

Πατριεπισκοπος ἡρεμῆχμῖ
ἡορθοδοξος
ἡτε νῖθωψ ετρωτπ ετσαρηс



**The Coptic Orthodox
Diocese
Of the Southern USA**

Sunday School Curriculum

Grade 3







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PREFACE

The Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States, under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Youssef, felt the pressing need for a modified Sunday School Curriculum which would be better suited to address the problems and issues facing children both in America and the lands of immigration. Therefore, the efforts and time of many faithful servants have been dedicated to modify and improve the presently used English translation of the syllabus published by the Youth Services Committee of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate. This has resulted in the elimination of many existing lessons from this syllabus and the substitution with new lessons that are more appropriate for our youth in American society. These additional lessons give greater consideration to the differences in quality of life, education, media influence, cultural differences and the surrounding diversity of beliefs between Egyptian society and that of the west

We pray that God may bless this work for the spiritual growth of our children in the immigration countries. We also thank His Grace Bishop Youssef for his continued support, prayers and motivating guidance in this service.

May God reward every servant who offered time and effort toward the completion of this Sunday School Curriculum.

“Thus Far The Lord Has Helped Us”

(1 Samuel 7:12)



INTRODUCTION

This grade 3 Sunday school curriculum has been modified by substituting 21 lessons from the previous curriculum published by the Youth Service Committee of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate with new lessons that are suitable for the youth in America. The order of the lessons has also been changed to follow the major events in the church. This resulted in the following order assuming the starting date is the first week after the Coptic New Year celebration (El Nyrouz) on September 11:

- 3 lessons for the month of September
- 4 lessons for each of the months of October through January
- Variable number of filler lessons for the period between the beginning of February and Jonah's fast.
- 2 lessons, one before and one after Jonah's fast
- 7 lessons during the Great Fast
- 7 lessons for the period between Easter and the Feast of the Pentecost
- Variable number of filler lessons between the Feast of the Pentecost and the Apostles' Feast
- 3 lessons for the remainder of July after the Apostles' Feast
- 4 lessons for August
- 1 lesson for the first week of September

Please note that filler lessons can also be used for the occasional fifth Sunday in any month. These filler lessons are in the beginning of the book and it is preferable that they be used in sequence for the sake of unity in all the churches.

The children of grade 3 enjoy stories with visual aids and different sounds. They particularly like stories with animals. The main theme to be conveyed at this age is the power and strength of their God. They start to understand things about heaven and death but the servant has to put it in pleasant easy words and not to scare the children from God or the Bible stories. They also have a tremendous memory capacity at this age and this is a good opportunity to memorize as much as possible from the Bible and Psalms or prayers. After all, this can still be considered as a preliminary modified curriculum for grade 12 that will require your feedback as a servant in order to continue the improvement process. Any inquiries or comments can be forwarded to ssc@suscopts.org

May the Holy Spirit guide every servant using this curriculum.

FILLER LESSONS

These lessons are to be used for the fifth Sunday in a month and to fill the empty weeks due to the changing date of the Resurrection Feast.

1. Communion
2. Simon The Elder
3. The Angels Their Praises And Their Service To The People
4. The Angel That Appeared To Gideon
5. The Angel That Appeared To Manoah
6. The Acts Of Charity - Tabitha
7. Heavenly Hosts (Cherubim, Seraphim, and the Four Incorporeal Creatures)

1 - Communion

Objective:

- ❖ The children should realize the great gift; they are given each time they take communion.
- ❖ They should know how to approach the altar by preparing themselves through confession.
- ❖ They should know the polite manners when taking communion. This is a chance to teach them some church manners.

Memory verse:

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

References:

- ❖ John 6:49-58
- ❖ Orthodox Church Sacraments - Fr. Marcos Daoud
- ❖ Christ in the Eucharist - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the Seven Sacraments of the Church and give presents to the ones that can list them all.
- ❖ Ask them about Confession and who is practicing in it.
- ❖ Encourage those who do not, by giving them examples of how easy it is.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ When we come to the church to attend the Liturgy, we are doing a very important thing. We come to pray together and the Lord gives us His Body and Blood to live as He lives forever. Before Jesus was crucified, He gathered His disciples and told them that each time they gather together in love and prayer they have to share His body and blood. He took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them to eat saying “This is my Body”. Then He took a cup and mixed in it wine and water and gave them to drink and told them “This is My blood” given for the forgiveness of sins. He ordered them to do that until He comes back to take us to heaven. When we take communion we are united with God through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ that we receive from the priest.
- ❖ Jesus told them many things that were thought to be impossible but in fact happened. Examples include the resurrection from the dead, creating eyes for a man who was born without eyes, and the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The fact is that after the priest prays on them they are no longer bread and wine, they are truly His body and His blood. That is why the priest is very careful when he distributes them so that nothing falls down.
- ❖ The Liturgy prayers are very pleasant. It lifts us up to heaven and allows us to communicate with the God, the angels, the apostles, and all the saints. They are with us, and we are with them around the body and blood of Jesus as we say in the song “We are one body”. The

priest starts with the thanksgiving and raising of incense. Then, we hear from the saints in the Epistles and from the Lord himself in the Bible reading that is why we stand during reading the Bible. Then the priest continues prayers and consecrates the bread and wine and distributes them to the congregation.

- ❖ In order to be worthy of taking communion we have to do some preparations. First, clean our spirits, confess our sins, and the priest will pray for their forgiveness and give us the absolution. We also clean our bodies, by taking a shower and wear clean and respectable clothes, as if we are going to meet the president of the US. In reality we are going to meet someone much greater than any president in the world, the God who created all of us. Keep this in mind and do not get busy with anything or talk in the church. And, if you find that the child next to you wants to talk, remind him of the reverence of the church and the presence of God in His house.
- ❖ We must come early to the church. Tell your parents politely, and if they are still late, ask the priest to talk to them. Little by little they will do it and you will start following the Liturgy from the beginning. Take one of the prayers book and follow. If you can't find one, ask your Sunday school teacher or the priest to supply more books or share with others. Try to participate in the Liturgy hymns with a soft voice, not louder than others.
- ❖ When you take Communion don't rush, push and shove, wait for your turn politely. Everyone will take equally. Make sure that you do not talk with other children when you are waiting to take communion. Keep your mouth closed after you take the Body and Blood until you are finished and drink water. This way you are sure that nothing fell out of your mouth. Wait in the church, praising God with the deacons, singing Psalm 150, until the priest sprays the water and sends you in peace.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ God loves His children and is giving me His Body and Blood so that I unite with Him and He abides in me. He wants me to behave inside the church and outside as His child and become like His saints who are in Heaven.
- ❖ Who can pray on the bread and wine to be the Body and Blood of Jesus?
- ❖ Can we do it without the priest? Who gives him this authority? And when?
- ❖ How do we prepare ourselves for Communion?
- ❖ What should we do at the church? And what should we not do?
- ❖ Can we rush to the front of everybody to take communion first?
- ❖ What do we read at the church?
- ❖ Why do we stand up while the Bible is read and sit down while the Epistles are read?
- ❖ Can we sing with a loud voice?
- ❖ Can we talk to the people sitting next to us?
- ❖ Can we go out and into the church during Liturgy?
- ❖ When can we leave the church?

Applications:

- ❖ Make sure that you take communion every Sunday.
- ❖ Do not make disturbance in the church and behave like the children of God in the Church.

2 - Simeon the Elder

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that everything that God tells us is true and we have to believe it even if it does not make sense to us at the moment.

Memory verse:

“Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:29).

References:

- ❖ Luke 2:22-35
- ❖ Synaxarium: 8th day of Amshir
- ❖ The Golden Bible Atlas - Samuel Terrien

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the birth of Jesus and tell them about the custom of presenting all male born to the Lord in the temple on the eighth day after birth.
- ❖ Ask them about how Joseph and Mary complied with it.

Lesson Outline:

When St. Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the temple when he was 8 days old they met with a very old man about 330 years. He carried the baby Jesus on his hands and said very strange words “Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:29). The people did not understand what he meant until he sat down and started telling them his strange story. He said: “I was about thirty years old when I completed my study of the Old Testament and started teaching in the temple. In those days they named us “Elders” because nobody knew how to read and write. Everybody knew that the Old Testament is full of things that will happen in the future. And everybody was waiting for a Savior to appear as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Everybody wants to know the future, whether he believes in God or idols. They were also afraid of the God of Israel who defeated their idols and saved His people several times from slavery.

Then came the war and a powerful man named Alexander the Great defeated our city, but he was good. He did not destroy the temple and he allowed us to pray to our God. He was Greek and forced the people to use his language everywhere he went. But it was an easy language to learn. So I learned it very quickly and became an expert at it. He also conquered Egypt and found a great library there and built a great city in his name “Alexandria,” and also forced them to use his language.

This man went all the way to India and succeeded but he died young and after him came a man named Ptolemy who ruled us and Egypt. This new ruler was afraid of the things written in our Holy books and wanted them translated to Greek and put in the famous Alexandria library. He ordered 72 of the Elders to be taken to Alexandria. When we arrived there, we were put every two in a separate

place from the rest, and given our Hebrew Holy Book to translate to Greek. He did that, so we would not be able to cheat him.

My part of the book was Isaiah the prophet. I started translating until I reached the verse in 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.” I was afraid to translate the word “Virgin” lest the king laugh at me because no virgin can bear a child because a virgin is an unmarried lady. Also, I start thinking this is impossible. So, I decided to change the word “Virgin” to a “woman” and leave it unclear and general. I was tired that night and left it to the morning to write it down.

In a dream, the Lord told me, that I am wrong and that I have to translate it “Virgin.” He told me that I will live to see it happen with my two eyes. In the morning I translated it to “Virgin” and they collected all the translations and sent us home to Jerusalem. They named this translation the “Septuagint” meaning seventy in Greek because we were 72 Elders. They kept it in Alexandria library and made copies of it and sent it everywhere.

I was hoping that I will see this happen soon, a Virgin with the baby Lord, but it didn’t. I saw many wars, famines, and disasters and I grew older hundred years. My body became very weak but nothing happened. My wife and children and grand children died and I was left alone. Then the worst happened, I lost my sight and all hope that I will see Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin. I told myself maybe I will hear about them, but after another hundred years, it didn’t happen. I think I was punished by the Lord for trying to change His word.”

Today, I wake up and found myself here in the temple. The Spirit of the Lord carried me here. The Lord gave me strength to stand on my feet without a staff and I started asking the people where I was? And they told me that I am at the temple. Then I remembered the Lord’s word to me 300 years ago. My eyes start seeing again. All the mothers and their children were like shadows to me except one very young mother and her child. They were clear to sight as I used to see when I was a young man. I took her child on my hands and start seeing everything and everyone clear. I knew that the Lord fulfilled his promise to me 300 years ago to see with my two eyes Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin. He is our Salvation and all the nations too.

At this point, this 330 years old man bowed down to the ground, worshipped God and died. All the people around him were surprised, especially the people who knew him before. They took his body and buried him with great honor on the same day the baby Jesus was presented to the temple.”

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ Where did Simeon meet Virgin Mary and the child Jesus?
- ❖ How old was Jesus? How old was Simeon?
- ❖ When did Simeon die?
- ❖ What was his work?
- ❖ What was the name of the king who built Alexandria? Who followed him after he died?
- ❖ Why Ptolemy was afraid of the Holy Book of the Jews?
- ❖ How many Elders he sent to Alexandria? And to do what? What is the name of this Translation?
- ❖ What book did Simeon translate? What verse did he want to change? Why?
- ❖ What happened during the night?

- ❖ How long did he live after that? What happened to his country? His family? His health?
- ❖ Did he lose all hope? Why?
- ❖ How did he come to the temple that day if he was weak and blind?
- ❖ When did he start seeing? Who did he see more clearly than anybody else?
- ❖ What happened after he finished his story? When do we celebrate his departure?

Applications:

- ❖ When I pray my last prayer at night, I will remember Simeon and his nice prayer - the verse - and ask his prayer from heaven for me.
- ❖ When I read the bible next time, I will trust what is written in it even if I cannot understand it now. God is going to make it clear to me when I grow older. I can always ask my parents, my Sunday school teacher or the priest to explain to me what I cannot understand.

3 - The Angels, Their Praises And Their Services To The People

Objective:

- ❖ To feel the presence of the angels.
- ❖ To learn about the service of the angels.

References:

- ❖ The Angel Gabriel - The Angel Gabriel Sunday School, Harit el Sakayeen

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Where are tapers lit in the Church?
- ❖ What do we put before the pictures of the Saints?
- ❖ What do we put before the pictures of the angels?
- ❖ Describe the angel pies and when we make them.

Lesson Outline:

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

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

- ❖ What is the name of the man and what is the name of his wife?
- ❖ What did they do for the poor?
- ❖ Why did they make the feast for the poor when they had no money?

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

- ❖ What did the angel say to the man?
- ❖ What did the man do?

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

- ❖ What did Dorthaus do?
- ❖ What did he find inside the fish?
- ❖ What did the angel say to him?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

- ❖ If we pray before we go to bed the Lord will send an angel to guard us all night long. The angel will also protect us from bad thoughts and bad dreams.
- ❖ Bring material to the children to make angels in class and take them home and put them in their bedrooms.

4 - The Angel That Appeared To Gideon

Objective:

- ❖ The Lord sends His angels to the Saints, and fights for us.

References:

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

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the children.
- ❖ Use a picture of the Lord’s angel for today’s lesson. Turn on the lights of the class when you say that the angel has appeared and turn off the lights when you say that the angel has disappeared.

Lesson Outline:

The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian seven years, and they made for themselves the dens, the caves, the tombs and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites put in seed, their enemies came up and attacked them and destroyed the produce of the land, Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the people of Israel cried for help to the Lord.

- ❖ What did the Midianites do to the Israelites?
- ❖ Where did the Israelites dwell?
- ❖ What did the Israelites do when they were oppressed?

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

- ❖ Who appeared to Gideon?
- ❖ What was Gideon doing?
- ❖ What did the angel say to Gideon?
- ❖ What was Gideon’s reply to the angel?

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

- ❖ What did the Lord say to Gideon?
- ❖ Why did Gideon apologize?
- ❖ What did Gideon say to the Lord?
- ❖ What did Gideon do then when the Lord said to him, "Peace be to you, do not fear, you shall not die?"

Conclusion:

God can use young and simple people to do great things and win great victories as He did with Gideon who were the youngest of his family.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a lovely picture of an angel and concentrate on the personality of the angel.

5 - The Angel That Appeared To Manoah

Objective:

- ❖ To be kind and welcome strangers to our homes and church.

References

- ❖ Judges 13:1-25
- ❖ The Book of Judges, a study of the Holy Bible, Sporting

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ To help children understand this lesson, use the wings of an angel used in the previous lesson; a white tunic, and a picture representing the appearance of the angel to Manoah and his wife
- ❖ Review the previous lesson with the children.
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?
- ❖ Whom does the Lord send to the Saints?

Lesson Outline:

There was a certain man of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah, and his wife was barren and had no children. The man and his wife prayed all the time and asked the Lord to give them a son. The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said to her, “Behold you are barren and have no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore beware, and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, because we will have a baby son. You should not cut the hair of his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth”.

- ❖ Which tribe was Manoah from?
- ❖ Who appeared to his wife?
- ❖ What did the angel of the Lord warn Manoah's wife of?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

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

- ❖ What did the woman tell her husband Manoah?

- ❖ What did Manoah do?
- ❖ Did the Lord answer Manoah's prayer?
- ❖ What happened, and where did the angel appear to the woman for the second time?

And Manoah came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am". And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true what is to be the boy's manner of life and what is he to do?" And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her beware. She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine neither let her drink, or eat any unclean thing, all that I commanded her let her observe". Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "Pray let us detain you, and prepare sheep for you". And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "If you detain me I will not eat of your food, but if you make ready a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord". And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name so that when your words come true we may honor you?" And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful". So Manoah took the sheep with the cereal offering and offered it upon the rock to the Lord and when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife looked on, and they fell on their faces to the ground. The angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the Lord, white... white like a pigeon.

- ❖ What did Manoah say to the angel?
- ❖ What was the angel's reply?
- ❖ What was the offering offered by Manoah?
- ❖ What happened to Manoah and his wife?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

- ❖ We have to welcome strangers and especially new children coming to class or to our church.
- ❖ Draw a picture for the story of Manoah and his wife.

6 - Acts of Charity: Tabitha

Objective:

- ❖ To learn how to help the poor.

References:

- ❖ Acts 9:36-41

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ To help children understand this lesson, bring clothes... shirts... robes... as symbols of the things made by Tabitha.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson with the children.
- ❖ What was the verse of the previous lesson?
- ❖ If a needy person asks you for something what would you give him?
- ❖ The disciples have no gold or silver, what did they give?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Where was Tabitha from?
- ❖ What does her name mean?
- ❖ What did she do for the sake of the widows?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

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

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ Any good thing you do will come to you one day.

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

Applications:

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

7- Heavenly Hosts (Cherubim, Seraphim, and the Four Incorporeal Creatures)

Objective:

- ❖ Learn the meaning of Angels and their jobs.
- ❖ Learn the ranks of heavenly hosts.
- ❖ Learn the jobs of Cherubim and Seraphim.

Memory Verse:

“Praise the Lord all His Angels, all His heavenly armies” (Psalms 148:2).

Reference:

- ❖ The Heaven - Anba Yoannis.

Introduction:

We are going to talk about very high-ranking Angels.

Q: Who knows what an angel means?

A: Angel = messenger

Q: What do angels do?

A: Related to God: Praise, worship, and deliver messages to people from God, and also perform the orders of God toward people.

Toward people: Help them in difficult situations, pray for them, and encourage faithful people, guard them, and take their souls to paradise when going to heaven.

Show the children pictures of angels in different events and tasks from Bible stories.

Lesson Outline:

Ranks of Angels are divided into three groups:

- ❖ Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones.
- ❖ Principalities, Authorities, and Powers.
- ❖ Archangels and Angels.

Today we are going to talk about Seraphim and Cherubim, the highest rank of the angels.

I. Seraphim

- ❖ Seraphim mean “flaming creatures”.
- ❖ Job: Praising the Lord continuously, saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord Almighty is Holy, His Glory fills the world.”
- ❖ They have six wings, two to cover their face, two to cover their legs, and two for flying.

- ❖ Seraphim are the highest ranking of angels, dedicated to praise the Lord.

II. Cherubim

- ❖ Cherubim means “full of knowledge”.
- ❖ Job: they have many, but most important is praising the Lord.
- ❖ Shape: Full of eyes; which means full of knowledge.
- ❖ We have to remember that Satan was one of the Cherubim and fell down from his rank because of his own pride (e.g. thinking high of himself and ignoring the power of the Lord).

Conclusion / Questions:

- ❖ What is the meaning of Angel?
- ❖ What is the Angel’s job?
- ❖ What are the Angel’s ranks?
- ❖ What is the meaning of Seraphim? What are their jobs? How do they look?
- ❖ What is the meaning of Cherubim? What are their jobs? How do they look?

Applications:

- ❖ We want to be like the angels, praising the Lord saying Holy, Holy, Holy.
- ❖ We need to listen to the orders of the Lord so we don’t fall like Satan.
- ❖ Take advantage of the Lord’s Angels asking for their help because they are very close to the Lord.
- ❖ Draw and color a picture of an angel.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

(Starting with the Coptic New Year)

Week 1: The Coptic New Year – Saint Stephen

Week 2: Anba Barsoum Al Iryan And The Power Of The Cross

Week 3: God Calls Moses And Gives Him Miraculous Power

Week 2: The Coptic New Year - St. Stephen

Objective:

- ❖ Honoring saints and praising their firm stand in faith.

References:

- ❖ Acts 7:54-60

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

Our church has many heroes who never wanted to leave their beloved Jesus Christ and worship anything else. They would prefer to die rather than to leave Jesus Christ or their faith. Those are called martyrs in our church.

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

This lesson is better taught through acting. Emphasize the spirit of love and forgiveness that Stephen showed towards those who stoned him. Make use of pictures of angels or a wing of an angel to connect martyrdom with heaven.

Pay a visit to the audio-visual center and check out “The life of Paul the apostle” film and other means of illustration.

Lesson Outline:

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

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

One day a large number of Jews met. They discussed religious matter with Stephen. He answered them using verses from the Scriptures explaining to them that Christ is the only Savior through whom we can enter heaven. His words did not appeal to them. They took him away to the Synagogue to judge him.

- What is your name?
- + I am Christian.

- Do not mention this name
- + I love Christ
- We shall kill you.
- + I do not fear death... If we live we live to the Lord.
- We crucified Christ.
- + You crucified him and he was buried. He stayed in the grave for three days; but then he rose and ascended to heaven and I am going to him.
- ❖ Who answered him?
- ❖ What will you say if anyone asks you about your Christian religion?
- ❖ Let us repeat together: “Lord, do not charge them with this sin”.
- ❖ Who can repeat the verse?

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

Conclusion/ Questions:

- ❖ We have to always forgive people who insult us or hurt us. This is the way for us to go to heaven.
- ❖ Who taught Stephen to forgive those who stoned him?
- ❖ Let us repeat the verse together: “Lord do not charge them with this sin”.
- ❖ If anyone insults you, what do you say? “May the Lord forgive you”

Applications:

- ❖ If a person asks you about your religion, what do you say? (I am Christian). Advise the children to be brave and not to fear those who ask them about their religion.
- ❖ Explain what the job of a deacon is in the church. Draw a picture of a deacon reading the Gospel in the church.
- ❖ Concentrate on the activities while giving the lesson and connect Stephen’s forgiveness to those who insult us or vex us.

Week 3: Anba Barsoum Al Iryan And The Power Of The Cross

Objective:

- ❖ The power of the cross, and the power of God with us.

References:

- ❖ The Authority of the Saints - The Deacons' house.
- ❖ Synaxarium, 5th Nissy
- ❖ Hebrews 13

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ What do we usually do when we begin our prayer?
- ❖ What do we usually do when we go to Church?
- ❖ What do we usually do when we are afraid or when we are in the dark?
- ❖ What do we usually do when we see a snake or a serpent?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ What is the name of the Saint?
- ❖ What do you know about his parents?
- ❖ Who took possession of his parents' possessions?
- ❖ What was the Saint's attitude towards his uncle?

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

Servant: Where are you going gentleman?

The Saint: I am going to the den.

Servant: You are not allowed to go there.

The Saint: Why?

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

The Saint: What is in there?

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

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

Servant: May the Lord be with you.

- ❖ Where did the Saint go?
- ❖ Why did the servant prevent him from entering the Church?
- ❖ What did the Saint say to him?
- ❖ Why wasn't St. Barsoum afraid of the snake?

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

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

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

Conclusion:

St. Barsoum through the sign of the cross could overcome all the powers of the enemy.

Applications:

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

Week 4: God Calls Moses And Gives Him Miraculous Power

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children the story of the call of Moses to the service.
- ❖ Concentrate on the spirit of reverence and awe, which were the characteristics of Moses when God called him.

Reference:

- ❖ Exodus 3, 4.
- ❖ The life of Moses - translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud.
- ❖ Interpretation of Exodus - St. George Coptic Church Sporting.

Memory Verse:

“Here am I, send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children what would they do if they saw a tree burning and how would that tree look like?

Lesson Outline:

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

Moses fled into the land of Median. In this country he came to a priest called Jethro. He lived with him for forty years, and fed his flock.

One day he drove his sheep to the inner parts of the desert to take care of them near a mountain. There the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire, which was in the midst of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, and yet was not burnt. It was a strange sight. He intended to go closer and see. When he went closer, the Lord called him from the middle of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses”. Moses answered, “Yes, here I am.”

The Lord said to him, “Come near, take off the shoes from thy feet; for the ground upon which thou stand on is holy. I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (These were the fathers of Moses’, they loved God and obeyed Him and He loved them.)

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

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

I. The First Sign

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

II. The Second Sign

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

The Lord said, "Are you pleased.... do you believe that the people will believe you?"

III. The Third Sign

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

Conclusion/ Questions:

- ❖ Where was Moses?
- ❖ What was he doing?
- ❖ How did the Lord appear to Moses?
- ❖ What was the Lord's message to him?
- ❖ What are the first, second and third signs?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Applications:

- ❖ Children draw a picture of a tree. Its roots and branches are green in spite of the burning fire in it (competition).
- ❖ Extracts to be studied by heart, Psalm 67 suits this lesson. "May God be gracious to us and bless us."
- ❖ Children begin their prayer. They repeat this Psalm in their prayers. They study this Psalm and repeat it. The Psalm is to be printed and distributed or the children get it out of books as a competition.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Week 1: Pharaoh's Opposition And The Ten Plagues

Week 2: Passover

Week 3: Crossing The Red Sea

Week 4: The Cloud And The Pillar Of Light

Week 1: Pharaoh's Opposition And The Ten Plagues

Objective:

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

Memory Verse:

“Let My people go, that they may serve Me” (Exodus 9:13).

Reference:

- ❖ Exodus 8 - 10.
- ❖ The life of Moses - translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud.
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Exodus – Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty.

Introduction:

Review with the children the previous lesson about God's call for Moses. Ask the children the following questions:

- ❖ Who commanded Moses to go to Egypt?
- ❖ Who went with him?
- ❖ What are the three miraculous deeds, which the Lord provided Moses with?

Lesson Outline:

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

The Lord afflicted the Egyptians with ten plagues and after every plague Pharaoh would refuse to let Moses' people get out of Egypt. So, God would send another plague but Pharaoh was very stubborn and did not let Moses' people go until the tenth plague. Pharaoh would not let Moses' people out because they were working as slaves and were helping them in all their fields and homes. Only after the tenth plague that he let Moses' people out of His land Egypt (the children study the following plagues: blood, frogs, flies, the plague of cattle, boils, hails, locusts, and darkness. The death of the first-born will be taught next lesson “the Passover”. The servant should try to show the children the plagues in pictures:

1. First Plague: Moses changed all the water in the river to blood with the touch of His rod.
2. Second Plague: Frogs came out of the river in very large number and covered all the land of Egypt.
3. Third Plague: With the rod Aaron changed all the sand into lice, which covered men and beasts.

4. Fourth Plague: God sent large number of flies that got into all the houses of the Egyptians including Pharaoh.
5. Fifth Plague: God brought disease on all the animals and cows of the Egyptians but spared the animals of the Israelites.
6. Sixth Plague: Moses threw a handful of ashes to the air and it brought boils and sores on the skin of all the Egyptians and their animals.
7. Seventh Plague: God sent very heavy Hail on all the land of Egypt.
8. Eighth Plague: God sent Locusts that eat every tree.
9. Ninth Plague: God told Moses to stretch out his hand to the heaven so that there will be darkness over Egypt for three days.
10. Tenth Plague: The death of the first-born (will be taught next lesson).

The servant mentions that pharaoh always asked Moses to pray to the Lord that He might deliver him and the Egyptians out of the plagues, and that he would promise to let the people go, but when the plagues were taken away he broke his promise. God was patient with pharaoh. The servant concentrates on the positive aspect, i.e. the Lord's care for His people, and tells the children that the ten plagues were directed to the gods of the Egyptians. So we must love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all our minds.

Conclusion/ Questions:

God delivered His people from the ten plagues. God cares for us in the same way since we are His people now and we believe in Him. He is so powerful that He can do anything to protect us and make us free. The Egyptians were punished because they did not listen to God's words and request to let His people go to pray and serve Him.

- ❖ How many plagues were there?
- ❖ Who were the people afflicted with these plagues?
- ❖ How did the Lord show His care to the people?

Applications:

- ❖ Memorize the ten plagues.

Week 2: Passover

Objective:

- ❖ To understand the love and care of God towards us and towards those who have faith in Him.

Memory Verse:

“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood” (Hebrews 11:28).

References:

- ❖ Exodus 11:1 to 12:36
- ❖ Moses - F.B. Meyer

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the ten plagues.
- ❖ Ask what the Lord had done to Egypt and how God cared for his people during these plagues.
- ❖ Ask how the Pharaoh was stubborn and how many times he did not keep his promise to Moses.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ While the nine plagues came one after another upon the Egyptians, the Hebrews lived safely under God’s care. The Egyptians knew that the God of the Hebrews was mightier than their gods and that He protected His people. They brought to the Hebrews gifts of gold, silver, and precious stones to win their favor and the favor of their Mighty God.
- ❖ Moses gathered his people, told them that only one plague was left, after which the Pharaoh would let them out of the land of Egypt. He warned them to have faith, and be very careful to follow God’s command closely, lest the last plague would strike them too. He ordered them to find a one year old male lamb, perfect with nothing wrong in its body or skin, slaughter it, take from its blood, and sprinkle it on the entrance door of the house, on the overhead frame and sides. God then instructed them to broil the lamb on an open fire and eat it with bitter herbs while standing fully dressed, including their shoes, and be prepared to leave with all their belongings packed. None of the lamb bones was to be broken, and any leftover from the lamb had to be burnt with fire along with its bones and skin the same night. They should not leave anything to the next morning. Nobody was allowed out that night.
- ❖ At midnight, the angel of the Lord went through the land of Egypt and put to death all the first-born males from the Pharaoh’s first-born prince to the very poor homeless man’s son and the first born of the animals. When the angel saw the blood on the Hebrews’ homes, he PASSED OVER without harm and without killing their first-born. Therefore, it is called the Pass Over Supper or in Coptic “Pascha”.
- ❖ Don’t you think that the slain lamb and his sprinkled blood that saved the Hebrews from death symbolizes Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, slain to save all of us? Notice that the lamb had to be perfect like Jesus. Also, no bones could be broken as no bones were broken in Jesus’ body

on the Cross, even when the other two crucified with Him had their legs broken. Nothing could remain from the lamb to the morning; similarly, we do not keep the Holy Body and the Honored Blood to the next day. We have to finish it all in every communion.

- ❖ Back in Egypt, in the middle of the night there were cries and mourning from the Pharaoh's palace to the poorest neighborhood. Every family had lost a son or an animal. Pharaoh sent to Moses quickly and ordered him, his people and all their belonging out of the land of Egypt that very night. He even requested of them to pray to their God to have mercy on the Egyptians and do no more harm.
- ❖ After 400 years in Egypt, they left in a hurry, the dough of their bread carried unleavened in their pans. For a week they ate unleavened bread cooked quickly so they would not have to stop. The Lord led them through the way by a pillar of cloud during the day, which turned to a pillar of fire by night.
- ❖ Moses remembered Joseph's prediction that God would lead them out of Egypt and his request to take his bones with them. He searched for the embalmed body of Joseph and carried it with them out of the land of Egypt.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ God cares for his children. Even in the middle of death, He watches over me if I obey, love, have faith, and trust Him.
- ❖ What happened to the people of God during the plagues?
- ❖ How could the Hebrews be safe from the last plague?
- ❖ What does the slain lamb remind us of today?
- ❖ Can the lamb be old, weak, have a broken leg, or a cut off ear or tail?
- ❖ Did the angel of death spare the animals?
- ❖ Could the Hebrews keep the leftover from the Passover lamb to eat it the next day?
- ❖ Did they have time to bake their bread for the journey?
- ❖ Why do you think the Egyptians urged the Hebrews to leave quickly giving them gold and silver?
- ❖ How do you think the Hebrews felt when they left Egypt?

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of the PASS OVER Lamb.
- ❖ Memorize the ten plagues.

Week 3: Crossing The Red Sea

Objective:

- ❖ Show the children that God can do the impossible.
- ❖ Showing God's great care for His people.

References:

- ❖ Exodus 14.

Memory Verse:

“Fear not stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord” (Exodus 14:13).

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant asks the children about the Passover story from the previous lesson.
- ❖ Review with the children that after 10 plagues over the land of Egypt, Pharaoh finally let them go out of Egypt. Moses' people collected their things in a hurry and went out of Egypt.
- ❖ Review with the children the 10 plagues.

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Why did Pharaoh follow the people?
- ❖ How were the people rescued? Recite the verse: “Fear not...”
- ❖ Who can recite the verse?

At the dawn of the next day, the Egyptians reached the sea. They did not imagine that their enemies marched through the dry land between waters. “Why don't we march through this way to?” They thought. Pharaoh ordered his soldiers to pursue the Israelites and went in after them in the midst of the sea. The Lord looked down upon the host of the Egyptians and threw them into a panic. He

made the wheels of their chariots stick so that they moved with great difficulty. The horsemen could not go forward. The Egyptians cried. Let us get out of here. The Lord is fighting for the Israelites against us. When the Israelites passed peacefully to the other side of the sea, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the water came back over the Egyptians who drowned. Not one of the Egyptians was left. The people glorified God and they stood in awe before the Lord who saved them.

- ❖ Who discomfited Pharaoh and his army?
- ❖ What does Pharaoh stand for?

Conclusion:

The Lord made His people free and divided the red sea into two so they may cross on dry land without being hurt. God also makes us free and would do anything to protect us from harm as He protected His people.

Applications:

- ❖ Show the children the video called “The Prince of Egypt”.
- ❖ The servant shows the children beautiful means of illustrations such as a picture of the pillar of light, which gave light to the people.
- ❖ The servant clarifies that the Jews were the people of God in the past because they worshiped Him while the rest of the world worshiped idols.... but nowadays, we are considered the children of God.

Week 4: The Cloud And The Pillar Of Light

Objective:

- ❖ Showing that God guides His children along the way.

References:

- ❖ Exodus 13
- ❖ Numbers 9:15-23

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Use some cotton around a rod to symbolize a cloud.
- ❖ Review with the children the previous lessons:
- ❖ Who led the people?
- ❖ How did the Red Sea divide?
- ❖ How were the people rescued from pharaoh and his armies?
- ❖ Who can recite the verse from last week?

Lesson Outline:

The people of God lived in the land of Egypt for more than four hundred years then the day came when the Lord gave them freedom. They hastily went out of the land of Egypt carrying with them their clothes and their dough, their silver, and their gold. The Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so they let them have what they asked. They got out of Egypt with a large fortune. They were six hundred thousand in number besides women and children. They all set out on foot. This means that the whole number of the Israelites was about two million. First they journeyed to Succoth where they stayed for one night. Moses explained to them the meaning of the Paschal Lamb, and the passage of the Red Sea. This day shall be for you a memorial day and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord. Throughout your generations you shall observe it forever. This very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt, so you shall observe this day. Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt out of the land of bondage. Remember that the angel of the Lord passed over you because the blood, which you put on your doorposts and lintels, was the sign that discriminated between you and the Egyptians. You are the people of God.

In the same way, the blood of Christ shed for us rescued us and saved us from our sins. His Blood makes our hearts clean and gave us a new life. He made us His people.

- ❖ How many years did the Israelites stay in the land of Egypt?
- ❖ How many men were there?

The Israelites moved from Succoth and encamped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness. They were on their way to Canaan. The Lord was before them in great cloud that protected them from the strong heat of the sun and a pillar of fire appeared by night to guide them. That was one pillar of light and of cloud. Do you know the symbol of this one pillar? It stands for the Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He said, "I am the light of the world". When the cloud or pillar of fire moves all the people move behind it and when it stops they stop. Wherever it goes they follow it to wherever it takes them. The Jew followed the cloud and pillar of light for forty years in the desert of Sinai.

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

Conclusion:

- ❖ The Lord always cares for us, in the morning and also at night and all the time. He Guides us and shows us the way
- ❖ Pray and say, "Lord Jesus, I thank you because you care for me."

Applications:

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

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Week 1: The Manna And The Quails

Week 2: Water From The Rock

Week 3: Moses At The Mountain Receiving The Ten
Commandments

Week 4: The Murmuring Of Jews And Their Punishment

Week 1: The Manna And The Quails

Objective:

- ❖ To show the children that God can provide for us.
- ❖ To teach the children that God is the source of all the good things that we have.

References:

- ❖ Exodus 16:4-21

Memory Verse:

“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

“I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant can start by asking some questions about how the Lord cared for His people in the wilderness.
- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson.
- ❖ If God cared to guide His people throughout the way in the desert, He must have also cared for their food and drink needs.

Lesson Outline:

In the second month after Moses and his people had departed from the land of Egypt, all the food they had brought with them ran out. The people complained to Moses saying that they have no food to eat and that they would starve to death “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt.” Moses was sad because the congregation of the people of Israel murmured against him. Moses prayed to the Lord. “Lord, these people arouse your wrath” but the Lord said, “I love these people so I will forgive them.” Moses said, “They have no food.” The Lord said, I will send them food. I am the bread of life.’ Moses said, I thank you my Lord. In the same evening, the Lord sent them quails in great number. These birds came into their camp and everybody was very happy because of the new food. They thanked God. Moses said to them, “Take and eat of it but do not keep any of it to the next day”

- ❖ Why did the Israelites murmur against Moses?
- ❖ Why did Moses pray to the Lord?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to Moses?

In the early morning, while they were still asleep, there was dew all around the camp. When the dew evaporated there, there was something thin and flaky on the surface of the desert. It was as delicate as frost. It was white in color. It fell on the sands but it was not contaminated. They did not know it and did not have a name for it. Moses woke the people; the people got up to see the care of God, and the new food. They tasted it; it had a sweet taste like flour mixed with honey. It

was “Manna”. It is the food of the angels. Moses said to them, “Gather as much of it as you need and be cautious it will melt in the heat of the sun. It should be gathered daily every morning, otherwise it will be full of worms and it will smell rotten. The people were very happy and they went out to gather it. Some of them were greedy they wanted to take more than they needed and they did, others gathered what they needed. When we pray, we say, give us this day our daily bread. It was surprising that all the people did not find any difference. When they measured the food, they found that he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack, each gathered according to what he could eat. They took the food to their tents, ground it and baked it. It had a sweet taste like flour mixed with honey. The servant explains that manna is like coriander seed and the taste of it was like wafers, made with honey.

- ❖ What is the name of the birds?
- ❖ What is the name of the new food?
- ❖ Who gives us food, clothes, etc.?

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

- ❖ Who fed them in the desert?
- ❖ For how many years?
- ❖ On which day did the Lord send double the amount of food?
- ❖ What is our day of rest?
- ❖ What do we usually do on Sundays?
- ❖ What do we say in the Lord’s Prayer about food?
- ❖ What does manna stand for?

Conclusion:

No Matter where we are, God will always provide food for us. He takes care of all His creation plants, birds and animals. And we are His creation and He will provide for us too.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray before and after the meals saying, “Lord I thank you for this food. We pray to you for the poor and the needy. O Lord give them food to eat”.
- ❖ Children should be accustomed to the life of thanksgiving. We have to thank God every day for what He gives us. We have to give alms to the poor and the needy our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Week 2: Water From The Rocks

Objective:

- ❖ Showing the Lord's care for His people.

References:

- ❖ Exodus 17
- ❖ Psalms 42:2
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Exodus – Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Memory Verse:

“Let him who is thirsty come” (Revelation 22:17).

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children facts from the previous lessons:
- ❖ How many commandments are there?
- ❖ How many plagues were there?
- ❖ What do the cloud, and the pillar of light and manna stand for?
- ❖ How long did the Lord feed His people in the wilderness?
- ❖ Is there water in the wilderness?

Lesson Outline:

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

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

- ❖ Where were the people?
- ❖ Why were they angry with Moses?
- ❖ Describe Moses?
- ❖ Complete, “Let him who is thirsty come...”

The Lord commanded Moses to take the elders and the heads of the people and accompany them to the rock in the mount of Horeb. The Lord said to Moses, “I will stand before you. Take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile. You shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it. Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. With the same rod with which he

changed the water of the Nile into blood, he struck the rock in mount Horeb, and fresh water flew out of it. People rushed to drink. Thousands of thirsty people quenched their thirst and their cattle also drank water. The water was fresh, clean and good tasting. They were very happy after they drank from it.

- ❖ Where was the rock?
- ❖ What did Moses do that made water flow out?
- ❖ What did Moses do with this rod in the land of Egypt?
- ❖ Who gave them water?

Conclusion:

Just like God provided food for His children in the desert He also provided good tasting water to quench their thirst. Thus God takes care of all our needs.

Applications:

- ❖ Thank God for anything even if it is little.
- ❖ Draw the children's attention to the miracle that took place because of Moses' prayer to the Lord.
- ❖ Review the previously chosen extracts to be recited.

Week 3: Moses at the Mountain Receiving the Ten Commandments

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that keeping the commandments of the Lord is the only way to make God happy.

References:

- ❖ Exodus 19:20 - 20:17

Memory Verse:

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long” (Exodus 20:12).

Introduction:

- ❖ Make a model of the two tables of the testimony to the children as a visual aid.
- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson through simple questions:
- ❖ What did the people of God ask Moses to do?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to Moses when he prayed to Him?
- ❖ What happened when Moses struck the rock?
- ❖ Where did the people of God go?

Lesson Outline:

Three months after leaving Egypt, the people of God arrived in Sinai. At the mountain which lies to the east of the Red Sea, the Lord had told Moses in the land of Egypt that the people had to go to Sinai to meet the Lord.

They reached the mountain. The Lord said to Moses, “Come to the top of the mountain” and Moses ascended the mountain and the Lord said to him, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel. You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now, therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine...”

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

- ❖ What is the name of the mountain?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to Moses?
- ❖ What was the people’s answer?

Moses told the people to be ready for meeting the Lord by washing their clothes and purifying themselves. They must not do any wrong and be ready by the third day. The people obeyed and confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness. Disputants reconciled with each other. Could you

forgive a person who insulted you...or a person who struck you without intention... or a person who has trodden on your foot... or a person who plays tricks on you in playing?. Are you in dispute with anyone? (The servant must encourage those in dispute to reconcile and forgive one another).

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

- ❖ How were the people prepared?
- ❖ Who received the Law?
- ❖ How many commandments did Moses receive?

Conclusion:

Tell the children that the Lord God who appeared to Moses on the mount of Sinai in ancient times, in a flame of fire, in a cloud and in the smoke on the mountain, is the same baby Jesus who was born in the manger. He is near us, He is in our hearts and in our lives, He always says, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). The Lord Jesus greatly loves the children.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children the Ten Commandments to memorize at home.
- ❖ Let them make their own tablets with the Ten Commandments written on it and bring it next week to the class.

Week 4: The Murmuring Of The Jews And Their Punishment

Objective:

- ❖ The outcome of sin.

References:

- ❖ Numbers 21.
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Numbers - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty.

Memory Verse:

“If a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived” (Numbers 21:9).

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?
- ❖ Make a model of the bronze serpent on the pole to use during the story in the class.
- ❖ Moses led the people of Israel to the desert of Sinai in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land after they were free from working as slaves in Egypt.

Lesson Outline:

The people started complaining on the way to the Promised Land. And the people spoke against God and against Moses. “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food. Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord that He may take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people.

- ❖ Why did the Lord punish the people?
- ❖ What was the punishment?
- ❖ What did the people do?

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live”.

So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole, and if a serpent bit any one he would look at the bronze serpent and live. The bronze serpent was the cure. The same is Jesus Christ was put on the cross like the serpent on the pole. Also Jesus Christ was the cure for the sin of the whole world.

- ❖ What does the bronze serpent stand for?
- ❖ What should the person bitten by the serpent do in order to recover?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Applications:

- ❖ The servant should distribute pictures of Christ on the Cross among the children.
- ❖ Let the children look for another story in the Bible about a serpent.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Week 1: Project (The Ark Of Covenant)

Week 2: The Lord Cares For His People Before The Walls Of Jericho

Week 3: A Memorable Day - The Sun Stood Still For Joshua

Week 4: Adam Is Sent Out Of The Garden Of Eden (An Angel Guards The Garden)

Week 1: Project (The Ark Of Covenant)

Objective:

- ❖ To know the contents of the Holy of Holies.
- ❖ To understand the meaning and the function of the ark of covenant.
- ❖ To know some of the history and movements of the ark.

Memory Verse:

“And there, I will meet with you and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat” (Exodus 25:22).

Introduction:

The holy of holies was the most sacred part of the tent of meeting. It was separated from the holy with a curtain. It contained the ark of covenant only. The high priest was the only person allowed to enter the holy of holies once a year to spray blood of sacrifice on the ark for the forgiveness of the sins of the people. This was a symbol of our Lord's only sacrifice for us.

Lesson Outline:

I. The Ark of Covenant

The ark of covenant was the most sacred object in the tabernacle. It symbolized God's presence and His covenant with Israel. It was made of acacia wood that was covered with gold from within and without. It contained:

- ❖ The two tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments written on them with the finger of God. These were a symbol of the word of God.
- ❖ The manna as a symbol of the bread of life.
- ❖ The rod of Aaron as a symbol of St. Mary's perpetual virginity.

The ark was covered with the mercy seat, which was made of pure gold and on top of it the two cherubim with extended wings. The wings of each cherub touched the wings of the other one and they covered the mercy seat. This is where the voice of God was heard speaking to Moses. It was the throne of God in the tabernacle of meeting.

The ark of covenant guided the Israelites in the wilderness to the Promised Land. It was usually carried by the Levites on two wooden sticks covered with gold. No human being was allowed to touch the ark or he would die.

II. The History Of The Ark Of Covenant And Its Trips

Moses put the two tablets of stone in the ark and placed it in the middle of the holy of holies. Then, the cloud of the Lord filled the place. After 7 weeks the cloud lifted and the Israelites starting moving again. Whenever, the cloud appeared in the morning and the column of fire at night they

settled down and whenever it lifted they started moving. The ark was the leader when they left mount Sinai, crossed the Jordan River and when they turned around Jericho (Josh 6:1-20).

Israel wanted to use the ark to defeat the Palestinians without instructions from God (1 Samuel 4:4). So, they were defeated and the ark was taken from them (1 Samuel 4:3). When the ark was placed in the temple of Dagon, the idol collapsed (1 Samuel 5:2-7). It was then moved to Gath, where the men of Gath struck by strange disease (1 Samuel 5:8,9). Then the ark was moved briefly to Ekron and finally returned to the Hebrews in Beth Shemesh led by two milk cows (1 Samuel 6:13-16). The ark then was taken to Kirjath Jearim at the house of Adinadab where it stayed for twenty years (1 Samuel 7:1,2). Finally it was taken to Jerusalem in David's time (2 Samuel 6). Subsequently Solomon built the permanent temple of God in Jerusalem and placed the ark of covenant in it. It disappeared after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

III. The Importance Of Studying The Tabernacle Of Meeting

- ❖ It is an example of heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 5:15)
- ❖ It is an example of the incarnation of Christ (John 1:14)
- ❖ The tent was mobile to lead the people in the wilderness as Jesus Christ traveled from one place to another performing miracles and leading people to salvation.
- ❖ The outer appearance of the tent of meeting was humble as it was covered with the skin of goats but the inside was full of gold. This is similar to our Lord Jesus Christ who was humble in appearance but he was the holy divine God (Isaiah 53:2-3).
- ❖ The tent of meeting was the place where God met with His people.

Applications:

- ❖ If God requested to have a meeting place with us on earth, wouldn't we seek to meet with Him too in prayers and meditations?
- ❖ Compare the building of the church to the structure of the tabernacle of meeting and identify the differences.
- ❖ Where was the ark of covenant placed in the tent of meeting?
- ❖ What was placed inside the ark of covenant?
- ❖ Describe the mercy seat? Why is it important?
- ❖ Who brought the ark of covenant to Jerusalem?

Week 2: The Lord Cares For His People Before The Walls Of Jericho

Objective:

- ❖ Obeying the word of the Lord is the only way to victory.

Reference:

- ❖ Joshua 5,6
- ❖ The life of Joshua - translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud.

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant discusses with the class who are the people of God now, and how the Lord cares for the Church.
- ❖ Then the servant speaks about the ancient people and explains that the lesson is a story about those people, but the story tells us about the Lord’s deeds with His children who are the members of the Church now.

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Who can think of a person who heard words like these?
- ❖ Which land did the Lord promise to give his people?
- ❖ Who led the people after the death of Moses?

Joshua knew that the Lord was with him... then all things were possible. The Lord said to Joshua “See I have given Jericho to you, there is no need for fighting ... just do what I tell you... You shall march around the city, and all the men of war shall go around once. Thus shall you do for six days. And shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark, and on the seventh day you shall march

around the city seven times. The priests blowing the trumpets and when they make a long blast with the rams' horns, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a loud voice, and the wall of the city will fall down flat. Jericho shall fall down and the men shall take Jericho. This passes all understanding; going around the city seven times causes the high walls to fall down. And as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets went forward with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. And the armed men went before the priests. They went about the city once, and then they went back into the camp and spent the night in the camp. The Canaanites were looking from above the walls of their city mocking the Israelites saying; ha... ha... these people are foolish. What are they doing? They are going around the high walls of our city.

- ❖ What did the Lord say to Joshua?
- ❖ How many times did they go around the walls of Jericho?
- ❖ Who blew the trumpets?
- ❖ What did Joshua do?
- ❖ What did the people do on the first day?

On the second day the people did the same thing they did on the first. They did the same thing for six successive days. Their march was long and tiring but the people did not complain. On the seventh day, they had to go around the city seven times. They got up early on that day, the task was hard, and the people were faithful and obedient. The priests blew the trumpets. The people looked at the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord which was a symbol of the presence of God among them, then they shouted, and the miracle took place, the walls of Jericho fell down. The gates of the city opened, the people entered, and the Lord gave them the city as He promised.

- ❖ What did the people do on the seventh day?
- ❖ And what happened?

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

Conclusion:

Joshua and His people were able to take Jericho because they followed closely what God told them to do. The same for us if we follow what God asks us to do we will get many blessing and good thing from Him.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of the city of Jericho with the fallen walls and write the verse on it.

Week 3: A Memorable Day - The Sun Stood Still For Joshua

Objective:

- ❖ To show the children the power of God and His authority over the universe.
- ❖ To learn that God listens to the requests and prayers of His good children.

References:

- ❖ Joshua 10:12-14.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:14).

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson.
- ❖ What is the name of the town, which fell in the hand of Joshua?
- ❖ What did the Lord order Joshua to do?
- ❖ What did Joshua say to the people on the seventh day when the priests blew the trumpets?
- ❖ When does the sun rise? And when does it set?
- ❖ Who created the sun?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ What is the name of the city, which made peace with Joshua?
- ❖ Complete the following: The name of the king of Jerusalem was...
- ❖ How many kings did the kings of Jerusalem invite to join him in attacking Gibeon?

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

The people of Gibeon sent to Joshua and said to him, “Do not relax your hand from your servants, come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us, for ail the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the hill country are gathered against us”. So Joshua and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men went up and the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand”. The Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who smote them and while they were running down the ascent of Beth Horon, the Lord throw great stones from heaven upon them, and they died.

“Fear not. Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still” (Exodus 14:13).

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

Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the people of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and Moon in the valley of Aijalon. So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped till the people had revenge upon their enemies... And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel” (Joshua 10:12-14). For it is written “The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still” (Exodus 14:13).

- ❖ What did Joshua say to the Lord when the Lord gave the Amorites into his hands?
- ❖ Did the Lord answer Joshua? And what happened?
- ❖ Why did Joshua join Gibeon in fighting the Amorites?
- ❖ What should we do when we are in trouble?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Conclusion:

- ❖ The servant explains and clarifies to the children the Lord’s great love to man whom He created and subdued every thing to Him.
- ❖ The servant shows that we must fulfill our promise. We have to be honest and sincere. We have to keep our promise following Joshua’s example.
- ❖ The Lord answers us if we ask Him with faith. “Have faith in God, truly, I say to you.... whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”. The Lord says “I am with you always even unto the end of age.”

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children look for another story in the Bible when God listens to the request of His children and tell it to the class next week.
- ❖ Bring to class a white ball to represent the moon, a yellow ball to represent the sun, and another brown ball to represent the earth. Explain how the sun stood still without motion.

Week 4: Adam Is Sent Out Of The Garden of Eden (An Angel Guards The Garden)

Objective:

- ❖ The Lord hates sin but He loves man.

References:

- ❖ Genesis 3:22-24
- ❖ The Interpretation of the Book of Genesis - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Memory Verse:

“For Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin” (Genesis 3:21).

Introduction:

- ❖ Display a picture of Adam in the Garden of Eden.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ When was Adam created?
- ❖ How did the Lord create Eve?
- ❖ Where did the Lord keep them?

Lesson Outline:

The Lord God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and told them saying, “You can eat of every tree in the garden, but the tree which is in the midst of the garden you shall not eat, because if you eat of it you shall die. But the wicked serpent came and said, “You will not die.” The woman took of the fruit of the tree and ate and she gave some to Adam and he ate.

They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden. The Lord God called to Adam, and said to him, “Where are you?” And Adam said, “I heard your sound in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked.” and the Lord said, “Who told you that you are naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I told you not to eat? So when the Lord knew they ate from the tree, He was upset with them and sent them out of the garden.

- ❖ Where did the Lord put Adam and Eve?
- ❖ Who tricked Eve?
- ❖ Are we to obey the words of the devil or are we to obey God?

The Lord God made for Adam and Eve cloth from the animals’ skin and covered them. The Lord God sent them forth from the Garden of Eden, to the ground from which Adam was taken. God told Adam that you have to work hard now to feed yourself and your family. And at the east of the Garden of Eden, the Lord placed the Cherubim (an angel), and a flaming sword turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life so no one can eat from it because if anyone eats from it will never die.

- ❖ What did the Lord make for Adam and Eve?

- ❖ Why did the Lord send them out of the garden?

Conclusion:

The Lord God put man in the best place because he loved him. Because of his great love, the Lord did not leave them without clothes. He made for them cloth.

Applications:

- ❖ Try to make an angel similar to the one that was guarding the Garden.
- ❖ Let us say together, “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...”
- ❖ Let us sing the hymn together, “Our angels, our angels...”

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Week 1: Christ Was Born In A Manger

Week 2: John The Baptist

Week 3: The First Disciples

Week 4: St. Maximus And St. Domatius

Week 1: Christ Was Born In A Manger

Objective:

- ❖ To show the children the love of God that He became a baby like us to know how we feel.

References:

- ❖ Matthew 1:18-24
- ❖ Luke 2:1-20.
- ❖ Contemplations on Nativity – H. H. Pope Shenouda III.

Memory Verse:

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

Lesson Outline:

In those days Caesar Augustus the king ordered each person to go to his own city to count all the people. So, Joseph went up from the city of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with St. Mary, his future wife, who was with a child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first born Son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them any where to sleep.

- ❖ Who issued the enrollment degree?
- ❖ Where did Joseph and St. Mary go?

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

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

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them: Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, And on earth

peace, goodwill toward men! So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another: Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us. And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger” (Luke 2:8-16).

- ❖ What did the shepherds see?
- ❖ How were the angels praising God?
- ❖ What did the shepherds say?
- ❖ What did they see when they went to the place the angel told them about?

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

- ❖ What did the shepherds tell the people?
- ❖ What was the result?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Conclusion:

Christ’s birth brought joy to many people and to us too. He was born a baby like all humans to feel what all humans feel.

Applications:

- ❖ Build a manger with all the nativity characters with the children in class.
- ❖ Show the children the great love of the Lord for them and that he wants the heart of each one of us to dwell in it.
- ❖ Sing the hymn “Away in a Manger.” Icon of nativity surrounded by candies. The children go around and they all sing the hymn; “Away in a Manger”.
- ❖ What is today’s feast? Whose birthday is it? Where was Christ born?

Week 2: John The Baptist Baptizes Jesus Christ

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that Jesus Christ was baptized like us.

References:

- ❖ Matthew 3:13-17.

Memory Verse:

“This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

Introduction:

- ❖ Bring an icon of baptism surrounded with candles.
- ❖ The children discuss the icon.
- ❖ What is the feast we are celebrating today?
- ❖ What do you usually see in the baptism room?
- ❖ How does the priest baptize the children?

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

- ❖ Where did John the Baptist baptize people?
- ❖ Who went out to him?
- ❖ What did he say to the people?

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John the Baptist, to baptize Him. St. John would have prevented him saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” but Jesus encouraged him and told him that we have to do all the good things. So, John agreed and they went down into the Jordan.

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

- ❖ Where did Jesus Christ come from?
- ❖ What did He request John the Baptist to do?

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

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

- ❖ What happened when Jesus went up from the water?

- ❖ What did John the Baptist see?
- ❖ What did the voice say?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Conclusion:

Show how modest Jesus was when He went to John the Baptist to be baptized by him.

Note how gentle and quiet Jesus was when He talked with John. The servant shows the children that the rite of baptism is performed by immersion three times.

Applications:

- ❖ Complete the following: This is _____ with whom I am _____
- ❖ Let the children look for another study in the Bible that had a dove in it.

Week 3: The First Disciples

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that God can do the things we cannot do.
- ❖ Nothing is too difficult for God. He can do anything and everything.

References:

- ❖ Luke 5:1-11

Memory Verse:

“At your word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant should prepare a net and make many fish for the children to hold and act the story with.
- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Ask the children how many were the disciples of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ See if they can recall any of the names of the disciples.
- ❖ We are going to know how did Jesus Christ find His first disciples?

Lesson Outline:

Once upon a time Jesus Christ was teaching the people by a lake. The people started to increase in number and crowd Jesus till He could not find a place to stand. So, Jesus found two boats and got into one of them. This was Simon's boat. Jesus asked Simon to get into the deep and let down his net for a catch. But Simon was tired and told Jesus we have spent all night trying to catch fish and we caught nothing. However, Simon obeyed Jesus even when he had no much hope in catching any fish. Simon told Jesus “at Your word I will let down the net”.

When they had let down the net (the servant should use the net to act the story), they caught great number of fish (let the children put the fish in the net). The fish were so many that they could not even pull the net out alone because it was very heavy. They called their partners in the other boat to come and help them pull the great catch... They were pulling and pulling all the fish until they got it all out.

When Simon and all who were with him saw the great catch, they were astonished. Simon knew that Jesus was the reason they caught all these fish. Simon immediately fell down on his knees in front of Jesus Christ. He asked Jesus to leave his boat because he is a sinful man and does not deserve the presence of Jesus in his boat.

But Jesus was kind and liked Simon because he obeyed Him even when he knew he may not catch any fish. Jesus said to Simon: “Do not be afraid from now on you will catch men”. This means that

Simon became a disciple for Jesus Christ and was able to bring many people to become Christians and know Jesus Christ through him.

With Simon in the boat were James and John who also became disciples of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion/ Questions:

Jesus Christ can do anything if we obey Him. The things that we cannot do alone, He can make it happen when He is with us. Just like Simon who could not catch fish when he tried alone but he caught many... many fish when Jesus was with him in the boat.

- ❖ Where was Jesus when He was speaking to the crowd?
- ❖ How many boats were by the lake?
- ❖ Whose boat did Jesus get into?
- ❖ What did Jesus ask Simon to do?
- ❖ Why Simon was tired?
- ❖ Did they catch any fish when they went into the deep?
- ❖ Who became the first disciples of Jesus Christ?

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children act the story again using the net and the fish.
- ❖ Ask the children to find three more characters in the bible or saints who were obedient to Jesus Christ and bring it for next lesson.

Week 4: St. Maximus And St. Domatius

Objective:

- ❖ To learn from the love and kindness those brothers offered to the people they healed.

References:

- ❖ The Synaxarium
- ❖ Sharing God's World - Grade 3 Sunday School Curriculum of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Memory Verse:

“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace” (Galatians 5:22).

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Bring with you some of doctor's materials like cotton, Band-Aid, and bandages to demonstrate what the two saints used to do.

Lesson Outline:

St. Maximus and St. Domatius were two brothers. They were the sons of a Roman emperor his name was Walendianus. Their father was a good Christian man and had brought up his two sons in the fear and love of Jesus Christ. The two sons were very pure and regular in prayer and reading the Bible.

- ❖ What is the name of the two brothers?
- ❖ Who was their father?
- ❖ Were they Christians?

One day they asked their father to go to Nicene to pray. Their Father was very happy for their request so he sent with them soldiers and servants to guard them. When they arrived they sent the servants and soldiers back and they stayed with an old monk in Nicene. They asked the monk to make them monks but he was afraid from their father so he told them to go to St. Macarius after he dies. During this time they were healing sick people and taking care of them. They also learned how to make sails for the ships and boats.

- ❖ Where did St Maximus and St. Domatius want to go?
- ❖ Who went with them?
- ❖ What did they do in Nicene?

One of the followers of the emperor saw the names of Maximus and Domatius on the sails of a boat so he asked the owner of the ship about them. The owner of the ship told him those are the brother monks and he described them to him so he knew that they are the emperors sons. So he brought the owner of the ship to the emperor who also knew that he is describing his sons. Immediately the emperor sent their mother and sister the princess to see them. When their mother and

sister found them they wanted them to come back with them but they did not because they wanted to continue to be monks.

- ❖ What was written on the sail of the ship?
- ❖ How did the emperor know where were his sons?
- ❖ Whom did the emperor send to bring his sons back?

Then the two brothers went to St. Macarius in the desert. During the way in the desert God changed salty water into sweet water for them to drink. When they were very tired from walking and their feet were hurt, they slept. While they were sleeping God sent a power that took them to St. Macarius in the desert of Egypt. St. Macarius taught them how to plait palm leaves and leave with the little money they get from selling what they make. They stayed in the desert of Egypt for three years before St. Macarius came to visit them again.

- ❖ Who took the two brothers to St. Macarius?
- ❖ What did St. Macarius teach them to make?
- ❖ How long did they stay alone in the desert?

When St. Macarius was visiting them, he saw them praying during the night with a ray of light coming out of their mouth to heaven and an angel with a sword of fire was protecting them. St. Macarius was amazed from what he saw and in the morning he put on them the cloths of monks.

- ❖ Who was visiting the two brothers?
- ❖ What was coming out of the mouth of the saints?
- ❖ Who was protecting them?

After many years, St. Maximus became sick and then the angels and saints came and took him to heaven. Three days later St. Domatius also went to heaven the same way like his brother because he asked God to be with his brother again. They both had beautiful crowns on their heads when they were going to heaven.

Conclusion:

The children of God like to spend long time with God praying to Him and healing and helping the sick and the needy just like St. Maximus and St. Domatius did.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of the two brothers with the light coming out of their mouth and the angel protecting them when they were praying.
- ❖ Visit your friends when they are sick.

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY TILL JONAH'S FAST

Use Filler Lessons (placed at the beginning of the book) until the Sunday before Jonah's fast.

LESSONS FOR JONAH'S FAST

Jonah's fast comes two weeks before the Great Fast on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These lessons are for the Sunday before and the Sunday after Jonah's fast.

Week Before Fast: The Tower Of Babylon

Week After Fast: The Parable Of The Net - Good And Evil People

Week Before Fast: The Tower Of Babylon

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children that God loves simple and humble people.

References:

- ❖ Genesis 11:1-9
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Genesis - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Make a model of the Tower of Babylon.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson.
- ❖ Ask the children how many languages did Noah and his sons know?

Lesson Outline:

The whole earth had one language and the people used the same words. And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come let’s make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens and let us make ourselves known for every body. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, “Behold they are the one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

- ❖ Where did the people go?
- ❖ What did they say to one another?
- ❖ What are bricks made of?
- ❖ What did they aim at?
- ❖ What happened after the building had been raised?
- ❖ Why did the Lord confuse their language?
- ❖ Did they understand each other’s language?

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

- ❖ Is it possible to build a tower the top of which can reach heaven?
- ❖ Why did the act of building stop?

- ❖ Why was the city called Babel?
- ❖ Let us say the verse: Learn from me...

Conclusion:

The Lord confused the people of Babylon language so that they may not do evil.

Applications:

- ❖ Ask the Children to make a tower in class.

Week After Jonah's Fast: The Parable Of The Net - Good And Evil People

Objective:

- ❖ To teach that the good people will go to heaven.

Memory Verse

“Come you blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom” (Matthew 25:34).

References:

- ❖ Matthew 13:47-50

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant can bring in with him a small net, and a paper boat or a drawing representing the sea and the fishermen casting nets into the sea.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson.
- ❖ Who can say the verse?
- ❖ How does a fishermen catch fish?
- ❖ What does a fisherman do after he has caught fish?

Lesson Outline:

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

Questions

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

Applications:

- ❖ It is possible to draw a series of scenes: The first one, the Lord Jesus on the shore and the great crowds gathering around Him listening to His words with reverence. The second one, the fishermen in a ship throwing the nets, and after the nets have full of fish they begin to draw them out, and when they come to the shore, they begin to sort out fish. The third one, the end of the world, and the angels sort out the chosen from all parts of the world.
- ❖ Tell the children that those who love Christ with all their hearts and keep His words and preach them will be taken into heaven where they will live with the angels, listening to the Lord's sweet voice, singing a new hymn, they learn the hymn there with all the Saints.

LESSONS FOR THE GREAT FAST PERIOD

Week 1: (Preparation Week): Lent - Pope Kyrillos

Week 2: The Widow's Two Coins

Week 3: (Sunday Of Temptation) - Abraham Finds A Wife To Isaac

Week 4: (Sunday Of The Prodigal Sun) - Confirmation

Week 5: (Sunday Of The Samaritan Woman) - Washing The Feet

Week 6: (Sunday Of The Sick Of Bethesda) - Jesus Heals A Blind Man At Bethsaida

Week 7: (Sunday Of The Born Blind) - The Power Of Christ When Crucified Revealed

Week 8: (Palm Sunday) - No Lesson

Week 9: (Resurrection Sunday) – No Lesson

Week 0: Pope Kyrillos VI (Pope Cyril the Sixth)

Objective:

- ❖ To show the children of the coming generation, the greatness of Pope Kyrillos VI, to enable them to see and know him.
- ❖ To learn that the era of saints did not end and they can be saints the same way he was.
- ❖ To teach them the importance of attending the Church Prayers, Liturgies, and Vespers as well as taking a saint as a friend like St. Mina.

Memory verse:

“Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:164).

References:

- ❖ Hebrews 12:1-23
- ❖ The Miracles of Pope Kyrillos (Cyril) VI - Sons of Pope Kyrillos VI [English].

Introduction:

- ❖ Prepare a picture of St. Mina and another picture of Pope Kyrillos.
- ❖ Prepare the famous miracle picture of St. Mina appearing behind the Pope.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ Pope Kyrillos was the pope before Pope Shenouda III. Your parents probably saw him and prayed the Liturgies with him and took Communion from his hands. Although he dressed simply and looked as one of the Bishops, he was a saint and made many people repent and became saints like him. In his days, St. Mary appeared in Egypt and many saw her standing next to the cross on top of a dome of her church at Zeiton.
- ❖ Before becoming a Pope, he spent many years in the monastery and then alone in a deserted windmill, which he turned into a church. In this small church he prayed daily Liturgies and raised evening incense (Vespers). He accepted everyone who came to him, asking for his prayers, especially the children. He used to tell them “I will send St. Mina to help you”. Everyone knew that he has a special relationship with St. Mina.
- ❖ After having been selected a Pope, he continued praying a daily liturgy very early in the morning (mid-day during fasting days). He loved the children and allowed them to serve with him inside the Altar. They also loved him and started learning the prayer and the Coptic praise to answer him. He used to give them food to eat and also “Alogia” blessed bread from the Lamb offering for their families.
- ❖ Because he was a man of prayer and many miracles happened during his time. One day, one of the children and his older brother were returning home on a bike after serving in a Liturgy with him. A car hit them. On the same moment back in the church, the Pope stepped out of

his room suddenly saying with a loud voice “God forbid. St. Mina protect your sons.” What happened next was unbelievable. The older brother felt a hand grabbing him and putting him on his both feet on the curb. The younger brother fell under the bike and the car passed on top of the bike flattened both rims. Nobody expected to see him alive but he came out without a single drop of blood, only a bruise on his hand.

- ❖ The Pope had a very special relationship with the Mother of God, St. Mary. He used to use Her intercession to heal the sick and help in times of trouble. She even appeared to all the people on top of her church in Zeiton. Also, St. Mary used to appear to him and with him, but he never talked about it. An American lady, Mrs. Pearl, wife of an Egyptian doctor (George Zaki, New Jersey) was visiting Cairo during this period and failed to see the appearance of St. Mary in Zeiton for 4 consecutive days. Two days before their departure back to the States, her husband took her and went to visit Pope Kyrillos. Her husband expressed his disappointment to the Pope that they are returning without seeing St. Mary. The Pope answered “You will see Her tonight,” but Pearl was very skeptical. She spend the night preparing the luggage and was about to go to sleep when someone in the family said if the Pope said “You will see her, and he knew that you are leaving tomorrow, that means St. Mary will appear tonight.” Let us go. Reluctantly she went with them all, and sure enough it was the longest appearance of the Virgin.
- ❖ The Pope had St. Mina as his beloved patron saint. He used to ask him to take care of a problem and it always ended up solved. He renewed his monastery near Alexandria and used to spend much time over there although it was hard to reach. One day the Pope prepared to return to Cairo and they loaded the car, but suddenly a severe sand storm started and the driver was afraid they would be lost in the desert. He begged the Pope to stay, but the Pope said, “I knew it. St. Mina is not happy because we are leaving, let me talk to him.” He went to the church, prayed and immediately the storm ended and the road appeared again.
- ❖ In his days, many ladies who did not have children asked for the Pope’s prayer and they gave birth to children and if their first-born is a boy they named him Mina. Many of them took their children to the monastery of St. Mina to get baptized there.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ There are many people, just like Pope Kyrillos, who loved God so much so they prayed so much and became saints and were able to make miracles. If we imitate them we may be like them.
- ❖ Who was the Pope before Pope Shenouda?
- ❖ Where did he live before becoming a Pope?
- ❖ How much time did he spend on prays?
- ❖ Did he pray Liturgies and Vespers? How frequently?
- ❖ After becoming a Pope, did he change this because of his new responsibilities?
- ❖ Who was his patron saint?
- ❖ Did he love Virgin Mary? How do you know?
- ❖ Did he ever say anything about Virgin Mary’s appearing next to him or to him personally?
- ❖ Did he know when the Virgin would publicly appear in Her church of Zeiton?

- ❖ What did he do to the old monastery of St. Mina?
- ❖ Can you talk about his miracles?
- ❖ Did he love the children?
- ❖ Why do you think he was a great saint?
- ❖ Is it possible that one or more of us can be like him? How?
- ❖ Who is your patron saint?
- ❖ Do you have a picture of your patron saint? Do you remember His or Her feast day?

Applications:

- ❖ When I pray, I will remember St. Mary, Pope Kyrillos, and St. Mina along with all the saints.
- ❖ I will ask for his help when I am in trouble or sick.
- ❖ I will also go to the church to pray every possible time like Pope Kyrillos who used to pray a liturgy every day.

Week 1: The Widow's Two Coins

Objective:

- ❖ Anything we give to God and others should be combined with love.

References:

- ❖ Luke 21:1-4
- ❖ Almsgiving, extracts from the Garden of the Soul - Anba Yoannis

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ The servant brings the alms box and places it in front of the children and each of them puts some money in the box.
- ❖ To act the story, the servant can bring a dark colored head veil and two coins.
- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson.
- ❖ Where are alms put in the church?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Where did the Lord go?
- ❖ What did he see?
- ❖ What did the rich offer and where did they put their gifts?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

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

- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus Christ notice?
- ❖ What did the widow put in the treasury?
- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus say to them all?

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

- ❖ How did the rich put their gifts in the treasury?

- ❖ What did the widow put in?
- ❖ Why did the Lord Jesus praise her?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Conclusion:

Almsgiving should result from true love. The Lord praised that widow but he did not praise the rich. The widow expressed her love for the Lord by these two lepta.

Applications:

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

Week 2: Abraham Finds A Wife To Isaac

Objective:

- ❖ God leads us and chooses what is good for us.

Memory Verse:

“He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son” (Genesis 24:7).

References:

- ❖ Genesis 24.
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Genesis - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty.

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Try to find pictures related to the story.
- ❖ Ask the children if they saw a bride and a bridegroom before. Where and how did they look?

Lesson Outline:

Abraham was the father of Isaac and he was getting very old. So, he wanted to find a beautiful wife for his son Isaac. He also wanted to make sure that Isaac’s wife should be from his own people who know God. So Abraham told the oldest servant of his house: Go back to my land and find a wife for my son from my family. And the oldest servants asked Abraham: What if she does not want to come with me here should I take your son Isaac to see her there. Abraham said: Do not take my son back there, God will send his angel to guide you to choose a wife that will agree to come with you. Abraham did not want his son Isaac to go back because God, long time ago, told him to leave his home, his family and his land and to go to another land. And Abraham was very obedient to God so he did not want his to go back.

- ❖ What did Abraham want from the oldest servant?
- ❖ Can Isaac go back to get a wife?
- ❖ Why Abraham does not want Isaac to go back?

So, Abraham’s servant took ten camels with him and many presents to give to the family of the bride of Isaac when he finds her. The servant went to the homeland of Abraham and took his camel to a well of water to drink. He also prayed to God that He might guide him to the good wife for Isaac. He asked God that the woman that will give him water to drink and will also give his camels would be the one that God chose for Isaac. Just after he finished praying, came Rebekah with her pitcher to draw water from the well and she was very beautiful. She went down to the well and draw water in her pitcher, so Abraham’s servant asked her if she could give him to drink. So, she politely said: “Drink my Lord” and she also gave water to his camels to drink. The servants then knew that this is the wife for Isaac because she did just what he asked God that she would do.

- ❖ What did the servant do before he chose a wife?

- ❖ What was the name of Isaac's wife?
- ❖ What did she do?

The servant was very happy that he found a wife for Isaac so he took a gold nose ring and two bracelets to give to her as a present and asked her whose daughter she was. She was actually Isaac's cousin. The servant asked her if he could meet her family and spend the night at their house. So, Rebekah and her brother Laban invited him to their house. The servant asked Rebekah's father if he agrees to send Rebekah with him as a wife for Isaac. Rebekah's father, Bethuel and her brother Laban said: This thing comes from the Lord and we cannot refuse it, here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her be your master's son wife, as the Lord has spoken. Then, they asked Rebekah if she would like to go with the servant to be Isaac's wife and she said: "I will go".

- ❖ What did the servant give Rebekah as a present?
- ❖ Who invited the servant to Rebekah's house?
- ❖ What did the servant do at Rebekah's house?

Conclusion:

The servant was successful in choosing a good wife for Isaac from his family just as Abraham told him. The servant was successful because Abraham would not do anything against what God told him and because the servant prayed before he chose Rebekah.

Applications:

- ❖ We have to pray before we do anything and ask God to guide us.
- ❖ Draw a picture of Isaac and Rebekah getting married.

Week 3: Confirmation

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children about one of the seven sacraments of the church.
- ❖ To show the children what happens during confirmation.

Memory Verse:

“You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13)

References:

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19
- ❖ Ephesians 1:13
- ❖ 1 Samuel 16:4-13

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the 7 sacraments of the Church.
- ❖ Also prepare a picture of a baby to demonstrate for them the 36 signs of the cross that the priest draws on the body of the baby.

Lesson Outline:

I. What is confirmation?

After the priest (Abouna) baptize the baby by immersing him in the water three times, he takes him out and dry him with a towel and pray more prayers. Then, he crosses the baby's body with oil all over his body. The baby is cleaned from all sins in baptism and then the Holy Spirit, which is from God, comes to stay in him. When the priest crosses the body with oil, he is actually stamping and sealing the Holy Spirit in the baby so that it abides in him all his life.

II. The Chrism (Myroun)

Long time ago, God wanted to choose a king for his people in Israel (1 Samuel 16:4-13). So, He sent Samuel the priest to Jesse the father of David. Samuel told Jesse and all his children to get ready to pray for God and give a sacrifice. Then Jesse started showing Samuel the priest all his sons one after the other to choose a king. When Samuel saw all his children except for David the youngest, he asked Jesse if he has any more children. So, Jesse told him that David the youngest is the only one left. Samuel told him bring him. David was taking care of the sheep in the field, so his father Jesse sent and called for him. When David came, God told Samuel that he is the one that He chose to be the king. Right away, Samuel brought oil and poured it on him in the middle of his brothers and family and the spirit of God came upon him. This is similar to what the priest does in the sacrament of confirmation in our church. The priest makes the sign of the cross with oil 36 times on the body of the baby all over. The oil he uses is called Myroun. This allows the Holy Spirit to come and abide in

the baby. This way the baby becomes Christian and can have communion (before the baby has baptism and confirmation he cannot have communion).

Let us count now where the priest put the 36 crosses on the baby's body (use the picture of a baby for demonstration and let the children count with you):

36 times

- a) Head =1 to think of God and angels
- b) Mouth=1 to talk about good word only
- c) Each eye =2 to see the good things that God created
- d) Each nostril=2 to smell the good smells like the smell of incense
- e) Ears=2 to here Christian songs and stories
- f) Each arm to do what God wants us to do (total 12)
 1. Shoulder=2
 2. Elbow=2
 3. Wrist=2
- g) Each leg to walk to the church (total 12)
 1. Thigh=2
 2. Knee=2
 3. Ankle=2
- h) Front and back (total 4)
 1. Heart=1 to Love God
 2. Navel=1 to have Christian soul
 3. Upper back= 1 to be strong
 4. Lower back =1 to behave good

The Myroun oil that the priest uses has a very nice smell and it is mixed with some of the nice perfumes that were on the body of Jesus Christ when he was in the tomb. Only Abouna can make these signs of the cross on the baby with Myroun oil.

Conclusion/ Questions:

This is the sacrament of confirmation in our church. When it is finished, the mother, the father, the brothers and sisters of the baby and everybody in the church is happy because now the baby is Christian and sealed with the stamp of Jesus Christ on his body and the Holy Spirit now is in the baby.

- ❖ What are the seven sacrament of the church?
- ❖ What is confirmation?
- ❖ Does baptism happen first or confirmation?
- ❖ Who poured oil on the head of David to make him king?
- ❖ Who makes the signs of the cross on the body of the baby?
- ❖ How many crosses does the priest draw on the baby's body?

- ❖ What is the name of the special oil the priest uses?

Applications:

- ❖ Show the children a videotape of the baptism and confirmation of one of the babies in the church.
- ❖ Give the children pictures of babies to draw the 36 crosses on them at home and bring them as homework.

Week 4: Washing Of The Feet

Objective:

- ❖ To learn how to be humble.
- ❖ To learn to serve others.

Memory Verse:

“If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me” (John 13:8).

References:

- ❖ John 13:1-20
- ❖ The Interpretation of the Book of St. John – Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty.

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Ask the children about the meaning of cleaning ourselves. This is does not only mean to clean our bodies but also to clean ourselves from the bad things we do...through confession and communion.
- ❖ Ask the children when do we use water in the church?

Lesson Outline:

This time Jesus did something different and unexpected. When all the disciples and Jesus Christ were gathering for supper one day, Jesus took off His garment. Then He tied a towel around His waist. He, although He is the teacher and the Lord, started washing the feet of His disciples with water and wiped them with the towel.

- ❖ What were the disciples doing?
- ❖ What did Jesus Christ do after the supper?

When it was St. Peter’s turn to be washed, he refused that Jesus his Teacher and his Lord to wash his feet. But Jesus told him “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me”. Then Peter listened to the Lord and let Him wash his feet.

- ❖ Who refused that Jesus would wash his feet?
- ❖ Why did he refuse?
- ❖ Was his feet washed or not?

Jesus Christ told His disciples that they have to learn from Him. Jesus wanted to teach His disciples to be humble and ready to serve others. Thus, they also have to be humble and serve others. They also have to help each other and be kind to each other.

- ❖ What did Jesus want to teach His disciples?
- ❖ What are the disciples supposed to do?

- ❖ What about us? Are we any different from the disciples?

We also know that Jesus Christ is our Teacher and our Lord. So, we also have to learn from Him to be humble and to serve others. We have to be kind to all people around us and ready to help and serve any body that needs help. This may be an old person like grand parents or your younger brother or sister or someone who is sick or tired. We are supposed to help all who need help.

Also in our church, the priest washes the feet of all the men in the church during the “Lakan” prayer before the liturgy on the Covenant Thursday during the Holy Week. This is a reminder for all of us to what Jesus Christ did for his disciples.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ is my teacher and He washed the feet of the disciples to teach me to be humble and to serve others.

Application:

- ❖ Encourage the children to attend the “Lakan” prayer with their family during the Passion Week.
- ❖ We have to help someone this week and come and tell the rest of the class next week.

Week 5: Jesus Heals A Blind Man At Bethsaida

Objective:

- ❖ The Lord heals our diseases.

References:

- ❖ St. Mark 8:22-26.
- ❖ Interpretation of the Gospel of St. Mark - translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud.
- ❖ Contemplations and studies of the Gospel of St. Mark - The Virgin's Church, Fagala.

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ What was the story of the previous lesson?
- ❖ What do you usually do if you see a blind man crossing the road?
- ❖ Who can give me the name of a blind man whom the Lord Jesus healed?
- ❖ Use a picture to illustrate the subject of the lesson.

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Who were with the Lord Jesus in the ship?
- ❖ What was the name of the city that the Lord went to?
- ❖ What did the people bring to Him?
- ❖ What did the people ask Him to do?
- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus do to the blind man?

"And they came to Bethsaida and some people brought to Him a blind man, and begged Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the village, and when He had spat on his eyes and laid His hands upon him, He asked him, do you see anything? And he looked up and said, I see men, but they look like trees, waking. Then again He laid his hands upon his eyes, and he looked intently and was restored and saw everything clearly and He sent him away to his home" (Mark 8:22-26).

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

- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus lay on the blind man's eyes?

- ❖ What did the Lord say to the blind man?
- ❖ What did the blind man say?

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

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ What happened when the Lord laid His hands once more upon the blind man's eyes?
- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus Christ say to the blind man?
- ❖ What did the blind man see?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Applications:

- ❖ When you meet a blind man in the street give him a hand and help him to cross the street.
- ❖ The priest could be called to minister the Unction of the sick for the children in the middle of the week and the servant clarifies the aim of that sacrament and how to prepare ourselves to receive it.
- ❖ Concentrate on studying some extracts from the Bible and encourage the children by giving prizes to those who study them by heart.

Week 6: The Power Of Christ When Crucified Revealed

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that Jesus was strong and mighty even when He was on the cross.

References

- ❖ Mark 15:33-38
- ❖ Luke 23,44,45

Memory Verse

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Sing the hymn “For thine is the power...the glory...the blessing and the majesty for ever Amen” [The Pascha, Praise the Lord, Page 25].

Lesson Outline:

I. The Crucifixion Icon

- ❖ What did Christ offer because of His love for us?
- ❖ Why does the Church celebrate Good Friday?
- ❖ Who were crucified with Christ?
- ❖ What did they put on His head?

When Jesus was on the cross the sun disappeared and it was dark for three hours. When Jesus was thirsty on the cross a man took a sponge filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink. Jesus cried again with a loud voice and died.

- ❖ What happened for three hours?
- ❖ What did Jesus say?
- ❖ What did they offer Him?

And behold the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom and the earth shook, and the rocks were split, the tombs also were opened and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His Resurrection they went into the Holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were afraid, and said, “Truly this was the Son of God”. There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

- ❖ What happened to the centurion when he saw the earthquake?

- ❖ What did he and those who were with him say?
- ❖ Who were the women by the cross?
- ❖ Let us repeat the verse together.

Applications:

- ❖ Prayer: Thine is the power... Tell your friends about these miracles.
- ❖ Make sure that the children fast for the Holy week.

LESSONS FOR THE PENTECOST PERIOD
(Fifty days after Resurrection)

Week 1: Jesus Appears To Mary Magdalene

Week 2: Jesus Christ Appears To His Disciples

Week 3: Almsgiving - Anba Abraam

Week 4: Lights Inside The Church

Week 5: Ascension

Week 6: Abraham Is Visited By God

Week 7: Pentecost

Week 1: Jesus Appears To Mary Magdalene

Objective:

- ❖ The child should feel the joy and know the events around the resurrection.

Memory verse:

“He is not here; for He is risen” (Matthew 28:6).

References:

- ❖ John 20:1-18, Matthew 28, Luke 23: 50 – 24:12, Mark 16:1-10
- ❖ The Gospel of St. John - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Introduction:

- ❖ Decorate the class with white balloons and Resurrection icon. You can also use Styrofoam to create the seen of the tomb and the rock.
- ❖ Ask the children about the appearance of the Church during the resurrection feast. Compare it to her appearance last week (the Holy Week).
- ❖ What type of songs we sing during the Holy week (sad) and after the resurrection (joy).
- ❖ Why is the sudden change?

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ After Jesus died on the cross, a rich man named Joseph requested His Body from the Governor. He and another good man named Nicodemus lowered the Body from the Cross, poured expensive perfumes and rare spices on His body; and wrapped Him quickly in a very expensive shroud. Then, they put Him in a brand new tomb carved in the rock and rolled a big stone in front of its door to close the tomb.
- ❖ The women who followed Jesus all the time looked at the place and went home before total darkness.
- ❖ The wicked people who crucified Jesus went to the Governor and told him “We remember that this man told his disciples that he can rise after three days, please seal the tomb and guard it”. He was angry with them and told them “You, go and seal it and guard it yourselves”, so they did.
- ❖ The women rested on Saturday but very early Sunday before sunrise, Mary Magdalene and another lady named also Mary took their spices and perfumes and went to the tomb to pour it on the Body of Jesus as a sign of love and respect. But, there was a problem, a big one! Who will roll away the stone for them to do that? They remembered that the stone needed three strong men to roll it on Friday.
- ❖ When they saw the stone covering the tomb they started dragging their feet, but suddenly there was an earthquake. Michael the Archangel appeared like lightning, and his clothing as

white as snow and he rolled the stone with one hand to the side and sat on top of it. When the guards and the women saw that, they were terrified. But the archangel Michael said to the Marys: Don't you two be afraid because I know you are seeking Jesus the Crucified. **“He is not here; for He is risen.** See the place where the Lord laid. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him.”

- ❖ So they looked at the empty tomb and went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples. Mary Magdalene was so excited she told every one that the tomb is empty. People started laughing at her and told her “you are crazy, how can the tomb be empty”. Poor Mary, by the time she reached home she was shattered. She told the disciples “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him”. The disciples ran to the tomb to see for themselves and she followed them but by the time she arrived, they were gone.
- ❖ Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had laid. Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.” Suddenly the angel stood up and looked with respect to Someone behind her. She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know Him, instead she thought He is the gardener.
- ❖ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.” Jesus called her by her name “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Teacher.” So, she knew Him from the way He called her name. This made her sure that she saw Jesus Christ alive again.
- ❖ Mary Magdalene went home and told the disciples with complete faith and trust that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken to her indeed.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ Jesus brought joy and happiness to Mary Magdalene and His disciples by His resurrection because they were able to see Him again and talk to Him and because He resurrected as He told them He will.
- ❖ Who took the Body of Jesus from the Cross?
- ❖ What did they put on Him? And where they put Him?
- ❖ Was anybody buried in the tomb before Jesus?
- ❖ How did they close the tomb?
- ❖ Why did the evil people seal the tomb and guard it?
- ❖ Why the women could not go the very next day to the tomb? When did they go?
- ❖ What did the Marys carry with them to the tomb and why?
- ❖ What was the angle's name that came down from heaven? How did he look?
- ❖ Was Jesus inside the tomb when the angel rolled the stone or the tomb was empty?
- ❖ What happened to the guards? What did the angel tell the Marys?
- ❖ Who met them in their way back? Did they hold Him?

- ❖ What happened to Mary Magdalene before reaching home? Did she stay at home?
- ❖ How did she know Jesus the second time? Did He allow her to touch Him that time?
- ❖ Can Jesus come out of the tomb while it is closed?

Applications:

- ❖ Play to the children the reenactment of the resurrection as performed by the priest and the deacons during the resurrection liturgy.
- ❖ Make a model similar to the tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Week 2: Jesus Christ Appears To His Disciples

Objective:

- ❖ Lord Jesus Christ overcomes death.

References

- ❖ John 20:19-23
- ❖ Luke 24:36-43
- ❖ With Christ in His Passions, Death and Resurrection - Sporting

Memory Verse

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

Introduction:

- ❖ To start the lesson, bring the Resurrection Icon and ask the children to carry it and go around singing the hymn, “Truly Risen...”
- ❖ You may also have them view a film about Resurrection or a drawing that shows the event of Resurrection.
- ❖ Review the previous lessons and the verse.
- ❖ What happened to the sun on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified?
- ❖ What happened to the tombs?
- ❖ Who confessed that the Lord Jesus was the Son of God?
- ❖ Where was Christ buried?
- ❖ When did He rise from the dead?
- ❖ Who came early to the tomb?

Lesson Outline:

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

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

- ❖ Where were the disciples?

- ❖ Where was Thomas?
- ❖ Did he believe the disciples' words?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

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

- ❖ When did the disciples gather and Thomas with them?
- ❖ What did Jesus say to Thomas?
- ❖ What did he answer?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Applications:

- ❖ The children carry the icon representing Resurrection and go around the church with it singing: "Truly Risen..."
- ❖ Groups of children could be formed to distribute the offerings among the poor on the occasion of the feast.

Week 3: Almsgiving - Anba Abraam

Objective:

- ❖ How to show our love for others.

References:

- ❖ The life of Anba Abraam - Al Mahaba bookshop
- ❖ Anba Abraam the Saint - Fr. Michael Saad
- ❖ The grade of the soul, almsgiving - Anba Yoannis

Memory Verse:

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord” (Proverbs 19:17).

Introduction:

- ❖ Display the picture of Anba Abraam and place tapers before the picture. Ask the children to carry it and go around honoring it by singing hymns.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ What did the disciples do?
- ❖ Whose picture is this?
- ❖ What is this saint famous for?
- ❖ What should I give to the poor and the needy?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ What is the name of the late Bishop of Fayoum?
- ❖ What was that saint famous for?
- ❖ What did the woman ask of him?
- ❖ What did the saint give her?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

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

- The man: How much is this shawl?
- + The woman: How much do you want it for?
- The man: Anyway take this sum of money and give me that shawl.

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

- ❖ Who bought the shawl back from the woman?
- ❖ What did the man do with it?
- ❖ What did he say to Anba Abraam?
- ❖ What was Anba Abraam’s answer?

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

- ❖ What did the man do when he went to the bishop?
- ❖ What did Anba Abraam say to him?
- ❖ What was the man’s answer?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?
- ❖ Who remembers other verses about almsgiving?

Conclusion:

One must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Applications:

- ❖ Discuss with the children a way of organizing an act of almsgiving.
- ❖ Each class should give a box for almsgiving and the money collected should be given to a poor family.
- ❖ The servant begins the study of the Morning Prayer, gives children some extracts and encourages them to study and memorize them emphasizing that “the light that enlightens every man was coming into the world”. Thus the children study them and use them in their prayers at home.

Week 4: Lights Inside The Church

Objective:

- ❖ Love of the church.

Memory Verse:

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

References:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Using lights the church aims at drawing the attention of the people to the transfiguration of Christ (Mathew 17:1-8). When Christ transfigured to His beloved John, John saw the lights surrounding the Lord. For this reason, tapers are lit day and night in honor of the Lord so that the Church may be like the sky. This refers to the glory of the church (Revelation 21,22,23) of which the earthly church is a symbol and example. One of the fathers said, “Since the church is heavenly earth, it must be decorated with these lights. Lamps and candles, which are like stars in the sky, must shine inside the church. This reminds people that they should be shining like lights in the world.
- ❖ Christ is the light of the world. He enlightens our hearts with his true light thus the darkness of sin is no more.
- ❖ Our Lord Jesus likes us to shine. Sing together “I love you Lord Jesus...” [Praise the Lord, Page 54].

Lesson Outline:

Use the lights of the church during the lesson. Light the cross, the chancel, and the lamps.

- ❖ What do we notice on the chancel inside the church?
- ❖ What do we notice in the east side of the altar?

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

- ❖ What do we notice when we enter the church?
- ❖ What do we see in front of the lecterns?
- ❖ What do we see on the Altar?

- ❖ What does the church look like when it is lit with lights?

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

- ❖ What is hung on the wall east of the sanctuary?
- ❖ What is placed in the lamp hung on the east side of the wall?
- ❖ What does this lamp stand for?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

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

- ❖ What do we see in front of the icons?
- ❖ Why do we light tapers before the icons of Saints?
- ❖ Who can mention the names of some Saints whom we light lamps and tapers before their icons?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Applications:

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

Week 5: Ascension

Objective:

- ❖ To understand what is the meaning of ascension.
- ❖ To learn the story of Ascension.

Memory Verse:

“A cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

References:

- ❖ Acts 1:2-11

Introduction:

What is the meaning of Ascension? Ask the children and show them a picture of the ascension of Jesus Christ. Ascension means go up. Jesus Christ after 40 days from His resurrection he ascended to the heavens, i.e. He rose from the dead and went up into the heavens.

Lesson Outline:

After Jesus Christ died on the cross, His body was placed in a new tomb but after 3 days He came out of the tomb and was alive again. This is what is called resurrection. After He became alive again He appeared to His disciples for 40 days. He told them many things about His kingdom in heaven and about how they are supposed to tell every body about Jesus Christ.

At the end of the forty days and as He was speaking to them, He started to rise up...up...up gradually to heaven. He was spreading His hands to bless them when He started to ascend. He finally disappeared in the clouds very... very high in the sky. The disciples were still staring at the clouds where Jesus Christ disappeared. They were amazed with what they were seeing. They could not believe their eyes. They continued looking to the clouds for a long time.

So two angels appeared to them from heaven in white cloth and told them: “Why do you stand gazing up into heaven?” This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). Yet, no body knows when He will come again.

So, all the disciples went back together to the House of St. Mark. They stayed there with St. Mary and some women and were praying all the time. They did not leave because Jesus Christ told them to wait until they get power from the Heaven.

Conclusion/Questions:

Jesus Christ went up to heaven after forty days from Easter and we are waiting for Him to come again on the clouds like the angels said. Meanwhile, we stay together, pray together and love each other till Jesus comes again.

- ❖ Who ascended to the heaven?
- ❖ What does ascension mean?
- ❖ How many days did Jesus spend with the disciples after Easter?
- ❖ What was Jesus doing when He ascended?
- ❖ How many angels appeared to the disciples?
- ❖ What did the angels tell the disciples?

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of Jesus Christ ascension to the heaven.
- ❖ Show the children how does a balloon filled with helium goes up to the sky till it disappears from their sight just like what happened to the disciples during the ascension of Jesus Christ.

Week 6: Abraham Is Visited By God

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to share meals with visitors.
- ❖ To learn to be generous with strangers.

References:

- ❖ Genesis 18:1-16
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Genesis - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Memory Verse:

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14)

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Ask the children what they do when they have visitors? If they serve anything or share a meal with them.
- ❖ What is the best thing they like about having visitors at home?
- ❖ Prepare pictures of the things Abraham used to please his visitors, i.e. water bowl, bread, calf, butter and milk. Try to use them as visual aids for the children during the story.

Lesson Outline:

Once upon a time Abraham was sitting at the door of his tent under the trees, when he looked and saw three men standing close to his tent. Abraham ran to greet them and bowed down for them. This was actually God and two angels appearing to Abraham in the form of men. Abraham asked them to come and visit him and spend some time in his tent to rest. When they came in Abraham brought water to wash their feet and to help them refresh and relax. He also went to his wife Sarah and asked her to make bread for the visitors. Abraham, then, ran and caught a calf to cook and gave to his visitors to eat and be filled. So, he took butter and milk with the calf and placed it before them and he stood by them while they ate.

- ❖ Who came to visit Abraham?
- ❖ What did Abraham ask them to do?
- ❖ What did he ask Sarah to make for the visitors?
- ❖ What did he give for his visitors to eat?

After the three men ate and were happy with Abraham’s hospitality and generosity, they asked him where is his wife Sarah. Abraham said: “Here, in the tent”. The Lord said: “next time I come to visit you, your wife shall have a baby”. Sarah was listening to what the visitors were saying to Abraham and she laughed. She laughed because she was old and Abraham her husband was very old and she did not believe that they could have a baby when they are very... very old like this. Then the

Lord who was visiting Abraham asked him “why did Sarah laugh?” He told Abraham that God can do anything and He can give you a baby son even if you were both very old. Sarah was afraid, so she lied saying: “I did not laugh”. The Lord said: “No, but you did laugh”. God did actually give the old Sarah and Abraham a baby son as He said He would when He visited Abraham. Their child name was Isaac.

- ❖ What did the Lord tell Abraham?
- ❖ Why did Sarah laugh?
- ❖ Why did Sarah lie?
- ❖ Is it good or bad to lie when we are afraid?
- ❖ What was the name of Abraham’s son?

Conclusion:

We have to be nice and kind to visitors and strangers like Abraham was to God and the two angels who visited him in the form of three men.

Applications:

- ❖ Never to lie when we are in trouble.
- ❖ Write a list of all the things you can do when you have visitors in your house.

Week 7: The Pentecost

Objective:

- ❖ The children should feel the great love and care God gave to them when they received the Holy Spirit after being baptized.

Memory verse:

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8).

References:

- ❖ Luke 24:49-53, Acts 2
- ❖ The Holy Spirit and His Work in Us - H.H. Pope Shenouda III.

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Use an icon or a picture of the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit during the day of Pentecost.
- ❖ Ask the children about what they see in the picture and if they can describe it.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ After the Ascension, the disciples returned back to Jerusalem as the Lord told them. They went up into the house of St. Mark where they stayed. These all continued praying and fasting, with the women and St. Mary the mother of God.
- ❖ When the day of Pentecost had come, ten days after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, they were all praying at St. Mark’s house. Suddenly, there came a sound from heaven like very strong wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then, there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one settled upon each of them. These tongues of fire were different from the fire we know, because it did not burn any one or anything. It was coming from God to bring the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
- ❖ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different languages they never knew before. They praised God and started telling every one about the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ At that time there were living in Jerusalem Jews from different countries. And when they heard the sound of the blowing wind, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speak in his own language. They were all surprised, and they asked each others: Look, are not all these disciples who speak different languages now used to speak only one language before? Then how is it that we can hear the different languages of the different countries we came from.
- ❖ The people laughed at the disciples and said: “they are completely drunk.” Hearing that, St. Peter stood up with the other disciples, and raised his voice and said to them, “These are not

drunk, as you suppose, since it is only three o'clock in the afternoon". St. Peter then started talking to the people about Jesus Christ and how He came to save them and that He rose from the dead.

- ❖ Now when they heard this, 3000 people believed and they asked the apostles "What shall we do?" The apostles answered "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall get the gift of the Holy Spirit and all your sins will be cleaned. Then those who gladly listened to these words were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
- ❖ The new believers continued to gather with the rest of the Christians and shared with them the communion and the prayers. Then many wonders and miracles were done through the apostles.
- ❖ All who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold all what they have and divided them among all, so every one would take what he needs only. They were glad when they shared food together and they were all simple in heart, praising God. And the Lord added many more people to the church daily and their number increased quickly.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ The disciples spent the 10 days before the Pentecost in fasting and prayers. The Holy Spirit filled their heart at the end giving them power from heaven.
- ❖ Lord now we all have the Holy Spirit in us from Baptism so give us the same power as you gave to your disciples.
- ❖ Where did the disciples go after the Ascension?
- ❖ What did they do while waiting?
- ❖ Why did they select additional apostle?
- ❖ What are the names of the twelve apostles?
- ❖ Who else was with the apostles?
- ❖ What happened the day of Pentecost?
- ❖ At what hour the Holy Spirit filled the apostles?
- ❖ What did the people think about them?
- ❖ How many were saved by one sermon from Peter?
- ❖ What did they do to join the new church?
- ❖ How did they live after that? Did anybody have a need to a thing?
- ❖ Why do we name this day the birthday of the church?

Applications:

- ❖ Let us do what the apostles and the new believers did, share everything, love one another, pray and fast together.
- ❖ Go to the church together, play together, and take communion together.
- ❖ We also have to tell the children who don't share that sharing is from God.

THE APOSTLES' FAST PERIOD

Use Filler lessons (at the beginning of the book) between the feast of Pentecost and the second week of July.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Week 1: The Apostle Feast

Week 2: Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

Week 3: Showing Respect for Priesthood - Korah and Dathan

Week 2: The Apostles Feast

Objective:

- ❖ To know that Christ loves sinners in the same way He loves the righteous.

References:

- ❖ Matthew 9:9
- ❖ Interpretation of the Gospel of St. Mathew - Fr. Marcos Daoud
- ❖ Interpretation of the Gospel of St. Mathew - the Virgin Mary Church, Fagala

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Bring coins or pictures of coins to the class.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Who can remember one of Christ’s disciples?
- ❖ Who collects taxes now?
- ❖ Who collected taxes in the age of the Romans?

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Who collected taxes from the people?
- ❖ What was Levi’s job?
- ❖ Where did Levi sit?

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

- ❖ What did Jesus say to Levi?
- ❖ What happened to Levi?
- ❖ What did Levi do?

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

- ❖ What was the other name of Levi after he followed Jesus?
- ❖ What did Matthew write?
- ❖ Where did Matthew preach the good news?
- ❖ How was Matthew martyred?
- ❖ Where was he martyred?

Conclusion:

We have to love God more than money and more than anything else in the whole world.

Applications:

- ❖ Distribute to the children the names of the 12 disciples to memorize for the next week.

Week 3: Jesus Heals A Centurion's Servant

Objective:

- ❖ God can perform miracles. He can do anything.

References:

- ❖ Luke 7:1-10
- ❖ Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel - translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud.

Memory Verse:

“Say the word, and let my servant be healed” (Luke 7:7).

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ What should I do when I feel ill?
- ❖ What does the Lord give the sick person after he is examined?
- ❖ Give the names of some of the sick people that the Lord healed?
- ❖ How did the Lord Jesus Christ heal those sick people? Did He give them medicine?

Lesson Outline:

The Lord Jesus in Judea talks about the Kingdom of God, and heals the sick people.

- ❖ Where was the Lord Jesus Christ?
- ❖ What was he doing?

Jesus entered Capernaum and there a centurion asked Him to heal his servant.

- ❖ What did the centurion do?
- ❖ What did the elders request Jesus to do?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to them?

Jesus healed the servant because the centurion was faithful and modest. When the centurion's friends went to his house they found that the servant was healed. They rejoiced and praised God.

Questions:

- ❖ Why did the Roman officer send his friend to the Lord Jesus Christ?
- ❖ What did he ask them to tell the Lord Jesus Christ?
- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus Christ tell the people who followed him?
- ❖ What did friends find out when they returned to the house?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?

Applications:

- ❖ This week we shall pray for the sick. Explain that when we pray with faith, the Lord will answer our prayers.
- ❖ Study the following extracts by heart: “Gloria in the Agpia”: Let us sing with the angels saying, Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise you, we bless you we worship you, we confess to you, and we proclaim your glory.
- ❖ This prayer suits this lesson so the children must study and recite it and use it in their prayers till the end of this period. It should be printed and distributed or the children are to get it out of books as a sort of competition.

Week4: Showing Respect For Priesthood - Korah And Dathan

Objective:

- ❖ We must show respect for our fathers the priests.

References:

- ❖ Numbers 16:15-35
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Numbers – Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty.

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ You can bring with you a censer, coal, incense, and the priest’s clothes but do not use them.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Who baptizes in the church?
- ❖ Who gives you Holy Communion in the Church?
- ❖ Who raises incense in the Church?

Lesson Outline:

Moses, Aaron and the sons of Levi did services in the tabernacle of the Lord. Korah, and Dathan and their sons said to Moses, “You have gone too far. Why did you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord? Why do you distinguish yourselves and give yourselves the right to serve the altar of the Lord. For all the congregation are holy. Aren’t all the congregation priests?” They overlooked the verse “And no man takes this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron” (Hebrew 5:4). When Moses heard this, he fell on his face.

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

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

- ❖ What was the number of the sons of Korah and the sons of Dathan?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to Moses and Aaron?
- ❖ What happened to Korah and Dathan and their sons?

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

- ❖ Why did the Lord destroy that group of people?
- ❖ What happened to the men who burnt the incense?
- ❖ What was the name of the tribe that was chosen for the service of the Lord?
- ❖ Which group of people was chosen for the service of the tabernacle and priesthood?

Conclusion:

Pride is the cause of all divisions and envy is also dangerous. The priests chosen by God are the only ones that can do the duties of the priest, like giving communion, baptizing children, marriage and absolution after confession...etc.

Applications

- ❖ We must show respect for the priests by listening to them when they talk and we should talk to them politely.

Lessons for the Month of August

Week 1: Repentance And Confession

Week 2: St. Youstina

Week 3: The Feast Of The Virgin - The Appearance In Zeiton

Week 4: Intercession

Week 1: Repentance And Confession

Objective:

- ❖ To understand that God cares for him and wants to forgive his sins the same way his father forgives him when he makes a mistake.

Memory verse:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us” (1 John 1:9)

References:

- ❖ 1 John 1:8-10
- ❖ Matthew 6:12-14
- ❖ Orthodox Church Sacraments, Book 3: Confession and Penance - St. Mary's, MD 1998

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the seven Sacraments of the church.
- ❖ Ask them about Baptism and explain how the person comes out of it clean without sin.
- ❖ The meaning of sin should also be explained to the children as doing something bad that would make God unhappy.
- ❖ Also if we do anything against what God tells us to do then, this is sin.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ When you go to school gym or play outside your home with your friends, you start to sweat and your clothes start getting dirt spots on it. What do you do? You get a shower and wash your clothes. That is exactly what we do when we go to confession.
- ❖ When we came out of Baptism we were clean of sins. But when we start living our active life, we start committing sins against God and others. Like disobeying your father or mother, hitting your sister or brother, taking a toy or a game from a friend without his permission, saying bad words and all types of problems and bad things that we may do.
- ❖ We know that God loves us, but He hates sin. Just like your mother or father they love you but they hate to see you in dirty clothes or smell bad from sweating. So He made for us the Sacrament of confession. We go to the priest and tell him the bad things we have done. All of it, and he will advise us how not to do it again. He also absolves us and God will forgive us these sins or in other words we become clean again.
- ❖ Why should I go to the priest? Why not a friend or mother or father? God did not allow any of them except the priest to give us the forgiveness of sins. So we have to go to the man who has the authority from God to absolve us and forgive us our sins. Remember, the priest was a

child and then a young man before becoming a priest and practiced confession all this time and can help as a friend or better than a friend.

- ❖ To prepare for a confession, we must do certain things. Sit down to remember our sins and how bad they are, pray to God to forgive us, then go to the priest and confess them. You can do that every day at home before going to sleep and when you are awaiting your turn to sit with the priest do it one last time.
- ❖ Remember there is nothing that pleases the father “God” than seeing his children cleaned up from their sins and starting a new start, living their life like angels. He will do everything to help and your secret sins, said during the confession, will be kept between you and him. He can’t tell them to any body.
- ❖ You will also feel much better and happier after you confess your sins, just like when you put on clean cloth and smell good again after being dirty for some time.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ God cares about me. He wants me always clean from my sins. He made this important practice “the Confession” one of the church Sacraments for me so that I will always be clean and happy.
- ❖ What happened to us in the Baptism?
- ❖ Do we stay the same way for long?
- ❖ What wrong we are doing and considered sins? Give examples.
- ❖ How can we get rid of the problem of sins?
- ❖ How do we prepare ourselves for confession?
- ❖ Do I have to confess to the priest, even if my dad or mom knows about it?
- ❖ What the priest is going to do after the confession?
- ❖ How frequent I should confess?
- ❖ Would the priest tell anyone about what I said during confession?
- ❖ How many of you already confessed at least once?
- ❖ Did you feel relieved after you did?
- ❖ Was it easy the first time?
- ❖ Is it easy now?

Applications:

- ❖ Check with the children when was the last time they confessed.
- ❖ Make sure that you confess regularly, at least once a month.

Week 2: St. Youstina

Objective:

- ❖ The children will learn through this lesson the power of the saints and their prayers.
- ❖ These saints fervently preached to the non-believers, turning them to believers, and became saints shedding their blood for the love of the Lord.

Memory verse:

“Nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

References:

- ❖ Luke 10:17-20
- ❖ Hebrews 13:7
- ❖ Synaxarium, 21 Tute

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the previous lesson and individually about their own private saints.
- ❖ Ask if they mention the name of their saints in their prayers.
- ❖ Ask if they have a picture of their saints in their rooms.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ The Lord gives His saints power that no one, even the devil himself, can overcome. This is true especially in the story of our saint of the day “Youstina the virgin.” The story starts with a man named Kiprianos who was unbeliever. He grew up in Morocco and learned magic and witchcraft and became an authority in using the evil spirits to achieve his goals.
- ❖ He moved from one country to another to show off his power. He arrived at Antioch and his evil fame started spreading around. Bad people started to use him to do things they desired to do but were unable.
- ❖ At Antioch there was a rich non-Christian young man who was fond of a Christian virgin named Youstina. He used to see her in her way back and forth to the church. He tried to attract her by money but it didn’t work. He threatened to kill her but it didn’t work. He used devilish witchcraft to force her to love him but it didn’t work.
- ❖ When he heard about Kiprianos, he went and offered him a large sum of money to make this girl love him. Kiprianos promised him that with the power of the devil he could bring her to him and force her to do whatever he ordered her to do. The man went his way happy expecting that he finally would win this girl.
- ❖ Kiprianos used all his knowledge of witchcraft and black magic to ask the devils one after another to bring this virgin to him. Each one of them failed and returned to him saying that he could not even approach her because she was praying.

- ❖ Finally Kiprianos summoned all of them and threatened them that if they don't bring Youstina to him, he will believe that her God has more power over all of them; and he will convert to Christianity.
- ❖ The head of these devils devised a trick and ordered one of his devils to dress in her clothes and change his appearance to hers and go to Kiprianos. When Kiprianos saw him, he was thrilled and stood up to kiss her saying, "welcome Youstina the queen of ladies." Immediately following the mentioning of her name the devil could not stand. His appearance as Youstina disintegrated leaving an extremely bad smell.
- ❖ Kiprianos realized the trick; he burnt all his witchcraft and black magic books. He went to the bishop of Antioch, confessed his sins and got baptized. He selected to leave all his belongings and become a monk. In due time, the Patriarch ordained him as deacon, priest and then a bishop at Carthage in his homeland Morocco in the year 348 AD. He attended one of the important church counsels convened in this town.
- ❖ He sent for St. Youstina and appointed her as mother superior on a monastery for nuns. When the heathen king Dakious heard that both of them are serving Christ and converting a lot of heathens to the true God, he brought them and asked them to offer incense to his idols. However, when they refused he punished them severely and finally cut off their necks by the sword.

Conclusion/Questions.

- ❖ Just the name of Youstina was enough to convert a man to Christianity without preaching. Remember that Youstina was a young Christian girl like you and me. Her prayers prevented the devils from approaching her or do anything wrong to her. Even the mentioning of her name would drive the evil spirit away. My Lord, please give me the believing heart and the life of continuous prayers as you gave St. Youstina.
- ❖ Was Kiprianos a good man before he converted to Christianity?
- ❖ What was his power and how did he use it?
- ❖ Where was he converted to Christianity?
- ❖ Do the devils have any power on non-believers?
- ❖ Do they have the same power on Christians? [Teacher: They do if the Christian allows them]
- ❖ What happened when all of them failed to bring Youstina to Kiprianos?
- ❖ What happened when Kiprianos discovered that the person he saw was not Youstina but the devil?
- ❖ What did Kiprianos do when he was ordained a bishop?
- ❖ Did he die a natural death?
- ❖ Did Youstina die a natural death?
- ❖ What is the secret of Youstina's power?

Applications:

- ❖ I will pray as much as I can like St. Youstina.

- ❖ When I pray, I will remember my beloved saint and ask his or her prayer to protect me from the devil.
- ❖ I will remember the commemoration day of my saint and celebrate it with joy.

Week 3: The Feast Of The Virgin - The Appearance In Zeiton

Objective:

- ❖ To learn the story of St. Mary
- ❖ To take her example in virtues

Memory Verse:

“All generations will call me blessed “ (Luke 1:48)

References:

- ❖ The Synaxarium - Vol. III, the 24th day of Baramhat

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and the verse.
- ❖ Bring a picture of the appearance of St. Mary in Zeiton to show the children during the lesson.
- ❖ Ask them how many have seen a picture of St. Mary and where did they see it. Ask them if they have her picture at home. Ask them what is the relationship of St. Mary to Jesus Christ?
- ❖ We all love St. Mary because she is like a mother for us all. She cares for everything happening to us and she prays for us to Jesus Christ. She tries to help us when we are in trouble and she feels for our feelings.

Lesson Outline:

St. Mary actually appeared in Egypt long time ago in a church called St. Mary in Zeiton. The first time when she appeared, a watchman in a garage saw her. She appeared at night on top of the dome of the church as a lady shining light. She was kneeling in front of the cross on top of the dome of the church. The watchman was called Abdel Aziz, he got very worried about the lady on top of the dome and he called all the people working with him in the garage to come and see. They all thought that the lady will fall from the top of the dome and hurt herself. They did not know that this is St. Mary. They started to shout and yell to tell her not to through her self from above the dome. All the men and women walking in the street at that time started to gather and they even called the police.

Gradually, St. Mary started to appear clearer to them as a beautiful girl in a bright gown of light and had branches of olive in her hand. There were also white doves flying around her on top of the church dome. Then, the people started to realize that they were seeing a heavenly vision. They directed flashlight at the dome to make sure that it is not their imagination. However, St. Mary became even clearer with the flash of light directed toward her. Then, they cut the electricity off again to make sure that this lady of light is not related to the church lights or to the electricity. In the dark, St. Mary was even brighter and more beautiful and started to move around the dome in a circle of light surrounding her. Then, people started to realize that this is the Virgin St. Mary and they started to shout, “She is the Virgin... Virgin Mary...She is the mother of light...”

Then, they started praying and singing hymns all night with St. Mary on top of the dome of the church in Zeiton till the next morning.

- ❖ Where did St. Mary appear?
- ❖ How did she look?
- ❖ Who saw her first?
- ❖ What was she holding in her hand?
- ❖ What else appeared with her on the dome of the church?

Since that night, St. Mary continued to appear in different forms for many nights. Thousands of people saw her and many people came from different countries to see her. Even non-Christians came to see her. Sometimes she appeared with an angel behind her spreading his wings. The doves would also appear before, during or after her appearance. Other times she would appear with the child Jesus Christ on her hand. Some people also saw her raise her hands as if she was blessing the people. She never spoke during all these nights but there were many miracles happening at that time. May the blessing of St. Mary be with us.

Conclusion:

St. Mary is the mother of us all and she appeared in Zeiton in Egypt to strengthen the faith of the Christian make many more people to believe in and respect Christianity.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of St. Mary appearing on top of the dome of the church?
- ❖ Collect some pictures of St. Mary.
- ❖ The class should start memorizing “We magnify you the mother of the true light...”

Week 4: Intercession

Objective:

- ❖ The children should realize that the great saints don't die. They just move from our world to join the heavenly host. Thus, they have more freedom (like the angels) to communicate with us and, more importantly, support our weak prayers with their strong ones.

Memory verse:

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16).

References:

- ❖ Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4
- ❖ John 2:1-10
- ❖ Introduction to Coptic Orthodox Church - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Introduction:

- ❖ Ask the children about the icons of St. Mary, St. John the Baptist, and the angels in the church.
- ❖ Why do we hang the icons facing us instead of the Altar?
- ❖ Why do the priests raise incense in front of the icons?
- ❖ Tell the children the story of the wedding of Cana of Galilee and how St. Mary's intercession saved the people of the wedding from the embarrassment and resulted in the first miracle by Jesus Christ when He listened to His mother's request (John 2:1-10).

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ After we die our body will lose life but our spirit would go to paradise. So the spirits of the good Christians like the saints go to paradise but they don't lose touch with us who are still alive.
- ❖ The spirits and us is one church, they are in paradise and we are still on earth waiting for the moment to join them. Because they are good and full of love for us, they try to help us with their prayer to God. But first we have to ask for their help when we pray.
- ❖ Do they hear us? Indeed, they do. Just as if we can hear the voice of a man we don't even know talking to us on a cellular phone from a far away place, it should be very easy for them to hear us when we stand up for prayer. Imagine prayer as our spiritual cell phone that connects you with the saint if you just say his or her name. Our prayers would be much stronger when you say the name of St. Mary or your beloved angel or saint in your spiritual cell phone (prayer).
- ❖ Which is more powerful: if you alone ask your dad for something or if your mother, brothers and sisters have helped you by asking your dad with you? Sure, if they have helped you. The

same goes for our Heavenly Father. If we get all the help from the saints, we share their love; He will answer our prayer. If we are asking for something good.

- ❖ Because St. Mary, the angels and saints are surrounding the throne of God in heaven, they are always praising and praying to Him on our behalf. When we ask for their intercession, they immediately take our prayer, add their prayer to it, and offer it to God. Just like St. Mary did in the wedding of Cana of Galilee. And, if we ask in our prayer for something that is not good for us, they correct it and ask our God only for what is good and profitable for us.
- ❖ When the priest starts raising incense on the altar with our prayers, we start asking the prayers of the invisible church of saints and angels who are watching us but we can't see them. We don't pray to them, we pray to God and at the same time we ask them to join us. They join our prayers and raise it to God. We humbly and politely ask God to accept our prayers because of their intercessions and prayers for us.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ Why does the priest raise incense on the altar and in front of the icons of the saints?
- ❖ What do we pray when he is doing that?
- ❖ Do the angels hear us?
- ❖ Where the spirits of the saints go after their bodies die?
- ❖ Do the saints hear us after their death?
- ❖ If the saints are in heaven and we are on earth how can they hear us?
- ❖ Are we praying to the saints or do we ask them to join our prayers to God?
- ❖ Who is closer to God, St. Mary or the angels?
- ❖ Who is closer to God, the saints or the angels?
- ❖ Who's prayer is stronger, my prayer or St. Mary's?

Application:

- ❖ When I pray, I will ask for the intercession of the Mother of God, the angels, St. John and all the saints for me.
- ❖ I should listen to the good advice of my guardian angel and follow the good examples these great saints left for me.
- ❖ I will have my own saint friend in heaven that will help my prayer.

**Lesson of the First week of September
Before the Coptic New Year**

Week 1: Thankful Leper

Week 1: Thankful Leper

Objective:

- ❖ Always remember the good things that God gives us and thank Him for it.
- ❖ To learn to say thank you for everything.

Memory Verse:

“Your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:19).

References:

- ❖ Luke 17:11-19
- ❖ Interpretations of the Gospel of St. Luke - Fr. Tadros Y. Malaty

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the children the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Ask the children what are we supposed to say whenever we get something from God or from any other person.
- ❖ Ask them if they pay attention to say thank you whenever they receive any thing?
- ❖ Try to use visual aids to help the children learn the story.
- ❖ We, as the children of God, should thank God every time we pray for all the good things that He gives us. But what are the things He gives us? ...wait for answers from the children...
- ❖ God surely gives us cloth, food, family, toys, car, home. God also gives us good health, the sun and the moon and all the beautiful creatures around us.

Lesson Outline:

Long time ago some people were getting sick with a skin disease called leprosy. Their skin would gradually get bumps and cracks and it would look really bad. All people used to avoid anyone who is a leper and try not to touch him so that they would not get the same skin problem. Lepers were also supposed to shout and tell everybody that they are lepers wherever they go so no one would get near them. Jesus once was going through a village and saw ten lepers standing far away from Him like they do with all other people. They asked Him if He could have mercy on them and heal them from their skin disease. So, Jesus Christ healed them instantly from their skin disease. They looked like normal people again with beautiful skin and good looks as if they never had leprosy before. Their skin was clean and smooth just like you and me. Jesus told them also to go to the priests and show them the miracle that happened to them.

- ❖ How many lepers did Jesus meet?
- ❖ What was their disease?
- ❖ What did Jesus do to them?

The lepers when they were healed they ran and were happy. However, only one of them came back to say thank you to Jesus Christ who healed him. This only one leper came back and also glorified God. Jesus was surprised that although He healed ten lepers only one of them came back to say: “thank you”. This one came and kneeled at Jesus feet and fell on his face to express his thanks. Jesus asked and said: where are the other nine lepers that were healed? How come they did not come back like this one to say thank you. He was angry with them but He was happy with the one that came back to say thank you.

- ❖ How many lepers did Jesus Christ heal?
- ❖ How many came back to say thank you?
- ❖ How many did not come back?
- ❖ Which one does Jesus Christ like more?

The one that came back was the happiest and the most blessed by Jesus Christ. Jesus told him that his faith and thankfulness are the reason for his healing.

Conclusion:

We must always thank God because He loves the thankful children more than the ones who forget to thank Him.

Applications:

- ❖ We have to thank God in all our prayers.
- ❖ We have to also say thank you to others whenever they are trying to help us or give us anything.