

## Sunday School Program

### Grade 5

### Class of St. Antony



**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 Servants to prepare their lessons. The Servant has to make use of it as the need arises, but not to depend entirely on 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.

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

## **Preface To The Third Edition**

Christianity has no other aim than that people should know the Redeemer and live with Him as pure sons, interacting with His Holy Spirit in Society. The Church Education aims at helping people to live that way.

This “Guide”, the book “How to Serve the Stage of Childhood”, and “Hymns for the Stage of Childhood” and the new adapted and revised edition, help the Church Education Servants prepare their lessons according to the circumstances that surround their service in rural and urban districts.

The Diocese of Beni Sweif and Al-Bahnassa is now issuing pictures about the subject matter of the lessons to be used as aids. Excellent Egyptian painters have drawn these pictures. On the back of each picture you can find a summary or an activity. The pictures, which are beautifully colored, are sold, at a price lower than their real cost, at all Christian Bookstores, as practical contribution in the process of Religion Education.

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

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

## **Fifth Elementary Grade Program**

### ***The Ten Year Old Child***

The children need to perceive the likeness between their personal experience and the experience of the children of God, in the past and at present. In this way they perceives the continuous work of God in them.

### ***Instructions To The Servant***

Take your children and make a journey to several places where you meet several persons in everyday life so that they may learn the good behavior of the saints. In the church they enjoy worship and fellowship with the church. In history they see the saints and the Lord working in them everywhere and at all times. Servants should also observe the following:

1. They should submit their life completely to the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. They should be friends to the children and good listeners to what they say.
3. They should help the children to cooperate in the class and develop good behavior.
4. They should expect sound discussions from the class and give the children due care.
5. They should prepare their lessons in an organized and interesting way.
6. They should keep their classes in good condition and ask the children to help in this matter.

## ***The Children***

We notice the following:

1. They respond although they are indifferent sometimes.
2. They perfect what they do and like to receive information.
3. They like movement in work and tend to be independent.
4. Boys like to play with boys and girls like to play with girls. This is important to observe in journeys, in clubs and outdoor activities.
5. They like to perform their work secretly (personal matters, unknown places, writing autobiography). Hence they form groups in which they discuss their social concerns. They form theories, which may be wrong or right.

## ***The Lesson***

Church Education Service is divided into:

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

## ***This Book***

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

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

## ***Home Assignment***

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

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

***Glory be to God forever and ever, Amen.***

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## THE FIRST PERIOD

### (1) The Coptic New Year's Day (Nayrouze): St. Dimyana

#### *References*

- + Introduction of the Book "Martyrdom in Christianity"
- + Introduction of the Book "The Story of Dimyana the Martyr"
- + Synaxarium: 12 Bashans

#### *To the Servant*

1. Committing sin is denying Christianity.
2. I must refrain from sin so that the Redeemer may not deny me and I must repent immediately if I commit sin.
3. St. Dimyana refused to meet her father when he sinned as she refrained from sin. How far from Christ we would be if we sinned!

#### The Lesson

#### *Verse*

"You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Matthew 4:10)

#### *Hymns*

- + A Moon Giving Light in the Wilderness...
- + Our Righteous Martyrs...

#### *Aids*

- + Icon of St. Dimyana and the forty virgins
- + Tapers should be put before the icon
- + The picture, candles, roses, match and what is necessary should be prepared
- + It should be shown in the suitable time so that children may sing hymns before it and celebrate it.

1. Whose picture is this? How many virgins are there in the picture?
2. What is the name of the feast of today?
3. What is the meaning of the word, "Nayrouze"?
4. The children write in their notebooks: Nayrouze is a Persian word that means "The New Day".
5. Who can tell me the names of some of the saints who were martyred?

Her early life: Mark, her father was the governor of Za-afra Province. When she was 15 years old she refused to marry as she wished to live as a nun. Her father built her a nunnery. She and forty virgins dwelt there and spent their time in worship and work.

Mark denied the faith: At that time King Diocletian hated all Christians. The king issued a decree that anyone who did not worship the idols and raise incense to them would be deposed...

+ The children repeat: “you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve”.

The king deposed and killed all Christian governors who refused to worship the idols or raise incense to them. Dimyana’s father (what was his name?) was afraid. He raised incense to the idols.

- + What was the name of the King?
- + Why did he depose some governors?
- + Why did Mark the governor raise incense to the idols?
- + What does the verse say?

Ask the children to act the conversation between the king and Mark. .

St. Dimyana knew what happened. She became very sad. She told her forty friends about what happened and they all prayed “O Lord, guide Mark your servant and bring him back to faith”. Dimyana asked them to pray and she left the nunnery and went out to meet her father.

Dimyana: What is that I heard about you?

Mark: What did you hear, my daughter?

Dimyana: You denied our Savior Jesus Christ

Mark: Yes, I denied him I had a great fear of torment and of losing my job

Dimyana: You feared the torture of this world and are not afraid of the tortures of hell? You feared losing your worldly job but you lost the crown of life. You worshipped the idols and the verse says, “You shall worship the Lord you God”.

Her father wept bitterly and fell upon his face saying, “I sinned to God but if I go back to Christ, will He accept me?” Dimyana said, “Of course He will, because He says: And him that comes to me I will in not cast him out”. Her father rejoiced and said, “I am going now to the king and I will say to him: I am a Christian”.

+ The children act the conversation that ran between Dimyana and her father.

The father confessed... the saint returned to the palace... She prayed... Mark the Governor met the king and said, “I sinned to God when I denied faith”.

King: What is wrong with you, Mark? Who affected you?

Mark: My daughter Dimyana advised me and the Lord says, “You shall worship the Lord your God”.

The king treated him with kindness but Mark did not submit so the king ordered his soldiers to cut his head off and Mark attained the crown of Martyrdom.

- + Why did the king order his soldiers to cut off Mark’s head?
- + What do you say when someone asks you if you are a Christian?



Her Martyrdom: The King was informed that Mark's daughter was the cause of her father's faith so he sent a leader and one hundred soldiers to her. They broke into her palace.

-Where is Dimyana?

+ I am Dimyana, sir.

The officer got a gold idol out of his pocket and said to her:

-Raise incense to this idol and worship it.

+ No sir, because the verse says, "You shall worship the Lord your God." -This is the idol of a god.

+ Sir, are not you ashamed when you call these stones god? There is no God but Christ whom we worship (and this said the forty virgins).

The officer forced her and the other virgins to leave the palace... he tormented them. The Lord comforted them and healed their wounds... At last they cut off her head and the heads of the forty virgins and the heads of those who believed and all attained crowns of martyrdom and won the eternal life in the kingdom of Heaven. Their bodies were buried in the Za-afran Valley near Bilkas to the north of the Delta. A church was built for them and the church is still standing in its place. People go there every year to have the blessing of St. Dimyana and the forty virgins.

+ What was the sin committed by Mark the governor? Why?

+ Do you deny your Christian faith before the people?

+ How old was Dimyana when she resided at the palace?

+ What work did she do and who were with her?

### ***Exercise***

Pray this week and say, "Lord teach me to love you as St. Dimyana and the forty virgins loved you".

### ***Homework***

(To be written and answered by the children in their notebooks)

1. Where did Dimyana live?
2. Write down five of Dimyana's characteristics.
3. Complete: You shall worship the Lord...

### ***Instructions***

Emphasize the spirit of love and worship and how St. Dimyana replied that marriage is not forbidden but that she wanted to devote her time to God the same as St. Paul did and the same as St. Mary the Virgin did. If you like, speak about the life of Monasticism. Tell the children that some pray three times, others pray seven times a day but monks and nuns pray all the time and all are Christ's children but Dimyana chose that way.

Concentrate on Dimyana's prayer. Ask the children pray for the repentance of all who are away from God. Emphasize the spirit of being firm in time of persecution. Here the children may sing a suitable hymn or discuss types of persecution and endurance.

Present the dialogue in a lively way: the dialogue between Dimyana and Mark or between Mark and the king. Concentrate on the feelings: sadness, joy, surprise, cruelty, (without details, only concentrate on positive aspects).

## **(2) Spies Were Sent To Explore The Promised Land**

### ***References***

+ Numbers 13 & 14

+ The Life of Moses by F. B. Mayer translated by Rev. Marcos Daoud

### ***To the Servant***

1. The Lord cares for the birds of the sky and the lilies of the field. Am I not of more value than many birds (Matthew 6:26-34)?
2. The Lord emphasizes that all the hairs of our heads are counted and known to Him... Does not this fact strengthen our trust in him?
3. “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of who shall I be afraid?”
4. Notice the faith of Joshua and Caleb and their trust in God and His promises in spite of the logical and natural obstacles.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Complete trust in the Promises of God

### ***Verse***

“I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage” (Joshua 1:5,6)

### ***Hymns***

+ All your Children my Lord...

### ***Notes***

- + Who remembers the state of the ancient people in the land of Egypt?
- + What is the name of the King?
- + Whom did the Lord call to bring the people out of Egypt?

The Lord regarded the distress of His people and what Pharaoh did. The Lord wanted to save His people from the land of bondage. The Lord chose Moses to lead the people to the land, which He promised to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey.

+ Who remembers the name of this land?

Moses obeyed the Lord and trusted Him. He led the people to victory. The Lord says; “I will not leave you or forsake you”. On their way out of Egypt they were singing the hymn “All your children my Lord”. The Lord performed many miraculous deeds.

+ Who remembers some of these miracles?

Moses led the people till they reached the Jordan River. The Lord ordered Moses to send men to explore the Promised Land, the Land of Canaan. Moses chose a man from each tribe.

+ How many tribes were there?

From the tribe of Judah he chose a man whose name was Caleb and he chose Joshua from the tribe of Ephraim... Moses held a special meeting for them and reminded them of the words of God, "I will not leave you or forsake you".

+ What did Moses say to them in that meeting?

+ Who remembers the verse?

The twelve men asked the people to pray for them then they started their journey... On their way to the land they were singing the hymn together "All your children my Lord..." When any of them became tired they encouraged him by reciting the verse, "I will not leave you or forsake you" and sometimes they stopped to pray. At last they reached the city ...they found that the land was rich and fertile. It was the season of grapes. They brought with them pomegranates, figs and a bunch of grapes, which was so heavy that it took two men to carry it on a pole between them. They returned after spending forty days in the land.

+ How many men spied out the land?

+ What did they carry with them?

The twelve men returned and met Moses. They blew the trumpet... the people gathered... they told them that the land was fertile and flowing with milk and honey ...the land was covered with green vegetation, beautiful flowers and tasty fruits... the men showed them the bunch of grapes so that they might believe them.

+ The Servant can tell the children about the conversations that ran between the people and the twelve men.

Ten men spread fear among the people and discouraged them saying that they were so weak that they could not defeat the people of the land and enter it... the people of the land were giants and the cities were well fortified surrounded by high walls. The people were afraid and wanted to choose a leader from among them to lead them back to Egypt.

+ The Servant should emphasize Joshua's faith and Caleb's faith, the two men who tried to silence and calm the people and encourage them saying that the land was fertile and the Lord will give it to us and the roads that lead to it were easy to cross and the Lord says, "I will not leave you..." Remember the miraculous deeds, which the Lord performed among us and so long as the Lord is with us we do not fear them.

The people refused to listen to them. The people cried loudly and raised stones at them. The glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites over the tent. The Lord said, “None of these people will live to enter that land”. The Lord said that only Joshua and Caleb who obeyed the Lord and were faithful to Him would enter that land. The war began and the Lord was with His people and the people won victory over the enemy, the giants because God said, “I will not leave you or forsake you”. None of the twelve men entered that excellent land except Joshua and Caleb.

### ***Homework***

+ Pray that the Lord care for you and your family.

+ Complete the following passage by inserting one word in each blank:

a) ..... sent twelve ..... to explore the Promised Land. The men came back and said that the land was excellent and rich. They brought with them ..... , ..... and a ..... of grapes which was so heavy that two men ..... it on a ..... between them. Two men told the people that they could ..... the enemies as the Lord said, “I shall not fail you or you”.

### ***Recitation***

+ The children study the “Intercession for Peace” by heart...

+ Pray for the safety of the one holy, universal Apostolic and Orthodox Church of God.

Accordingly, the children start using it in their prayers and reciting it. This Intercession should be printed or written and distributed. The children may be asked to get it out of books and competitions should be made.

Emphasize the fact that the person who trusts the Lord and relies on Him in all his affairs and movements succeeds and wins victory and when we trust in the Lord and struggle against the sin, the Lord will grant us victory and success in all our life.

## **(3) Crossing The Jordan**

### ***References***

+ Joshua 3,4

+ The Life of Joshua by F. B. Mayer and translated by Rev. Marcos Daoud

### ***To the Servant***

1. “I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage”. This is the Lords voice to ever servant.
2. “Keep and do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses” (Joshua 23:6)... This is what the Lord said to Joshua and says the same to me and to you. You should meditate day and night in God’s law to correct your way of living and succeed in your work.
3. Many obstacles stand in our way, the same as the case with the River Jordan (Sins, friendship, problems, circumstances, environments) but the Lord helps us overcome them.

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

God's Care for His People

### *Verse*

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

### *Hymns*

+ The Lord is my shepherd...

### *Notes*

- + What is the name of the river which the people crossed after getting out of Egypt?
- + Who led the people of God after Moses?

After the death of Moses the Prophet, the Lord said to Joshua: "I have chosen you to lead the people to the Land, of Canaan, cross the River Jordan and divide the land among them". Joshua said to the Lord "O Lord, I am too young for that task and I am not worthy of that message. The Lord said, "Fear not for I am with you. As I was with Moses I'll be with you. I shall not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage".

Joshua gathered the people and said to them "today I am your servant. I shall lead you to the land of Canaan so please obey me so that the Lord may be pleased with me and you and give us the land and drive away our enemy".

One early morning, Joshua gathered the people and said to them, "Be ready..." He divided them into troops and they started their journey. Sometimes they sang hymns and sometimes they prayed and when they felt hungry they sat down to eat and when they became thirsty, they searched for water to drink. When someone felt tired, the others encouraged them and they all sang hymns. Let us sing hymns with them... The Lord is my shepherd...

- + What was the name of the leader?
- + What was the name of the land they were going to take possession of?
- + What was the name of the river they were going to cross?
- + Say the verse: I will not leave you...

The people arrived at the River Jordan and it was full of water. The people stood there looking at that wide river which was full of water. They wondered how they would cross that great river with all the army, women, children and animals. They expected a miraculous deed. On the third day Joshua advised them to purify themselves and refrain from sins, wash their bodies and put on clean clothes. He said, "The Lord will perform a great miraculous deed". After the third day, Joshua ordered the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord and walk before the people.

- + What is the Ark of the Covenant?
- + Where was it put?

Joshua ordered the people to follow the Ark of the Covenant...yet there should be a space between the people and the Ark of the Covenant ...they must not come near it. The priests took the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord with great care from the Holy of Holies and carried it on their shoulders and walked before the people and when they reached the Jordan the miracle took place. As soon as the priests stepped into the river, the water stopped flowing and piled up. The flow downstream was completely cut off. The priests stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan until all the people had passed over. The people praised God and sang hymns “The Lord is my Shepherd...

- + Who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant?
- + What clothes did they wear?
- + What happened in the middle of the Jordan?
- + Who remembers the verse?

While they were crossing the Jordan, Joshua chose twelve men, one from each tribe and asked them to take twelve stones out of the Jordan from the very place where the priests were standing. They took the stones with them and put them down where they camped that night as a memorial for God’s care for them. Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan. Those stones are still there as a memorial of this great miraculous deed. The people hurried across the river. When they were all on the other side, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went on ahead of the people. Joshua ordered the priests to get out of the river... As soon as they reached the other bank of the river, the water flowed again into the river and filled the river. In this way the Lord led His people who loved Him to safety.

- + Who led the people?
- + How many days did the people spend preparing themselves for crossing the Jordan?
- + When did the water stop flowing in the Jordan and when did the dry ground appear in the middle?
- + What did the people carry from the bottom of the river? Why?
- + What became a memorial of this miracle?

### ***Exercise***

When we cross a dark place we make the sign of the cross and pray “Our Father who art in heaven...”

### ***Homework***

Choose the correct answer:

1. Joshua could close the River Jordan (by the Power of God -by his own power)?
2. (The people -The priests -The young men) carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.
3. In the days of Moses, the people crossed (the River Nile -The Red Sea -The River Jordan)?

### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant brings beautiful means of illustrations such as a picture of the Sea when it is split and another picture showing the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant and

wearing priestly clothes followed by the people in troops accompanying their children and animals and Joshua guiding the procession.

2. The Servant emphasizes God's care and draws the children's attention to the fact that God is the same yesterday and today and forever. He keeps us safe now as He kept us in the past.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the following by heart:

Pray for our Pontiff, Pope Shenouda the Patriarch and Pope of the great City of Alexandria, and for all our Orthodox Bishops.

## **(4) Elisha Purifies The Water Of The City Of Jericho**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings
- + The Life of Elijah
- + The Life of Elisha

### ***To the Servant***

1. The salt with which Elisha purified the water of Jericho stands for the children of God whom the Lord created in this world "You are the salt of the earth".
2. With the Lord's grace, which is in them, those who are sick because of sin are healed... Am I one of the children of God?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The power of God is revealed in the children of Saints.

### ***Verse***

"The prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16)

### ***Hymns***

- + The Lord is my shepherd...

### ***Notes***

- + Who of the prophets led the children of Israel out of Egypt and crossed the Jordan with them?
- + Who remembers the verse?

After the death of Elijah, the Lord comforted Elisha his disciple by saying, "I am with you..." Elisha took courage and stood before the Jordan River. He imitated Elijah. He struck the water with Elijah's cloak but the water did not divide. He cried to God "O Lord, why does this stubborn water disobey me? You said: I am with you. O Lord perform a miraculous deed, not for me but for the people to believe that you have sent me after Elijah. You said: The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects". Then once again Elisha struck the water with

Elijah's cloak saying, "O Lord Elijah's God" and the water divided and he sang a hymn "The Lord is my shepherd..."

Let us repeat the verse together: "The prayer of a righteous man avails much".

*Purifying the Water:* When the men of Jericho heard that Elisha was in their town they went to him and said: "Our city is fine but the water is bad. Do us a favor and turn this bad water into fresh water so that the land may bring fruit and agriculture and commerce may flourish". Elisha said to them, "Put some salt in a new bowl and bring it to me". They brought it to him, and he went to the spring, threw the salt in the water and said, "O Lord, make this water pure so that it will not cause any more deaths or miscarriages". And that water has been pure ever since, just as Elisha said it would be. And Jericho became full of food, palm trees, herbs and trees.

- + Why did Elisha order them to bring him a new bowl?
- + What did the Lord mean when He said: You are the salt of the earth?
- + What are the good qualities of both Elijah and Elisha that you like to have?
- + What is the name of the city the water of which was bad?
- + What did Elisha do to purify its waters?

### ***Exercise***

Lets pray this week and say to the Lord, "O Lord, abide in us and prepare us to be your servants when we grow up".

### ***Homework***

1. Mention what you know about the following cities and write them down in your notebook: Jericho and Jordan.
2. Draw one of the scenes of this lesson and color it.

### ***Instructions***

1. You can speak about the topic of Intercession... as Elisha interceded with Elijah's God to split the Jordan River.
2. Advise the children to intercede with one of the saints and befriend them.

### ***Recitation***

The children should study The Intercession for congregations by heart: "Pray for this holy place and for our congregation".

## **(5) Elisha Brings The Shunammite's Son Back To Life**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 4
- + "The Life of Elisha" by Nagi Fawzy

### ***To the Servant***

1. "I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world".



2. Do I have peace in God and in myself... and with others?
3. Do I have peace in my grief and tribulation?
4. Do I thank God for everything?
5. The only son of Shunammite woman died. She left him in his bed and went to the Prophet Elisha who said to her, "Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?" And she answered, "It is well". This is the peace of faith, which no one can remove from the hearts of the faithful whatever the circumstances may be.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Emphasizing the power of God in his saints

#### ***Verse***

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live"  
(John 11:25)

#### ***Hymns***

+ God always care for us...

#### ***Notes***

(The Servant checks the previous week's homework, exercise and the verse)

In ancient times, before Jesus was born, God dealt with His people through His holy Prophets. Through them, He showed His power. The people saw their works and glorified God. Elisha was able to purify the water of Jericho. There is another great miracle, which God made by the hands of Elisha.

Shunem was one of the towns that Elisha served. There was a great, rich and pious woman living in Shunem. Her husband owned wide land and many reapers worked for him. Whenever Elisha went to that town, this lady used to invite him to her house saying: Please come to our house, honor us and bless us and eat food. Because of her simplicity, he answered her call and accepted her invitation. As a model minister, Elisha used to visit the towns he had visited again and again. He visited the patients, comforted those in grief, prayed for them, preached them and solved their problems, but he had nowhere to dwell in, neither in Shunem nor in any other town.

- + What is the name of the town?
- + What is the name of the prophet?
- + Where did he spend the night?

One day, the woman said to her husband, "Let us make a small roof chambers...so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there". Her husband agreed and they made a small roof chambers and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp.

- + The Servant asks the children of what use was each.

When the prophet Elisha came there, they showed him the roof chamber and the prophet thanked them. He used to turn into the chambers and rest there (God liked the Shunammite's house). Elisha wanted to reward the woman so he said to his servant Gehazi, "What is to be done for that woman?" The prophet knew that she had no son, so he said to Gehazi: Call this Shunammite and Gehazi called her. The woman stood before him at the door and the following conversation ran between them:

- + Peace be with you.
  - + Peace and grace be with you.
  - + You have taken all this trouble for us...
  - + There is no trouble at all. We are pleased to have you among us.
  - + What is to be done for you? How shall we reward you?
  - + Thanks be to God. We need nothing. We are satisfied with what we have.
  - + At this season, when the time comes around, you shall have a son.
  - + How can this be? My husband is old.
  - + Do you have faith?
  - + I believe that what you say will come true through your prayers, O man of God.
- + The children act this scene.

After a year, God gave her a son. The boy grew up and he used to go to the field with his father. He went out one day to his father among the reapers. The reapers were busy gathering the crops. It was very hot and the boy could not bear the heat of the sun. He suffered from a sunstroke attack. He felt giddy. He was very tired. He went to his father...My head...My head. The father said to his servant, "Carry the boy to his mother".

The mother embraced her son, kissed him, put him on her lap... he had a temperature... he wept... the mother prayed: "God have mercy... O God, I did not ask for children..." The boy became cold... he stopped breathing... The boy died..."Thy will be done, O Lord". The mother went up and laid the boy on the bed of the man of God in the roof chamber... She knelt down beside the bed and prayed, "O Lord, I had no son, and through the prayers of Elisha, your holy man, you gave me this child... The child is dead but you can bring him back to life. I thank You O Lord on ever condition, in every condition and for all conditions, Amen".

- + What caused the boy's illness?
- + What was the result?
- + What did the Shunammite woman do?

She knew that the man of God was at Mount Carmel. She went to him. When he saw her coming, he sent Gehazi to her to ask her what she wanted. Gehazi said to her, "Is it well with you?" and she said, "It is well". "Is it well with your husband?" he asked and she said, "It is well". "Is it well with your child?" he asked, and she said, "It is well".

She was a woman with great faith. The woman drew near to the man of God. She dismounted from the donkey and knelt down to the ground before him. The man of God looked at her face and he felt that she was in bitter distress. She told him what happened in brief. The man of God

expressed his sorrow for that severe trouble. He ordered his servant Gehazi to go to her house. He said to him, "Take my staff in your hand, gird up your loins and go ...if you meet anyone do not salute him... lay my staff upon the face of the child".

But the Shunammite woman insisted that the man of God would go with her and he did so. Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff upon the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not wakened".

- + Why did the woman go to the man of God?
- + What did Gehazi do?

When Elisha was on his way to her house he prayed, "O Lord, glorify your name". He arrived at the house. He prayed... The boy is dead. He was perplexed... "O Lord, you are the Almighty God. You can do everything... Glorify your name... Bring the soul of this boy back to his body so that this family may believe in you, Amen". Elisha went up and laid upon the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes upon his eyes, his hands upon his hands. He stretched himself upon him... This case needs struggle. The case was difficult. It seems as if he were giving him a part of his soul. The child's body became warm. The prophet got up and walked in the house praying and crying to the Lord repeating the same words... Then he went up again and stretched himself upon the child. The child sneezed seven times... How wonderful! The child opened his eyes. Thanks be to God. The child stood up.

The miraculous deed was performed... God answered Elisha's prayer and the Scripture says, "I am the resurrection... The Lord is God". He thanked God, then summoned Gehazi and said, "Call the woman". The woman came in. She saw the child alive. She was very happy. "Carry your son, your son is alive", the prophet said. The woman fell at his feet bowing to the ground. She thanked God. She kissed Prophet Elisha's hands. She carried her son, kissed him and she glorified the words of God through Elisha, the holy man and her faith was great.

- + What did the woman do when her son died?
- + What were the questions that Gehazi said to the woman and what were her answers?
- + How did the woman honor the man of God?
- + Who can complete this verse: I am the resurrection...

### ***Exercise***

1. Pray for (so and so) who is ill... visit him... ask the priest to visit him and pray for him and anoint him with oil.
2. Pray and say, "O Lord, I pray you heal my friend (so and so).

### ***Homework***

1. Answer the following questions: Where do you find the story of Shunammite woman in the Bible? Write the text.
2. Complete the following: Jesus said, "I ..... and ..... and he who ..... through ..... yet shall he live".

### ***Instructions***

1. Read the conversation that took place between the characters of the story in a lively way and ask the children to act it.
2. The ecclesiastical rites should be strictly practiced during the lesson: raising hands during prayers -the sign of the cross -bowing to the ground -kneeling down -kissing the priest's hand -asking the priest to pray for us, etc.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the place: "Pray for the safety of the world, and of this city of ours, and all the cities, districts, islands and monasteries".

## **(6) Saving The Prophets From The Poisonous Cooked Food And Filling Them**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 4
- + "The Life of Elisha" by Nagi Fawzy

### ***To the Servant***

1. God does not make a miraculous deed unless it is necessary. The Jew asked for a miracle but he did not answer them... when they are in the open and needed the miracle.
2. Contemplate the work of sacraments. In most cases God makes the miraculous deed through visible materials.
3. In this miracle, Elisha put flour in the pot, which was full of bitter poisonous food and the food was good. The meal in the offerings of the Old Testament refers to the Body of Christ but the perfect rite makes the meal kneaded with oil referring to the fact that Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. This event may be symbolic indicating that bitterness and poison which were in the wild squash represent the bitterness of humanity as a result of the fall of Adam but the meal is a symbol of the promise of incarnation that leads to salvation.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

God protects His children

### ***Verse***

"And if they drink any thing deadly, it will by no means hurt them" (Mark 16:18)

### ***Hymns***

- + The Lord always cares about us...

### ***Notes***

- + Who of you prays before he eats?
- + Who thanks God after he eats?
- + How do you make the sign of the cross over food?

- + Make the sign of the cross over yourself. Let us all make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father...
- + Who of you had received a guest last week?

One day, Elisha entertained the children of the prophets (there were about 50). Elisha was sitting and they were sitting before him... They loved to listen to his teachings and his stories. They were happy to listen to his stories because they were useful and sweet. Elisha loved them, sat with them, asked them and answered them and listened to them.

There was a famine in the land in those days, as rain did not fall. The land dried and plants died and the land did not give forth its fruit but the Lord said, "I will not neglect you".

*A feast of Love:* Elisha thought of giving them food besides the spiritual food so he decided to entertain them. He said to them, "You must be hungry...come and have dinner with me". The men accepted his invitation. Elisha ordered Gehazi his servant to put a big pot on the fire and make some stew for them. But Gehazi was a disobedient lazy disciple. He did not go to the fields to bring fruits because the fields were far away. He found a vine, and picked as many gourds as he could carry. The gourd is a large, hard skinned fleshy fruit of climbing or trailing plant like Colocynth or bitter cucumber. He filled his lap and went back. He sliced them up into the stew and no one saw him doing that. But that food was bitter and poisonous. It moves the bowels, causes colic and vomiting. When the men tasted it, they wouldn't eat it.

- + Who were Elisha's guests?
- + How many prophets were there?
- + Why did they like to sit with him?
- + What did Elisha order Gehazi to do?
- + What did Gehazi do?
- + What was the result of Gehazi's laziness?

*Asking the man of God for help:* It seems that Elisha did not eat with them but he only served them. When they felt that the food was poisonous they said to Elisha, "O man of God, there is death in the pot". Elisha knew what happened by the Spirit. He said to them, "Do not be afraid as God says: And if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them". Elisha said, "Then bring meal". And he threw it into the pot and asked them to eat. And there was no harm in the pot. Elisha stood up to serve and entertain them... They glorified the Lord for this miracle that He performed through His prophet Elisha. Then they left him saying: Thanks for your hospitality and teachings. Pray for us. What the Lord says is always true: "And when they drink any thing deadly, it will by no means hurt them".

- + Explain how the miracle was performed.
- + What does this miracle stand for?

The children write notes in their notebooks:

- + The meal in the offerings of the Old Testament refers to the Body of Christ.
- + Gourd is bitter and sin is bitter.
- + Gourd + meal = good food.

+ Sin + incarnation of Christ = Eternal Salvation.

### ***Exercise***

Pray so that the Lord may send his blessings and bless the food offered to you, and make the sign of the cross over your food.

### ***Homework***

Choose the right word:

1. Jesus loves the (obedient -disobedient) child.
2. Jesus taught us to be {obedient -disobedient}.
3. Elisha was sitting with the prophets (playing, listening to them and asking them, laughing).

### ***Recitation***

Children should study the Intercession for the Sickness of the Body and the Malady of the Soul: "Pray for our fathers and brethren who are sick, whether they are here or there, that our God, Jesus Christ, may grant them and us the blessing of recovery, and forgive our sins".

## **(7) Jesus And Zacchaeus The Tax-Collector**

### ***References***

+ Luke 19

### ***To the Servant***

1. Many people are concerned with worldly matters. They have turned away from God and they have dug cisterns, cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all. Their souls long for the water of the fountain of living water of which whoever drinks will never thirst.
2. The Lord cares about us more than we care about ourselves.
3. Jesus, who sits by the well of water to speak to the Samaritan woman, is He who passes by the Sycamore tree to invite Zacchaeus and promise to visit him.
4. If we want to live with Christ, we have to refrain from the false earthly glory, which hinders us from living with Christ.
5. Zacchaeus did not care about how people looked at him: O Lord help me so that all my hope in life will be to see you through faith.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Emphasizing Christ's love for sinners

### ***Verse***

"Jesus said to him: Today, Salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9)

### ***Hymns***

+ All your children O my Lord...

+ Zacchaeus the tax collector was one of these wicked men...

### *Notes*

- + Who remembers the previous lesson?
- + What was the verse of that lesson?
- + What is the name of the tax collector?
- + Who remembers the name of another tax collector?
- + What does the word "tax collector" mean? (= the man who collects taxes)
- + Why was a tax collector a sinner?
- + Why did all the people hate him?

Zacchaeus was a short man. He was a tax collector. He was sick... he love money... His friends were very few because he was selfish... but Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus.

- + Who was Zacchaeus?
- + Whom did he desire to see?

Zacchaeus went to his office and sat for a while thinking. All his hope now was to see Jesus. His colleagues noticed that he was thinking deeply so they asked him, "What is up?" and he said, "I want to see Jesus". They laughed at him. They did not believe that a tax collector wanted to see Jesus. He said, "Why not?" and they said, "Because you are selfish, you love money and Jesus always says: You shall love your neighbor as yourself... and Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth" but Zacchaeus said, "But I intend to repent and change my way of life". They said to him, "If what you say is true, you can see him. Anyway Jesus is now in the city of Jericho".

Zacchaeus went out quickly, leaving his papers and files on the table. But Zacchaeus only saw crowds of people drawing near... because Zacchaeus was a short man and wanted to see Jesus he thought of a plan. There was a Sycamore tree near him and children were playing on its branches. He ran to it He forgot his job, status and age and made an attempt to climb the tree. He made a great effort, as the tree was so smooth that it was difficult to climb. After many attempts, he managed to climb the tree... and found himself among the leaves. His desire to see Jesus increased... He hopes to see Jesus. The crowds approached him... children, women, men, young men all surrounded Jesus and each one wanted Jesus to bless him and heal him. The crowds passed under the tree and stood there for some time. Why? Jesus lifted up his eyes and the crowds did the same... they thought that Jesus was praying... but he fixed his eyes on Zacchaeus and said: "Zacchaeus". Zacchaeus was surprised, "How did he know my name?" he thought. "Come down quickly, Zacchaeus, I will have dinner in your house". Zacchaeus was very happy. He went down quickly. He bowed down to Jesus. Jesus kissed him. Zacchaeus invited all those people to have dinner in his house. He made a great feast (Describe it). Zacchaeus served them (Describe Zacchaeus' feelings of joy when Jesus entered his house and mention the words you think he said to make Jesus and the guests happy) and ask the children:

- + How would you entertain your guest?
- + How did Jesus know the name of Zacchaeus?
- + What does Lord Jesus know about you?

Then Zacchaeus stood up before the Lord and the crowds and said, “Lord, I was a wicked man, unjust and cruel. I love money before I knew you. I now repent...forgive me... I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much. The widow, from whom I took 25 coins, will be given 100 coins. I’ll do this with joy so long as you have accepted me and love me (Describe how the Lord was pleased with Zacchaeus who repented and his declaration: Today salvation has come to this house). Jesus became a friend to Zacchaeus and many people became friends to Zacchaeus too.

- + What is the name of the city?
- + How was Zacchaeus able to see Jesus?
- + What did Zacchaeus make to entertain Jesus?
- + Say the verse: Jesus said to him...

### ***Exercise***

Always go to church and invite others to go with you.

### ***Homework***

A. Select the right word:

1. Zacchaeus was a (short -tall) man.
2. Zacchaeus loved (God -people -money).
3. Zacchaeus climbed a (fig -sycamore) tree to see Jesus.

B. Arrange the words of the following verse:

-him -Jesus -to -said -this -house -to -come -today -has -salvation

### ***Instructions***

1. Introduce Christ this time to the children as a good-hearted person who responds to our love and good desires and who answers us: “I must stay at your house today”.
2. If you are giving the lesson in a village or a place where there is a garden, choose a sycamore tree or a tall tree and take the children there and tell them the story.

### ***Recitation***

The children should study the Intercession for Travelers: “Pray for our fathers and brethren the travelers at any part of the world. Make their passage easy. O Lord, whether by sea, river, lake, land or any other means that our Lord Jesus Christ may bring them home safely and forgive our sins”.

## **(8) Jesus Heals A Mad Man Who Is Blind And Dumb**

### ***References***

- + Mark 9
- + Mathew 12: 22-37
- + “Explanation of the Gospel of St. Mark” Guiza Sunday School



### ***To the Servant***

1. O Lord, you taught us that evil spirit cannot be cast out except by prayer and fasting. O Lord, give us these sacred means and help us defeat the devil when he fights us.
2. The blind and dumb mad man is a symbol of the sinful man. He is silly in his ways of living so he hurts himself. He is blind in that he does not see the good way and he is dumb, as he cannot bear witness to Christ.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Christ's authority to cast demons out

#### ***Verse***

"This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9-29)

#### ***Hymns***

+ All your children my Lord...

#### ***Notes***

The Servant checks the homework of the previous week and the verse and encourages the students... Who of you has seen a man with a demon... a mad man... a blind man... a dumb man... How is he like?

Today we hear about a man who was mad, blind and dumb. How miserable this man is! But Christ who heals all and helps all healed him... and the man spoke and could see... This man's father was very sorry for him.

First: because he was mad... he used to cut his clothes and tear them up, grit his teeth and scream.

Second: because he was blind.

Third: because he was dumb so no one could understand him. You know that a dumb is usually deaf. So this man was mad, blind, dumb and deaf. This man's father heard about Jesus and the miracles he performed.

+ Who remembers some of the miracles that Jesus performed?

+ Why was this man's father sad?

The man took his son to Christ's disciples hoping that they would be able to heal him but the disciples could not do that. The man did not lose hope, but he waited till Jesus came... and the man said to Jesus, "Master, my son is blind and dumb... I brought him to your disciples to heal him but they could not". Jesus said to his disciples, "Bring the boy to me". They brought him to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it threw the boy into a fit, so that he fell on the ground and rolled around foaming at the mouth (This usually happens when our father the priest prays for a man with an evil spirit and when he raises the cross the evil spirit leaves the man and runs away in horror). The Lord Christ asked the man's father, "How long has he been like this?" "Ever since he was a child", he replied. "Many times the evil spirit has tried to kill him by throwing him in the fire and into water. Have pity on us and help us if you possibly can".

- + To whom did the sick man's father go after the disciples had failed in healing his son.
- + What should you do when you are ill?
- + What is the name of the church sacrament that causes healing?

When Jesus noticed the man's faith and his desire to have his son healed, Jesus gave a command to the evil spirit: "Deaf and dumb spirit", he said, "I order you to come out of the boy and never go into him again". The spirit screamed, threw the boy into a bad fit, and came out. The boy looked like a corpse, and everyone said, "He is dead". But Jesus took the boy by the hand and helped him to rise, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why couldn't we drive the spirit out?" "Only prayer and fasting can drive this kind out", answered Jesus; "Nothing else can". The disciples had not practiced prayer and fasting yet. Through the faith of the man and the power of God, his son could attain the grace of being healed.

- + Why were the disciples unable to drive the evil spirit out?
- + Let us repeat the verse together .....
- + Who remembers the verse?

### ***Exercise***

Let us pray for (name) who is sick

Teach the children to respect disabled people and not to laugh at them. They should help them and love them.

### ***Homework***

A) Select the right answer:

1. The disciples were able to cast the evil spirit out.
2. The boy died.
3. The evil spirit rejoiced when it saw Jesus.
4. Jesus was able to cast the evil spirit out.
5. The boy's father had faith.

B) Complete: This kind cannot be .....

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the water: "Pray for the rising of the waters this year...May Christ our Lord bless them...accord a cheerful touch unto the lands, support the human race, save the cattle, and forgive our sins".

## **(9) Jesus Heals The Canaanite Woman's Daughter**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 15
- + "Explanation of the Gospel of St Matthew" by Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + "Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew" by Guiza Sunday School

### ***To the Servant***

The Canaanite woman who was of a foreign race came to Christ and her heart was full of faith as no one but Christ could heal her daughter. So she insisted on meeting Christ. The Lord tested her faith by words that could make her lose hope but because of her deep faith, her contrition and her earnest prayers, she deserved the Lord's pity. O Lord grant me this spirit when I pray to you.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Christ's power of healing sick people

#### ***Verse***

"Then Jesus answered her: O woman, great is your faith' (Matthew 15:28)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Lord have mercy on us: Kerie eleison...

#### ***Notes***

- + Whom did Jesus heal in the previous lesson? Describe him.
- + What did Jesus do?
- + Who remembers some miracles of healing that Jesus performed?
- + Who remembers the verse?
- + What should you do if one of your relatives is sick?
- + Who are your friends? Are they all your citizens? Are they all from your village? Are they all your relatives?

Jesus helped all people whoever they were. You remember what he did to Zacchaeus the tax collector, and to the mad, blind and dumb boy. Jesus helped people in many ways. Sometimes He gave them what they wanted quickly and sometimes He postponed answering them on purpose.

There was a Canaanite woman who had a mad daughter... She was sorry for her... She wept day and night because she saw her suffering. She wished her quick recovery. When the woman heard that Jesus healed all diseases, she asked where He was. She heard that He was near the cities of Tyre and Sidon, so she hurried to meet Him but the place was very crowded with people. She cried out, "Son of David, have mercy on me". She repeated these words many times. "My daughter is mad and in a terrible condition". But Jesus did not say a word to her. The woman went on crying. His disciples came to Him and begged Him, "Send her away, she is following us and making all this noise".

- + Where was the woman from?
- + What did her daughter suffer from?
- + What did she say?

The Lord Jesus knew that the faith of that woman was great... So He did not want to answer her request instantly. He wanted to give the crowds a lesson in faith.

- What do you want? You have disturbed us with your noise.
  - Have mercy on me, Lord and heal my daughter. My daughter is mad.
  - Of what race are you and where do you come from.
  - I am a pagan from a town near Tyre and Sidon.
  - I have been sent only to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.
- (The woman bowed down to him and said) “O Lord, help me... strengthen my faith”.
- What do you want?
  - Heal my daughter.. Have mercy on me.
  - I told you I have been sent only to the lost sheep of Israel and it is not right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.
  - That is true, my Lord, but even the dogs eat the leftovers that fall from their master’s table. Give me what is thrown to the dogs.

When Jesus saw that the woman had a deep, strong, firm faith, He said to her, “You are a woman of great faith. What you want will be done for you”. And at that very moment her daughter was healed.

+ The children act the dialogue... recite the verse... You are a woman of great faith...

### ***Exercise***

In your notebook, write down the name of your friends who do not come to church.

a) ..... b) ..... c) ... ..

Ask them to accompany you to the Sunday School or to the church to learn how to love the Lord Jesus.

### ***Homework***

Write the conversation that ran between Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Canaanite woman.

### ***Instructions***

Hold a discussion with the children and go together to the people around us whom Jesus wants us to help... all the people, of all classes, jobs... whether they are servants, students, beggars, porters, leaders, doctors, engineers, servants, girls or boys, etc.

## **(10) Jesus Raises A Widow’s Son In Nain**

### ***References***

+ Luke 7

### ***To the Servant***

1. Christ always leads us in triumph when we please Him. It is written “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (James 1:27).
2. Truly, Lord, you visited this widow when she was in severe trouble but through your kindness, she restored her son.

3. The children of God imitate the Lord. In them, the miserable find comfort and the upset find peace, and the hopeless finds faith. O Lord, have mercy on me and let me live in this true religion.

### The Lesson

#### *Aim*

Christ's authority over death

#### *Verse*

“Young man, I say to you, arise” (Matthew 15:28)

#### *Hymns*

- + In a town called Nain...
- + When I am sick...

#### *Notes*

- + What was our last lesson about?
- + Who remembers the verse?

In the previous lesson we saw how our Lord Jesus Christ has authority to cast out demons, and today we speak about His authority to raise the dead.

The Lord Jesus was in a town called Capernaum. He spent a night there and He healed the slave of the Roman Captain. On the second day, He went to a town called Nain. Crowds of people, men and women, followed Him. Many men, women, young people and children wanted to be blessed and to be healed. The Lord stretched His hand and blessed them all and He healed those who were sick... The Lord saw a great crowd gathering at the entrance of the town. He sent some of His disciples to see what was up. The crowds drew near. Loud cries were heard. The people were sad. Women were dressed in black...they were screaming, crying and weeping. It was a funeral procession. The disciples asked one of them:

- What is the matter?
- A funeral. Who?
- A widow's son from the town.
- Does he have brothers?
- No, he is her only son.
- Sad news.

The disciples looked at one another. Cannot Christ raise this young man? Of course He can. The disciples ran to the Lord. They asked Him to come near the funeral procession, which was on its way to the tomb.

- + What is the name of the town?
- + Where was Jesus at that time?
- + Whom did the Lord send?

Lord Jesus Christ went there. There were loud cries. Men and women were weeping. Jesus walked over and ordered the men carrying the coffin to stop, and the men stopped. The people asked themselves, "What will Jesus do?" The Lord asked, "Where is his mother?" and they told him where she was. When the Lord saw her weeping, his heart was filled with pity for her, and said to her, "Do not cry". The woman said, "He is my only son. He is my supporter. His father died. He left me alone. I do not have any other sons". The Lord said to her, "Do not weep... You will see the glory of God. I will bring your son back to life". The woman became comforted and dried her tears. She believed...

The Lord drew near the coffin and touched it and said, "Young man, get up, I tell you" (Notice that the Lord spoke to a dead man). How wonderful. There was a movement in the coffin. The dead man raised the covering and the shroud. He sat up. Women rejoiced and the men said: Glory be to you Lord Christ. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. The young man unbound the handkerchief, which bound his head. He unbound the ties. The people congratulated the widow. Your son has been brought back to life. Congratulations! Jesus has brought the young man back to life. The boy began to speak. The Lord took him and gave him to his mother. Take your son... he is alive. The woman felt happy. She bowed down before him. She raised her hands and thanked God. She kissed Christ's hands. She bowed down and kissed His feet. She got hold of her son's hands to make sure that he was alive. He was raised. The crowds were amazed. A powerful miraculous deed took place among them. All the people glorified and praised the Lord. We also glorify and praised the Lord with them. and say: When I am tired...

+ What did the Lord Jesus say to the widow?

+ What did the Lord Jesus say to the young man? Let us repeat together...

### ***Exercise***

Recite the following prayers (The children write down in their notebooks): "O Lord Jesus who raised the widow's son of Nain, have mercy on us and raise our souls from the death of sin and grant us the light of grace. Amen".

### ***Homework***

+ How many miracles of raising the dead by Jesus Christ are mentioned in the Holy Bible?

+ What are these miracles?

### ***Instructions***

1. This story is full of interesting and exciting situations. When you explain it concentrate on the emotional side of the story.
2. Draw the children's attention to the fact that Christ comes in the suitable time to solve our problems. The distance between the dead young man and the tomb was very short. Christ came to the town gate in the suitable time to raise the dead man.
3. The children must understand that Christ was not at the town gate incidentally or by chance, but He was there in that place and that time to raise the dead young man.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the deceased: “Pray for our fathers and brethren who reposed peacefully in the domain of Christ’s faith since the early beginning our saintly fathers the Archbishops our fathers the Bishops our fathers the Archpriests our fathers the priests our brethren the Deacons our fathers the Monks and laymen and for all the deceased Christians that our Lord Jesus will have compassion upon their souls in Paradise. As for us here may the Lord be merciful to us and forgive us our sins”.

## **(11) Jesus Heals A Woman Who Suffers From Severe Bleeding**

### ***References***

- + Luke 8
- + Matthew 9
- + “The Lord Jesus at the Shore of Lake Galilee”, Beirut

### ***To the Servant***

1. Your promise is always true O Lord. You say: Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. This woman came to you believing that you alone can heal her even if she touches Your clothes she will be healed. And she touched Your clothes and was healed.
2. O Lord give me that faith... Many people crowd round Jesus without believing in Him. O Lord Don’t let me be one of those.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The work of faith in our life

### ***Verse***

“Your faith has made you well. Go in peace” (Luke 8:48)

### ***Hymns***

- + Great is the mystery of godliness...
- + Jesus was born of a virgin...
- + I was sick and weak...

### ***Notes***

The Servant checks the homework given last week (encourages the children)

- + How did the Lord Jesus raise the widow’s son of Nain?

When Jesus touched the coffin and said: “Young man. Get up I tell you”, the dead young man was brought back to life. And today we see that anyone who touches Jesus will be healed. I mean if the hand of the Lord Jesus touches us or if we touch Him, He will answer all the requests of our hearts.

Jesus and His disciples spent some time on the shore of a lake. When they returned to Capernaum, they saw a large crowd waiting for Jesus. Jesus had no time for rest. He sat down on the shore and taught the crowds with patience and love and He helped all.

- + Where was Jesus sitting?
- + What is the name of the town?
- + What was He doing?

Then a man named Jairus arrived. He went through the crowds and bowed down at Jesus' feet. This man held a high position. He was an official in the local synagogue...many people knew him. Jairus was confused and perplexed. He cried loudly and said: My daughter is dying. She is only twelve years old. Please come quickly and lay your hand on her. I am sure that she will be completely healed. Jesus went with Jairus. The disciples and the crowd followed them. The people crowded Jesus from every side. They all desired to see what would happen. But suddenly, Jesus stopped and asked, "Who touched me?" The people waited to hear and answer but no answer came. Peter said, "Master, the people are all around you and crowding in on you".

- + Where were the crowds going?
- + What did Jesus say when he stopped suddenly?

Jesus said again: Someone has touched me... for I knew it when power went out of me" there was complete silence... A woman came trembling and threw herself at Jesus' feet. She said to him, "It was I sir... I have suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years. I have spent all I have on doctors, but no one was able to cure me. I heard amazing things about You O Jesus the Great Healer. So I came to you... while I was among the crowd, an idea came to my mind: If I could touch the edge of his cloak, I would be healed.

- + What did this woman suffer from?
- + What did she hear about Christ?

Then I drew near you O Jesus... and touched the edge of your cloak and I was healed immediately and the bleeding stopped. Lord I thank You...I thank You. Jesus gently said to her: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace". Then Jesus went to Jairus' house and brought his daughter back to life.

- + Where was Jesus going to?
- + Who was with him?
- + What did the woman do?
- + How did Jesus feel the woman's touch in spite of the crowd?
- + What did Jesus say to her? Your faith has made you well...Go in peace.
- + Study the verse...
- + Who can say the verse?

### ***Exercise***

- + Let us visit (name) who is sick and pray for him and give him a Qurbana.



+ Let us ask the priest to pray for (name) the sick man and to anoint him with the holy oil so the he may be well.

### ***Homework***

Fill the spaces with one work each:

1. The woman was suffering from .....
2. The woman spent all her money on .....
3. The woman ..... Christ's ..... and the bleeding .....

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the crops: "Pray for the winds, the crops, the trees, the vines and every fruit bearing tree in the whole world that Christ, our Lord, may bless them and bring them to harvest without harm and in full security, and forgive us our sins".

## **(12) The Danger Of Murmuring: The Bronze Serpent**

### ***References***

+ Number 21

### ***To the Servant***

Moses raised a metal serpent and put in on a pole in the wilderness according to the Lord's command so that anyone who was bitten could look at it and be healed. In this the Lord desired to make all the people look at that holy sacrifice, which would be put on the cross and anyone who believed in Him and looked at Him would live, body and soul. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

God hates sin

#### ***Verse***

"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you" (Numbers 21:7)

#### ***Hymns***

- + When I am sick...
- + O Lord have mercy on us...

#### ***Notes***

- + Who gives us our food...our clothes?
- + Are we used to thanking the Lord for his gifts?

You know how the Lord cared about His people in Egypt and how he saved them from the bondage of Pharaoh. He chose Moses as a leader and provided him with miraculous deeds... and how the Lord gave him favor in the eyes (the sight) of Pharaoh and that the miracles he made

amazed the Egyptians and made the Pharaoh submit to the will of God and release the people. The people went out under the leadership of Moses. Moses struck the sea with his staff and the people crossed on dry ground. The Lord led them by the cloud by day and by a pillar of fire by night. The Lord sent them the manna and quails so that they might not starve. When they were walking in a barren land and needed water, the Lord brought them water out of a rock. The Lord also cared spiritually about them. He cared about their souls and gave Moses the tablets of the Covenant.

- + What did the Lord provide Moses with so that he might become a great leader of his people?
- + How did the Lord care about His people when they were in the wilderness?

In spite of all this the people spoke against the Lord and against Moses. They complained of the manna and the quail. Serpents bit them. Serpents were found everywhere, inside and outside their tents. Serpents bit many of them and those who were bitten died. The plague was severe and powerful. They suffered from severe pain. The people realized that the hand of the Lord was laid heavily on them. They came to Moses and said: We have sinned; for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Now pray to the Lord to take these serpents away. We are sinners and the Lord will not listen to us. Moses asked them, “Will you repent and stop complaining?” They said, “We repent”.

Moses went to a lonely place, bowed down and worshipped the Lord then he stood up and prayed: O Lord I have sinned and these people sinned against you. Forgive me and forgive them. O Lord, take these serpents away. Glory be to you. Amen”.

The Lord loved His servant Moses because he was honest and obedient so He answered his prayers. The Lord, said to Moses: “Make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole so that anyone who was bitten could look at it and be healed”. So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. He gathered the people and said to them, “The Lord commanded that he who looks at this serpent with the faith will be healed”... and the people believed.

- + Were the people thankful to the Lord for His gifts?
- + What did they say to Moses about the Manna?
- + How did the Lord punish them?
- + What does the bronze serpent stand for in the New Testament?

The children write in their notebooks: It stands for the Sacrifice of Christ. The people carried those who were bitten by the serpents and put them before the bronze serpent and they were healed. Some of them were bitten a long time before and some were bitten a short time before and immediately looked at the bronze serpent. Even those to whom the serpents drew near to bite them, hurried to look at the bronze serpent and the serpents could not do them any harm.

If we committed a sin a long time ago or if we have just sinned or if the devil is coming to fight me, we should hurry and look at the cross and say, “My Crucified Lord, have mercy on me” and the Lord will have mercy on me.

- + Who was saved from the serpent’s poison?

- + Who will save us from the Serpent's Poison?
- + Let us repeat together: We sinned...

### ***Exercise***

Pray this week and say; "My crucified Lord, have mercy on me". Repeat it several times by day and night.

### ***Homework***

Make many types of crosses, draw them, color them and bring them with you to the Sunday School. Put one of them in the place where you pray.

### ***Instructions***

1. Give the children some crosses.
2. Encourage the children to benefit from the power of the cross in their practical life.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the Archpriests: "Pray for the Archpriests, priests, deacons, sub-deacons and the Seven Orders of the church of Gods".

## **(13) The Exile In Babylon Is A Result Of The People's Sin**

### ***References***

+ 2 Kings 25

### ***To the Servant***

Although God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; yet He hates sin and He is righteous. He gives sinners many chances to repent and return but when man lives in sin all of his life, the Lord punishes him "Or do you presume upon the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed" (Romans 2:4,5).

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

God hates sin

### ***Verse***

"God be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13)

### ***Hymns***

- + Lord, have mercy upon us...
- + When I sin...

### ***Notes***

1. Show how the Lord was kind to His people.

## 2. How did the people presume upon God's kindness?

In the previous lessons we saw how God's mercy and steadfast love were met with disobedience on the part of the people. In 2 Kings 25, the Scripture tells us about the story of Exile.

- + What does the word "Exile" mean?
- + When did that Exile happen?

The Lord is Holy. He does not like sin so when people sinned, they were punished by being sent into exile.

Zedekiah, King of Jerusalem sinned against the Lord. The people followed him and sinned. They turned aside from the Commandments of God. So the Lord punished them. There was another King whose country was a neighboring country. What is his name? He was a great King. He was King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonian.

This king came to fight the king of Jerusalem. His army got into the city. They looted the city and killed many people. They built towers around it and besieged it. The siege lasted for two years. The people in the city suffered from severe hunger. They needed bread. King of Jerusalem and a number of his soldiers fled at night. They left by way of the Royal garden, went through the gateway and fled in the direction of Jordan Valley. But the Babylonian army pursued King Zedekiah, captured him in the plains near Jericho, and all his soldiers deserted him. Zedekiah was taken to King Nebuchadnezzar and there King Nebuchadnezzar passed sentence on him. While Zedekiah looked on, his sons were put to death when Nebuchadnezzar had Zedekiah's eyes put out, placed him in chains and took him to Babylon.

- + How did the Lord punish the people when they sinned?
- + What does the word "exile" mean? What does "spiritual exile" mean?
- + Who can forgive sins?
- + What was the sentence passed on the King of Jerusalem?

*King of Babylon entered Jerusalem (what is his name?):* He burnt down the temple, the palace, and the houses of all important people and his soldiers tore down the city walls. He took away to Babylon the people who were left in the city. He took away all the people of Jerusalem into exile and plundered them. He sent all the people into exile, except Prophet Jeremiah. The people suffered oppression for a long time. During this long period of suffering their hearts returned to God. They cried, O Lord, have mercy on us...we have sinned against you. Remember Your promise and Your covenant, O Lord. When will you come back to us and to have mercy on us? We are all sinners...let us repent and say: O Lord, have mercy on us, sinners.

- + What did Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon do with the City of Jerusalem?
- + What did Nebuchadnezzar do with the King of Jerusalem and the people of Jerusalem?
- + What did Nebuchadnezzar do with the Temple, the King's palace and the houses of all the people?
- + What caused all these tribulations?

### ***Exercise***

Pray this week and say: Lord be merciful to me, a sinner. Repeat this prayer several times day and night.

### ***Homework***

Write your sins on a piece of paper and confess these sins this week to the Lord before the priest.

### ***Instructions***

Give the children an opportunity during the lesson or after the lesson to pray so that the Lord may forgive them their sins. End your lesson with a suitable hymn such as:

*When I sin*

*It is you that will be merciful to me, O Jesus*

*To whom shall I go but you*

*I worship you and pray to you*

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for the crops: “Pray for the winds, the crops, the trees, the vines, and every fruit bearing tree in the whole world that Christ, our Lord, may bless them and bring them to harvest without harm and full security, and forgive us our sins”.

## **(14) The Parable Of The Ten Virgins**

### ***References***

+ Matthew 25

### ***To the Servant***

1. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when He comes.
2. Blessed are you beloved brethren if you are prepared for the salvation of your soul.
3. Keep your soul pure to be without blemish when you stand before Christ.
4. What will happen if Christ comes and finds me asleep? Of course I will be rejected. The cares of life and the problems of the world keep the believer away from wakefulness. The Holy Bible teaches us: Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light... Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplications. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Being prepared for the Kingdom of God.

### ***Verse***

“Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him” (Matthew 25:6)

### ***Hymns***

+ We are the maidens...

+ We are the five wise maidens...

### ***Notes***

The Servant sets the scene by asking the children about what they know about the wedding parties and the attitude of the maidens.

Jesus told them many things in parables. Why? He told the people a story about ten maidens who were invited to a wedding party. They took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom but five of them went in with Him to the marriage feast and the other five were rejected. Five of them were wise and the other five were foolish. When the foolish took their lamps they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered. But at midnight there was a cry, "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet Him".

- + Why were five of them called wise and the others called foolish?
- + What did all of them do when the bridegroom was delayed?
- + What was the cry heard at midnight?

Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out". But the wise replied, "Perhaps there will not be enough for us and you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves". And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterwards the other maidens came also, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us". But He replied, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you". Then Jesus said to the people, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour".

After the Servant tells the story in an interesting attractive way, he lets the children deduce the symbols of the story through the questions:

- + Who are the wise maidens (Those who are ready).
- + Who are the foolish maidens (Those who are not ready).
- + What is the oil? (Works).
- + Who is the bridegroom? (Jesus).
- + What does this statement mean, "Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you?" (the righteous man is scarcely saved).
- + What does the statement "the door was shut" mean? (On the Day of Judgment, any attempt to repent is useless).

### ***Exercise***

If you feel that you do not want to pray, or to read the word of God, or to go to the House of the Lord, make the sign of the cross and obey the commandment.

### ***Homework***

Ask ten children to bring in ten lamps (They can be made of paper). Five of them contain a candle each and the others are without candles. Children can act this parable under the supervision of the Servant.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for love: “Greet one another with a holy kiss”.

## **(15) The Richman And Lazarus**

### ***References***

+ Luke 16

### ***To the Servant***

1. What things would you give to the poor and the needy?
2. Do you give the tithes of your time, health and money to the Lord?
3. What do you aim at by so doing? The worldly glory or in secret to glorify the Lord?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Almsgiving

### ***Verse***

“But now he is comforted, and you are tormented” (Luke 16:25)

### ***Hymns***

+ Jesus told us a story...

### ***Notes***

The Servant sets the scene by asking the children to speak about their daily observations about the poor and the rich...he helps the children to describe how a rich man lives; much money, much gold, servants, blocks of flats, a beautiful house, a big palace, he counts his money every day, his food, his clothes, the poor man lying at the rich man’s door, he desired to be fed from what fell from the rich man’s table. The rich man refused to feed Lazarus. The dogs came and licked his sores.

- + What sort of life did the rich man lead on earth?
- + What sort of life did the poor man lead on earth?
- + Is this life eternal?

The end of both: The poor man died... no one on earth cared for him but the angels carried him to Abraham’s bosom because he used to glorify the Lord and pray to him. The rich man died... All the people of the city sent him to the grave in a great procession... They wept, clothed him in shrouds... the chief elders of the city... the clergymen... the friends, the neighbors, the relatives... they were all carrying musical instruments... and the rich man went to Hades and being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. He cried and blamed himself saying, “I am here because of my cruel heart and of my cruelty to others. I did not feed the poor neither did I provide them with clothes”...he thought and then called out: “Father Abraham, send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue for I am

in anguish in this flame”. But Abraham said, “Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us”.

The rich man said, “Then I beg you father, to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that if he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment”. But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them”. And he said, “No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent”. He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced of someone should rise from the dead”.

- + Where did the rich man go to after death? Why?
- + Describe state of the rich man and Lazarus after death?
- + Complete the verse: But now .....
- + The children can act the conversation that ran between the rich man and Abraham.

### ***Exercise***

Feed a poor family this week.

### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant shows that it is necessary to be kind to the needy but it is better to hold a discussion with them about how to distribute alms so that they don’t give their money to beggars who do not deserve alms. Each class should have an alms box and what is collected should be spent on a poor family.
2. Children should know that wealth did not lead to the rich man’s destruction but his cruelty and selfishness resulted in his destruction, and Lazarus was not rescued because of his poverty, but because of his patience, endurance and worship.
3. Repentance and following the commandment of God are necessary.
4. You can make use of the stories about saints who used to give alms such as the story of Anba Sarabamun.
5. Stories fill the child’s imagination so you should tell the story as it is written in the Holy Bible and without giving comments or explanation so that the child may make use of his fertile imagination.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the great Intercession for oblation: “Pray for those who are concerned with oblations, first fruits, oil, incense, coverings, reading books, and altar vessels, that Christ Our Lord wilt recompense them in the heavenly Jerusalem and forgive us our sins”.

## **(16) Ananias And Sapphira**

### ***References***

- + Acts 5



### ***To the Servant***

1. We have to understand truth in its widest meaning.
2. Do we feel true love towards all people?
3. Is our repentance a true one?
4. Is true love for the Lord the basis of our religion?
5. Do I lie to others even for fun?
6. Telling the truth does not contradict being polite.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Telling the Truth.

#### ***Verse***

“You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:4)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Be merciful to us, O Lord.

#### ***Notes***

1. The Servant draws the children attention to the foundations of the Christian life... love, sacrifice, and order...and refers to the method followed in collecting and distributing gifts and alms in the days of the apostles (Acts 12:44,45).
2. The children will deduce the following facts from the Servant’s questions:
  - a. There was no rich man or poor man as everything was in common.
  - b. All Christians ate together with delight and they praised the Lord.
  - c. The rich men were not compelled to give their offerings but they willingly did that (Refer to the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:4)).
  - d. The apostles themselves supervised the financial matters and distributed the gifts among the poor, each according to his need.
  - e. When the scope of service increased, the apostles laid their hands on seven deacons known to be filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom and put them in charge of financial matters. They got their authority from the apostles.
  - f. The apostles did not store up money although it came to them in great amounts.  
Notice what Peter said to the lame man: I have neither silver nor gold...

+ What are the most important characteristics of the early church?

+ To what extent were the apostles concerned with money?

+ How did each believer get his needs?

The Servant tells the children the story of Ananias and Sapphira, which indicates that offerings were given willingly. The Servant refers to the verse: You have not lied to... and repeat it with the children when he refers to Peter’s words to Ananias then asks these questions:

+ What did Ananias do so that he might share the believers their good works?

+ What is the sin that the devil caused Ananias to fall in?

- + How did Peter know Ananias' sin?
- + To whom did Ananias lie?
- + What was the consequence of the sin of telling lies and the desire for money?

Three hours later Sapphira came in. The Servant mentions her conversation with Peter the apostle. He says the verse and repeats it and the children also repeat it. Then he asks them:

- + Did Sapphira tell the truth?
- + What happened then?

### ***Exercise***

Always say the truth and do not swear to emphasize that what you say is true whatever happens.

### ***Homework***

Ask the children to review the previous lessons and to be prepared for the review lesson by bringing with them the necessary tools.

### ***Recitation***

The children study the Intercession for oblation: "Pray for these sanctified and worthy oblation, for these sacrifices and for those who have offered them".

## **(17) Review**

### ***To the Servant***

Review the previous aims, the benefits you got, the exercises you practiced in your prayers, the blessings of God, thank the Lord for them. Record you troubles and ask the Lords help.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Confirming the aims of the previous lessons.

Here are some examples:

1. Complete the following:
  - a. Elisha raised the .....
  - b. .... raised the widow's son ..... dead.
  - c. King Nebuchadnezzar of ..... captured ..... King of Jerusalem.
2. Complete the sentences in groups (A) with the correct phrases from group (B):
 

(A)	(B)
a. Joshua	was standing by the rich mans door.
b. Elisha	crossed the Jordan with his people.
c. Lazarus	purified the water of Jericho.
3. Rearrange the following:
  - a. Serve -you -shall -only -him -God -and -you -Lord -the -shall -you -worship.

- b. arise -young -you -man -to -say -I.
- 4. Answer the following questions:
  - a. How were the wise maidens prepared?
  - b. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?

***The verses of this period are:***

1. Now he is comforted, and you are tormented (Luke 16:25), Lesson 15.
2. God, be merciful to me, a sinner (Luke 18:13), Lesson 13.
3. I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he may die; he shall live (John 11:25), Lesson 5.
4. You have not lied to men but to God (Acts 5:4), Lesson 16.
5. Young man, I say to you, arise (Luke 7:14), Lesson 10.
6. Your faith has made you well; go in peace (Luke 8:48), Lesson 11.
7. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Psalms 103:2), Lesson 3.
8. Prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16), Lesson 4.
9. And Jesus said to him: Today salvation has come to this house (Luke 19:9), Lesson 7.
10. Then Jesus answered her: O woman great is your faith (Matthew 15:28), Lesson 9.
11. We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you (Numbers 21:7) Lesson 12.
12. I shall not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage (Joshua 1:5.6), Lesson 2.
13. You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve (Matthew 4:10), Lesson 2.
14. This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29), Lesson 8.
15. Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him (Matthew 25:6), Lesson 14.
16. And if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them (Mark 16:18), Lesson 6.

***Texts for Recitation studied in this period are:***

The Intercession for peace, for fathers, for the congregation, for the place, for the sickness of the body and the malady of the soul, for travelers, for the water, for the deceased, for the crops, for the Archbishops, for the fruits of the land, for love, and the Intercession for Oblation.

The children need to study them and the Servant should encourage them through competitions to make sure that they have studied them.

**THE SECOND PERIOD**

**(18) Christmas: The Magi (The Wise Men)**

***References***

- + Matthew 1,2
- + Contemplation on Nativity by H. H. Pope Shenouda, III

### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate how the Magi set their minds on the coming of Christ and how the Jews were indifferent.
2. Make a comparison and see where you stand.
3. The Magi gave Jesus gold (the dearest thing we have), frankincense (worship and glorification), and myrrh (our sufferings and endurance for his name). Enter your private prayer room and pray the Lord to guide you by His light to Bethlehem so that Christ may abide in your heart and cleanse you from all sins.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To show how the Magi loved the New Born Divine Baby and the necessity of showing our love to Him.

#### ***Verse***

“When had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, and frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11)

#### ***Hymns***

+ My Lord... My Lord...

#### ***Aids***

A big picture ... a magic lantern... acting some scenes.

#### ***Notes***

- + What happened when Christ was born? (Review the Nativity events: good news for the shepherds, the appearance of the star to the Magi).
- + What can you see in the picture? Who are they? Who is this? ~

The Magi are great people from the east. They studied astronomy and watched the stars and the universe. They admired the solar system, the lunar system and the stars and their orbits. They worshipped fire and stars. When they saw a new star, they thought that a new king was born. In a very dark night, three of them were studying the stars. They saw a new star. It was bright. It had a special orbit. Then there is a new king who will be born in Jerusalem as the Jewish Scripture says. He has been born then. Let us go to worship Him. They went there on camels. It was a long journey. They took food and clothes. Each took a gift to offer to the newborn king. They set off.

- + What did the Magi do?
- + Where did they come from?
- + Why did they make for Jerusalem in particular?
- + Why did they visit the king?

At last they arrived in Jerusalem. All the people who saw them were amazed and asked why they had come. They were strangers... the colors of their faces... their clothes... their language... They enquired about the newborn king. They took them to Herod. Herod was upset. The King sent for

the high priests and the Scribes and asked them... they answered quickly...in Bethlehem. The King became more upset. Then there were prophecies of Christ. He sent the priests away. Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared, and he sent them to Bethlehem: Go and search diligently for the Child and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him. Herod decided to kill Christ.

- + What is the name of the King?
- + Why was he troubled?
- + What do prophecies say about the place where Christ will be born?
- + What did Herod intend to do?
- + Did the Magi notice it?

The wise men left the Royal Palace and made for Bethlehem. The star, which they had seen in the East, went before them till it came to rest over the place where the Child was born. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. It was a small house. They entered (whom did they see?). They told the story to Joseph and Mary (the children repeat). They offered Him gifts. The people asked, "Why have you offered gold? (A symbol of His kingdom), and you, why have you offered frankincense? (a symbol of His priesthood) and why have you offered myrrh? (A symbol of His sufferings and passions)... they rejoiced. They prayed, then they left the place.

- + Who remembers what they had to do then? (The angel appeared in great glory to them and guided them to another way. Thus Christ was rescued from the hand of King Herod).
- + How did they arrive?
- + What did they see?
- + What did they offer?
- + What shall we offer to Christ? (Our hearts, a part of our pocket money for his brethren)

### ***Exercise***

The children give a part of their pocket money to the poor and another part to Sunday School.

### ***Homework***

Match the following:

Gold	stands for	priesthood
Frankincense	stands for	the kingdom
Myrrh	stands for	passions

### ***Notes***

- + Repeat the hymn, "My Lord..." during the lesson.
- + Let all the class celebrate the occasion together. Make the procession of the Nativity picture with hymns and candles.

## **(19) The Flight Into Egypt**

### ***References***

+ “Egypt receives the Virgins” by Siliman Nesseem

### ***To the Servant***

1. Flight is half way to victory so beware of standing in the land of Sodom.
2. When you run away from sin (take the child and his mother); the child is the mystery of your power and his mother helps you in your struggle.
3. When Christ came to Egypt, the idols fell and were destroyed...May the Lord abide in our hearts to destroy their idols.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Shun (keep away from) evil.

### ***Verse***

“Arise take the young Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt” (Matthew 2:13)

### ***Hymns***

+ The Angel appeared...

### ***Aids***

A picture of the Holy Family in Egypt, a picture of the Virgin tree and some places which were sanctified when the Holy Family stayed in them, etc.

### ***Notes***

+ Did the Magi return by the same route? Why?

The Magi returned by another route. His ministers and leaders in the palace surrounded Herod. They were all upset. He was pacing. They asked him... but he did not answer...days went by and they all felt that the King was confused. One day he realized that the Magi would not come back. He sent his leaders to Bethlehem to kill the children who are two years old or under. They asked why but he refused to answer... they understood... they did not want to do that but he insisted.

+ Why was Herod upset?

+ When did he send to kill the children?

+ What was the purpose by so doing?

+ Why did he say “two years and under”?

A group of soldiers and officers went there... The city was in great disorder... What happened? The orders were issued. Mothers tried to escape but they could not. The soldiers divided the city. They killed the children...cries were heard in every house... people cursed the tyrant (Explain what happened during the meeting and how Herod was disappointed).

+ What did the soldiers do?

+ Was the king pleased? Why?

Herod wanted to kill Christ...Will God let that happen? The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Rise, take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt". Joseph rose... When they entered Egypt the idols fell down (Describe the journey and the places the Holy Family stayed in and how happy we are because Christ visited our land: Ancient Cairo, Mattaryah, Natrun Valley -use a map and some pictures).

### ***Exercise***

Make a journey to one of the places that the Holy Family visited.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

- a) Why did the Holy Family flee into Egypt?
- b) What happened to the idols when Christ entered Egypt?
- c) Read John 3.

## **(20) The Epiphany: Nicodemus And Baptism**

### ***References***

- + John 3
- + "The Mystery of Baptism" by Ana Gregory
- + "Birth from water and the Spirit" Sporting
- + "Baptism" Rod el Farag
- + "The Sacraments of the Church" by Habib Girgis

### ***To the Servant***

1. Do we learn a lesson from Nicodemus and go to the Lord to consult Him about our problems?
2. Baptism is a new birth and Repentance is a second birth...Do we always walk in the Spirit of repentance?
3. On the day of baptism the godmother renounces the devil on behalf of the baptized child. Can you repeat this promise now with a conscious will?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

To understand the work of baptism that we attained when we were children.

### ***Verse***

"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5)

### ***Hymns***

- + Seven Spiritual Sacraments...

### **Notes**

- + Give the lesson in the Baptism Room in the church or bring with you picture of a small doll and some water.
- + Mention the Seven Church Sacraments.
- + What is the name of the first sacrament?
- + What is the first sacrament?

A man named Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews... He knew that Jesus was a good Master, so he came to Jesus by night and said to Him...Conversation... Mention the conversation in a lively way.

- + What is the name of our feast today?
- + What is the man's name?
- + Why did he come by night?
- + What did Jesus say? Did he understand?

When he didn't understand, Jesus said to him "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit... Take this opportunity and explain the rituals of Baptism... By immersion into the water three times, this stands for Christ's burial and His resurrection into a new life... and the practical application which lies in repentance, keeping away from the first works and the beginning of a new life of holiness, quiet full of obedience and love... Nicodemus thanked Jesus but he needed an example from the Old Testament.

- + How is the Sacrament of Baptism practiced?
- + What does this mean?
- + How can I live in baptism now?
- + What did Nicodemus ask for?

The Lord reminded him of the bronze serpent... Faith heals us... i.e. love for the Crucified Christ, repentance, receiving the Holy Communion keep the poisonous sin away from us and thus we become pure... Nicodemus thanked Jesus again and left happily.

- + What was the example that the Lord gave? Explain it.
- + What does it mean?
- + What is there in common between the bronze serpent and the Cross?

### **Exercise**

- + We have to confess our sins and repent and receive the Holy Communion so that the work of baptism may be renewed in us.
- + Fill in the blanks:
  1. .... went to meet ..... by night and Christ spoke about the Sacrament of .....
  2. Unless one is born of ..... and ..... he cannot ..... the Kingdom of God.

### **Recitation**

- + Matthew 7:1-5
- + Judge not ... children should study this verse till lesson 23.



## *The Unit Of The Church And Our Love For Her*

### **(21) The Tabernacle Of Meeting And The Ark of the Covenant**

#### ***References***

- + Exodus 25
- + “Explanation of Exodus” Sporting

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Be patient when you study the chapters about the Tabernacle of Meeting so that you may know how the Lord cares about ritual aspects in worship.
2. The glory of the Lord filled the Tent. We are the Temple where the Spirit of God abides. May He be glorified in our life with the glory of the New Testament.
3. Read the Epistle to the Hebrews to learn the lesson of the necessity of obeying the Commandments of God and to deserve the blessing of the Divine Blood.

#### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The establishment of the church in the Old Testament and the presence of the Lord in it

#### ***Verse***

“I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalms 122:1)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Praise the Lord...

#### ***Aids***

A small model of the Tent and its contents or a big picture or models of the lamps, the alter, the censer or the picture of the lesson.

#### ***Notes***

The Servant gives review questions then describes the Tent as the first seed of the church.

The Lord brought His ancient people out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage and rescued them from tribulation and severe slavery (questions...). He led them in the wilderness and made many miracles to them and for them (children give examples). They wanted to thank God but they did not have a church to meet in (How did they live in the wilderness?) They prayed that the Lord may give them a church to pray in. Moses desired to build a church. All the people were waiting for the Commandments of God.

God called Moses and spoke to him... Moses held a great meeting with the people ...(Describe it) He asked them to sanctify themselves (i.e. to wash and pray) as the Lord would speak to them.

The Lord spoke to them about the Law... Then He ordered Moses to go up the mountains... The people stood in fear and kept quiet.

They heard the sounds of thunder, lightning and horns... Moses stayed with the Lord for forty days... The Lord gave him the Tent design and said to him “Make the Tent into three divisions: The Holy of Holies, the Holy place and the outer Court... the first part contained the Ark of the Covenant covered in all sides with gold which contained the tablets of the covenant and a golden urn holding the manna. The second one contained the altar of incense, the lamp and the table. The third division contained the altar of burnt offering, and the laver” (The Servant explains the priest’s service, the offering of the sacrifice and the incense... and that the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year). Moses was happy and went down quickly.

- + What did the Lord say to Moses?
- + What are the divisions of the Tent?
- + Of what use was every thing in it?

Moses went down and gathered the people and asked them to give their gifts (Explain how the people were happy to offer their gifts and how they gave many things). They began to make the Tent. They set it up. The glorious presence of God in the Tent made all the people to keep silent in submission. They all rejoiced and thanked the Lord as we thank Him for His presence with us in the church nowadays.

- + What did the people do?
- + Describe their feelings.

### ***Exercise***

Lets remember this story when we enter the church so that we may feel the presence of God in the church, and offer our prayers and worship with submission.

### ***Homework***

Draw a picture of the Ark of the Covenant, the Table, the Lamp and the altar of incense.

### ***Instruction***

Make use of a magic lantern to show the Tent of Meetings and its divisions and how the Lord appeared to them in it.

## **(22) The Awesome Ark Of Covenant And The Terrible Plague**

### ***References***

- + 1 Samuel 5,6
- + “The First Book of Samuel” Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. When the Ark of the Covenant was taken into the Temple of Dagon, the Statue of Dagon fell face downwards on the ground. What happens when Christ enters your life through your prayers and supplications?
2. The Lord brought His ancient people out of the Land of Egypt and trust that He will drive sin out.
3. The Lord sanctified the wood as He rested on it. The Spirit rests on the Sacraments in a way that surpasses our understanding, for example, He sanctifies the Table and the person who exercises the sacrament.
4. The Ark of the Covenant struck the Philistines when it was among them.. and those who receive the Holy Communion without repentance or without being prepared, will suffer the same thing.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Showing reverence to the Sanctuary, the Service vessels and the icons

#### ***Verse***

“Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever” (Psalms 93:5)

#### ***Hymns***

+ How sweet Corporals are...

#### ***Aids***

A model of the Ark of the Covenant containing the Two Tablets of the Covenant, the urn holding the manna and Aaron’s rod or pictures of all these. You may also use other picture or draw all these things on the blackboard.

#### ***Notes***

Review questions... Explain the components and contents of the Tent in detail... then do the same with the Ark of the Covenant and the Terrible Plagues.

The Ark of the Covenant contained...(Discussion). The priests carried it before the people on their journeys and in wars. The Levities were dedicated to do this task and to care about all the contents of the Tent. This tribe only cared about the Tent and did nothing else.

- + What were the contents of the Ark of the Covenant?
- + What does it stand for?
- + Who were dedicated for serving it?

There was once a terrible war between the Philistines and the Ancient People and the Philistines defeated the Israelites and took the Ark of the Covenant. The Israelites were ashamed of themselves and were very sad. The Philistines took the Ark and put it in their temple of Dagon with great delight. They exercised their pagan rites (prayers, fire, dancing, etc.). Then they went to bed. Next morning they were surprised to find Dagon falling down with its face to the ground.

They were ashamed of that. They set it up again. The upper half of the statue of Dagon was in the form of a man and the lower part in the form of a fish. Early the following morning they saw that the statue had again fallen down in front of the Covenant Box. This time its head and both its arms were broken off and were lying in the doorway. What a shame! They went back home feeling severe pains. The next morning, they went with difficulty to their fields... mice devoured the crops.

- + What is the name of the enemies?
- + What did the Ark of the Covenant do on the first day...and on the second day?
- + How did it affect the people and the crops?

The leaders of the Philistines gathered. The problem must be solved (Describe the scene and the conversations about the Covenant Box... No, etc.). They put it on a wagon. They took two cows and hitched them to the wagon. The cows started off on the road. They knew their way and the Philistines followed them. The cows kept walking until they entered the city of Beth Shamash. The people there took the Covenant Box with great respect. The Lord blessed that city which honored the Covenant Box.

- + What did the Philistines agree upon?
- + What was the sign that they set?
- + How did they send the Covenant Box back?
- + What happened to the inhabitants of Beth Shamash?

### ***Exercise***

When you enter the church, bow down in worship and kiss the Iconostasis and the Icons.

### ***Homework***

- + Draw a picture of the Covenant Box and Dagon falling down before it.
- + Read Numbers 17

## **(23) Showing Reverence For Priests: Aaron's Rod**

### ***References***

- + Numbers 17
- + "Explanations of the Book of Numbers" Sporting
- + The Sacraments of the Church

### ***To the Servant***

1. Korah, Dathan and Abiram rebelled against Moses and Aaron so they were severely punished. Let's not complain because of what the Lord has given our brethren and deprived us from it. Let us submit our will and heart to Him. Let us not be selfish.
2. The Lord gave Aaron's stick the power to grow and to live. If your life suffers from spiritual dryness and if your service suffers from spiritual barrenness, lay your hopes on Christ.

3. The rod is a symbol of St. Mary the Virgin who conceived Christ without human seed. Let us take Christ into our hearts and our life and let us always intercede with His kind mother.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Children should show reverence for our fathers the priests and pray for them so that the Lord may help them to care about us.

#### ***Verse***

“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me”  
(Matthew 10:40)

#### ***Hymns***

+ I love our father the priest...

#### ***Aids***

Some vestments, pictures, a model of the Ark of the Covenant, some sticks, etc

#### ***Notes***

Questions about the awesome Ark of the Covenant, its plagues, its blessings, the carriers of the Covenant Box then questions about who baptized us, give us communion and the difference between a priest and a deacon who reads the Holy Bible and the Epistles.

Some persons of the Old Testament desired to become priests. They rebelled against Moses and Aaron (What did they say?) Those rebelled were Korah, Dathan and Abiran and 250 other leaders. They rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. When Moses heard this, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, then he said, “Tomorrow morning the Lord will show us who belongs to him... Take fire pans put live coals and incense on them and take them to the altar. Then we will see which of us the Lord has chosen”. They all went home (What do you think people said to each other on that night? May Moses win victory over those wicked people... O Lord, punish those wicked people... etc.).

- + What are the names of the rebels?
- + Against, whom did they rebel? Why?
- + What did Moses do?
- + What did Moses arrange so that the Lord might declare his desire?

Next morning, the rebels came carrying censers. All the people assembled to see what would happen... Moses and Aaron prayed: “O Lord, solve this problem...” Every man took his fire pan, put live coals and incense on it... The ground shook under them... They all cried in fear... The earth split under them and swallowed them.

The others ran away in great fear... They searched for the rebels but they were under the ground. The Lord honored Moses and Aaron.

- + What happened in the early morning?

+ How did the Lord declare His will?

The Lord wanted to show the people that He had chosen Moses and Aaron. He ordered the leaders of the community to give Moses twelve sticks, one from the leader of each tribe and to write each man's name on his stick. Aaron also did so. The Lord said to Moses: The stick of the man I have chosen will sprout. Moses then put all the sticks in the Tent in front of the Lord's Covenant Box. The next day, when Moses went into the Tent, he saw that Aaron's stick had sprouted. It had budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds. How did that happen? In no time... without water or soil! It was a miraculous deed... They all showed respect for Aaron and came to kiss his hand and ask him to forgive them and pray for them. The same as we do now when we kiss the hand of the priest as it is he who puts Christ's Body on his hands, preach us, receives our confessions and prays for us.

### ***Exercise***

Go to confession, receive the Holy Communion and pray for our priest that the Lord may help him to serve us.

### ***Homework***

+ Complete the following: When ....., ....., and ..... rebelled against ..... and ..... the Lord declared that He had chosen Aaron when his ..... sprouted.

+ Read Numbers 15

### ***Recitation***

+ Children study Matthew 5:1-12

## **(24) Observe The Lords Day: Keep It Holy**

### ***References***

+ Numbers 15

+ "Explanation of the Book of Numbers" Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. We do not always observe Sunday, the Lord's Day... We thank God for He is merciful to us. He does not treat us the same way as He treated the people of the Old Testament.
2. Let us observe Sunday... let us worship the Lord, receive the Holy Communion, read the Holy Bible, give alms, not to do anything that can be postponed so that we may devote our time to prayers and contemplation.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Observing Sunday as it is the day on which the Lord rose from the dead by receiving communion, reading the Bible, attending Sunday School and helping the poor.

### *Verse*

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8)

### *Hymns*

+ Sunday, the Lord’s Day...

### *Notes*

Draw several pictures to represent the way of observing the Lord’s Day: a person praying, a person bowing down, a person receiving communion, a person reading the Bible, a visit to a poor person.

- + What are the Ten Commandments?
- + Why did the Lord command that the Sabbath should be observed?
- + What did the children of Israel do on the Sabbath?
- + What is the Lord’s Day now after Crucifixion? Why was Sunday chosen?

One day, while the Israelites were still in the wilderness, a man was found gathering firewood on the Sabbath. He was taken to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community and was put under guard because it was not clear what should be done with him (Write down the conversation that ran among the people, between the men and Moses and between Moses and the man). Then the Lord said to Moses, “The man must be put to death, the whole community is to stone him to death outside the camp. So the whole community took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the Lord had commanded.

- + What did the man do?
- + What did Moses say at first?
- + What did the Lord say to him?
- + Why did the Lord command that all the community was to stone him? (So you may not forget that breaking this commandment is dangerous).

### *Exercise*

Hold a conversation about how to keep Sunday holy... Let the children give their suggestions... Then make an agreement with the children to go to church and attend the Holy Mass, receive the Holy Communion, pray, read the Bible, visit the sick people and the poor people on that day in particular.

### *Homework*

Which of the following sentences are right:

1. The Jews observe the Sabbath.
2. The Christians observe the Sabbath.
3. Keeping Sunday holy means that on that day we are to play with our friends.
4. Christ likes us to visit the poor people on Sunday.

## **(25) Concern For The Churches And Mending Them: Servant Ibrahim El Gohary**

## ***References***

+ “The Precious Gem” (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part 2

## ***To the Servant***

Ibrahim El Gohary bore witness to Christ in a dark age. He was a high government official. We, as Christians, need such a good example to follow. Although he was rich, he did not neglect his duty towards God and the church. His position as a minister did not make him neglect his responsibility towards building and mending the churches. He did not threaten those who persecuted his brother. The Spirit of Christ that abode in him taught him how to love and forgive people although he was able to avenge.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Caring for building churches, feeling happy to do that, offering gifts, praying so that the Lord may establish a church in every place that needs a church.

### ***Verse***

“I was glad when they said to me: Let us go into the House of the Lord” (Psalms 1 22:1)

### ***Hymns***

+ In Your house... in Your home...

### ***Aids***

A picture of Ibrahim El Gohary, models of churches or their pictures

### ***Notes***

Questions on observing the Lord’s Day: the church as a place where the Lord dwells among the believers.

We remember how King Solomon laid the foundation of the Temple. What did he need? How did men volunteer to carry wood, stones, etc. and how did they build the temple and decorate it? How did they make the tools?

This deed pleases the Lord... When we love His house and care for building churches everywhere. This was the virtue of a great man named Ibrahim El Gohary. He lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of the Mamelukes and Mohamed Ali. He was the Chief Clerk of the Prime Minister at that time and he had a great authority and was very rich. He was a pious Christian who practiced means of grace (give examples).

+ What is the name of that man?

+ What was his job?

+ What were his characteristics?

He was promoted to the post of the Chief Clerk of the whole country of Egypt because he was competent and honest. He was a true Christian and thought only how to please Christ and glorify His name through that his post. He spent his money on the poor and the needy... but he was not



satisfied. He thought of doing greater deeds. He asked the priests and the people. He noticed that there were places without churches although many Christians lived in them. Other places were very poor and to these he sent a lot of money ...and he mended the churches that needed mending.

He mended the monasteries and sent them what they needed such as oil, wheat, candles, incense etc. The endowment contracts he devoted for the churches and the monasteries reached 238 contracts) (The Servant gives appropriate questions for each stage).

### ***Exercise***

Pray for the spread of the church.

When you hear of such a project offer your money and gift; with delight.

### ***Homework***

+ Read 1 Samuel 2

+ Complete the following:

1. I was glad when they said to me .....
2. Ibrahim El Gohary cared for ..... and the ..... churches and monasteries and he endowed .....
3. When we hear that a church is being built we must ..... and ..... so that the Lord may set up the building.

## **(26) Showing Reverence For The House Of God: Eli The Priest**

### ***References***

+ 1 Samuel 2

+ “First Book of Samuel” Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. A minister’s sin is more dangerous than other people’s sin as it makes people indifferent to the holies of God.
2. Be careful about your senses, your conduct, your dealings and your feelings. If we neglect our duty towards sinners and wrong doers by giving advice to them the Lord will punish us.
3. We have to show cordial true clear love and respect for the house of God as in doing this the children will imitate us.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Children should show reverence for the House of God by entering and going out with reverence and prayer, by sitting calmly, listening and understanding what is said.

### ***Verse***

“My house shall be called a house or prayer for all the nations” (Mark 11:17)

### ***Hymns***

+ In Your house... in Your home...

### ***Aids***

+ Pictures of churches, the picture of the Tent, etc

### ***Notes***

+ The House of the Lord is holy because the Lord is present in it by His Body and Blood.

+ Conduct discussion about how to enter the church

+ What shall we say: "But I through the abundance of Your steadfast love will enter Your house. I will worship toward Your holy temple in Your fear". Pray before you go to bed. Pray while you are walking in the street. Pray during the mass. Watch how the priest and the deacons act and move and try to understand. Receive the blessings of the icons. Do not give your back to the Sanctuary when you go out (Questions about this stage).

In fact, the Lord insists on keeping His house holy. In the Old Testament, there was a priest named Eli. He had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas who helped him. The people offered their sacrifices. There was a certain order for doing that. The priest took his position... Hophni and Phinehas were wicked men who sinned in the house of the Lord. The sons of Eli were scoundrels. They paid no attention to the Lord or to the regulations concerning what the priests could demand from the people. The people were annoyed and murmured against them. Many of them despised the Holy Place (Questions).

The Lord heard the people's complaints and saw the evil deeds. He was angry with Eli and his sons. He ordered Eli to rebuke them. Eli advised them not to do that again but gently. The Lord was angry with Eli. The boy Samuel was in the temple. The Lord appeared to Samuel and told him that he decided to kill Eli and his sons. Eli knew the judgment of the Lord and was sad (Questions).

There was a severe war. The Israelites were defeated. Hophni and Phinehas were killed in battle. Eli heard the sad news. He knew that the enemies took the Covenant Box. He fell to the ground and died. So those who despised the holy place of the Lord died.

### ***Exercise***

Observe how you enter, go out of, and stand in the House of the Lord.

### ***Homework***

Choose the suitable words from the second column to complete the words from the first column:

Eli the priest was	please the Lord
The Boy Samuel	a high priest
Hophni and Phinehas died	because they despised the House of the Lord

### ***References***

- + Numbers 16:41-50
- + Revelation 5:8
- + “The Precious Pearls - The Minaret of the Holies”

### ***To the Servant***

1. When you see the incense in the church, let your prayers go up with them so that the Lord may accept them as sweet-smelling incense with the prayers of the saints.
2. Attend the Prayer for the Raising of Incense, Evening and morning Raising of the Incense, as these are essential bases of the Divine Mass.
3. Let the aroma of Christ spread in all the sides of your life. Let your sweet-smelling life affect the life of others through your perpetual testing of the Presence of God and your perpetual unity with Him.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Emphasizing the ritual spirit in worship and understanding the significance of rites since childhood so that the children may get used to worshipping with joy.

#### ***Verse***

“Let my prayer be set before You as incense” (Psalms 141:2)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Our church everything in you is beautiful...

#### ***Aids***

A censer or a picture of a censer

#### ***Notes***

- + Questions about showing severance for the House of God
- + Questions about how to be attentive when you pray
- + What can you see?
- + Of what use are the incense and the censer?
- + What do they mean?

This censer, which the priest uses in the prayers of the Divine Mass and the incense in it refer to the Virgin Mary (the Virgins Womb). She carried the Divine fire in her womb (Jesus Christ is the sweet-smelling incense and the Divine Fire)...the heavenly Dame...the three chains stand for the Holy Trinity...(Discussion).

- + When does the priest use this censer? in the evening raising of incense...in the morning raising of incense... in preparation for the Holy Mass.
- + Incense is a sweet smelling (aroma) as the sweet-smelling life of the saints.
- + Incense rises up to heaven as the prayers of saints do.

+ Incense spreads everywhere and this refers to the fact that people see the image of Christ in the saints everywhere. So, whenever we see incense, we have to obey the deacon's warning and pray (Questions).

In fact, incense has been used in prayers since the time of Moses and Aaron (Questions about the story of Korah, Dathan and Abirarn and their destruction together with the rebels). Then the whole congregation rebelled against Moses and Aaron. Moses became very sad. The Lord was very angry. The Lord sent an epidemic and more than fourteen thousand people died. All houses were weeping and crying. Moses ordered Aaron to put fire coal in the incense and raise incense. As soon as incense rose, the epidemic stopped. The people thanked the Lord, as the prayers accompanied by incense were powerful. They promised never to rebel again (Questions).

Even in heaven, the Lord Jesus is sitting on the Throne surrounded by twenty-four priests carrying censers filled with incense, which is the prayers of the saints. That is why David says: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before You" (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Attend the Mass. Go early to church to attend the morning raising of incense. Pray to the Lord as soon as you see the censor.

### ***Homework***

Select the right word in parenthesis:

1. Incense is the symbol of (reading the Bible -prayers -love).
2. When Aaron raised incense (the epidemic continued -the epidemic stopped).
3. In heaven there are twenty-four priests surrounding Christ and they are carrying (palm leaves -censers).

### ***Recitation***

+ Luke 2:25-32 Now there was a man in Jerusalem... Children study these verses till lesson 31.

## **(28) The Passover Lamb And The Destroyer**

### ***References***

+ Exodus 12

+ "Explanation of the Book of Exodus" Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. The people wiped the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts and the beams above the doors of their houses.
2. This has a symbolic meaning: The Blood of Christ protected us and the Divine Justice will not punish us. The Blood of Christ forgives us our sins we committed in the past, and purifies us of our sins at present, and sanctifies us for a pure life in the future.
3. Do we submit our life everyday to the Divine Blood by repentance and fellowship.
4. Christ's Blood makes us stand firm in truth. Have you received the Holy Communion recently? May you observe the Sacrament of Sacraments?

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

Children should receive the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood so that the Lord may forgive us our sins as He forgave the ancient people.

### *Verse*

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7)

### *Hymns*

Our Redeemer has called us...

### *Aids*

A big picture of people brushing blood on their doors

### *Notes*

Questions about incense and honoring the Lord's house, the importance of prayers and receiving the Holy Communion (This is the aim of the lesson according to the Unit: Our love for the Church).

Receiving the Holy Communion is very important. This is shown by a story that took place in the Old Testament (The Servant gives many questions about the Israelites' bondage in the land of Egypt, about their suffering and cries, about the Ten Plagues till he comes to the powerful tenth plague). The Lord commanded Moses and Aaron to tell the people that each family would kill a lamb named the Passover lamb "The Pasch Lamb" (Pasch = Passover). They should take part of the blood and lay it on the doorposts and the upper beam so that when the destroyer saw the blood, he would pass and would not kill them. He told them to eat the lamb's meat in the evening with bitter herbs, their loins girded, their staffs in their hands, their lamps lit, as they should be prepared to go out of the Land of bondage (Children already know the story so you can give the lesson through discussion). At midnight the angel came and killed the Egyptians and saved the Israelites because they offered the sacrifice. The blood was put in the shape of a cross. The Pasch lamb stood for the Lord Jesus whose blood was poured on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

We commit many sins (disobedience -sins of the tongue -anger -dispute -selfishness). If the Lord judged us, He would destroy us as he did with those sinners... but He who desires to escape punishment, must receive the Holy Communion, the Blood of Christ. When the angel sees the blood, he will pass away (Discussion about the blessings of the Holy Communion). Be prepared when you go to receive the Holy Communion. Repentance before receiving the Holy Communion is a must.

### *Exercise*

Go to confession in the spirit of repentance after you count your sins... then receive the Holy Body and Blood.

### ***Homework***

Match the following:

The Pasch lamb	is a symbol of	Christ's blood
The blood of the lamb	is a symbol of	The Lord Jesus
The angels passing	is a symbol of	the Lords forgiveness

## **(29) An Idea About The Propitiation**

### ***References***

- + "The Book of Levities and its Explanation" Sporting
- + "The External everlasting Church"
- + "With Christ in His Passions, Death and Resurrection"

### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate the five offerings of the Old Testament and how they conform to the work of the cross.
2. Contemplate your private life and how it needs the blood of Christ.
3. Do we live with the work of salvation, which liberates us from every sin?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Appreciation for the expiatory work of Christ for us through repentance on our part

### ***Verse***

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness or sins" (Ephesians 1:7)

### ***Hymns***

+ My cross... my cross...

### ***Aids***

A big picture of the Tent of Meeting or the Temple with its altars or the picture of the lesson

### ***Notes***

Questions about the Pasch Lamb and its symbols of Christ and the several sacrifices the ancient people offered.

The ancient people offered any sacrifices such as:

- a) A sin offering.
- b) A Sacrifice of peace offering...they ate of it and it refers to receiving the Holy Communion.
- c) The burnt offering.

The sacrifices were continually offered so that the Lord's anger might be raised. Why did the Lord forgive them after they offered their sacrifices!

We all know that Adam sinned and was driven out of Paradise and no longer dwelt with God (Discussion). The Lord loved Adam and Eve in spite of their sins but the Lord hates sin. He wanted to punish Adam (Why!). The wages of sin is death. If you eat... you shall die. Was it possible that Adam would die for his sins and rise again? This is Impossible as he who dies in sin goes to Hades... What would the Lord do? Because of his love for us, He arranged to be incarnated, to take our flesh and be like us in everything except sin... and die... but when the Righteous Christ died, did He go to Hades as the sinners? No. Then He can rise and raise us with Him... Thus Christ died for us and gave us the eternal and everlasting life... When can this be? When we repent and worship Him all the time (Discussion about the effect of sin on us and about the work of Christ through the cross).

### ***Exercise***

Let's remember the Crucified Christ every day at noon and count our sins, which are like nails in his body. Let us ask Him to forgive us. Let us repent (Give examples). After the lesson stand up quietly before the Cross of the Church.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the children of Israel offer sacrifices?
2. What did these sacrifices stand for?
3. What did Christ do to save us from death?
4. Read Mark 4.

## **(30) The Lord's Supper**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 26
- + John 6
- + The seven church sacraments

### ***To the Servant***

1. Judas the traitor was one of those who ate the Passover. Search your heart and see if there is any betrayal in it. Confess it and walk straight with the Lord (Self -Love -Sin which is loved is a bad habit -a holy relationship).
2. The Lord washed His disciples feet before He gave them the Holy Communion...be ready for receiving the Holy Communion.
3. When you receive communion be sure that you can see the Lord Jesus surrounded with believers in one body, one loaf of bread, and you will understand the meaning of the church and her members.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Concentrate on the mystery of Qurban and the importance of receiving the Holy Communion. Make sure that all the children have received the Holy Communion.

### ***Verse***

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him” (John 6:56)

### ***Hymns***

+ Our Redeemer has called us...

### ***Aids***

The altar if possible...or a picture of them...or a picture of the Lord's Supper

### ***Notes***

Questions about expiation and the importance of receiving the Holy Communion followed by discussions about how this sacrament was established.

The Lord spent more than three years with His disciples. He taught them words of eternal life. The time for His crucifixion drew near but they did not understand His plans. The Passover feast drew near. He sent two disciples to prepare the Passover meal (In whose house?). The Lord sat with His disciples. They were all happy because of the Passover and the feast. Jesus kept silent. They ate the Passover meal. The Lord took a loaf of bread, prayed, blessed it and divided it --eat this --then He took a cup and blessed it and said... They all ate and drank in silence... (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Examine yourself -go to confession -receive the Holy Communion.

### **Homework**

Choose the correct word:

1. Judas (deserved -did not deserve) to receive the Holy Communion.
2. Receiving Communion with preparation makes us (abide in Christ -Keep away from Christ).
3. After prayers bread and wine become (mere symbols -real body and blood).

## **(31) The Holy Week**

### ***References***

+ The last chapters of the four gospels  
+ “The Holy Week” (Guiza, New Cairo)

### ***To the Servant***

1. May you walk with the Lord while He suffers His Holy Passions...In the spirit of prayer... attending the Pasch prayer... reading Biblical texts and the appropriate spiritual books (such as the Crucified Jesus).
2. Offer Passion Sacrifices on the altar of love as prayers whether in the early morning or the late night.
3. Meditation, knocking the chest, helping others and fasting.



4. After the darkness of the grave comes the glory of resurrection, so do not be afraid of the cross if it comes to you in any form.

### The Lesson

#### *Aim*

Explaining the events of the Holy Week, how the church celebrates the occasion so that the child can attend and be satiated with the rituals of this week.

#### *Verse*

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our inequities” (Isaiah 53:5)

#### *Hymns*

+ The power and the glory be to You...

#### *Aids*

A series of pictures to represent the event of the week

#### *Notes*

What is the name of the week during which the Lord’s Supper took place?

Discuss all the event of the Holy week with questions.

**Sunday:** The Lord entered Jerusalem. What happened on that day? He went back to Bethany.

**Monday:** He went to the Temple... Cursed the fig tree... teachings.

**Tuesday:** Teachings and parables about the destruction of Jerusalem, the second coming and preparation (preparedness).

**Wednesday:** Judas and the High Priest plotted against Jesus.

**Thursday:** Eating the Passover meal...the establishment of Holy Communion Sacraments... the arrest of Jesus Gethsemane... the power of God ...they fell back...healing Malchus’ ear...the judgment before the High Priest all the night.

**Friday:** Trial before the public at dawn... Pilate questions Jesus... Herod questions Jesus...Pilate questions Jesus for the second time...Jesus is sentenced to death... He was to be crucified...the events of crucifixion (passions -nails – thorns, etc. the pains He endured for us. The Power of Christ on the cross...the anger of nature...the temple veil split...the resurrection of the dead...the thief goes to paradise).

**Saturday:** The Lord was in the tomb -He rose on Sunday at dawn (Questions). How the Church celebrates the occasions of this week...The Pasch of the Passover (the angel passed over). Christians in the past celebrated that occasion once every 33 years then Anba Demitrius Al-Karraam arranged that it would be celebrated once a year. It was customary to read the whole bible (The Old and New Testaments) during this week, but Anba Gabriel arranged the texts that should be read during this week (Anba Gabriel was 77<sup>th</sup> Patriarch).

The Servant asks why the church is clothed in black, asks about the sad tones of the hymns, why the sanctuary is closed and when it will open again, why prayers are raised in the back outside the sanctuary (because Christ was crucified outside Jerusalem)... we read the Prophets and the Gospels...we hear sad hymns...we are sad because our sins caused Christ to be crucified...(What

are these sins?)... We talk with Christ every day... hour by hour... On Thursday we perform the Holy Mass because on that day Christ gave His body and blood to us. On Friday we remember his crucifixion and we pray from morning to evening and we bury the crucifixion icon among the roses on the altar as a symbol of Christ's burial. We get it out on the eve on the resurrection (Easter Sunday) after we spend the whole night with the Lord, praising Him and worshipping Him while He is still in the tomb as a sign of our faith and belief in the power of his Cross and His resurrection. (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Attend some of the Pasch prayers especially on Thursday and Friday.

### ***Homework***

Choose the correct word:

1. In the Holy week, we grieve for (Christ -our sins)?
2. The Holy week is called the (Pasch week -the Prayer week)?
3. The word "Pasch" means (love -peace -Passover)?

### ***Recitation***

Luke 11:33-46 till the end of the period.

## **(32) Easter: Christ Appears To Mary Magdalene After The Coming Of Peter And John**

### ***References***

- + John 10
- + "Contemplation on the Resurrection"
- + "From Resurrection to Ascension"

### ***To the Servant***

1. The resurrection of the Lord is a power that heals people of the death of sin. Let us rise from the tombs of sin to live in the power of the victorious life.
2. Resurrection is the key to the everlasting life. The honest souls seek what is above not what is on earth.
3. Resurrection is a victory over the corruption of the flesh and an evidence of redemption and change... submit your body here so that it may be distinguished there.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

We rejoice at the resurrection of the Lord as this enables us to go to heaven to live with him.

### ***Verse***

"He is not here, but he is risen" (Luke 24:6)

### ***Hymns***

+ Children, Christ has risen...

### *Aids*

The picture of Resurrection...the procession of resurrection in the church...repetition of the Resurrection plays in a simple way, etc.

### *Notes*

Describe how the disciples felt after the Lord was crucified... They spent the Sabbath (Saturday) in the house as they could not go out... They all slept the night before the Resurrection (Mary Magdalene did not sleep because she desired to see Christ). She went out at dawn (Conversation with the children:

- + Where did she go?
- + Isn't she afraid of people?
- + How will she meet the guards?
- + Who will roll the stone for her?

She arrived at the tomb... a surprise... the stone was rolled away. She went back quickly and told the disciples. Peter and John went quickly to the tomb to see what happened. Peter ran and John ran... John went before Peter... He looked... the shrouds were in their place... the handkerchief is put at a separate place near the shroud... John entered the tomb... He believed that Jesus rose from the dead (Questions).

Mary was weeping. She bowed to look into the tomb... but she saw two angels in white... they were sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet "Woman, why are you weeping?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing. She thought that He was the gardener...so she said to him, "If I you took Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him". Jesus said to her, "Mary". She saw Him... He told her to go to the disciples to tell them the good news... They all rejoiced (Questions).

The apostles were happy... They congratulated one another. "The Lord has risen". They preached His resurrection. They held prayer meetings. They contemplated the resurrection of the Lord. They read the scripture... they read the prophecies... They spoke to people about Jesus. The people were happy (Questions).

### *Exercise*

Visit an orphanage or some poor people and offer gifts and help them... or visit some sick people... Read the events of the Resurrection in the Holy Bible.

### *Homework*

Copy chapter 20 from the Gospel of St. John.

## **(33) Do Not Swear At All (A Story Of Peter The Jeweler)**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 5:34
- + James 5:12

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Do not swear at all.

### ***Verse***

“Do not swear at all” (Matthew 5:34)

### ***Aids***

The whole story should be acted (a shop -a purse -a book -money. three persons).

The Story: One of non-Christian merchants left a deposit of 100 pounds with a Christian Jeweler named Uncle Peter and then went to a far country where he stayed for many years. Uncle Peter waited for him but he did not come back. Uncle Peter sold his shop to another Christian Jeweler whose name was also Uncle Peter... Two years later, the merchant returned and went to the old shop of Uncle Peter and asked for his deposit that he left with him. But the second Peter knew nothing about this deposit and said that he did not take any money from him. The merchant was surprised and asked him to swear by the Holy Bible but Peter refused to do so whatever happened even if he gave him the money. And he gave him the sum of money he asked although he knew nothing about it so that he might not swear.

The Lord desired to show his glory and to declare Uncle Peter’s innocence as he observed the commandment “Do not swear at all”. When the first Peter met the merchant and gave him his money and knew what happened, they both went to Uncle Peter (the second one) to give him his money back. The merchant was deeply affected by the superiority and purity of the Christian teachings. He was baptized and became a Christian.

Types of common vows that annoy our guardian angel and make him cover his face are:  
By the name of God -Christ -Gospel -the Cross -The Holy Communion -the saints

### ***How to stop swearing:***

- + Pray
- + To feel that swearing grieves the Lord
- + Convince people that you say the truth. Your words should be either yes or no.

### ***Exercise***

Do not swear at all. Test yourself and go to confession.

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. Let what you say be simply ..... or .....
2. Swear not .....

3. The Lord declared Uncle Peter's innocence because he did not .....

### **(34) Recitation: Coptic Words**

Jesus = Isous  
God = Ivnoty  
Our Father = Peniot  
Love = agapi  
Christ = Pikhristos  
Savior = Soteer  
Pray = Ishleel  
Peace = Ireeni  
And with the Spirit = Ke to ibnevmati so

#### ***Notes***

Write the words on the blackboard and ask the children to copy them.

#### ***The verses studied in this period are:***

1. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy (Exodus 2:8), Lesson 24.
2. Unless one is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5) Lesson 20.
3. Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord (Psalms 93:5), Lesson 22.
4. My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations (Mark 11:17), Lesson 26.
5. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him (John 6:56), Lesson 30.
6. When they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11), Lesson 18.
7. I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord (Psalms 122:1), Lesson 21,22.
8. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins {Ephesians 1:7}, Lesson 28,29.
9. Do not swear at all (Matthew 5:34), Lesson 33.
10. Let my prayer be set before You as incense (Psalms 141:2), Lesson 27.
11. He is not here, but He is risen (Luke 24:6), Lesson 32.
12. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent me (Matthew 10:40), Lesson 23.

#### ***Recitation Texts for this period are:***

+ Matthew 5:1-12  
+ Beatitudes  
+ Luke 2:25-32  
+ Luke 12:23-46

The children have to study them and the Servant has to encourage them through competitions to make sure that they have studied them.

## *The Third Period*

### **(35) The Feast Of St Mark: His Martyrdom**

#### ***References***

- + The Story of the Coptic Church
- + The Precious Gem
- + St Mark the Evangelist of Egypt and the Martyr
- + Synaxarium -Barmudah 30

#### ***To the Servant***

1. As ministers, our souls need the apostolic spirit with which St. Mark evangelized. He came to Alexandria. He knew no one there. He knew that he would face the many philosophical attitudes, the Eastern philosophy, the Jewish philosophy, the ancient Egyptian philosophy, etc. Idols here and there...capable philosophers... a great civilization... but he came to Alexandria filled with the work of the Spirit and the image of Christ drawn on his face so he succeeded in his evangelism.
2. St. Mark sacrificed his blood for Christ and for us. We have to be prepared for martyrdom... to go to Gethsemane and to Golgotha.
3. We have to submit our life to the Lord. It is He that will guide us to victory and open the closed doors for us.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Bearing witness to Christ even if our blood is shed for Him.

#### ***Verse***

“And they overcome him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Revelation 12:11)

#### ***Hymns***

+ St. Mark... St. Mark...

#### ***Aids***

A big picture of St. Mark with candles put before it. The procession of the icon for class, if possible.

#### ***Notes***

- + Who is this?
- + What is that beside him?
- + Why do we draw this lion beside St. Mark?
- + Does anyone know the story?

St. Mark is called the Evangelist of Egypt. He wrote the Gospel of St. Mark so the church calls him the Evangelist. He preached the word of God so he is called the Preacher. He is called an apostle, as he was sent to many countries, one of them is Egypt. He is called the Martyr as he was martyred bearing witness to Christ. We celebrate his martyrdom and his going to heaven on the 30<sup>th</sup> of Barmudah (May 8<sup>th</sup>) each year. St. Mark was a young man living in the North of Africa with his parents who were Jews and who were merchants. The family was rich in material and spirit so St. Mark was brought up in faith. The barbarians attacked the city and looted it. They left for Palestine. That was a Divine arrangement so that St. Mark may meet the Lord Christ when he was in the Flesh with us on this earth (Describe the family feelings when they were gathering their furniture to depart... pains... submission to the will of God... They did not understand why... The reason is the Lord's existence (Questions)).

They reached Palestine. Barnabas was his uncle, his mother's brother. They visited him... he comforted them. He spoke to them about Christ who came and to whom he became His disciple... Mark rejoiced... He asked to see Him... Barnabas took Mark with him. Jesus was pleased with Mark. When Mark returned home and told the family about what Jesus said and did... Mark walked with Jesus...his father did not believe ...One day he was outside home... he went on a journey... Lions appeared... his parents were afraid... his father asked him to keep away from the fierce animals but Mark assured them that he would kill them in the Name of Jesus... They warned him...He drew near the animals and prayed... The lions fell down hence we draw a lion in the picture...look at the picture... His father believed in the Lord Christ (Questions).

The Lord Jesus preached and Mark was with Him... The Lord chose him to be one of the seventy apostles. Mark rejoiced at this... The Lord was arrested, crucified, resurrected, appeared to His disciples and ascended to the heavens. The apostles evangelized the word... Mark went with Paul to Asia Minor... Then he went to Cyprus... and then to Alexandria (describe the story of his coming to Alexandria and how his shoe was torn, his feeling of loneliness in Alexandria, etc.). He prayed to the Lord to guide him. He met Inianus and began his evangelism. The establishment of the Church of Egypt began and succeeded. It stretched its influence all over the country... St Mark ordained Inianus Patriarch. He ordained priests and deacons. Then he traveled to the North of Africa and to Rome where he met Peter and Paul and stayed with them till they were martyred. He came back to Alexandria and found the church nourishing and he thanked the Lord (Questions).

On Easter Day (It happened that the feast of Sirabis was on that day), the pagans were annoyed. They gathered together and attacked the church. They kidnapped him and tied him to horses. They dragged him in the streets till his body was tom to pieces. They put him in prison. Christ appeared to him (Describe the feelings of the Christians and the feeling of St. Mark when he saw the Lord encouraging him). In the morning they repeated what they did the previous night. He died. They made an attempt to bum his body. Heavy rains prevented them. Christians came and buried his body with great respect. Sailors from Venice took his body but left his head that is still kept up till now in the church of Alexandria. His relics returned to Egypt in 1968, 19 Centuries after his martyrdom. International celebrations took place in the great Cathedral of Abbasya. (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Let us bring our brothers the Christians of our school to the church and Sunday School.

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. St Mark was martyred on 30 ..... of May.
2. St. Mark preached in Minor ..... and in ..... of Africa and in ..... where he was martyred.
3. St. Mark's head is kept in his church in ..... and his body is not in .....

### ***Instructions***

1. Concentrate on the wonderful way of St. Mark's martyrdom, his happiness and the power of his martyrdom.
2. Repeat the verse several times during the lesson.
3. You can use St. Mark's hymn during the lesson.
4. Make the icon procession so that the church Spirit may be acquired.

## ***The Unit Of The Virtuous Life***

### **(36) Prayer: Hannah, Samuel's Mother**

### ***References***

- + "The Life of Samuel" by Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + 1 Samuel 1

### ***To the Servant***

1. Prayer is the feelings of a needy heart not the expression of the mind and lips.
2. The Lord gave Hannah a great blessing at last.
3. It is easy for a man to have children, but Samuel was a spiritual son as he was given to the Lord.
4. How lovely the spirit of dedication is... Hannah left her son in the Temple... How lovely the same spirit that affected Samuel is.
5. If you are suffering from spiritual bareness, true prayers accompanied with tears is the only way for the success and the fruits of your service.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The heaven answers sincere prayers.

### ***Verse***

"And prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish, then she made a vow" (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

### ***Hymns***

- + When I feel tired...



### ***Aids***

The picture of Samuel praying, picture of the Temple, and picture of the altar and the priest

### ***Notes***

In the Old Testament... Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Perinnah. The second wife had children and the first did not have children. She was depressed because she had a desire that Christ would be her descendant. Perinnah despised her. Elkanah was a good-hearted man. He comforted her all the time (Describe Hannah's bitter feelings and some of the aggressive attitude of Perinnah without giving details about negative effects. Concentrate on the positive ones. Of course a picture of Perinnah must make the child hate her bad qualities (Questions).

On the feast day, all the people were happy, each on in his house... arrangement of clothes, sacrifices and vows... happiness was everywhere... Children play and speak about the journey and the rituals of the feast. Hannah was sad and she wept... Elkanah was much affected... he loved her... he comforted her... He tried to convince her to eat... They ate and drunk in Shiloh... Eli the priest... Censers... clothes... circuits... sacrifices and hymns... etc. All the people were happy except Hannah (Questions).

Hannah went alone to the Temple to pray... She was deeply depressed... She prayed.

+ To whom was she praying?

+ How was she praying? (Tears -worship -meditation -striking the chest -sighing -unheard voice).

The priest noticed this. He thought that she was a drunken woman. He advised her not to drink wine (Here you can speak in detail about the lively conversation between Eli and Hannah and make use of this conversation to teach everything about prayer, how the Lord answers our prayers... submission, patience, the Lord's promises and steadfast love). Eli told her that the Lord will give her a son... she rejoiced. She went out...She thanked the Lord... Everyone noticed the change (Questions). They went back home. The feast ended. Days went by. She gave birth to Samuel. She rejoiced. They all rejoiced. She waited till she weaned him. On the feast day she took him to the temple and gave him to Eli the priest (another lively conversation between them - Eli rejoiced as the promise was fulfilled... They were all around them, listening and thanking the Lord. Samuel stayed in the Temple and he became a great prophet (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Pray so that your problems may be solved (a child who annoys me, sickness, poverty, etc.).

### ***Homework***

+ Match the words:

Hannah	had children
Perinnah	had no children
Elkanah	is Hannah's son
Samuel	is Hannah's and Perinnah's husband

+ Draw a picture of Samuel.

### ***Recitation***

+ The Sacraments: The Sacrament of Baptism (John 3:5)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God”. That is why my father the priest immersed me three times in water... in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So I have become the Lord’s son and I attained the new nature.

+ In the old Testament women who did not have children grieved as they were not going to be mothers of the expected Messiah.

### **(37) Prayer: King Hezekiah**

### ***References***

+ 2 Kings 20

### ***To the Servant***

1. Prayer with contrition and confidence pleases God.
2. Confidence in God makes the simple tools very fatal sickness.
3. The pure heart sees the Lord and understands His purpose... Isaiah the prophet is a blessed model of this.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The power of the prayer that is offered with faith and contrition

### ***Verse***

“I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you” (2 Kings 20:5)

### ***Hymns***

+ When I feel tired...

### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson... A big picture of Isaiah or Hezekiah, or one of the Royal Palaces

### ***Notes***

Hezekiah was a good King. When he became King, he found that the Israelites worshipped idols and the bronze serpent (who remembers its story?). The king burnt them and destroyed the altars of idols and stopped that worship. He mended the Lord’s house, opened it and began worship in it. The kingdom flourished during his reign whether in civil domains or in spiritual domains. The Lord was pleased with him because of his fidelity so he made him overcome his enemies through many miraculous deeds. His guardian angel killed 185,000 of his enemies when Assyria besieged Jerusalem (The story is found in 2 Kings 18,19) (Questions about Hezekiah’s deeds).

King Hezekiah fell ill and almost died. The prophet Isaiah went to see him. Hezekiah longed to know the will of God... a lively conversation between them. "The Lord tells you that you are to put everything in order, because you will not recover. Get ready to die" Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed (What did he say to the Lord?). Isaiah left the king, and before he passed through the central courtyard of the palace, the Lord told him to go back to Hezekiah, ruler of the Lord's people and say to him, "I have heard your prayer... I will let you live fifteen years longer. I will rescue you from the king of Assyria". Isaiah went back to the king and told him (Describe Hezekiah's feelings when he saw Isaiah coming back. He thought that the Lord might have been displeased with his weeping but when he heard the good news, he rejoiced. The whole members of the Royal family and the people living at the Royal Palace were happy... ministers; chiefs, soldiers, and servants rejoiced... hymns, lights (Questions). They asked Isaiah, "What shall we do to the King? Shall we bring doctors?" But Isaiah said, "The Lord will perform a miracle. Doctors cannot heal him. Put a paste made of figs on the boil and he will get well". Some of them doubted... others were confident... They put the paste made of figs on the boil and waited... The king got well... he was healed... happiness increased... The news was fulfilled... it came true... The king asked for a sign and Isaiah spoke to him... Give me a sign... I cannot imagine that I shall live. The shadow will go back ten steps. The sun went back ten steps... They were all surprised and praised the Lord... The king got well and left his bed... he began to work as usual... He served the Lord till he died after fifteen years (Questions).

+ John said, "You have been anointed by the Holy one, and you all know... I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and know that no lie is of the truth". That is why my father the priest anointed me 36 times all over my body so I have become a Temple and a Dwelling Place of the Holy Spirit.

+ The Lord himself added 15 years to Hezekiah's life. Explain that the paste of figs in itself was not the cause of healing but it was only a means.

### ***Exercise***

If you see a sick man in your house, when you visit someone -in the street or anywhere -raise your heart with prayer for him so that you will hear the Lord's words: I have heard your prayers.

### ***Homework***

Say whether these statements are right or wrong:

1. Isaiah was a great king.
2. Hezekiah was an evil king.
3. The paste made of figs healed the dangerous disease with the Power of God.

### ***Recitation***

+ The Sacraments of God

+ The Sacrament of Chrism (Myron)

## **(38) The Wisdom: Story Of The Son To Whom...**

### ***References***

+ 1 Kings 3:16-27

+ “Explanation of First Book of Kings” Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. How lovely Solomon’s request was! He did not desire wealth... He did not want the heads of his enemies... He only asked for wisdom. Examine the types of your requests and concerns... are they spiritual or according to the desires of the flesh?
2. Wisdom is necessary for the spiritual road... and for everyday life... Pray to the Lord... the Father of Lights, to grant you wisdom.
3. St. Anthony taught his disciples that wisdom and separation are the most important virtues. Prayer, fasting, abstinence, and the life of poverty, and charity without separation can destroy man instead of rescuing him if they are practiced with pride and haughtiness.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Ask the Lord to give you wisdom before you do anything such as studying or playing.

#### ***Verse***

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10)

#### ***Hymns***

- + God in His heaven...
- + Praise the Lord...

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson... A picture of a palace and a throne

#### ***Notes***

Review questions... a linking point. There was a great king named Solomon before the good king Hezekiah.

Solomon became king after David his father. Describe how he was enthroned... He went to Gibeon to pray and ask the Lord to give him the grace of work. The Lord appeared to him and asked what he wanted to be given (Conversation between the Lord and Solomon. He did not ask for wealth or the death of his enemies or a long life but he asked for wisdom). The Lord was pleased and gave him everything. He began his rule with wisdom. They all noticed it and thanked the Lord (Questions).

One day two women came and presented themselves before king Solomon (let us call them the honest woman and the dishonest woman). They were weeping. They complained. They were living in the same house. They gave birth to two baby boys. One night, the dishonest woman accidentally rolled over her baby and smothered him. She got up during the night and replaced her dead son with the honest woman’s live son. The next morning when the honest woman woke up and was going to feed her baby, she saw that he was dead. She screamed (Describe the mother’s feelings). She looked at him more closely and saw that he was not her child. She ran to the dishonest woman and told her: this is your son... where is my son? The dishonest woman

replied: No, this is my son (Describe the feelings of the real mother, and their quarrel and their decision to go to king Solomon). The people standing at the king's palace were listening in amazement. How will this problem be solved? What will the king do? He will he prove the truth of either of these women? They were all perplexed... tears... discussion (Questions).

The king raised his heart to the Lord and prayed for wisdom. He sent for a sword and when it was brought he said, "Cut the living child in two and give each woman half of him". The real mother, her heart full of love for her son, said to the king, "Please...your Majesty, don't kill the child: Give him to her". But the false mother said, "Don't give him to either of us, go ahead and cut him in two" (Describe the feelings of the real mother and the indifference of the false mother). Then king Solomon said, "Don't kill the child! Give him to the honest woman... she is the real mother". When the people of Israel heard of Solomon's decision, they were all filled with deep respect for him, because they knew that God had given him the wisdom to settle disputes fairly. They said, "The Lord gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it... The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Pray and ask the Lord to give you wisdom before you study, before the examinations and before you play.

### ***Instructions***

Explain how the problem was complex and strange and that cutting the boy in two was out of wisdom granted by the Lord.

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. King Solomon asked the Lord to give him ..... and the Lord gave it to him.
2. King Solomon said the child was the son of the woman who ..... and not the son of the woman who .....
3. King Solomon was the son of King .....

### ***Recitation***

The Sacraments (Continued): The Sacrament of Repentance and Confession (1 John 1:9)

John the apostle said: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness". So I go to confession and confess my sins... I obey my father of confession and follow his advice. He gives me absolution of my sins.

## **(39) The Danger Of Injustice: Ahab And Naboth Of Jezreel**

### ***References***

+ 1 Kings 21

+ "Explanation of First Book of Kings" Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. Injustice is a common sin -desire for having what belongs to others -cruel treatment - despising others because of their weakness or any spiritual blemish or inherent or social deformity is injustice.
2. Injustice means a denial of the existence of God. It is known that God defends the oppressed and that the oppressor does not see that able supporter.
3. Satisfy yourself with the Lord. Do not desire anything that belongs to this world and its deceptive means but be satiated with what you have.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The child should be accustomed to being satisfied with what he has. Do not desire anything that belongs to others and do not envy them.

#### ***Verse***

“Be content with such thing as you have” (Hebrews 13:5)

#### ***Hymns***

- + God in His heaven...
- + Praise the Lord...

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson -A big picture of the lesson or a vine of grapes -a small vine branch

#### ***Notes***

Review the questions. The linking point -the sharp contrast between Solomon's wisdom and Ahab's injustice as two kings ruling one people.

King Ahab was a wicked king who did evil before the Lord as he married a pagan woman name Jezebel and through her paganism spread among the people of Israel. Jezebel cared for about 850 priests. So the Lord was angry with the people and prevented the fall of rain for three years (Discussion). Ahab did not repent but he went on committing sins and keeping away from the Lord and his heart was thick and dark. He was a cruel man as he sold himself to the devil (Questions).

One day, Ahab went out for a walk... He saw Naboth's vineyard. He asked about the owner of the vineyard (Describe the King and the people around him answering his questions). He sent for Naboth (a conversation between the merciless king and Naboth the poor man who insisted on keeping the land of his fathers for himself.) Ahab fell ashamed before the people. He was annoyed and went back home sadly (Describe how he entered the palace and how the soldiers saluted him and the music that was heard and how he grieved). Jezebel welcomed him. She was surprised to see him sad (A conversation between them... he refused to eat... She encouraged him to treat Naboth cruelly and promised that she would give him the vineyard...Questions).

Jezebel used the king's seal and called for the elders... They proclaimed a day of fasting... They got a couple of scoundrels to accuse Naboth of cursing God... The elders carried out the plan (Describe how they gathered people through horns. People were surprised. What is up? The people came quickly to the place of judgment).

The court was held... They stood in silence... Judgment began... They asked him... he denied... they bore false witness... They stoned him to death... They were all deceived... They left his dead body for the dogs to lick it... They came back to Jezebel (Describe them when they told Jezebel of what they did...Jezebel and Ahab rejoiced). Ahab went out to take possession of Naboth's vineyard... He rejoiced as his hope was fulfilled (Questions).

Next morning, he woke and sat on his throne happily then he went to the vineyard. He saw a man coming from a distance... a girdle of leather around his waist... Ahab was horrified. That was Elijah... "Have you caught up with me, my enemy?" (Describe the conversation between them in a lively way... The Lord's judgment grieved Ahab)... he went sadly back to the palace... He told Jezebel of what happened... Days went by... The Divine words came true... Ahab was killed in the battle and the dogs licked up his blood... and the same thing happened to Jezebel later on (Questions).

### ***Instructions***

Explain that one of the causes of the king's wickedness is that he married a pagan woman and he acted according to her opinion and he agreed to all her wicked thoughts.

### ***Exercise***

When you desire anything that belongs to your colleague, pray and ask the Lord to forgive you and say, "Be content with what you have".

### ***Homework***

Choose the right word:

1. Ahab was (a good king -a wicked king).
2. Jezebel caused the worship of (idols -God) to spread.

### ***Recitation***

Review the previous three Sacraments.

## **(40) Entertaining Strangers: Moses The Black**

### ***References***

+ "St. Moses the Black" by Youssef Habeeb

### ***To the Servant***

1. Entertaining strangers is a Christian virtue and a true expression of the true love, sacrifice and the feeling that we are all one body.
2. This virtue can be expressed through caring for any strangers who come to us, helping them out of love and friendship.

3. St. Moses was not concerned with the way of worship but he was concerned with entertainment and the love for strangers... So we have to treat our guests as Christ did.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The child should be accustomed to showing love for strangers, caring for them and for the guests.

#### ***Verse***

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2)

#### ***Hymns***

+ My Lord we are...

#### ***Aids***

The picture of Moses the Black... Acting some scenes from the story

#### ***Notes***

Review questions...Contemplate the good qualities of the children of God...Another good quality is showing hospitality to strangers...As a sort of introduction you can tell the story of how Abraham entertained the Lord and the angels (Genesis 18)... then you give the Story of another saint.

Moses the Black was a very wicked man when he was young. He was a murderer... adulterer, and a robber. He did not believe in God. He was a mighty man of strong muscles. When he became monk robbers came to rob him. So he tied them and carried them on his back to the monks and forgave them. But St. Moses grieved for his sins. The sinner who keeps away from the Lord is always depressed (Questions).

In the morning he contemplated the beautiful sun. He spoke to it and asked it to guide him to the Lord. The Lord led him to the monks of Natrun Valley so he went to them (Describe the desert journey and Moses' feelings on his way to the Monastery and his prayers that the Lord might lead him in the way of life). He arrived at the monastery which high walls surrounded it and which has a small gate. He saw a rope descending... A bell rang... He spoke to the door keeper...He met Anba Isethorus... Moses' appearance was fearful and horrible... very big... He had a sword in his hand... a sweet talk between them... Moses desired to be a monk... Although I made many sins, I want to be with you. Isethorus welcomed him warmly and guided him. Moses wept and confessed all his sins. He was baptized and became a Christian. He became a monk and struggled against sin till he became a saint (Questions).

Moses continued his struggle through prayers, fasting and reading the Gospel. He faced the devil with power so he did not fall into sin again. He always confessed his sins and received the Holy Communion. The monks noticed his growth in holiness and in serving the monks (He filled their vessels with water at night without telling them). Then Moses became a saint. He was ordained a



priest. He did not judge anyone for his sins but he always said that he was a sinner. He avoided the people's praise. He was an abstinent ascetic. The Lord granted him the gift of performing many miracles.

1. He prayed and rain fell heavily.
2. He cast out demons in the name of Christ.

One of his virtues was the virtue of showing hospitality to strangers. Guests visited him during the Holy Week. The monks used to live on water and salt only but when he saw the guests he received them with joy and remembering the story of our father Abraham... He cooked food for them and ate with them. The brothers misunderstood him at first but then they understood how he loved strangers and remembered the commandment of the Bible. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers.

### ***Instructions***

Explain that the Lord is patient with the people and that He accepts the sinners who return to Him and repent whatever their sins and wicked deeds are... The Lord also shows mercy to them and gives them talents and they become great saints.

### ***Exercise***

Receive your guests with joy and welcome them. Be acquainted with the brothers who attend Sunday School for -the first time.. Show love for them and care for them.

### ***Homework***

Choose the right word:

1. Before his repentance, Moses was (a Christian -a pagan).
2. Moses the Black struggled through (prayers -fasting -laziness -serving monks -eating a lot of food).
3. St. Moses treated the strangers (gently -indifferently).

### ***Recitation***

+ The Sacraments (continued)

+ The Sacrament of Eucharist: The Holy Communion (John 6:54-58). Jesus said: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day... He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him". So I should always receive the Holy Communion and prepare myself to do so through confession, prayer and fasting before I receive the Holy Communion.

## **(41) The Brothers' Love For Each Other: Abraham And Lot**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 14
- + "The Life of Abraham" by Fr. Marcos Daoud
- + "Explanation of Genesis" Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. We should not choose for ourselves according to our desires as human beings to have material things. Lot chose for himself so he was captured, his possessions were burnt in Sodom... he lost his wife... he tortured his righteous soul and the morals of his two daughters became bad.
2. But how great Abraham the father of fathers was when he defended his nephew who was difficult to control.
3. True love forgets the ill treatment of others and remembers the perfect love of God. The true love directs us to Melchizedek (Christ) to receive his blessings and to offer him more worship.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To love our brothers by a pure heart and trouble ourselves to serve them

#### ***Verse***

“Let brotherly love continue” {Hebrews 13:1}

#### ***Hymns***

+ Companions let us go...

#### ***Aids***

A big picture...Scenes...the picture of the lesson

#### ***Notes***

Review questions. The linking point is about love for strangers... and love for brothers...

Our father Abraham had a nephew named Lot. They both walked in the way of the Lord. But unfortunately Lot concerned himself with earthly matters, so when a dispute rose between his servants and Abraham's servants who cared for their cattle Abraham spoke to him gently... and asked him to choose for himself the good land and leave him the rest of the land. Lot lifted his eyes and saw that the Jordan area was good because it contained water, plants and pastures so he chose it... and left the land of Canaan for Abraham. Although Abraham was older than Lot, he was not selfish but he loved Lot (Questions).

A war broke out among many kings and the kings of the area where Lot dwelt. The enemies won victory and looted all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah and took their possessions. Lot, his wife and daughters were among the captives. It was a terrible war. The captives went out of Sodom in rows led by their enemies. They were fiercely and severely treated. Lot thought of himself and repented that he had chosen that place. He was sorry for what he did. He contemplated Abraham's love and unselfishness and how he rescued him from his enemies and how he was then living on his land in comfort (Questions).

While Abraham was sitting in his tent some men came and told him what happened (Describe his worry, weeping and his love for Lot and how some people said that he deserved this punishment

as he chose for himself but Abraham did not judge others. He began to think of a way to save Lot. Abraham called together all the fighting men in his camp and pursued those who captured Lot. They attacked the enemy by night and defeated them. He chased them and recovered the loot that had been taken. Abraham exposed himself to death for his nephew “Let brotherly love continue”. Abraham won a great victory. He brought the captives back to their country. King of Sodom went out to meet Abraham. He thanked him and wanted to reward him but Abraham refused. They all thanked God for that victory. On their way back, there was a surprise... A man named Melchizedek, King of Salem, appeared to them. He was a king and a priest. He brought bread and wine to Abraham and blessed him. Abraham gave him a tenth of all the loot he had recovered. This man is a symbol of Christ who gave us his body and blood and blessed us and we give him a tenth of all that we have. He who loves his brothers sees Christ and Christ loves him. They all went back home with joy and thanked the Lord and were amazed when they saw how much Abraham loved Lot.

### ***Exercise***

Make sure that you love your brothers at home; at school and that you serve them honestly.

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. Let brotherly .....
2. Abraham loved ..... so he pursued the enemies and ..... them and brought Lot back to .....
3. The sign of our love for our brothers is that ..... for them and serve them.

### ***Recitation***

The Sacraments (Continued): The unction of the sick (James 5:4, Mark 6: 13). St. James the apostle says: “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up”. It is written that the disciples anointed many sick people with oil and healed them, so when I feel ill I ask my father the priest to anoint me with oil.

## **(42) Fasting: Daniel And The Food Of The Royal Court**

### ***References***

- + Daniel 1
- + “Fasting” The Paradise of the Soul, Part 2

### ***To the Servant***

1. Fasting is a Holy sacrifice, which we offer to the Lord Christ. As he sacrificed His body and blood for us through His fasting and crucifixion, we also sacrifice our body through hunger and blood through thirst.
2. Fasting is grace and calmness and a blessing for the senses of the body. This kindles the soul and releases her through her worships and activities without any obstacles.

3. Observe fasting Wednesdays and Fridays and all the church fasting. Let it be associated with prayer, contemplation on the Word of God and receiving communion. Abstain from food for a certain period. Consult your father of confession.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The blessings of fasting in our life and the necessity of fasting with the church

#### ***Verse***

“When the bridegroom will be taken from them, and then they will fast” (Matthew 9:15).

#### ***Hymns***

+ Whenever fasting time comes...

#### ***Aids***

A big picture -the picture of the lesson -Acting some scenes.

#### ***Notes***

Review questions: the virtue of brotherly love and Christ’s love for us as He fasted and was crucified for us. We should also fast (Discussion about church fasting).

Wednesdays and Fridays (why?), the Lent, Nativity fasting (40 days + 3 days for Moving the Makkattam Mount), the virgin’s fasting, the apostles fasting, Jonah’s fasting, Vigils, and Private fasting.

Fasting is an old virtue that was practiced in the Old Testament and the Lord ordered Adam and Eve not to eat the fruits of the Tree. If they had fasted, they would not have done that sin... This is fasting... David fasted and Daniel fasted... Daniel was a pious young man. He was an Israelite. When the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and attacked it, they brought him to Babylon as a captive... He was a good-looking young man... He was an educated, intelligent young man. He was successful in his life. He did not stop worshipping God even when he was in the land of his enemies. He was not afraid of them (Questions).

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonian ordered Ashpenaz his chief official to select from among the Israelites’ exiles some young men of the Royal family and of the noble families. They had to be handsome, intelligent, well trained, quick to learn, and free from physical defects so that they would be qualified to serve in the royal court. Ashpenaz and his slaves went out to search for such young men among the captives. Then they brought a number of them (among whom was Daniel and the three young men). Ashpenaz gave them new names; Daniel was named Belteshazzar (Explain how the young men entered the great palace and the meeting Ashpenaz held for them). You will stay here... The king ordered that they should be given royal food and wine. After three years you will see the king so that he may choose whichever he wanted to serve him. They all bowed down and thanked Ashpenaz and declared their complete obedience. The time for dinner came. A filling meal of wine and sweets was presented... The young men rejoiced and began to eat but Daniel and the three young men refused to eat that food. Ashpenaz was

surprised. He asked them (a lively conversation filled with blessed teachings about the necessity of self control, the importance of holding fast to the commandment of God whatever the circumstances may be, attempts made by Ashpenaz to convince them to eat but they insisted on not eating the royal food, etc.). Ashpenaz was a good-hearted man. Daniel suggested for him to let them eat their vegetarian food (vegetables -lentils - beans) and then test them for ten days. Ashpenaz agreed but he was afraid that they might be weak in body and health. Daniel told him that everything would be all right (Questions).

The ten days were over and they entered Ashpenaz's room. They were healthy, lively and good-looking. Ashpenaz was amazed. Daniel bore witness to the work of God, which rewards us for out fasting and holding fast to his commandments by giving us spiritual blessings. He blesses our bodies, souls and health. Ashpenaz admired them and admired their faith and principles. He praised them. They went on like that. When time came for them to be presented before the king, they were much better than the others. The King came (Describe in detail the rites of the meeting and its awesome atmosphere) and chose the four young men. He tested them in wisdom and intelligence. They impressed him more than any of the others. No matter what question the king asked, or what problem he raised, these four knew ten times more than any fortune-teller or magician in his whole kingdom. He appointed them as members of the court (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Let us fast Wednesday and Friday. Let us convince our parent that it is necessary to fast and describe to them the meaning of fasting.

### ***Homework***

Choose the right word:

1. When Daniel and the three young men ate lentils (they became weak -they became strong).
2. Daniel refused to drink wine as it is (illegal -legal).
3. When Daniel suggested eating vegetables, Ashpenaz (agreed -refused).

### ***Instruction***

Explain the blessings and the spiritual benefit of fasting.

### ***Recitation***

The Sacraments (continued): The Sacrament of marriage (Ephesians 5:31,32). St. Paul says: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church". So the priest prays and the bridegroom and the bride become one heart and one soul.

## **(43) Do Not Be Greedy: Gehazi And Noaman The Syrian**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 5
- + "Explanation of 2 Kings" Sporting
- + "The life of Elisha" Nagi Fawzy

### ***To the Servant***

1. We are often greedy and we ask more money for ourselves. We like to hold better posts and be richer. We often envy those who live better than we do.
2. Sometimes we are spiritually greedy and we seek to glorify ourselves and decorate them with artificial virtues to acquire the praise of others.
3. To be greedy means to worship idols, as we in this case, worship idols other than the Lord.
4. Being in the fellowship of the children of God is not everything in our salvation, as we must test the work of God in our hearts. Gehazi, Elisha's servant who was a great man, became a leper because of his sins.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Children should not be greedy looking for more pocket money, more food and more clothes.

#### ***Verse***

“Nor thieves, nor covetous nor drunkards nor revilers nor extortionists will inherit the kingdom or God” (1 Corinthians 6:10)

#### ***Hymns***

+ It is a sin to disobey your father...

#### ***Aids***

A big picture of the lesson... scenes...

#### ***Notes***

Review questions: Daniel was not greedy concerning food and drink. He was content with what he had and what the Lord gave him (a linking point).

There was a great leader named Noaman the Syrian. He was not one of the Israelites. He had an Israelite servant. Noaman was a leper. Leprosy is a dangerous skin disease. Noaman was sad in spite of his great victories. The king loved him and was sorry for him. One day his wife was considering his case and she was sorry for him. The servant asked her gently (a nice conversation that made the wife tell her the problem... The servant gave the solution). The wife believed. The husband came home sadly. His wife announced the good news. He rejoiced and said: I'll take a letter from the king so that I can meet Elisha (Questions).

Noaman went to see the king (Describe the meeting). The letter was quickly written. He went back home and prepared himself to set on a journey...presents... caravan... good wishes... They started the journey. He arrived at Jerusalem... He gave the letter to the King of Israel (Describe the meeting). The king of Israel was afraid thinking there was a plot. Elisha heard the story. He sent for him. They took the Noaman to Elisha. Noaman was angry when Elisha refused to meet him and just told him to go to the River Jordan and dive seven times. His servants convinced him that he should follow Elisha's advice. He dived seven times. He became pure. He rejoiced. He

was thankful to Elisha and the king (Describe Noaman's feelings). He sent many gifts to Elisha (You received without paying, give without paying) (questions).

Noaman and the caravan were on their way back. He had gone only a short distance when Elisha's servant Gehazi was seen running after him...Noaman got down from his chariot to meet him. Gehazi said; "My master sent me to tell you that just now two members of the group of prophets arrived. Please, give them a talent of silver and two festal garments (a lie, love for money, greed)". Noaman rejoiced and gave him more. He went back to Elisha (a conversation with Elisha and Gehazi who was a sinner and became a leper). He had the disease and died a leper and that was the end of love for money (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Do not be greedy when you need money, food and clothes... Share everything with your brothers.

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. Elisha's servant was ..... and he loved .....
2. Love for money made ..... die a leper.
3. Noaman the Syrian was cured of ..... when he washed ..... times in the Jordan.

### ***Recitation***

The Sacraments (continued): The Holy Orders (Timothy 4:14).

### ***Instructions***

1. Explain that the prophets live according to the verse: "You received without paying, give without pay".
2. Explain how Gehazi was punished as a liar as the man of God knew what he had done.
3. Paul the apostle advised Bishop Timothy saying: Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them so that all may see your progress. Thus we see how the Bishop lays his hand on the chosen deacon for the Holy Order and pray over him, thus he becomes a priest.

## ***The Unit Of Heroism***

### **(44) Paul The Apostle: His Service And Toil For The Lord**

### ***References***

+ 2 Corinthians 11

+ Acts 9:13-28

+ "The Apostle of Struggle: The Life of Paul"

### ***To the Servant***

1. Paul the apostle should be our example as ministers. He went all over Asia Minor and Europe and established many churches. His evangelism was full of liveliness, earnest prayers, tears and great sacrifice. What have we done for the Service?
2. Service without toil is far away from being lively and effective... True service is that which attacks the kingdoms of the devil... as successful ministers are perpetual targets for his blazing arrows. But the Lord supports his children in their battle and grants them victory.
3. In his service, Paul did not seek people's support. Many of his friends stabbed him but he held fast to God and to them as he loved all "If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?"

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Love from the Service and seeking those who are keeping away from the church.

#### ***Verse***

"Who is weak and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not burn with indignation?" (2 Corinthians 11:29)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Paul the Apostle preached...

#### ***Aids***

A big map showing Paul's journey... the picture of Paul the apostle.

#### ***Notes***

Review questions concentrating on the virtues taught in each lesson. Questions about the map: sites, journeys, etc.

Paul the apostle was a good example of those who repented and submitted their life to God. The Lord made of him a great hero threatening the kingdom of the devil and bringing many people to the Lord (Discussion about his previous name, his motherland, his study, his Roman and Jewish Nationality, etc.). He was a Pharisee (What does Pharisee mean?). He was against Christianity. He persecuted Christians. His journey to Damascus where he saw the Lord... His renewal...the beginning of his service... (Questions).

The Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13). The apostles sent them on the first journey (The Servant explains the journey on the map and how it was a long hard in the sea and on land and how the Jews resisted the apostles: Bar-Jesus in Cyprus -They were driven out in Perga -They were about to be stoned in Iconium and in Lystra after healing the lame -They went to preach in Derbe -They, again, visited all these countries with rare courage and with love for Christ and Service (Questions).



Paul said to Barnabas: Let us go back and visit our brothers (Acts 15). Paul and Silas began the journey to Cyprus. Paul went to the Asian Countries to encourage them to stand firm in faith. He took Timothy from Lystra as a fruit of the service. He wanted to serve in Asia but the Spirit prevented him. When he saw the Macedonian, he went to Europe where he established Churches at Philippe (Lydia -the girl who predicted the future -the jailer), in Thessalonica (where they were beaten and driven out), in Athens (he was greatly upset when he noticed how full of idols the city was), in Corinth (where he met Aquila and Priscilla and there he was persecuted by the Jews) (Questions).

Then the apostle went on a third journey to Asia Minor. He established a church in Ephesus and stayed there for three years serving them with tears night and day (Acts 19,20).

The Jews rebelled against him. They arrested him in Jerusalem. He was sent to the court several times. The mighty preacher stood before Felix, before Agrippa and before Caesar in Rome... Nyron the tyrant ordered his soldiers to cut his head off and so he was martyred in A.D. 68 (Questions).

### ***Instructions***

Explain how powerful Paul's evangelism was.

### ***Exercise***

Visit your colleagues and your neighbors who do not go to church or to Sunday Schools and bring them with you.

### ***Homework***

Copy 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 and contemplate how the apostle Paul toiled for the Service.

### ***Recitation***

Review the texts about the Sacraments.

## **(45) The Feast Of The Apostles: St. John The Apostle**

### ***References***

- + Revelation 1
- + Synaxarium
- + Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa, Part 1

### ***To the Servant***

1. John the Beloved was a model of prayer and contemplation. He learned all these things because he was always closer to Jesus' side. Do you move closer to Jesus' side and test his love?
2. The apostle preached the word in Palestine and Asia Minor. He endured pains. He was laid in boiling oil... He was sent into exile... He endured all these pains for Christ... What have we endured for his name?

3. The apostle was called The Theologian because he fully understood and wrote about the Divinity of the Lord and the relationship between the Hypostases and the unity of their essence... The True Theologian is that who studies not only by his mind but also by his heart.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Holding fast to Christ and moving closer to his side in pray as John did.

#### ***Verse***

“Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last. I am He who lives; and was dead and behold I am alive for I evermore” (Revelation 1:17,18).

#### ***Hymns***

- + The dignified apostles of the Redeemer...
- + We have brave grandfathers...

#### ***Aids***

The picture of beloved John... Some pictures of heavenly scenes... A map of Palestine and Asia Minor...

#### ***Notes***

Questions about Paul the apostle and his service (Refer to the map)... about his love for Christ (2 Corinthians 11)... his desire to serve those places... about the feast of the apostles... and how Paul and Peter were martyred.

John the beloved was a fisherman in Galilee. His brother was James son of Zebedee. The story of how they met the Lord Jesus, how they caught large amounts of fish and how they were called “sons of thunder” (Luke)... how they left their father, their work and their servants... they were rich... The High Priest knew John because of his jealousy, his godliness and his wealth... They followed the Lord Christ and became His disciples. John liked to lie on Jesus’ breast, as he loved Christ very much... He walked with Him in His journeys and service and saw His miraculous deeds, heard His teachings, and held fast to His discipleship in spite of the Jews persecution of the Lord... When Jesus was crucified, he stood under the cross... he took his kind mother with him... He saw the resurrection and the ascension (Questions). John began his service in Palestine then in Asia Minor. He lived till he was about one hundred years old... All the apostles were martyred. So he became the only Bishop in the whole world who saw Christ. So when heresies spread, and when John saw that they were against the Divinity of Christ, he wrote three epistles to his Christian children. They were model of excellent service (The story of the young man he had given to the Bishop and when he came back he found that the man had become a robber... and how he ran after him and made him repent) (Questions).

But John’s service was not without pains... Emperor Domitian laid him in boiling oil in 96 A.D. Then he sent him into exile in the island of Patmus... But the Lord was with him in his exile and he granted him the eternal revelation... Let us read together chapter 1 of the Book of Revelation.

Then the Servant and the children contemplate the scene... Seven golden lecterns... Seven stars... a sword (the word of God). Draw a simple picture of the scene on the blackboard... Let the child imagine the heavenly scene to see the priest with their censers and crowns and to see the throne with the four animals, and the angels with their wings, etc. (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

Let us imagine the Lord Jesus when we pray and lie on his breast, and speak to him.

### ***Homework***

Copy Revelation 1:12-20

### ***Recitation***

The passages of the Vespers are to be studied till lesson 47. Children are asked to recite them at home and pray with them.

## **(46) St. Macarius: His Toil For Faith**

### ***References***

- + Synaxarium Babah 27
- + "The Three Macarius" Page 176.

### ***To the Servant***

1. St. Macarius did not care for his appearance or clothes. So you too must not be extravagant in this matter as much decoration means that the heart is devoid of grace and full of desires of the flesh.
2. St. Macarius was a bishop who saw well to his work and earnestly served his bishopric. Whenever he preached the people, he wept. He used to listen to the Lord's word that guided him. The angels helped him to stay awake. Do I serve my class in the same spirit?
3. The time of death was the hope of our grandfathers as their love for Christ and their faith in Eternity and their holding fast to the True faith were to them more precious than the whole world.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The child should be accustomed to going to confession. Should bear witness to Christ on all occasions and at all times of danger.

### ***Verse***

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown or righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:7,8).

### ***Hymns***

- + The dignified apostles of the Redeemer...
- + We have brave grandfathers...

## *Aids*

A picture of the three Macarius... The picture of the lesson.

## *Notes*

Questions about Paul and John... link them to St. Macarius. Whose picture is this? What is the difference between the three Macarius? Macarius the great is the father of monks... Macarius of Alexandria is the great ascetic... Macarius the Bishop of Edko is a martyr and he is the topic of our lesson. They all loved the Lord and died for his name.

St. Macarius was a very simple person. He lived in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. When the Patriarch saw that he was a good-hearted man, he ordained him Bishop of Edko (or Kaw) in Upper Egypt. He cared about his people very well. Whenever he preached the people he wept. They asked him, "Why do you weep?" He said, "Because the Lord shows me the sins of the people and their works when I speak to you so I weep and pray for you and ask the Lord to help you to repent". Once, he saw the Lord Christ in the sanctuary (Describe the feelings of the saint when this glorious revelation was announced). The Lord was surrounded with His angels who were offering Him the works of the people one by one. He heard a voice saying, "Why do you neglect your people and not preach them?" He said, "Lord they do not accept my words". The Lord said, "Preach them so that they may be responsible for themselves and in this way you rescue yourself. He never stopped teaching his people with tears during the Masses, the vigils and the visits (Questions).

In those days a great council was held. It was the Council of Chalcedon. Bishops from everywhere in the world attended it. The king and the western Bishops held it in Rome and other cities to condemn Anba Dioscorus the great Patriarch because he refused to change the texts of the Creed and they wanted to take revenge. He took St. Macarius, Bishop of Edko with him. This bishop used to wear simple clothes. While they were on the ship, one of the sailor's son was a one-eyed boy and his other eye was not well. The boy pushed the saint without intention. The boy apologized saying that his eyesight was weak. The saint made the sign of the cross on the blind eye and healed it. The boy said to him the other eye is not well so the saint made the sign of the cross and the other eye was healed and all those on the ship rejoiced. When he reached the palace to attend the council the guards refused to let him enter, as they doubted he might not be a bishop because of his simplicity but St. Dioscorus let him enter and told the guards about his several miracles (Questions).

The conference began its work. The western bishop attacked St. Dioscorus saying wrong things about faith. St. Macarius rose and defended the true faith that we received from the saints. The wicked king excommunicated him and sent St. Dioscorus and St. Macarius into exile in the island of Gagra. But they rejoiced as they found joy in exile and sufferings. The queen struck St. Dioscorus on the face with the result that one of his molars was broken. She also depilated (pulled off) his beard but the two saints stood firm in faith and lived in their exile. Sometime later St. Dioscorus sent him with a merchant to Alexandria and said to him, "This is a crown of martyrdom to you". The king's messenger came with the decision taken by the Council of Chalcedon and the Tome of Leo. Macarius refused to sign them, so the king's messenger kicked him between the legs and he fell down dead. The Christians came and buried him with the two bodies of John the Baptist and Elisha the Prophet (Questions).

### ***Instructions***

We have to endure pains and persecutions for true faith. We have to defend our creed till death.

### ***Exercise***

When a person asks me: Are you a Christian? I shall say: Yes I am and I am ready to endure pains for Christ.

### ***Homework***

Choose the right word:

1. St. Dioscorus was (a bishop -a Patriarch -a monk).
2. The Council of Chalcedon sent (St. Macarius -St. Cyril –St. Athanasius) into exile.
3. The Council of Chalcedon was (right -wrong).

## **(47) St. Samuel: Persecuted For His Faith**

### ***References***

- + Al Karaza Magazine, October and November 1966
- + Synaxarium Kiahk 8

### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate how this saint was honest and how he suffered for faith. Thank the Lord as he has not given you such a cross to carry.
2. Ask for more love so that your eye may become simple as Samuel's eye and in this way you can use it in studying the Holy Scripture and be ready to endure all the pains for the Lord Christ.
3. The Chalcedonians persecuted the Copts so do not grieve when you see divisions here and there. Pray for the unity of the church.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The heroism of those who struggled for faith

### ***Verse***

“Other were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection”  
(Hebrews 11:35)

### ***Hymns***

+ O righteous people come...Let us go to the heavenly Jerusalem.

### ***Aids***

A picture of Anba Samuel

### ***Notes***

Questions about St. Macarius the Bishop of Edko and Anba Dioscorus... and how they endured the persecutions of the Council of Chalcedon. Then speak about Anba Samuel who was persecuted by the same Council.

The saint was born in Milceg El Nassara in the Sixth century of a holy priest and a pious mother. They brought him up in holiness and the love for the poor... The Lord had given them this son when they were old... He began to grow in prayer and fasting. He refused to marry and decided to become a monk and his parents were pleased. His mother and his father saw a vision "Your son will be a monk... he will struggle and suffer for faith. The man rejoiced. Then he died. Samuel distributed his money among the poor and went to the monastery where he became a disciple to St. Agatho... He led an angelic life full of modesty and godliness... He used to pray and fast. When Anba Agatho fell ill, he served him till he departed in peace. Samuel increased his struggle and worship. The Lord gave him the gifts of healing sick people and casting out demons... and he became famous (Questions).

In the days of Pop Benjamin, the king sent his soldiers to force monks to obey him... They carried with them the Tome of Leo (What is it?) But Anba Samuel tore it into pieces and cast it outside the church, so the captain ordered his soldiers to beat him. They gave him a good beating and his blood shed and they struck his eye and it was destroyed. His disciples were sad and sorry for him. The Lord's angel appeared to him and led him to Kalamon Monastery in Fayoum desert. He lived there and his aroma spread... People came to him to be healed and received his blessing. When he became tired of the people, he built up a separated far away cell and used to go to the monastery on Saturday evening and on Sunday morning to receive the Holy Communion (Questions).

One year later, the king persecuted the monks once more... He sent his soldiers and they struck the monks severely. St. Samuel was cruelly beaten and he was about to die. Then they left him. Some days later, the Barbarians came to Kalamon, and the Lord commanded him to hide himself in the church and he hid himself but he saw the Barbarians defile the sanctuary, so he went out and reproached them. They gave him a good beating, captured him and took him to their country where he refused to bow down to their idols. They tied him to a tree and left him there for five days without food or water. Then they let him go to Kalamon when they saw his miracles. The devils fought him because of his great power and piety. He reached the age of 96 years. He fell ill for eight days and departed in peace in Kiahk 8 and the monastery was filled with incense and aroma. May his Intercession be with us, Amen.

### ***Exercise***

Be brave and say that you are Christian whenever you are asked about your religion.

### ***Homework***

Match the following:

Anba Samuel

The king

The Council of Chalcedon

was severe in his persecution

was persecuted for the faith

ended by the division of the church ~

### ***Recitation***

The passages of the Vigil should be studied. The children are to recite them at home and pray with it.

## **(48) John The Baptist**

### ***References***

- + Luke 1
- + Matthew 11:4
- + John the Baptist

### ***To the Servant***

1. The Baptist was a model of Christian modesty so the Lord praised him saying: Among those born of women there has raised no one greater than John the Baptist.
2. The Baptist was holy and righteous, so Herod was afraid of him... Modesty and holiness are the way of greatness.
3. The Baptist bore witness to truth without showing anger, without defaming others or injuring their feelings... He spoke to the king and gently reproached him with love for he wanted to rescue him... He was ready to die for others.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Christian Courage.

### ***Verse***

“Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man” (Mark 6:20)

### ***Hymns***

+ O righteous people come...Let us go to the heavenly Jerusalem.

### ***Aids***

The pictures of John the Baptist carrying his head on a plate

### ***Notes***

Review questions about the previous lesson, the courage of Anba Samuel when he reproached the Barbarians, about the Baptist and the meaning of the head laid on a plate...Discuss the story of the Baptist with the children as it is well known to them.

Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous people. They lived good lives in Gods sight. They prayed to the Lord that He might give them a son. They were very old. Zechariah was a priest (his clothes, his work, the rituals in the temple, hymns, Psalms, sacrifices, prayers, confession of sins). He always prayed. One day he was doing his work as a priest in the Temple. An angel of the Lord appeared to him standing on the right of the altar. The crowds of people were outside praying (Describe the angel and the surprise). They spoke together (Lively conversation from the

Bible). The people outside were surprised at his silence. They kept silent and looked to one another “Why is he late? Is he dead? He came out and they asked him... He made signs to them with his hands. He had seen a vision. They all waited to see the meaning of that vision and the mystery of that wonderful expected baby (Questions).

Days passed... Old Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy. All the people were surprised...they were happy... The neighbors came to congratulate her. What will his name be? They asked his mother and she said, “John”. They refused that name, as it did not appeal to them. They asked Zechariah He wrote “John”. They were amazed. He spoke again. Their joy became double. Zechariah spoke about the child. He is an angel sent by the Lord, before He sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ, to pave the way for him... happiness... joy... The boy grew up and Herod desired to kill him. The angel took the boy to the wilderness with the angels (Questions).

He grew up and was now thirty years old. People were sitting on Jordan Bank. This man is putting a leather girdle around his waist. Who is this? A stranger? Who are you? I am a voice crying. They knew he was the Baptist and that he was to come before Christ. They all gathered to listen to him “His words were like fire”. He reproached people for their sins... They all wept... They asked him “what must we do?” merchants, soldiers, officials... and he guided them... He who confessed his sins and repented was baptized in the Jordan... He said to the people: Christ will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Questions).

One day the Lord Jesus came and John saw Him and said, “This is the Lamb of God. This is the Son of God. People were happy to see Christ. Christ was baptized...the voice and the dove. Jesus went to the wilderness to spend the time of fasting. The King heard of John. He called him and listened to him. He feared him because he was a holy man. John warned him...he drew his attention to his sin... he married his brother’s sister while his brother is still alive. Herodias was a wicked woman... she encouraged him to do evil. John said: This is not lawful. The king desired her and she hated John... One day the king held a party. Her daughter danced. The king was drunk... his promise... she asked for John’s head... He was obliged to kill him... Thus the Baptist went up to heaven... The witness that Christ bore to Him is enough for him”. Among those born of women, there has raised no one greater than John the Baptist”.

### ***Exercise***

Be brave. If you are asked to bear witness say the truth whatever the consequences.

### ***Homework***

1. Rearrange the following: holy -man -and -a righteous -was -that -he -knowing -feared - Herod -John.
2. Complete: He was obliged to ..... John ..... as Herodias’ daughter ..... on a plate.
3. Be prepared for next lesson for the party of the Patron Saints of the class.

## **(49) The Class Patron Saint**

### **The Lesson**



### ***Aim***

Honoring martyrs and saints and clarifying the beautiful sides in their personalities

### ***Verse***

“You crown the year with Your goodness” (Psalm 65:11)

### ***Hymns***

+ Come righteous people come...

### ***Notes***

The Servants set the scene... They ask children to bring some roses and candles... They bring the picture of the saint and decorate it with roses and light candles around it. You can bring any picture of the Lord Jesus blessing the children, if you can't find the picture of the patron saint.

The Servants should look happy during the lesson... Distributing dates and fruits makes the children happy. The Servants and the children sing the Nyrouze songs and hymns or any hymn that suits the saint.

The Servants give some review questions about what they know about the saint. They explain the story. They divide the story into sections and ask about each section. The questions are followed by hymns, melodies and verses. The procession is also made at the end of the lesson and then the presents are distributed. It is better to distribute the picture of the patron saint. The lesson ends by prayer and the children intercede with the Virgin Mary and (name) the martyr, or (name) the saint.

## **(50) Recitation**

Review of the texts and the passages taught in this period. The Servant encourages those who have studied them. But those who have not studied them well must be cared for and encouraged to study them.

## **(51) The Feast Of The Virgin: The Miracle Of Atreeb**

### ***References***

+ Forty Miracles performed by Virgin Mary...

### ***To the Servant***

1. May the Mother of Light be always before our sight with her holiness, and light so that we may learn from her the way to heaven and so that she may help us.
2. Put a picture of the Mother of Light in your private room. This in itself reproaches us for our sins as we see her face full of holiness.
3. How deep the faith of that priest is? May the Lord grant us the same faith and the same spirit of surrender that was his.

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

Honoring St. Mary and clarifying the glorified sides in her personalities

### *Verse*

“All things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23)

### *Hymns*

- + Virgin May...
- + Peace, peace to the Virgin...
- + The Virgin St. Mary...
- + Through the Intercession of the Mother of God...

### *Aids*

A picture of the Mother of Light surrounded by lit candles and roses... The Icon procession... A map of the Nile Delta showing the church site and the Caliph's palace in Baghdad

### *Notes*

Questions about the Baptist... The linking point.. Kings used to persecute the believers...The Caliph persecuted Christians.

Harun Al Rasheed persecuted the Christians of Egypt. He sent to the governor and ordered him to destroy the churches. They arrived at Atreeb. The Church of St. Mary will be destroyed (describe the feelings of the Christians). It was splendid and it had marble pillars. The priest of the church heard. He saw them coming. He went into the church and prayed with tears and asked the Virgin to help him. Then he went out and discussed the matter with the Prince (Their conversation -to give him three days time... The Prince makes fun of him because the Caliph was far away and three days were not enough... Refer to the map). The priest was sure... He assured him. He gave them a sum of money for the three days they would wait. They made fun of him and left him.

The priest knelt before the Icon and prayed with tears. The people also prayed and fasted for three days. They all looked at the icons, the curtains, the building and wept. Earnest prayer... They were all waiting as they expected a miracle... At the same time the Caliph was asleep in Baghdad. He saw lights. Then the Virgin appeared to him (As She appeared in our country -who saw her? When? Where?). She spoke with him. It was St. Mary. She reproached him because he persecuted Christians. She ordered him to write a letter. He said that it would not easily go in that short period. She assured him that the letter would be there that night. He wrote the letter and sealed it. A dove snatched it and flew quickly like an arrow till it reached Atreeb. She threw it before the Prince. He bowed down... exactly... a sealed order...horror and fear... He put the letter in his pocket and said: I'll meet the priest tomorrow morning (Questions). He sent for the priest and asked him. The priest told him about the power of the Mother of Light and her Intercession. The prince gave him his money back. He entered the church to receive the blessing of the Virgin. He believed in Christ. The soldiers were amazed. The Christians rejoiced. A splendid procession of the Virgin... The church would not be destroyed. The prince went to Baghdad and there he

knew the matter was true. The Caliph ordered his servant to build a new church for the Mother of Light (These meetings and conversations are to be explained in a lovely lively way to fill the children's hearts with joy and love for the Mother of Light (Questions).

### ***Exercise***

We should put the picture of the Mother of Light in front of us when we study and in our sleeping room and whenever we see the picture we ask for her intercession and help.

### ***Homework***

Which of the following is true or false:

1. The priest could get the Caliph's decree.
2. The Caliph did not believe the Virgin's words.
3. He wrote the letter, sealed it and sent it with a soldier.

## **(52) Review**

### ***Three ways for example:***

1. A board with the pictures of the entire lesson with questions on each picture.
2. Questions on the lesson and linking all the lessons together.
3. Written exam and presents are to be given.

### ***The verses taught in this period are:***

1. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7,8), Lesson 46.
2. When the Bridegroom will be taken away from them and then they will fast (Matthew 9:15), Lesson 42.
3. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom (Psalm 111:10), Lesson 38.
4. She prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish, then she made a vow (1 Samuel 1:10,11), Lesson 36.
5. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better life resurrection (Hebrews 11:35), Lesson 47.
6. I have heard your prayers, I have seen your tears; behold I will heal you (2 Kings 20:5), Lesson 37.
7. All things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23), Lesson 51.
8. You crown the ear with thy bounty (Psalm 65:11), Lesson 49.
9. Be content with what you have (Hebrew 13:5), Lesson 39.
10. Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive evermore (Revelation 1:17,18), Lesson 45.
11. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (Hebrews 13:2), Lesson 40.
12. Neither the immoral, not idolaters, not adulterers, not sexual perverts, not thieves, nor the greedy.