice obedience to the Lord, the priest, father and mother at home and at school.

(25) The Murmuring Of The Jews And Them Punishment

References

Numbers 21. Interpretation of the book of Numbers, Sporting.

To The Servant

The Lord punished the people for their complaint and murmuring. The Lord sent fiery serpents among them and the serpents bit the people so that many people of Israel died. This reminded people of their sins so they confessed their sins and they came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you”. Many times we do evil unconsciously to the Lord but because of His love for us, He sends punishment to remind us of our sins so that we may confess our sins. Many people knew Christ through sickness, afflictions and temptations. We should thank the Lord for His love for us. The bronze serpent is a symbol of Christ who died for our sake; “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2Corinthians 5:21). And whoever looked at the hanging of the bronze serpent on the cross and believed was delivered from the bite of sin; death.

The Lesson

Aim

The outcome of sin

Verse

“He who believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live”

Hymns

+ O Lord take me by the hand...

+ Where He leads me...[Praise the Lord, Page 145]

1. Why didn't Pharaoh let the people go?
2. Mention some of the plagues?
3. What was the last plague?
4. Who can say the verse?
5. Where did the Israelites go?
6. Who led the people?

7. Were they obedient to him?

From Mount Hor, they set out to the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom and the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food”. Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people.

1. Why did the Lord punish the people?
2. What was the punishment?
3. What did the people do?

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live”. So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole, and if a serpent bit anyone he would look at the bronze serpent and live. And the Bible says, “He who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live”.

Questions

1. What does the bronze serpent stand for?
2. What should the person bitten by the serpent do in order to recover?
3. Who can say the verse?

Instructions

Explain the fact that the Lord is patient in spirit and abounding in steadfast love to all who call on Him. The Lord accepts any person who repents his sin because the Lord loves all and wants all people to live with Him and to live according to His commandments.

Notes

The servant should distribute pictures of Christ on the cross to the children

(26) The Sin Of Achan the son of Carmi

References

- + Joshua 7:1-26
- + “The life of Joshua” Sporting, Alexandria

To The Servant

The people of God won victory over Jericho, the great fortified city but they could not stand before Ai the small town because there were devoted things in the midst of them. And this is a lesson for us. Many times we submit ourselves to God and receive miraculous victory but we soon think that our piety and hard work enables us to lead a life of holiness so we fall before the smallest scene or sin or Just. Let us glorify the Lord all the time and thank Him so that He may give us victory and triumph.

The secret of our failure in all our life often seems as if it were simple. All the people fell before the village of Ai because one of them saw, desired, took and thus fell. The secret of your failure may be small desire or a certain habit or a hidden sin. Examine yourself for fear of devoted things being in the midst of you.

The Lesson

Aim

The punishment of sin

Verse

“Neither will I be with you any more, unless you destroy the accursed from among you” (Joshua 7:12)

Hymns

+ O Lord take me by the hand...

+ Where He leads me...[Praise the Lord, Page 145]

1. What were the plagues that fell upon Pharaoh and his people?
2. What was the result of the murmurings of the people of God?
3. What does the bronze serpent stand for?
4. Did the people confess their sins?

The ancient people won victory in wars with the power of God and through their obedience to His commandments. But when they came to the small town of Ai, the spies said, “Let not all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai, Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are but a few”. So about three thousand went up there, from the people, and they fled from the men of Ai, and the men of Ai killed about thirty six men of them and chased them...and slew them...and the heart of the people melted and became as water. This is surprising; there must have been a reason for that defeat. Then Joshua tore his clothes in grief and threw himself to the ground before the Lord. He prayed to God. The Lord said to him, “Arise, why have you thus fallen upon your face? Israel have sinned, they have transgressed my covenant, which I commanded them, they have taken some of the devoted things, they have stolen and lied, and put them among their own stuff. I will be with you no more” (Here the children repeat the verse).

So Joshua rose early in the morning and searched for the man who was the cause of the trouble. He found out who he was and the man confessed that he had stolen. His name was Achan the son of Carmi. The man said, “I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel and this is what I did: When I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar, and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, then I coveted them and took them, and behold they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath.

1. Who led the people?
2. How many men went to Ai?

3. Did they win victory? Why?
4. What was Achan's sin?
5. Do you say to the Lord "forgive me" when you sin?
6. Who can say the verse?

So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent and behold, it was hidden in his tent with silver underneath. And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and all the people of Israel, and they laid them down before the Lord. And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan and the silver and the mantle and the bar of gold and his sons and daughters, and his oxen and asses and sheep, and his tent and all that he had, and they brought them up to the valley of Achor and all Israel stoned them with stones. They burnt them with fire till they died and they raised over them a great heap of stones. This is the punishment of sin.

1. What did they do with Achan?
2. What was the punishment of sin?

Instructions

Do not concentrate on the act of stoning for the fear of its bad effect on the children. Describe the scene of Joshua praying to God asking him to reveal the mystery of defeat and mention the talk between the Lord and Joshua. Show the children that the Lord loves people and accepts repentant. Certain aids can be used, a purse full of money, a drawing of Achan taking the silver and other things and hiding them and his confession of the place where they *were*.

(27) The Parable of the Net: Good and Evil People

References

+ Matt 13:47-50

To The Servant

The world is like a wide sea and the people are like fish in the sea, without authority. Preaching the gospel is like casting a net in the sea to catch fish for the glory of that who has authority over the sea, and the servants are the fishers of men, who cast the net and draw it, and when they cast the net over the word of Christ, they become successful, otherwise they will fail, "We toiled all night and caught nothing".

There will be time for achieving the goal of the gospel and we are sure that the word of God will not return empty. (Isaiah 55:10,11).

The Lesson

Aim

Selecting.

Verse

“Come you blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt 25:34).

Hymns

- + Among the angels...
- + Parable of the sower...

Aids

The servant can bring in with him a small net, and a paper boat or a drawing representing the sea and the fishermen casting nets into the sea.

Setting the scene

1. What was the sin of Achan the son of Carmi?
2. What was the punishment?
3. Who can say the verse?
4. What does he usually do?
5. How does a fishermen catch fish?
6. What does a fisherman do after he has caught fish?

The Lord Jesus went to the sea and sat by its edges and there, many people surrounded him to listen to his sweet words. He told them this parable, “Again the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind, when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down a sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad as it was useless and fit for nothing. The people asked the Lord to explain to them this parable. The Lord said, “So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire, there men will weep and gnash their teeth. The righteous go to the everlasting life and listen to the sweet voice, come O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”.

Questions

1. Where do the evil and wicked people go in the end?
2. Where do the righteous people go?
3. Who sorts out the righteous and the evil?
4. What will the Lord say to the righteous?
5. Let us say together; “Come o blessed of my Father ...” Who can complete?

Notes

It is possible to draw a series of scenes: The first one, the Lord Jesus on the shore and the great crowds gathering around Him listening to His words with reverence. The second one, the fishermen in a ship throwing the nets, and after the nets have full of fish they begin to draw them out, and when they come to the shore, they begin to sort out fish. The third one, the end of the world, and the angels sort out the chosen from all parts of the world.

Tell the children that those who love Christ with all their hearts and keep His words and preach them will be taken into heaven where they will live with the angels, listening to the Lord's sweet voice, singing a new hymn, they learn the hymn there with all the Saints.

(28) The Fall of Samson: Samson's Seven Locks Of Hair Were Cut Off

References

+ Judges 16:15-21

To The Servant

Delilah was a fraudulent woman. She insisted that Samson should tell her his secret to prove that he was really in love with her. That was a case of a sinful wicked woman. How much more should we, the children of the Lord show our love to the Lord whom we love with our hearts, and how much more should we reveal our secrets, to Him. He knows all our secrets and problems but He likes to see His children resorting to Him all the time telling Him all their secrets, problems, talking with Him about their joys and grieves so long as they love their Father and have trust in Him. Let us confess that we are weak in our fight against sin and let us thank the Lord for His great care for us.

The Lesson

Aim

The punishment of sin

Verse

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelations 2:10).

Hymns

+ The love of our Father...

+ Parable of the sower...

Aids

1. A drawing representing Samson and the pillars or a picture about the subject matter of the Lesson. 1.
2. Who can remember the verse of the previous lesson?
3. Why is Samson called the “mighty man”?

Manoah and his wife were without children. They prayed to the Lord to give them a son. The angel of the Lord said to them, “You will have a son and the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth...” What does the word “Nazirite” mean? No razor will come upon his head and he will drink no wine...they called the boy Samson. The boy grew up and he fought and defended his people. They were astonished at his great strength. The enemies tried to defeat Samson but they could not. They asked Delilah to entice him. Delilah was a Philistine woman. She asked him, “Tell me what makes you so strong”. She wept, she enticed him, and Samson feared God. Samson revealed the secret... “I am a Nazirite from birth. No razor has come upon my head. My

hair has never been out. I have been dedicated to God as a Nazirite from the time I was born, if my hair were cut I would lose my strength and be as weak as anybody else”.

1. What is the name of Samson’s father?
2. What does the word “Nazirite” mean?
3. Did Samson keep the secret of his strength?
4. What is the name of the Philistine woman?
5. What was the cause of Samson’s great strength?

When Delilah saw that he had told her his entire mind, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up this once, for he has told me all his mind”. Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. She took the silver from them. Delilah cut off the hair of his head and his strength left him. The Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes, bound him with fetters, made him to ground at the mill in the prison and humiliated him. They mocked him and forced him to dance in a great ceremony of their own. But the hair of his head grew again. Samson grasped the two middle pillars upon which the house rested and he leaned his weight upon them, his right hand on one and his left hand on the other. Then he bowed with all his might and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people that were in it. So the dead whom he slew at his death were more than those whom he had slain during his life.

1. What did Delilah do?
2. What did the Philistines do with Samson?
3. Let us repeat together: Be faithful unto death... Who can complete?

The story should be exciting and thrilling so that the children may follow the events with great interest. When you come to an exciting point stop for a while... as when you say... and Delilah cut off the hair of Samson’s head... and so on. Do not exaggerate. Say what you want to say in a simple way and avoid the difficult words that may hamper their understanding.

(29) St. George and the poisoned cup: the queen believed in the Gospel and the idols fell

References

+ Mark 16:17-18

+ John 14-17

+ “The Life of St. George” Published by Coptic Church in London

+ “Martyrdom in Christianity” by Rev. Shenouda Al-Souryany

To The Servant

The Lord was with St. George and delivered him from all the pains and afflictions that surrounded him. The Lord who was with St. George in his pains can deliver us from all the dangers of the wilderness of this world.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care for us

Verse

“Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him, I will protect him, because he knows my name” (Psalms 91:14).

Hymns

+ St. George...St. George... [Praise the Lord, Page 131]

Aids

1. A big picture of St. George.
1. What is the name of the hero we studied in the previous lesson?
2. Who can say the verse?
3. What was the cause of Samson's great strength?
4. What was the result of his fall?
5. Whose picture is this? (Point to picture of St. George).
6. Whose picture lies under the horse?

St. George grew up in a town called Cappadocia. He joined the army. He became a leader (a captain}. He loved the Lord Jesus. He deserted his job and his great position when he saw the pagans attacking Christians with the help of Diocletianus, the king. St. George was very brave when he resisted the king.

He refused to worship the idols. He tore up the circulars, which were stuck on the walls. The king sent for him to punish him. At first he ordered him to burn incense to the idols, and St. George refused to do so. The king offered him a poisoned cup. The Saint crossed the cup with the sign of the cross, saying in the name of the Father...(the children cross themselves with the sign of the cross}. The Saint drank the cup and the poison did not have any effect upon him: “Because he cleaves to me in love”.

1. What is the Saint's name?
2. What was his job?
3. What was the king's name?
4. Why did the poison have no effect on St George?
5. Do you cross yourself with the sign of the cross before having your meals...before going to bed?

The king was astonished at what he saw and the Saint seized the chance and preached to the queen. He talked about Jesus Christ. The queen believed and revealed her faith before her husband, the emperor, and before all the people. And the Saint was faithful unto death. The king ordered his soldiers to bring him the Saint, and the king forced him to bow and burn incense to the idols. The Saint said to the idols, “Do you want me to offer you sacrifice as you were the Lord of the earth and heaven?” A loud voice came out of the idol saying, “I am not a god but the true God is the Lord you worship, O Saint”. And immediately all the idols fell down and were

broken. At that moment people believed in Christ. They glorified the Lord they sang hymns “St. George...St. George”.

1. How was the Saint’s stay in the palace of value?
2. What did the Saint say to the idol?
3. What did the idols say to the Saint?
4. Let us repeat the verse.

Instructions

1. The children learn how to cross the sign of the cross on food and on themselves before going to bed and after getting up, and on entering the Church and the school.
2. The children carry the picture of St George and go around with candles in their hands singing the hymn: St. George... St. George.
3. The children can act some parts of the story. Concentrate on the situations, which are interesting to the children. St. George was very brave before the king. He made the sign of the cross over the poisoned cup, and when he drank it, it did not harm him. The idols fell down as a result of the Saints prayers.

(30) Christ’s Love For Us And His Death For Us

References

+ Matthew 26

+ Contemplations on the passion and resurrection of Christ His Holiness Pope Shenouda: “Jesus on the Cross - With Christ in His passion and Resurrection. He suffered and died for me”.

To The Servant

1. Is there love greater than this?
2. “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).
3. The Lord God showed His great love for us through Christ the Redeemer whom He gave on the cross for our sake.

The Lesson

Aim

Christ’s love for us

Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Hymns

+ For thine is the power...the glory...the blessing and the strength for ever Amen [The Pascha, Praise the Lord, Page 25]

Aids

A drawing representing the arrest of Jesus Christ before the council (if there is no such drawing, use the picture of the lesson).

Setting The Scene

1. What was the cause of Samson's great strength?
2. Why didn't the poison have any effect on St. George?
3. What was the result of the fall of Adam?
4. Why did the Lord Jesus take unto Himself human nature?

The Lord Jesus Christ, because of his great love for us, came down from heaven, took our flesh and was born in a simple manger to deliver us, and also because of His love for us, He fasted for us forty days and forty nights and went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil. He healed the sick people, cleansed lepers, healed the eyes of the blind, raised the dead, and healed a paralyzed man who had been ill thirty-eight years. The Lord performed many miraculous deeds and those who were cured glorified and praised God saying, "For thine is the power, the Glory".

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Mention some miraculous deeds, which the Lord performed.

When the people saw what the Lord did, they believed that He was the Lord God but the Jews envied Him and were angry with Him. They took Him to the Governor's palace and called together the rest of the company, they stripped His clothes and put a purple robe on Him, made crown out of thorns and put it on His head, they spat on Him then they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they led Him out to nail Him to the cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son".

1. Why were the Jews angry with Him?
2. What did they do to Him?

As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene named Simon and compelled him to carry His cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered Him wine to drink, mingled with gal, but when He tasted it He would not drink it. And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. Jesus prayed for His crucifiers "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do".

1. What is the name of the person who was compelled to carry Christ's cross?
2. What is the name of the place where he was crucified?
3. What was the name of the robber who was crucified on the right?
4. What did the lord ask for His crucifiers?
5. Let us repeat the verse together.

(31) The Power Of Christ When Crucified Revealed Miracles

References

+ Mark 15:33-38

+ Luke 23,44,45

To The Servant

1. We repeat these words during the Holy Week: Thine is the power.
2. Christ was powerful in His death. Through His death, He abolished death. By His death He bruised the head of the serpent and fulfilled the promise, which had been given to human beings in the days of Eve (Genesis 3:15).
3. Thus in His death He was Ernst to the world.

The Lesson

Aim

Revealing the power of Christ and His divinity

Verse

“Truly this was the son of God” (Matt 27:54).

Hymns

+ For thine is the power...the glory...the blessing and the strength for ever Amen [The Pascha, Praise the Lord, Page 25]

Aids

The Crucifixion Icon

1. What did Christ offer because of His love for us?
2. Why does the Church celebrate Good Friday?
3. Who were crucified with Christ?
4. What did they put on His head?

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?” A man took a sponge filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up His Spirit.

1. What happened from the sixth hour until the ninth hour?
2. What did Jesus say?
3. What did they offer Him?
4. When did Jesus yield up His Holy Spirit?

And behold the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom and the earth shook, and the rocks were split, the tombs also were opened and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His Resurrection they went into the Holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this

was the Son of God. There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

1. What happened to the centurion when he saw the earthquake?
2. What did he and those who were with him say?
3. Who were the women by the cross?
4. Let us repeat the verse together.

Homework

Prayer: Thine is the power... Tell your friends about these miracles.

Notes

The Crucifixion pictures are to be distributed among the children and the children are to be advised to put these pictures in their bedrooms.

(32) Easter Sunday: Jesus Christ Appears To His Disciples While The Doors Are Locked

References

+ John 20:19-23

+ Luke 24:36-43

+ Contemplations on the passions of Christ and His Resurrection, He raised me with Him, Sporting -With Christ in His passions and death and Resurrection.

To The Servant

The Lord Jesus Christ came to abolish sin and its consequence. Death is a consequence of sin. He abolished the sin of the world when He died on the cross. What remained was His victory over the consequence of sin. The Lord overcomes death by resurrection, and through His death he gave us hope for being raised from the dead.

The Lesson

Aim

Lord Jesus Christ overcomes death.

Verse

“The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord” (John 20:20).

Hymns

+ Truly risen is the King of Peace...

Aids

The Resurrection Icon is to be surrounded with candles. The children carry the icon and go round singing the hymn, “Truly Risen...” There is a film about Resurrection and also a drawing.

1. What happened to the sun on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified?
2. What happened to the tombs?
3. Who confessed that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God?
4. Where was Christ buried?
5. When did He rise from the dead?
6. Who came early to the tomb?

The Lord Jesus was buried in a tomb. He spent three days in the tomb. After three days, the Lord was raised. The disciples assembled in the upper room because they were afraid of the Jews so they had closed and locked the doors. On Sunday evening, Jesus came and stood in the middle and said to His disciples, "Peace be with you" when He had said this He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Then He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained".

Now Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord" but he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe".

1. Where were the disciples?
2. Where was Thomas?
3. Did he believe the disciple's words?
4. Who can say the verse?

Eight days later, His disciples were again in the upper room and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you" then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands, and put your hand on my side, do not be faithless but believing". Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God". Thomas believed in the Lord.

1. When did the disciples gather and Thomas with them?
2. What did Jesus say to Thomas?
3. What did he answer?
4. Who can say the verse?

Homework

The children sing the hymn, "Truly He is Risen" at home as a sign of their happiness on the occasion of Easter.

Instructions

While giving the lesson try to express the feeling of the disciples when they were in the upper room, fear, worry, anxiety, astonishment, then happiness. The children can act some parts of the lesson. At the end of the lesson the children carry the icon representing Resurrection and go around the church with it singing: "Truly Risen..." Groups of children could be formed to distribute the offerings among the poor on the occasion of the feast.

(33) Entertainment Of Guests: Ibrahim El-Gohary

References

- + The valuable unbored pearl, Part 2
- + The most talented and famous Copts in the tenth century, Part 1 by Tawfik Iskaros

To The Servant

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

The Lesson

Aim

Entertainment of guests

Verse

- + “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers” (Hebrew 13:2)
- + “Let us do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10)

Hymns

- + My God we ...
- + Prince of peace is risen... [Praise the Lord, Page 27]

1. Who fed the hungry man last week?
2. What do you do to the guest to make him happy?
3. How do you entertain your guests?
4. Did any stranger ever visit you?
5. What did you do to entertain him?

Servant Ibrahim El-Gohary was a good-hearted man. He lived in Egypt during the reign of the Memelukes. He was famous for his kindness and his love for the poor and also for his wisdom. He was a government clerk. Because of his honesty and deep love for Christ, he was appointed a minister.

1. What is the man's name?
2. What was he famous for?
3. What was his occupation?

Servant Ibrahim cared for the Churches, the monasteries and the poor. Many stories are told about him. Once he went to the monastery of Babylon Darg on a carnival day, after the Mass the people used to have a rest for a short time before they went home. Servant Ibrahim noticed that all the people were on their way home except one man. The man went up a high mountain that was near the church. He asked his servant to follow that man, without being noticed, so that he might know his destination, and then come back to tell him. The servant watched the man from a

distance. The man went up the top of the hill and there he knelt down and prayed to the Lord. Then he searched the place for something to eat. The man found a dead goose on the ground. He took it and thanked God, and then he went back to the church. The servant hastened to tell servant Ibrahim about the whole story of that man. Servant Ibrahim said to his servant, "Go quickly and prepare some food of meat, fruit and sugar, etc. Servant El-Gohary waited till the man came down the hill. He admonished the man because he did not tell about his needs. The servant brought food. Servant Ibrahim gave the man some gifts and asked him not to conceal his troubles. The scripture says "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..."

The servant chooses one of the children and asks them to tell the story.

Homework

Give a hungry man some food to eat. Review the previous extracts for recitation and prepare the class for the next lesson, which will be a review lesson.

(34) Extracts For Recitation

Review of the extracts allotted for third grade. The servant encourages the children who have studied the verse by heart, and follows up the children who have not studied them. We also hope that the children will use these verses in their prayers, in class and at home.

The following verses have been taught in this period:

1. "For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11), Lesson 18.
2. "In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life" (Genesis 3:17), Lesson 22.
3. "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread" (Genesis 3:19), Lesson 21.
4. "Come O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34), Lesson 27.
5. "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29), Lesson 23.
6. "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54), Lesson 31.
7. "The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20), Lesson 32.
8. "Let us do good to all men" (Galatians 6:10), Lesson 33.
9. "Out of Egypt I have called my Son" (Matthew 2:5), Lesson 19.
10. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16), Lesson 30.
11. "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelations 2:10), Lesson 28.
12. "I will be with you no more unless you destroy the devoted things from among you" (Joshua 7:12), lesson 26.
13. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 13:2), Lesson 33.
14. "Because he cleaves to me in love, I will deliver him. I will protect him because he knows my name" (Psalms 91:14), Lesson 29.
15. "He who believes in me, though he die yet shall he live" (John 11:25), Lesson 25.
16. "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), Lesson 20.

17. “For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient In everything” (2Corinthians 2:9), Lesson 24.

The extracts chosen for this period are:

1. Matthew 7:7-12: This forms part of the third year course in government schools. Children must study them and they are to be a subject matter for competition.

THE THIRD PERIOD

(35) St. Mark’s Feast: St. Mark’s House

References

- + Acts 1:13-14
- + St. Mark by Pope Shenouda

To The Servant

How pleasant it is to follow the steps of this Saint and complete his work in preaching and teaching the Gospel. We should remember his struggle for faith, his journeys and services in the three continents of the world known at that time. He used to walk on foot for a long distance. May his soul be with us. May the Lord give us the power to walk with this apostle on the road so that we may pride ourselves on being the children of the Saints by following their steps and completing their message.

The Lesson

Aim

Commemoration of Saints

Verse

“For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do” (Hebrews 6:10)

Hymns

- + St. Mark...St. Mark you honored our Egyptian land...
- + Song of praise to St. Mark... [Praise the Lord, Page 17]

Aids

The icon of St. Mark the Apostle. The icon of St. Mark is prepared. Tapers are put before the icon. The pictures, tapers, roses and flowers, and a box of matches can be prepared to be used in the suitable time. Then the children sing hymns and carry the picture and celebrate the occasion.

Setting The Scene

1. Whose picture is this?
2. What does he hold in his hand?
3. What is that thing beside him?

4. What was the first church established after his name in our country?

The house of St. Mark was the center of Christian life in Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus kept the Passover in that house, i.e., the house of St. Mark, and he himself exerted a great effort in preparing it and the Lord always remembers the labor of love.

1. Where did the Lord keep the Passover?
2. Who can say the verse?

That house was dedicated to the Lord and became the first Church. That is why St. Peter went to that house immediately after getting out of prison with the help of the angel. Aware of his situation, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, who was surnamed Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying and their prayers made the house holy. And the Saint deserved the rewards of the Lord 'because the Lord does not forget the labor of love.

1. When was earnest prayer made in the house of St. mark?
2. Who was gathering in the house?
3. Who brought St. Peter out of prison?
4. What did St. Peter do when the angel brought him out of prison?
5. What did he find in the house of St. Peter?

Instructions

The servant concentrates on the Lord's love for those who offer themselves to him a sacrifice or he says, "I honor those who honor me..." The Lord Jesus honored St. Mark the apostle when he established the first Church in his house and there he ate the Passover the Last Supper and in the same place, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. The servant explains the symbols in the picture or icon of St. Mark. St. Mark holds the Gospel in his hands because he wrote the Gospel of St. Mark. The lion stands for Christ, the lion of the tribe of Judah. The lion has another meaning as the Lord has rescued St. Mark and his father from the mouth of a lion. When they were in the desert. Tell the children that St. Mark established the first church in Egypt and through him true faith spread in our country, which became a Christian country. He also ordained Inianus a Bishop. So Inianus was the first Egyptian Bishop.

(36) The Lord Appears To Thomas

Reference

+ John 20:24-30

To The Servant

We must not fall into despair even if our service is not successful and our work is not fruitful, but with patience every thing will come right in the end.

The Lesson

Aim

God's love for us, He does not leave us in a state of unbelief.

Verse

"He stood among them and said Peace be with you"

Hymns

+ Truly He is risen from the dead... [Praise the Lord, Page 27]

Aids

A picture representing the appearance of the Lord to His disciples and a red spot in the Lord's hand as a mark of the print of the nails.

Setting The Scene

1. Where were the disciples gathering? Why?
2. Was Thomas with them when the Lord appeared to them?
3. What did the disciples do when the Lord appeared to them after: His Resurrection?

The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples while they were gathered together and the doors were shut in the house of St. Mark. He stood among them and said "Peace be with you". He said that to free them from their doubts and fears. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, was not with them when Jesus came.

1. What did the Lord Jesus say to the disciples?
2. How did the Lord enter the room when the doors were shut?
3. Who can say the verse?

The disciples met Thomas and said to him, "We have seen the Lord". Thomas was surprised. He paused for a while and then said, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe".

1. What did the disciples say to Thomas when they met him?
2. What did Thomas say to them?
3. Who remembers the verse? "Eight days later, His disciples were again gathered in the house of St. Mark, and Thomas was with them...the doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you" (the conversation between the Lord and Thomas).
4. Why did the Lord Jesus Christ appear again to the disciples?
5. In whose house?
6. What did he say to Thomas?
7. What did Thomas say when he saw the mark of the nails in the hands of the Lord and placed his hand in the Lord's side?
8. What did the Lord say to him then?

Homework

Tell your parents at home the story of today's lesson.

Instructions

Perform your dialogues in a lively way also the conversation between Thomas and the disciples. Concentrate on the feelings; sadness, happiness, surprise etc. Repeat the verse several times so that the children may memorize it. Some scenes such as the dialogue between Thomas and the disciples can be acted?

Recitation

The children begin to study the following text till lesson 28. Truly we believe in one God Our Lord is one God... The Trinity ...God the Father... God the Son... God the Holy Spirit. One God. For this reason the Lord said to his disciples “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit”. The Father created us, the Son redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies us... I love the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God Amen.

(37) Acts Of Charity: Tabitha

References

+ Acts 9:36-41

To The Servant

Service is the pure love that fills the heart of a person that loves the Lord and lives with him and tastes the sweet love of the Lord. How happy is the faithful when he feeds a hungry soul -not for the body but food for the soul -and leads it to the living spring. Whoever drinks of this water will not be thirsty again. How happy is the faithful when he offers a robe to a man who needs clothes -not a robe to cover his naked body -but a robe of righteousness of which he has been stripped because of sin.

The Lesson

Aim

Helping the poor.

Verse

“For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do” (Hebrews 6:10).

Hymns

+ Our Lord we are all happy...

+ Joy... Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

Clothes... shirts... robes... as symbols of the things made by Tabitha.

Setting the scene

1. What do you know about Thomas?
2. How did he believe in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. What was the verse of the previous lesson?
4. If a needy person asks you for something what would you give him?
5. The disciples have no gold or silver, what did they give?

Now there was at Joppa a young girl named Tabitha, which means Dorcas “a deer”. She was full of good works and deeds of charity. She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor. She was constant in prayer. She loved Christ with all her heart. She always praised the Lord saying, “O Lord we are all happy...” Tabitha thought of giving something to the poor but she had nothing to give. She could sew clothes. She served the widows who had nobody to help and supported them. She made them tunics and other garments. She was very happy and the Lord rewarded her because the Lord does not overlook the labor of love:

1. Where was Tabitha from?
2. What does her name mean?
3. What did she do for the sake of the widows?
4. Who can say the verse?

In those days Tabitha fell ill and died, and when they had washed her they laid her in an upper room. The disciples sent for St. Peter who came to the upper room without delay. The widows were weeping bitterly and wanted Tabitha to come back to life. St. Peter prayed and Tabitha came back to life. They were all happy. The Lord never overlooks the labor of love.

Questions

1. What did St. Peter do when he went up to the upper room?
2. What happened after the prayer?
3. With whose power did Tabitha come to life?
4. Who can say the verse?

Instructions

Concentrate on St. Peter’s prayers and their power in bringing Tabitha back to life. Encourage the children to bring clothes to be distributed among the poor.

(38) Almsgiving -Anba Abraam

References

- + “The life of Anba Abraam” Al Mahaba bookshop
- + “Anba Abraam the Saint” by Rev. Michael Saad
- + “The grade of the soul, almsgiving” by Anba Youannis, Bishop of Gharbya

To The Servant

Christianity and almsgiving are twins. Almsgiving in all forms and different aspects begin with material almsgiving, which is the least accepted kind of almsgiving, and proceeds to the life of

self-giving, which is the supreme of almsgiving. Almsgiving, prayer and fasting forms a very strong rope which when we get hold of it we can be safe and secure. This is not surprising because prayer is worship to the Lord with our souls, and fasting is our worship to him with our flesh, and almsgiving is our worship to him or our love for him with our possessions and money. This is what the early Christians understood, and this was the motto of the first Church. This principle is clearly worded by St. Paul in his talk to the priests of Ephesus when he said to them, "In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said: It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

The Lesson

Aim

Our love for others

Verse

"For the Lord loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Hymns

+ Our Lord we are all happy...

+ Joy... Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

1. The picture of Anba Abraam.
2. Tapers are to be placed before the picture.
3. Children carry it and go around honoring it by singing hymns.

Setting the scene

1. What did Tabitha give to the widows?
2. What did the disciples do?
3. What did the widows do when St. Peter came?
4. What should I give to the poor and the needy?
5. Whose picture is this?
6. What is this saint famous for?

There was once a bishop whose name was Anba Abraam, the Bishop of Fayoum. He was a Saint. He executed the commandments of the Lord carefully, especially the commandment of almsgiving. One day a poor woman came to him but at that time he had no money. One of his children had given him a shawl, which he did not use. The poor woman said to him, "Your Holiness, the bishop I am in dire and need of money. Please give me some". And the bishop said, "I have no money my daughter, but take this shawl and sell it and buy what you need". The woman said, "Thank you very much my Lord". Then she took the shawl, kissed the cross and the bishop's hands and left the place saying, "For God loves a cheerful giver".

1. What is the name of the late Bishop of Fayoum?
2. What was that saint famous for?
3. What did the woman ask of him?

4. What did the saint give her?
5. Who remembers the verse?

The woman took the shawl and went to the market to sell it and there the owner of the shawl saw her:

The man: How much is this shawl?

The woman: How much do you want it for?

The man: Anyway take this sum of money and give me that shawl.

The man gave her the money and she gave him the shawl. The man took the shawl and went to Anba Abraam. Before giving the shawl back to the Bishop, the man asked, “Why don’t you cover yourself with the shawl, my father Abraam in this cold weather? Anba Abraam said, “The shawl is above my son”, meaning the shawl was with Jesus.

1. Who bought the shawl back from the woman?
2. What did the man do with it?
3. What did he say to Anba Abraam?
4. What was Anba Abraam’s answer?

Then the man presented the shawl to Anba Abraam. Anba Abraam was surprised and said to the man, “Perhaps you have oppressed her my son”. And the man replied, “No, my father. I gave her the whole price”. The Bishop said, “May the Lord reward you my son”. The man said, “Thank you my Lord, pray for me Anba Abraam”. The man kissed the cross and the hands of the Bishop and went out saying, “For God loves a cheerful giver”.

1. What did the man do when he went to the bishop?
2. What did Anba Abraam say to him?
3. What was the man’s answer?
4. Who remembers the verse?
5. Who remembers other verses about almsgiving?

Instructions

The servant draws the children’s attention to the necessity of being kind to the poor, but it would be better to discuss with them the way of organizing the act of almsgiving so that their money may not go to professional beggars. Each class should give a box for almsgiving and the money collected should be given to a poor family.

Recitation

The servant begins the study of the Morning Prayer. He gives them some extracts from the Morning Prayer and encourages them to study and memorize them. The light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. This continues to lesson 42. Thus the pupil studies them and uses them in his prayers at home.

(39) The Widow’s Offering: the Widow’s Two Lepta

References

+ Luke 21:1-4

+ Almsgiving, extracts from the Garden of the soul by Anba Youannis, Bishop of Gharbya

To The Servant

How great is the virtue of almsgiving. It deserves our appreciation. The Lord said, “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed” (Proverbs 19:17). The Saints understood the supreme power of this virtue so they pleaded with others to accept their alms. God does not look at the quantity but he looks at the quality. Almsgiving should result from true love. The Lord praised that widow but he did not praise the rich. The widow expressed her love for the Lord by these two lepta.

The Lesson

Aim

Almsgiving combined with love

Verse

“For the Lord loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Hymns

+ Our Lord we are all happy...

+ Joy... Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

The servant brings the alms box and places it in front of the children and each of them puts some money in the box. To act the story, the servant can bring a dark colored head veil and two coins.

Setting The Scene

1. What did Anba Abraam give the woman who asked him for alms?
2. Who bought the shawl?
3. What did the Bishop do when the man returned the shawl to him?
4. Where are alms put in the church?

The Lord Jesus Christ went into the temple. He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts in the treasury and offering money and other things in the treasury. They put a lot of money. He looked at them for some time while they were offering their gifts.

1. Where did the Lord go?
2. What did he see?
3. What did the rich offer and where did they put their gifts?
4. Who remembers the verse?

The Lord saw a poor widow among the rich. She walked to the treasury and there she put two lepta. She was happy to do that. The Lord Jesus Christ said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them”.

1. What did the Lord Jesus Christ notice?
2. What did the widow put in the treasury?
3. What did the Lord Jesus say to them all?

The people asked, “how can that be, each one of us has put at least one dinar”. They did not know that the Lord Jesus does not look for the amount of money but he looks for the heart. The Lord Jesus gave them a lesson. He said to them, “This poor widow has put in more than all of them, for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she had?” The widow was happy to do that. The Bible says, “For God loves a cheerful giver”.

1. How did the rich put their gifts in the treasury?
2. What did the widow put in?
3. Why did the Lord Jesus praise her?
4. Who remembers the verse?

Instructions

Encourage the children to give alms out of their pocket money and to honor the poor so that they may not be selfish in using their money and the things they possess.

(40) The Soft Answer: Jacob Meets Esau

References

+ Genesis 32:1-11

To The Servant

Although the Lord promised Jacob to keep him safe, yet he was afraid of his brother. His fear made him divide those who were with him according to the degree of his love to them. He put the concubines and their children first, then Leah and her children, and finally Rachel and Joseph at the rear. Jacob went ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother, to soothe his wrath. How weak is the nature of man. But the Lord filled Esau’s heart with love. He ran towards Jacob his brother, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. They were both crying. He who controls himself in time of anger is better than the owner of a fortified city. There is time for anger but we must not sin. We have to think a little and pray for the Lord’s help so that the Lord may fill our hearts with peace and in this case we can comfort others.

The Lesson

Aim

Our love for our brothers

Verse

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Romans 15:1).

Hymns

+ Our Lord we are all happy...

+ This is the day...

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Setting the scene

1. Where did the widow put the two lepta?
2. Why did the Lord praise her?
3. Who remembers the verse?
4. If your brother has been away for a long time, how would you greet him when he comes back?

Jacob came back after he had run away from his brother Esau. He had been away for a long time, he had married, had children, concubines, sheep and cows in great numbers. Jacob divided his family into groups when he looked up, he saw Esau coming from afar together with four hundred men.

1. When did Jacob marry?
2. What did Jacob see from a distance?
3. What did he do?
4. What did Jacob give Esau? (Read Genesis 32)

Mention Esau's happiness when he saw Jacob, and Jacob's gifts and presents to Esau. All are happy and singing. We are all one family, the Bible says, “A soft answer turns away wrath”.

Instructions

Stimulate the children's interest when you speak about the meeting between Jacob and Esau. Some situations can be acted and some dialogues can be presented in a lively way so that the children can act them. Concentrate on the dialogue between Jacob and Esau.

(41) Showing Respect For Priesthood: Korah and Dathan

References

+ Numbers 16:15-35

To The Servant

Pride is the cause of all divisions and envy is also dangerous. The envy of this group resulted in their rebellion and the spread of the spirit of division. Envy makes man blind to the truth. Moses was very patient with his people. They saw him as a proud ruler who deprived his people of their

rights. If you envy any of the servants of the Lord, pray to the Lord to reveal to you his advantages and pray for him and ask God to grant him his grace and blessings.

The Lesson

Aim

We must show respect for our fathers the priests.

Verse

“Hereby you shall know that the Lord has sent me” Numbers 16:28.

Hymns

I love Abouna the priest

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. | I love Abouna the priest | when I see him, I feel happy |
| | I immediately go to him | and kiss his hand which smell of incense |
| 2. | When he comes to visit us | we all feel happy |
| | Our house is filled with light | and angels are present |
| 3. | He prays to God | for us all the time |
| | And our Lord loves his prayer | and answers all that he asks |

Aids

You can bring with you a censer, coal, incense, and the priest’s clothes but do not use them.

Setting The Scene

1. What are the beautiful statements with which Jacob met Esau?
2. Mention the verse of the previous lesson.
3. Who baptizes in the church?
4. Who gives you Holy Communion in the Church?
5. Who raises incense in the Church?

Moses, Aaron and the sons of Levi did services in the tabernacle of the Lord. Korah, and Dathan and their sons said to Moses, You have gone too far. Why did you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord.

Why do you distinguish yourselves and give yourselves the right to serve the altar of the Lord. For all the congregation are holy. Aren’t all the congregation priests? They overlooked the verse “And no man takes this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron” (Hebrew 5:4). When Moses heard this, he fell on his face.

1. Who performed the service of priesthood?
2. What did Korah and Dathan say to Moses?
3. Mention the verse indicating that Aaron was chosen for the services?
4. What did Moses do when he heard this?

Moses said to the sons of Korah and the sons of Dathan, “Do this tomorrow, take censers, put fire in them (Show the aids to the children) and put incense in them before the Lord. And the

man whom the Lord chooses shall be the holy one. There were about two hundred and fifty censers. The glory of the Lord appeared to the entire congregation. And the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron, “separate yourselves from among this congregation, that may consume them in a moment. And they fell on their faces”. The Lord did not forgive Korah, and Dathan. Then the ground under them split asunder, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men that belonged to Korah and all their goods.

1. What was the number of the sons of Korah and the sons of Dathan?
2. What did the Lord say to Moses and to Aaron?
3. What happened to Korah and Dathan and their sons?

So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly, and fire came forth from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense. The task is holy and “No man takes this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God”.

1. Why did the Lord destroy that group of people?
2. What happened to the men who burnt the incense?
3. What was the name of the tribe that was chosen for the service of the Lord?
4. Which group of people was chosen for the service of the tabernacle and priesthood?

Instructions

Conversations between Moses, Dathan and Korah can be performed in a way that shows how Moses defended the rights of priesthood and the service of the Lord to which Aaron and his sons were dedicated. Means of illustrations should be shown in the right time. We must show respect for the priests by kissing their hands with reverence because they serve the divine sacraments and carry the flesh and blood of the Lord.

(42) Tapers In The Church

References

- + Numbers 31:50
- + Genesis 1:3
- + The noble pearls in explaining the rites of the church, Part 1 by Rev. Youhanna Salama

To The Servant

Lighting the tapers when we read the Divine Books refers to the light of the Gospel, which has shown in all countries (2Corinthians 4:4) and the word of God is light (Proverbs 6:23). St. Ironimus said, “The church is brightly lit while reading the gospel as a sign of our happiness by the good news of the Gospel about Jesus who is the light of the world. As for the candle that is placed before the Gospel, this refers to John who was a burning and shining lamp (John 5:35). He preached the world, like the morning star, and told the world about the good news of the shining sun of righteousness and the healing in its wings, and he bore witness to Jesus, the true light (John 17:9). Placing tapers on the cross when blessing the people with it during the service

refers to Jesus who was nailed to the Cross and who is the light of the world (John 8:12), and though the Cross, we have been called out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)".

The Lesson

Aim

The love of the church

Verse

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12)

Hymns

- + The Lord Jesus likes to shine, as this candle shines among the candles.
- + Ye hebena... ninawar Rabena Yassoua... [Arabic Song]

Aids

The servant distributes candles, one candle for each child. He lights the candle when he explains the lesson.

Setting The Scene

1. What was the task of Moses and Aaron?
2. Why did the Lord destroy Korah and Dathan?
3. Who leads the prayers in the Church?
4. What is this candle used for?

You know that the sky is beautiful and is lit by the light of Jesus and many lights. The church is like the sky in that candles light it so the darkness is no more. Lighting candles reminds us of the Lord's transfiguration on the mountain.

1. What shines in the sky at night?
2. What does the act of lighting the church by candles remind us of?
3. Who can remember the verse?

There are some places in the church in which we put candles. We put them in front of the Gospel. Why? Because the words of the Lord are light and the lamp for us. We are also happy because of the good news we hear when the Gospel is read about Jesus the light of the world. Candles are put on the cross to refer to Jesus who was nailed to the cross and who is the light of the world, and who through the cross he called us from darkness into light. The Lord says, "I am the light of the world". He likes us to shine as he does. Our Lord Jesus likes us to shine.

1. Why is a candle placed before the Gospel?
2. Why are candles placed on the cross while blessing the people?
3. Who can remember the verse?

Candles are placed before the icons and pictures of the Saints because they were light in the world, and before the Icon of Virgin Mary because she bore the Lord Jesus Christ the true Light.

1. Why are tapers placed before icons?
2. Why are tapers placed before the icon of Virgin Mary?
3. Who remembers the verse?

Recitation

The servant gives the children extracts from the third hour prayer to be studied. “Your Holy Spirit O Lord that you sent to your disciples and Saints”. This is to continue till Lesson 49. Children begin to study them and pray them at home.

Instructions

Draw the children’s attention that after lighting the tapers in front of the icons of the saints in the church or at home they must put them out after their prayers so that they might not cause a fire.

(43) Recitation

Review the extracts for recitation, which the children studied during the period. Texts about faith and belief: Creed and Extracts for the Morning Prayer. The servant encourage those who have studied them well and follows up those who have not studied them yet till they study them because we want the children to use them in their prayers at home.

(44) Angels, Their Praises and Their Services To The People

References

+ The Angel Gabriel -The Angel Gabriel Sunday School -Harit el Sakayeen

To The Servant

God created the angels of light. They are present before Him day and night praising Him without pause. They make intercession for the people and they are responsible for the children of God. “For He will give His angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalms 91:11).

The Lesson

Aim

The service of the angels

Verse

“The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them” (Psalms 34:7).

Hymns

- + Among the angels as if I were an angel...
- + White... white... white... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aids

The wing of an angel made of silver paper or white paper or cloth. Some dishes, plates, flour, fruit, a big plastic fish and a pie.

Setting The Scene

1. Where are tapers lit in the Church?
2. What do we put before the pictures of the Saints?
3. What do we put before the pictures of the angels?

Describe the angel pies and when we make them.

A man and his wife loved God and the poor. The man's name was Dorthaus and the woman's name was Thaoupasta. They used to make a feast for the poor on the feast of the angel. The Lord blessed them and gave them wealth and property. Every year they made a feast for the poor on the Angel Day. One year they had no money neither did they have any food to offer. They were sad because they were unable to make a feast for the poor that year on the occasion of the Angel Day. They thought for some time then they took their clothes and went out to sell them.

1. What is the name of the man and what is the name of his wife?
2. What did they do for the poor?
3. Why did they make the feast for the poor when they had no money?

The angel appeared to them and advised the man to go to a sheep seller, take a sheep and pay part of the price, and to go to a fisherman and buy a big fish and pay part of the price, and to go to the baker and buy some bread and pay part of the price. The man went out and bought a sheep, a fish, and some bread. He put the fish inside the meat-safe according to the orders of the angel.

1. What did the angel say to the man?
2. What did the man do?

The man went out to call the poor as he does every year. The house was full of people and the man did not know what to do to feed them. He entered the kitchen and prayed to the Lord. He begged the angel Michael to help him and tell him what to do. The Angel Michael appeared to him and said, "Fear not, open the meat-safe and give food to the guests". The man opened the meat-safe and saw that it was full of food, fruit and many sweet things. He thanked the Lord and gave the people food. They ate and left the house thanking God. The angel appeared again with his shining light and said to him, "Cut the fish in half". The man cut the fish and found three hundred dinars inside it. The angel said to him, "Give one hundred dinars to the sheep seller, and the fisherman and the baker, and one hundred dinars to the church and keep one hundred dinars for your wife and yourself. The Lord has sent me to you and the Lord says that you will not be in need of anything from now on". Then the angel disappeared.

1. What did Dorthaus do?
2. What did he find inside the fish?
3. What did the angel say to him?
4. Who remembers the verse?

Instructions

Draw the children's attention to some important situations such as the appearance of the angel and describe the angel in a gentle way. Concentrate on the state of poverty of the man and his wife and their bewilderment. Make sure that the children are happy and pleased when they hear of the appearance of the angel to the man and his wife and of the money found inside the fish. If we pray before we go to bed the Lord will send an angel to us to guard us all night long. The angel will also protect us from bad thoughts and bad dreams.

Turn on the lights of the class when you say that the angel has appeared and turn them off when you say that the angel has disappeared.

(45) The Apostles Feast

References

+ Matt 9:9

+ "Interpretation of the Gospel of St. Mathew" by Rev. Marcos Daoud

+ "The interpretation of the Gospel of St. Mathew" by the Virgin Mary Church, Fagala

To The Servant

Christ who is the origin of every thing renews the soul. The word is the means and the Gospel is God's power for salvation (Romans 1:16).

The Lesson

Aim

Christ's love for sinners.

Verse

"Consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith" (Hebrew 13:7).

Hymns

+ O Lord take me by the hand, because I am too young, lead me to your way O Almighty Lord.

+ Where He leads me... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aids

Coins or pictures of coins

Setting The Scene

1. What did the man and his wife do on the Angel's feast?
2. How did the Lord repay them for their good deed?
3. Who can remember one of Christ's disciples?
4. Who collects taxes now days?
5. Who collected taxes in the age of the Romans?

There were some people in Judea who collected money. These people were called tax collectors. One of these people was called Levi. That man was sitting at the tax office. He was a tax collector in the customs office in the port of Capernaum, or a collector of the production tax or a collector of the land tax.

1. Who collected taxes from the people?
2. What was Levi's job?
3. Where did Levi sit?

Jesus left that place and as he walked along, he saw a tax collector named Mathew, sitting in his tax office. Jesus said to him "Follow me. The power of the word affected Levi (Mathew). The words of Jesus found their way into Mathew's heart. The words of Jesus were sweet and gentle. He left the money and every thing and followed him saying, O Lord take me by the hand..." (Children sing the hymn)/

1. What did Jesus say to Levi?
2. What happened to Levi?
3. What did Levi do?

The Lord Jesus called him Mathew, i.e. the gift of God, and the man became one of the twelve apostles whom Jesus chose to teach and preach the good news all over the world. Mathew wrote the first Gospel. He accompanied the apostles all the time even after the ascension of Christ. He preached the good news in the land of Cush and Persia. He was martyred in the land of Cush in 62 AD when someone stabbed him with a spear and he won the crown of martyrdom and the crown of apostleship.

1. What was the other name of Levi after he followed Jesus?
2. What did Mathew write?
3. Where did Mathew preach the good news?
4. How was Mathew martyred?
5. Where was he martyred?

(46) The Commander Of The Lord's Army And Joshua

References

+ Joshua. 5:13-15

+ A study of scriptures, the book of Joshua, Sporting

To the Servant

Through baptism we have gotten a special mark that distinguishes us as children of the Lord, and by the Lord's flesh and blood we have become His people and He protects us and defends us. Joshua may have begun to think what to do before a fortified city.

1. Where was Moses who shared him in wartime and accompanied him in the fight?
2. What order could he give the people?

3. Was he to train them to fight?

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord sends his angels to the Saints.

Verse

“Be strong and of good courage” (Joshua 1:9).

Hymns

- + You and your angels are with me o compassionate Lord.
- + Where He leads me... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aids

A picture of Joshua and the commander of the Lord’s army and a wooden sword.

Setting The Scene

1. What was Mathew’s job?
2. How did the Lord call him?
3. What do you know about the angels?

After the death of Moses the Lord said to Joshua Moses’ minister, “Go over this Jordan. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage”.

1. Who led the people after the death of Moses?
2. What did the Lord say to Joshua?
3. Who remembers the verse?

Joshua was near Jericho. He might have thought what to do with the fortified city of Jericho. Where was Moses who fought with him? What orders could he give his people? Was he to train them to fight?

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand and Joshua went to him. (Children repeat the verse).

Joshua will win victory over the enemies as the Lord promised him. The Lord said, Be strong and of good courage.

The angel said, “I am the commander of the army of the Lord, I have now come”. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped and said to him, “What does my Lord bid his servant?” The angel said, “Put off your shoes from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy”. And Joshua did so. Joshua and his men were able to win victory over Jericho with the

power of the Lord. Joshua overcame the enemies as the Lord promised him when he said, “Be strong and of good courage”.

1. What did Joshua say to the commander of the Lord’s army?
2. What did the commander of the Lord's army say to Joshua?
3. With whose power did Joshua win victory?
4. Who remembers the verse?

Homework

Training the children to kneel down in worship in front of the Altar.

Instructions

The servant concentrates on God’s care and love for us and the blessings He sends us every day. Use the means of illustration in the suitable time. The servant makes it clear that the Lord Himself appeared to Joshua as the Lord accepted his worship and ordered him to put off his shoes because the place was holy as the Lord was there.

(47) The Angel That Appeared To Gideon

References

- + Judges 6
- + The Book of Judges, a study of the Holy Bible, Sporting.

To The Servant

The principle by which the Lord chooses the leader is without change. He chooses the man whose heart is burning with love for the salvation of his brothers. Gideon’s love for his brothers was revealed when the angel of the Lord said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor”. Gideon answered instantly, “Pray sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? When Gideon showed his zeal the Lord wanted Gideon to know himself well so the Lord said, “Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel...” This is the Lord’s way. The Lord leaves His children till they confess their weakness and inability to shoulder the responsibility. As Gideon said, “Pray Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Behold my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family”. Gideon then deserved to listen to the Lord's voice saying, “I will be with you and you shall smite the Midianites as one man” (Judges 6:16).

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord sends his angels to the Saints, and fights for us.

Verse

“Be of good courage, be not frightened, neither be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

Hymns

- + You and your angels are with me o compassionate Lord.
- + Where He leads me... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aids

1. The wing of an angel made of silver paper or white paper or cloth and a white dress, white tunic to represent the angel in a beautiful white color.
2. A picture of the Lord's angel and Gideon.

Setting The Scene

1. Who led the people after Moses' death?
2. What did the commander of the Lord's army say to Joshua?
3. With whose power did Joshua win victory?

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord gave them into hand Midian seven years, and they made for themselves the dens, the caves, the tombs and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites put in seed, the Midianites and the Amalkites and the people of the east would come up and attack them and destroy the produce of the land, Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the people of Israel cried for help to the Lord.

1. What did the Midianites do to the Israelites?
2. Where did the Israelites dwell?
3. What did the Israelites do when they were oppressed?

When the people of Israel cried to the Lord on account of the Midianites, the Lord sent the angel to them. Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor". And Gideon said to him, "Pray sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all His wonderful deeds, which our fathers recounted to us saying: Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the lord has cast us off and given us into the hand of Midian".

1. Who appeared to Gideon?
2. What was Gideon doing?
3. What did the angel say to Gideon?
4. What was Gideon's reply to the angel?

And the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the Midianites, hand of Midian do not I send you? Gideon apologized saying that he was weak and the least in his family. The Lord said to him, "I will be with you and you shall smite the Midianites as one man". The Lord showed him a sign. Then the angel disappeared. Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord God. For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face". But the Lord said to him: Peace be to you, do not fear, you shall not die". Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord. Then he carried out words of the Lord.

1. What did the Lord say to Gideon?
2. Why did Gideon apologize?
3. What did Gideon say to the Lord?
4. What did Gideon do then when the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you, do not fear, you shall not die?"

Instructions

Draw a lovely picture of an angel and concentrate on the personality of the angel. The servant tells the children that the Lord himself appeared to Gideon because he said to him, "Peace be to you, do not fear you shall not die". Turn on the lights of the class when you say that the angel has appeared and turn off the lights when you say that the angel has disappeared.

(48) The Angel That Appeared To Manoah

References

- + Judges 13:1-25
- + A study of the Book of Judges, Sporting

To The Servant

How lovely is God's care for us at the time when the people sinned and left the way of the Lord and provoke His wrath, the Lord punished them by allowing strangers and other nations to enslave them for forty years. At the same time, He prepares and chooses saviors for them. Contemplate the faith of Manoah, Samson's father. He did not doubt that the angel of the Lord appeared to his wife. He asked to see him not to test the truth of the information but to say to the angel, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the boy's manner of life, and is he to do?" (Judges 13:9).

Manoah used to entertain strangers so he could entertain the Lord, and offer him a sacrifice. Whenever we deprive ourselves of entertaining strangers, and when we despise the poor and the needy, we deprive ourselves of entertaining the Lord Jesus Himself. We can meet the Lord Jesus and entertain Him when we honor His brothers the poor, the strangers and the weak.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord sends His angels to his children.

Verse

"The boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth" (Judges 13:7)

Hymns

- + Among the angels I am like a white angel white... white like a pigeon
- + I love you, Lord Jesus... [Praise the Lord, Page 54]

Aids

The wings of an angel used in the previous lesson; a white tunic, a picture representing the appearance of the angel to Manoah and his wife

Setting The Scene

1. What did the Lord say to Gideon?
2. Who remembers the verse?
3. Whom does the Lord send to the Saints?

There was a certain man of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and had no children. The man and his wife prayed all the time and asked the Lord to give them a son. The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said to her, "Behold you are barren and have no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore beware, and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth" (children repeat the verse).

1. Which tribe was Manoah from?
2. Who appeared to his wife?
3. What did the angel of the Lord warn Manoah's wife of?
4. Who remembers the verse?

Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me. I did not ask him whence he was and he did not tell me his name. Then Manoah entreated the Lord, and said, O Lord, I pray to You, let the man of God whom You sent come again to us, and teach us what we are to do with the boy that will be born". And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field, but Manoah her husband was not with her. And the woman ran in haste and told her husband, "Behold the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me", and Manoah arose and went after his wife and they sang the hymn, "white as white as a pigeons glittering, glittering exactly as light. O angel, how beautiful you are how sweet you are".

1. What did the woman tell her husband Manoah?
2. What did Manoah do?
3. Did the Lord answer Manoah's prayer?
4. What happened, and where did the angel appear to the woman for the second time?

And Manoah came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am". And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true what is to be the boy's manner of life and what is he to do?" And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her beware. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine neither let her drink, or eat any unclean thing, all that I commanded her let her observe". Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "Pray let us detain you, and prepare sheep for you". And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "If you detain me I will not eat of your food, but if you make ready a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord". And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name so that when your words come true we may honor you?" And the angel of the Lord

said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful”. So Manoah took the sheep with the cereal offering and offered it upon the rock to the Lord and when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife looked on, and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the lord, white... white like a pigeon.

1. What did Manoah say to the angel?
2. What was the angel’s reply?
3. What was the offering offered by Manoah?
4. What happened to Manoah and his wife?
5. Who remembers the verse?

(49) Lights Inside The Church

References

- + Exodus 25:31
- + Exodus 37:17-24
- + John 9:5
- + The noble pearls, Part 1

To The Servant

In using lights the church aims to draw the attention of the people to the transfiguration of Christ (Mathew 17:1-8). When Christ transfigured to his beloved John, John saw the lights surrounding the Lord. For this reason, tapers are lit day and night in honor of the Lord so that the Church may be like the sky. This refers to the glory of the church (Revelation 21,22,23) of which the earthly church is a symbol and example. One of the fathers said, “Since the church is heavenly earth, it must be decorated with these lights. Lamps and candles, which are like stars in the sky must shine inside the church. This reminds people that they should be shining like lights in the world. Christ is the light of the world. He enlightens our hearts with his true light thus the darkness of sin is no more.

The Lesson

Aim

Love of the church.

Verse

“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)

Hymns

- + Our Lord Jesus likes us to shine.
- + I love you Lord Jesus... [Praise the Lord, Page 54]

Aids

Use the lights of the church during the lesson. Light the cross, the chancel, and the lamps, or distribute candles among the children and light them during the different stages of the lesson.

Setting The Scene

1. Of what did the angel warn Manoah's wife?
2. Where did the angel appear to Manoah's wife for the second time?
3. What do we notice on the chancel inside the church?
4. What do we notice in the east side of the altar?

We notice that there are many lights in the church. Some of them are on the lecterns before the holy books, which we read; others are on the altar so that the church may be lit like the sky since the church is heavenly earth decorated with lights. Lamps and candles also shine inside it and they look like stars in the sky. This reminds us that we must shine as lights in the world. The Lord Jesus likes us to shine.

1. What do we notice when we enter the church?
2. What do we see in front of the lecterns?
3. What do we see on the Altar?
4. What does the church look like when it is lit with lights?

There is a shining lamp in the east side. It is hung on the east wall of the sanctuary before the Altar (The servant lights the lamp). It refers to the star that appeared in the east and guided the wise men to the place where our Lord Jesus was born, in a manger. He was shining everywhere, as He is shining among the people.

1. What is hung on the wall east of the sanctuary?
2. What is placed in the lamp hung on the east side of the wall?
3. What does this lamp stand for?
4. Who remembers the verse?

We also see tapers and lamps before the icons of the apostles and the Virgin St Mary and the Saints and martyrs indicating that they are lights in the world and shining planets in the sky of the church because of their virtues and preaching with which they praised the Lord, and that their souls shine with the light of glory coming over them from the Father of Lights in heaven. (Light the lamp of the chancel, children repeat; The Lord Jesus likes us to shine).

1. What do we see in front of the icons?
2. Why do we light tapers before the icons of Saints?
3. Who can mention the names of some Saints whom we light lamps and tapers before their icons?
4. Who remembers the verse?

Note

Children should make a lamp and light it in front of the icon of the Virgin St. Mary or one of the Saints.

50 Recreation: The Ten Commandments

References

- + Exodus 19:20
- + A Study of the Book of Exodus, Sporting

To The Servant

We have the power and authority to carry out and obey the difficult commandments of God by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit in us makes us carry out these commandments. No body can purify his or her heart from everything that makes his or her body or soul unclean and bear the weakness of his enemies and love them unless his or her nature changes by the death of Jesus and his Resurrection and the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in him or her thus he becomes a new man and the Lord works through him.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care for us

Verse

"I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me..." (Exodus 20:2,3).

Hymns

- + The Lord Jesus likes us to shine...
- + I love you Lord Jesus... [Praise the Lord, Page 54]

Aids

- + The text of the law and the commandments written on a tablet
- + The Holy Bible
- + A picture of the lesson

Setting The Scene

1. What did Manoah ask in his prayers?
2. What do the lights in the church stand for?
3. Why do we hang a lamp on the east wall of the sanctuary?
4. What did Moses see when he went up the mountain to receive the Law of God.
5. What did the Lord order him to do?

When the Israelites left Egypt for the wilderness, the Lord guarded them on their way and gave Moses the Law and Commandments on the mountain. The people had to obey these commandments to deserve to be the people of God and whoever disobeyed these commandments was not considered as one of the people of God. This Law includes the Ten Commandments; four of them concern the obedience and worship of God and the other six concerning the relationship between man and his brothers.

1. What did the Lord give Moses?
2. How many tablets were the Ten Commandments written on?
3. How many Commandments were written on the first tablet?
4. How many Commandments were written on the second tablet?
5. Who does the Commandments written on the first tablet concern?
6. Who does the Commandments written on the second tablet concern?

The Commandments on the first tablet concerning God are:

1. I am the Lord thy God. You shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not make to yourself a graven thing, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord, Your God, in vain.
4. Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath day.

The Commandments on the second table that concern men and his brothers are:

1. Honor your father and your mother, that you may be long lived upon the land.
2. You shall not kill.
3. You shall not commit adultery.
4. You shall not steal.
5. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
6. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's house.

Questions

1. Why did the Lord give us the Ten Commandments?
2. Which commandment is about the love of God and his worship?
3. Which commandment is about the Lord's day?
4. Which commandment is about the parents?

Notes

A child must obey his parents and must never swear but should be accustomed to saying the truth and to saying, "believe me". The Ten Commandments are to be studied by heart. Children should recite them every now and then. A competition can be performed and rewards can be offered to those who study them well. Keep holy the Lord's Day (Sunday}. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us pray, go to church, read a chapter of the Gospel, visit patients and offer something to the poor and the needy.

(51) The Feast Of The Virgin St Mary: The Holy Family Flees To Egypt

References

- + Mathew 2:13-23
- + The Virgin Theotokos, Sanctification house (Beit al Takrees), Helwan
- + The Virgin Mary, St Mark church, New Cairo.

To The Servant

The Sun of Righteousness shone on Egypt when the Lord came to Egypt. All the idols were destroyed. Egypt became Christian. The deserts became spiritual places for visitors who came to praise the Lord and offer their sacrifices on the Altar of the Lord. The Lord Christ came to Egypt and blessed her people as the prophet Isaiah said, “Blessed be Egypt my people” (Isaiah 19:25).

The Lesson

Aim

Honoring the Virgin St. Mary.

Verse

“Rise take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt” (Matthew 2:13)

Hymns

+ O Virgin the mother of Light... O Virgin clean and pure...
+ Shere ne Mareia... [Praise the Lord, Page 21]

Aids

1. The icon of the Virgin St. Mary, the icon of the Holy Family and her coming to Egypt.
2. Tapers are lit before it. The children carry the icon and celebrate it by the end of the lesson and sing the hymn, “O Virgin the Mother of Light”.
3. A picture of the pyramids and the monuments of Egypt.

Setting The Scene

1. Who was the king who ordered his soldiers to kill the children in Bethlehem?
2. Who came to Egypt with Christ when they fled from Herod?
3. Who went to the church of St. Mary at Zeitoun?
4. Why do people go there?
5. How many feasts of St. Mary does the church celebrate?

A strange sight, an old man and an innocent mother carrying the Lord Jesus on her shoulder, left the city without taking anything with them except little food. This small modest group walked by night calmly and without fear because Jesus Christ was with them. Emmanuel was carried on the shoulder of His mother who was walking in the desert on her way to Egypt following the command of the angel to Joseph the carpenter “Rise take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt”.

1. Why did the Holy Family come to Egypt?
2. Who appeared to Joseph in a dream?
3. What did the angel say to Joseph?

The Holy Family walked on her way to Egypt, they arrived at Farama near Al Areesh. They did not enter the town but they spent their night outside it. On the second day they continued their journey to Zagazig, and from Zagazig they went to Miniet Ganah near Samanoud, then they

entered the city of Samanoud. Then they left Samanoud and went to Al-Burlous and Deir El-Maghtass, then they continued their journey to the Valley of Natroun, and from there they made for Upper Egypt to Meir, and to Buk, and to Timsahya and to Al-Koussya. At last they settled near Kuskam where the Monastery of Al-Mouharrak stands now.

1. What was the first town they arrived at?
2. What was the last town the Holy Family arrived at?

They returned by the same route to Old Cairo where the Holy Family settled in the place of the church of Abi Sirga. Then they journeyed to Al-Mattarya where the tree of the Virgin is, then they left for Mustorud. They continued their journey till they were back in Palestine after the angel had informed them of the death of those who sought the child's life. They withdrew to the district of Galilee where they stayed in a quiet place. He went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what did the prophet speak might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene".

1. Where did they go when they returned to their country?
2. What do you know about the tree of the Virgin?
3. What did the angel say to Joseph in a dream?
4. Where did they stay in Palestine?
5. Who remembers the verse?

Instructions

A map can be drawn as shown in the Book of St. Mary the Virgin the mother of Light to show the places visited by the Holy Family. The story of the journey should be told in a lively way, not as historical facts, so that the children may understand it. Concentrate on the Lord's love for us when he came to our land and the fulfillment of the prophecy mentioned in the Book of Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 19:25).

(52) Review

To The Servant

Review the previous aims and make a review of what you have achieved and accomplished, and try to remember how many exercises you have given and in your prayers state the blessings of God and thank Him. Tell the Lord about your problems and ask the Lord Jesus for help because God gives to all men generously and without reproaching.

The Lesson

Aim

Emphasizing the aims of the previous lesson.

1. Complete:

- + The Lord Christ appeared... immediately after His Resurrection.
- + The widow placed... in the treasury.
- + The people who murmured against Moses were...

2. Rearrange the following verses:

- + answer -away -a -soft -turns -wrath
- + him -followed -and -he -rose -and -him -me -follow to -said
- + birth -the -from -boy -God -shall -to -a -be -Nazirite

3. Answer the following questions:

- + What was the sign of Christ's love for Thomas?
- + How many Commandments did the Lord give Moses? Say them.
- + What was the good deed that Anba Abraam performed?
- + Why are tapers placed before the icon of the Saints?
- + What did the angel say to Manoah's wife?
- + How did the Lord Jesus call Mathew?
- + Mention some towns in which the Holy Family stayed.

Notes

Also revise the extracts for recitation, which the children studied in this previous period.

The verses studied in this period are:

1. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1), Lesson 40.
2. "For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the Saints, as you still do" (Hebrews 6:10), Lesson 35&37.
3. "I am the Lord God, who brought out of the land of Egypt out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2,3), Lesson 50.
4. "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), Lesson 42,49.
5. "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God, consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrew 13:7), Lesson 45.
6. "Hereby you shall know that the Lord has sent me" (Number 16:28), Lesson 41.
7. Be strong and of good courage. Be not frightened, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9), Lesson 46,47.
8. "Rise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt" (Mathew 2:13), Lesson 51.
9. "For God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7), Lesson 38,39.
10. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, *and* delivers them" (Psalms 34:7), Lesson 44.
11. Jesus came and stood among them, and said: Peace be with you" (John 20:26), Lesson 36.
12. "For the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth to the day of the his death" (Judges 13:7), Lesson 47.

The extracts chosen for recitation in this period are:

1. The divine texts about the Holy Trinity -extracts from the Morning Prayer extracts from the third hour prayer.
2. The child should study them and recite them. The servant should make sure the children have studied them by heart through competitions.