



**THE COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
ST. GEORGE AND ST. RUEISS CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**GRADE ONE**

Revised Edition 2021

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Παποστολος

Πιάσιος

Μαρκος







THE THRICE-BLESSED POPE SHENOUDA III  
OF BLESSED MEMORY





HIS HOLINESS POPE TAWADROS II



Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate

FROM H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

Deir Anba Ruciss, Ramses Avenue, ABBASSIYA,

CAIRO, EGYPT.

CABLE : ELANBARUEISS, CAIRO.

ΠΡΟΣ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΗ ΜΕΛΙΝΔΗ  
ΠΟΡΦΟΡΟΣ

بِسْمِ الْبَيْتَةِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ

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الى الدينيه المباركيه القوم مرقس الياس عبد المسيح  
والذين تادرس يعقوب ملطي

سلام رحمة ورجاء

زارني ابنا دا. محفوظ وسعه المنهج القترح لدارس  
التربية الكنسية بالمهجر. وقد درست معه المخطوط الاساسية  
للمنهج، ودره الدخول في التفاصيل. وأبدت له بعض ملاحظات  
من جهة مناهج هذه العقيدة والحق: وفي الواقع أنه الجهد المبذول  
جهد كبير جداً يتحلى الشكر. ومع ذلك تحتاج دروس الكتاب  
المقدم الى زيادة. وسأرسل لكم ملاحظات اخري بالتفصيل بمشيئة  
الرب.

فليبارك الرب كل ما قام به ابنا محفوظ من جهود في اعداد  
المنهج، وفي جمع المادة، وفي عمل الترجمة. وليبارك الرب  
أخيراً كل ما اشتركوا في العمل، وفي المراجعة  
وليكنه هدفنا هو ما ننتج الوصول اليه من كان على قدر  
امكانياتنا. ويمكنه ترميد المنهج أيضاً بالصور المناسبة والتي  
تقدمها كنيتنا من النواحي العقيدية والحقوقية والتاريخية  
الرب معكم. كوفنا بخير

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سيد القديسة اغنياس



# Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate

FROM H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

Deir Anba Ruciss, Ramses Avenue, ABBASSIYA,

CAIRO, EGYPT.

CABLE : ELANBARUEISS, CAIRO.



To my blessed two sons: Hegomain Fr. Marcous Elias Abdel Massih and Hegomain Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty.

Peace and love be with you.

Dr. Mahfouz has visited me and brought with him the suggested Sunday school curriculum for the land of immigration. I have studied with him the basic topics of the curriculum without getting into details. Although I have pointed out some concerns on the doctrine and dogma curriculum, it is clear that the amount of work spent on preparing the curriculum is huge and worth thanking. Nonetheless, the Bible study part of the curriculum needs to be increased. God willing, I will also send you additional details on this curriculum.

May the Lord bless all the effort that our son Mahfouz has done in preparing the Sunday school curriculum, in collecting the relevant topics, and in performing the translation of materials. May the Lord also bless all those who have joined him in preparing this project and those who revised the topics.

Let our goal be to perform our best in order to try to arrive at perfection given our abilities. Lastly, I would also suggest the addition of different recognized pictures according to our doctrine, dogma and history to the Sunday school curriculum.

May the Lord be with you. Be in peace.

Signed

*Pope Shenouda III*

22 August 1986

The feast of St. Mary







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## **IMPORTANT RULES**

### **FOR TEACHING**

## **IMPORTANT RULES FOR TEACHING THE YOUTH IN THE LAND OF IMMIGRATION**

Our youth in the land of immigration are influenced by the society and the culture they live in, this is considered perfectly normal and inevitable.

Despite the similarities in the content of the Sunday school curriculum and the youth meeting topics across all the churches in the world, the difference lies in the presentation of the topic and the ability to tailor the content to fit the audience's background, culture and spiritual needs. This would greatly increase the topic's comprehension and its receptiveness.

In Saint Paul's sermon to the Jews (Acts 13: 16-41) he spoke to them regarding Moses the arch-prophet and gave an account of their experiences with our Lord throughout their history. Moreover, in another instance, he spoke to the Greek philosophers (Acts 17: 18-33) in a manner that suits their cultural background. In both cases the content is equivalent, both sermons aim to convey the message of salvation that our Lord Jesus Christ granted us on the cross.

Therefore, whether the Sunday school / youth servants are first generation immigrants or are born in the land of immigration, it is important to observe the following guidelines in conveying the topic:

1. Correctness of the language and its clarity...the servant must prepare the topic in an accurate, clear & coherent language. This language should be the audience's preferred first language
2. Organization...Our children live in a society where organization and punctuality are governing characteristics, hence, it is imperative to adopt those characteristics to portray to our children that our services and our churches are adhering to the norms of the society.
3. Respect...mutual respect is the prevailing trait in the western societies, as a result respect ought to be maintained at all times between the servant and those being served. This is manifested in good communication skills such as listening without interjecting and using appropriate words depicting respect.



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4. Dialogue...constructive discussions and valuing each other's opinions are fundamental in the western societies. Dialogue often leads to persuasion and mutual love as opposed to just giving orders.
5. Give pertinent examples from the children's day to day life...during the topic we must reference examples that are suitable and related for emphasis and clarification.
6. Questioning everything said or heard...Due to all the strong intellectual movements in the society, we as servants must be cognizant of any new infiltrating thoughts, this is achieved through research and analysis to be in a position to answer our youth's questions in a convincing intellectual dialogue.
7. Love between the servant and the children...our children often yearn for compassion and love in our fast pace materialistic society. Thus, it is extremely important that the servant uses expressions of love, affection and harmony.
8. Establish and maintain the bond between the children and the mother church...this is essential to our unity and there ought not to be any division or separation of any sort from the mother church nor its beliefs, holiness, saints, organization or any other matter.
9. We ask all Sunday school / youth servants to abide by the orthodox faith and dogma in all the topics and to use ample biblical examples and references.
10. We ask all Sunday school / youth servants to establish a good spiritual relationship with all those being served.

## **INTRODUCTION TO**

### **THE Sunday SCHOOL**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

### **The Principal Goal of Christian Upbringing**

Children had and still have, first as a person and second as a child, a special importance to our Lord Jesus Christ. He called the children and considered them models of perfection, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:3-5).

Therefore, children are beloved ones to Christ and are His friends with their simplicity and purity of heart. Christ called them, blessed them and asked His Disciples and Apostles after Him to take care of bringing up children and prepare the suitable environment for their spiritual growth.

St. Paul advises parents saying, "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged", (Colossians 3:21). From a Christian point of view, the general principal goal of religious up - bringing is the formation of the perfect man of God who is following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Also, our Lord said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

Hence, a Christian up-bringing is not merely an education to be given or a curriculum to be taught, but it is rather a life that is given through example and behavior through teaching and discipleship. The saintly Fathers of the church have emphasized this fact. St. John said about his practice of life with the Lord "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — that which we have seen and heard, we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).



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The same fact was emphasized by St. Paul when he was talking to his disciple Timothy "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium... But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:10-15). Also in the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern". Therefore, the principal goal of the Christian up-bringing is to change the life of our children to the life of Christ in them, i.e. to a life based on the work of Christ in them as true Christians and not just religious persons who fear God but deny Him.

#### **The Starting Point in Achieving the Goal of Religious Upbringing**

The teacher should not start with the student from power Zero. The student comes equipped with many social and religious experiences. His religious experience, though it is limited, has a strong basis that is ready for spiritual growth. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the child has already obtained the spiritual birth i.e. he became spiritually re-born. After his baptism he was anointed with the Holy Myroun (Chrism) and the Holy Spirit dwelt in him. St. John said "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you; and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him" (1 John 2:27).

Therefore, by obtaining these two Holy Sacraments and the Sacrament of Eucharist, the student becomes a member in the body of the Lord and a living part of the body of the Holy Church. This means that religious up-bringing is not something foreign with respect to the student. The student is a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in him. This means that it is not the teacher who makes the student live a life for Christ, but it is the inside work of the Holy Spirit that makes the whole difference. The role of the teacher is to make the student aware of the effect and the work of the Spirit. In this sense, the student becomes aware of the secret grace inside him and as a result the divine word inside him grows as the seed grows inside the earth.

#### **The Difference Between Religious Education and Religious Upbringing**

We should not aim at providing lessons in the form of giving information, i.e. a mere religious education. In this case, religious experience will never exceed the circle of

## **INTRODUCTION TO**

### **THE Sunday SCHOOL**

the mind and will never affect the heart and practice of the student. If we consider religious education to be an element in religious upbringing, we are, in this case, following Christ's plan for the development and building of the Christian personality. Christ with His example and His perfection gave us a model which should be followed and achieved. As for His teachings, they are meant to clear the way for us in order to follow them as examples and models.

#### **The Need of our Church for a Coptic Orthodox Sunday School Program**

There is one basic difference between Eastern and Western theology; the latter depends on study, analysis and using scientific means, whereas Eastern theology is based on experience and depth which mainly leads to a true Christian life. The Eastern Church respects the role of the mind but it works under the supervision of faith.

The majority of recent Western Sunday School programs follow a pure analytical way of explaining the Bible. For example, miracles are explained through psychological and scientific factors. The man of God must accept miracles and believe them as they are. St. Athanasius said, "Our knowledge must not control (or have authority over) the word, but the word itself must have the control and authority over the mind".

Another basic difference is that our traditional Church uses the rites in education as a key in the process of living what is being taught.

Over and above what was mentioned before regarding the basic differences in religious education between Eastern and Western churches, there are also basic differences in the various beliefs and the way Christianity is lived by in actual life.

We, as parents, teachers and clergy, are responsible in front of God to bring up our children according to the same spiritual Orthodox principles that we received from our saintly Fathers who shed their blood to perpetuate the perfect Orthodox faith. Therefore, our children must learn from the same source from which we learned before them.

The Sunday School program in your hands is a fruit of love granted by our Lord Jesus Christ to our children and a gift from Him to them. This program is purely Coptic Orthodox. All its references without exception are Coptic Orthodox (please review the reference list at the end of the book). In this manner all the information that is in this book (as well as all the books in this series) can be used with total



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confidence as it is devised according to our glorified church. The spirit of the lessons is indeed the same spirit of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

### **About the Books in Your Hands**

These books in your hands are an integrated series of books which were written for children from age 4 to 18. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, if the child at age 4 follows this series of lessons until age 18, he will obtain an all-rounded spiritual background. The books (covering the teachings from pre-schoolers to grade 12) cover a study of most of the major Biblical subjects of the Old and New Testaments, the celebrations of the church of our Master's feasts, the life of the Saints and their feasts, the divine liturgy with its rites and spirituality, the true Christian life and Christian behavior, church sacraments, fasting, prayers, the creed and its explanation, the Ecumenical Councils, the difference between the various major Christian sects, the Christian family, the history of our church, the major personalities in the Holy Bible, ... etc. The program is indeed comprehensive and it covers all the key areas of our Orthodox church. If these lessons were given in the spiritual way that was emphasized before, great results will be expected with the work of the Holy Spirit.

### **General Rules and Principles to be Followed by the Sunday School Teachers**

- 1) The teacher must know the stage and the characteristics of the growth of the children that he or she is teaching. A child who is 12 years old is different from a child who is 8 years old. The teacher must know the level of his/her students, their abilities to receive information that he/she is giving and the differences between the various abilities in the same class.
- 2) The positive participation of the students is very important during the lesson for the effectiveness of teaching. One of the key incentives for the student is to give importance to the lesson and have an effective communication with the teacher and, above all, to define clearly the purpose behind it and present the lesson in the form of problems that attract their attention.
- 3) The teacher must follow a psychological order of the facts he is presenting. Our Lord Jesus Christ used effectively the psychological method of teaching through His parables. The parables in their simplicity are drawn from the daily life of the people. We must emphasize here that the psychological method is not the only method of spiritual teaching. We should mention this method as one of the methods used. It is quite important to note that spiritual teaching must be imparted with certain goals in mind which are connected

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with the life of the children and related to the problems they face. We should provide guidance that is mostly needed for them.

- 4) The teacher must present the lesson and illustrate it with relevant information and present it as a coherent unity without ambiguity or contradiction. He may use illustrations to help him explain what he means.
- 5) Application of Christian principles to the actual social life must be emphasized in every lesson. The teacher should use stories (from the Old or New Testaments or from church history or church books) to attract the attention of the students and show the Christian principle in an applied manner. The teacher also may divide the subject into stages or small subjects. A good practice is to summarize the lesson or better still, ask the students themselves to summarize it.
- 6) The manner of expressing the lesson to the students is also very important. A teacher who is living by what he/she teaches will definitely be more effective in giving his/her message across. A teacher who is teaching under spiritual influence with compatible emotions to what he/she teaches will be definitely more effective than a teacher who is giving information.



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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

From someone who is not capable, and does not know anything, was taken and lead by hand, step by step, from the smallest to the largest thing for this work to be done.

“He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.” Isaiah 40:29

“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” John 1:3

On behalf of the Coptic Orthodox children and youth, who are going to benefit a great deal from this revised Sunday School Program, I would like to express a word of appreciation and gratitude to:

#### The Thrice-Blessed Pope Shenouda III of Blessed Memory

This program leans quite heavily on the writings of His Holiness the Late Pope Shenouda III. The majority of the contents of the lessons and their attachments are based on His Holiness' writings. This is a very bright and important aspect of this program. In 1986, during the time in which there was no Coptic Orthodox Sunday School program in the land of immigration, His Holiness reviewed the general contents of the program, commented and modified many key subjects, and then authorized the use of this program in all churches outside of Egypt, on a preliminary basis.

I can safely say that, if it was not for His Holiness the Late Pope Shenouda III's support, wisdom, and writings, these series of books would not exist. The whole generation is in debt to His Holiness the Late Pope Shenouda III, not only because of his great teachings and writings, but also because of his love and leadership.

#### His Holiness Pope Tawadros II

I had the blessing of meeting His Holiness in 2013 in Austria and I suggested to him about updating and revising the previous version of the Sunday School Program. His encouragement, wisdom, and follow up were key to the development and completion of this program.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

---

### His Grace Bishop Reweiss

His Grace Bishop Reweiss has been behind us all the way with his love and guidance. He wrote the forward for our previous version of the program in 1986.

### His Grace Bishop Moussa

His Grace Bishop Moussa has provided constant support and encouragement in the completion of the previous program. Of course, His Grace's writings for the youth have been utilized in all the subjects directed towards the youth, in this book.

### Fr. Tadros Malaty and Fr. Marcos Marcos

These Beloved Fathers reviewed thoroughly all of the contents of the first six books of the earliest version of the program. Their dedication, experience, and wisdom have been an important factor in the quality of all the material. They contributed greatly towards setting up the lessons, in that sense. Father Tadros Malaty's deep writings, without any doubt, have been a key reference in the majority of the lessons.

### Dr. Fayek M. Ishak

Dr. Fayek Ishak (head of the English Department at Lakehead University) reviewed the first six books of the earliest version of the program. He contributed, immensely, towards the setup of the lessons.

### Fr. Makary Silwanis

This beloved father's computer skills were utilized in many functions related to this Sunday School Program. His love and encouragement were key factors to the progress of this program.

### Tassoni Ragaa

The continuous support and encouragement of Tassoni Ragaa played an essential role in the write-up of the previous version of the program, as well as in this revision. One of the aspects that kept this program centered and on track was her continuous reminder that this program is for generations to come and every effort is worthwhile for the sake of the upbringing of the children and youth.



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### The Youth of St. George and St. Rueiss Coptic Orthodox Church

A main contributor to this project was Monica Gad, who valued and recognized the importance of having a Sunday School program.

Comments and proof-readings of many of the youth are greatly appreciated.

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Fr. Rueiss Awad





## **TEACHER'S GUIDELINES:**

### **HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM?**

1. The teacher should realize that each lesson has been prepared to cover a specific point; starting from the title of the lesson to the end of it.
2. The teacher should read all the materials referred to in the lesson (i.e. the Holy Bible as well as any articles attached to the lesson), and then proceed by emphasizing all the points.
3. The teacher should enlarge the picture ahead of each lesson and use it as a visual aid as he or she is teaching the lesson.
4. The teacher should discuss the practical applications as he or she proceeds with the lesson.
5. The teacher should summarize the main points of the lesson with the students and give prizes.

**Effective teaching in Sunday School:**

**by Fr Rueiss Awad**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbf9zEPULdU>

## **FEATURES OF THIS**

### **Sunday SCHOOL**

#### **FEATURES OF THIS SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

#### **A COMPREHENSIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

1. This Sunday School program was the very first program to be written in the lands of immigration. This work was initiated in 1974, and the first version was published in 1986. We thank our heavenly Father, Who has given us the opportunity to extensively revise and improve it, in 2005.
2. In this version of the program, any repetition that was in the previous program has been removed; all lessons were upgraded in both coverage and depth. Moreover, a whole new book, on contemporary issues, has been added.
3. The contemporary issues book covers subjects that are important for children and youth in today's world. These lessons are optional. For churches with regular youth group meetings, these issues would best be discussed during those meetings. On the other hand, for churches that do not hold regular youth group meetings, those issues can be discussed as part of the Sunday School program.
4. This version of the program also includes lessons, which form a basis for a missionary service, a service that should in the ideal situation be practiced by every member of our congregation. The objective is that each child, every youth, and in the long run each Coptic individual can behave and act in a way, which is an embodiment of the teaching and tradition of the Coptic Orthodox Church. In other words, our congregation would become role models in their communities, who attract people to our Lord Jesus Christ through their good practices: sincerity, commitment, hard work and dedication, tolerance, forgiveness, and all the other good qualities that differentiate a good practicing Christian from those who merely have a Christian education.
5. In this Sunday School Program, we depended heavily on the writings of H.H. Pope Shenouda III as a reference for most of the presented material.
6. The lessons in this version of the program have already been tried in Sunday School classes, reviewed, improved and tried again. This ensures that the lessons are relevant and suit the level of the students.
7. In this version of the program, efforts were put forth to ensure that every aspect of the Christian life in the Coptic Orthodox Church is covered.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

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8. This Sunday School Program is not merely about giving specific education on Christianity to our children and youth but it is rather an attempt to deeply affect their feelings and spirituality. It is believed that such an approach will facilitate the practical application of the various aspects involved so that Christianity becomes a way of life for the individual, with deeply rooted Christian values, that are manifested as behaviour and attitude.

9. All copyrights of other Sunday School programs, and other writers, have been fully respected.

**10. In this version, each lesson comes complete with pictures and songs that are suitable for the lesson.**

11. This Sunday School program comes in various formats, for convenience. In addition to being available on this website for widespread use, it is also available, upon request, in hard copy format or on CD.

12. It is our strong belief that this Sunday School program will play a vital role in the spiritual upbringing of our children. May the Lord bless this Sunday School program and all other programs, for the growth of His Kingdom in us.

# THE PREPARATION OF

## Sunday SCHOOL

### THE PREPARATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

#### A. What is a Sunday School Lesson?

1. It is not a record of events that we convey to the students with the hopes of appearing to satisfy the required preparation process in front of other people. Neither is it a lecture that we deliver to our audience or student regardless of their interest in the matter.

2. However, it is, on one hand, a fruit of the live reaction between the servant and the lesson and, on the other hand, between the servant and the students. The Holy Spirit matures this fruit and directs this service towards the salvation of the students and towards the glory of God.

For if the servant who teaches the people does not teach himself, the voice of the Lord will rebuke him saying, " You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself ? " (Romans 2:21), and again in James 3: 1: "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."

Therefore, the servant should engage himself in the lesson through prayers, relevant spiritual readings, and practical application, so that when the servant speaks with his students from experience and true knowledge, he says, with St. John the Beloved, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-" (1 John 1:1)

If a servant is not aware of the spiritual level of his students, he may burden them with instructions and lessons which they cannot handle nor apply and this, in turn, may cause the students to go astray and lose their eternal life. Therefore, it is crucial for the servant to establish a healthy, trustworthy, and fruitful relationship with his students, as well as to share in their joys and cheers, and their sadness and fears, all towards Jesus Christ. This is what St. Paul refers to in his epistle to the Galatians when he says, "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19). This close relationship with the students allows the servant to choose the most appropriate lesson that caters to their needs.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### Hence a Sunday School lesson is:

A live mixture between the personal lives of the servants and the students through the lesson; the Holy Spirit creates this mixture and allows it to result in the bearing of fruit.

### **B. The Requirements for Sunday School Lessons**

1. Humility in prayer before God.

God said, "...for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

My beloved brethren, sit down in peace and tranquility with the Lord and talk to Him about your personal need for Him in your service. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and pray saying, "Guide me dear God. What would you like my students and I to learn this week?" Be obedient to His voice. It would be suitable to maintain a prayer time which equals that of the lesson.

2. Accurate knowledge of the meanings contained within the lesson.

This is achieved through:

- a) Occupying yourself throughout the week with understanding the new lesson, starting from the end of the previous lesson until the beginning of the new one. It is wise to use your free time, time before sleep, and time with fellow servants to increase and enhance your understanding of the lesson.
- b) Resorting to spiritual and religious references and literature to help you develop the right understanding and concepts behind the lines.
- c) Resorting to general educational references and literature to embody this understanding and these concepts, making them clear in the minds of your students.

3. Aids of presentation.

It is important that you transform your understanding of the lesson into a simple and clear presentation. It has been stated and proved that 85% of knowledge acquired is acquired through the sense of sight and visual learning

## THE PREPARATION OF

### Sunday SCHOOL

as opposed to the 10% that is acquired through the sense of hearing. The rest of the knowledge acquired is done so through the other three senses.

In reality, the least effective way of transmitting knowledge to others is by merely talking; this has the weakest influence on the students. In contrast, the most effective way to teach is to use the "Learning by Doing" method, which requires enough time as well as sound experience.

What differentiates between the effectiveness of the two means of presentation, are the tools used in the presentation. These tools aid the students in effectively understanding and retaining the purpose of the lesson by engaging both senses of sight and sound. These tools may include audio-visual devices such as pictures and movies, spiritual trips and outings, role playing during class, intellectually stimulating games, etc.

#### **C. Recording the lesson.**

It is recommended that the servant records the following during the preparation of the lesson:

- Date of the preparation of the lesson.
- Date of the delivery of the lesson.
- Title of the lesson.
- Purpose of the lesson.
- References.
- Preface.
- Lesson.
- Inference.
- Bible verse.
- Homework.
- Aids of presentation.
- Other points for memory.

#### **Songs.**

- Personal reflections of the servant.



# **St. George and St. Rueiss**

## **Coptic Orthodox Church**



### **Purpose of the lesson:**

It is necessary for the servant to clearly understand the purpose of the lesson at the beginning of his preparation. It is also necessary that the purpose of the lesson agrees with the maturity level of the students. For example, it is more appropriate for children to learn about God's love. On the other hand, learning about the power of God in their lives and in the lives of the saints is more appropriate subject matter for youth. As for young adults, learning about Christian virtues and spiritual practices is most appropriate.

Most importantly, the purpose of the lessons should agree with Coptic Orthodox Christian teachings, whether in specific occasions or in general.

### **References:**

References could include:

- a. Stories, examples, verses, etc. from the Holy Bible.
- b. Spiritual books and literature.
- c. General educational books and literature.

Recording the references is very useful for the servant because it helps the servant to refer back to them, if forgotten.

### **Preface:**

The preface is the background of the lesson. It cultivates the thoughts of the students and directs their thoughts towards the lesson. This allows the lesson to be implanted in their minds and to, eventually, bear fruit.

It is important that the preface remain simple, short, and concise. The introduction could be in the form of focused questions, but should not be in the form of stories. Several stories in one lesson may deteriorate its effectiveness.

### **The Lesson:**

The lesson could be divided into the following sections:

1. Introduction - it should be quick and concise and related to the preface. It should introduce the lesson smoothly without interrupting the chain of thoughts.

## THE PREPARATION OF

### Sunday SCHOOL

2. Body of the lesson - it contains the principle subject of the lesson, and follows these guidelines:

- a. You must be accurate and careful when explaining theological concepts.
- b. You must be careful when relating events and examples to elucidate the subject of the lesson, in order to properly guide the students' imagination without restricting it.
- c. You must diligently expose the Coptic Orthodox doctrine in the lesson.
- d. You should not use more than one story during the lesson and the story used should be relevant to the subject matter.

3. Focal Point - the point during the lesson at which the purpose of the lesson is clearly defined. (Examples: The Lord responds to the prayers of a needy person, or the angels come to give the saints their heavenly crowns and take them to heaven after many trials and persecutions.)

4. Conclusion - it should be, like the introduction, short and concise. It can summarize the purpose of the lesson, without introducing any new concepts.

#### **Inferences:**

Inference is a method used to determine how much the students have absorbed and retained from the lesson. It should be in the form of questions with the following guidelines:

- a. They should clearly show the purpose of the lesson.
- b. They should suit the maturity of the students.
- c. They should be simple and direct.
- d. They should relate to each other.
- e. They should not be 'Yes' or 'No' questions.
- f. They should each have one correct answer.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### **Bible Verse:**

The memorization of a Bible verse is an excellent way to help the students remember the purpose of the lesson. The chosen Bible verse should meet the following guidelines:

- a. It should show the purpose of the lesson clearly.
- b. It should be short which allows it to be easily memorized.
- c. Children can easily memorize, as well as understand it.

### **Homework:**

The height of your diligence in preparing the lesson is in choosing the proper and effective homework or application. The homework should have the following characteristics:

- a. It should contain practical applications that apply to everyday life.
- b. It should suit the maturity level of the students.
- c. It should help in mastering the comprehension and retention of the lesson.
- d. It should not include more than one instruction, in order to simplify the application of the lesson.

## INTRODUCTION

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### AGE 5 TO 6 YEARS

#### INTRODUCTION

#### TEACHING IN GRADES 1 (AGE 5 TO 6 YEARS)

- 1) This age is characterized by an important mental development. A sense of cause and effect is developed: An ability to organize and classify and an interest in simple planning and carrying out of a plan. We can see this reflected in their play.
- 2) There is now a far more clear consciousness of “justice” than there had been before. The instinct of ownership was already present at an earlier age, but now there is a fairly clear understanding of what is “mine” and “not mine”. Along with the sense of “law” and conscious “law breaking”, there is a growth, a development of finer feelings: compassion, desire to protect someone weaker than oneself and acceptance of certain moral standards.
- 3) Children in this age will show interest in cause and effect, and, in listening to Bible stories, will show interest in God’s plan for the world.
- 4) The story must be given as a story without too many comments. Lessons should be accompanied by hymns and class activities such as colouring, cutting and pasting pictures, etc.
- 5) Though it is too early to discuss with children the problem of suffering, and especially the suffering of the innocent, it is sometimes unavoidable. We can establish in their minds the image of the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who was innocent and accepted suffering, except that His suffering and death were not the end, because He rose from the dead. If the children have really assimilated the Passion and the Resurrection, we have provided them with a basis for a Christian approach to the problem of suffering. They will have to deal intellectually with it at a later age.
- 6) In addition to all the above, the teacher should: start from simple to the more difficult facts, from the known to the unknown and from the total to the parts and back to the total again. **Children should love the teacher, the class, the lesson and come very anxiously to class.**











## SEPTEMBER

### FIRST Sunday

help his mother-in-law with a high fever? They did the right thing: They called on the true physician of our souls and bodies. “And they made request of Him concerning her.”

- † Jesus accepted their request immediately “and rebuked the fever, and it left her. “And immediately she rose and served them”. So, as Jesus ordered the evil spirits to leave the man at the synagogue (Luke 4:33), He also ordered the fever to leave Simon’s mother-in-law.
- † Simon’s mother-in-law was not just healed at once, but she also became strong enough to get up and serve them **immediately**. A total change happened to her with the healing touch of our Lord Jesus. He is our true physician.
- † As the news spread about the miracles of our Lord, all who had sick friends with various diseases brought them to the Lord Jesus. He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

Our Beloved Jesus is very kind and He loves us. As well, He is the Son of God and He has full power and authority to heal the sick people. So, if mom or dad is sick we entreat our Lord Jesus to heal them. Remember what St. Mary said, “For with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37).



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



## SEPTEMBER

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### FIRST Sunday

#### SONGS 🎵

#### *King of Kings*

*“And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)*

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class

**SEPTEMBER**

**FIRST Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**SEPTEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**EL-NAYROUZ FEAST**

Please read the attached notes entitled, “In Memory of our Martyrs: El-Nayrouz Feast”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

We should never be afraid to declare that we are Christians. Our grandfathers were strong and they were ready to give up their lives for the name of Christ. They never denied that they were Christians.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Lord! Do not charge them with this sin” Acts 7:60***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ The Coptic Year (also known as the old Egyptian year) has 13 months. The Western Year has 12 months, Let us try to memorize the names of the months in each calendar. The Julian calendar has January, February, March... up to December. The Coptic calendar has Tout, Baba, Hatour, Kyahek, Touba, Amshier, Baramehat, Baramouda, Bashense, Baouna, Abiba, Messra and El-Nassey.
- ✙ The Coptic Year always starts in September, around the beginning of the school year.
- ✙ Who is a martyr? A martyr is a person who, by his/her own free will, is ready to witness the truth of his/her faith in front of anyone, even if it is going to cost his/her life on earth. In return he/she gains eternal life for himself or herself. A

## SEPTEMBER

### SECOND Sunday

martyr is a person who loves the Lord Jesus from the fullness of his/her heart and everything he/she does or says shows his/her deep love for the Lord.

- ✠ The first martyr was St. Stephen.
- ✠ Tell them the story of St. Stephen. (Teachers, please do not emphasize the suffering part. Rather, emphasize that he was full of the Holy Spirit and his face was bright.)

Read Acts 6:1-15 and Acts 7:54-60.

- ✠ In order to dedicate themselves “for prayer and ministry of the word”, the twelve disciples chose seven deacons to look after the distribution of food to the poor and similar types of services. The deacons they chose were “full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”. Stephen was the head of these seven deacons. “And they chose St. Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 6:5).
- ✠ St. Stephen, full of faith and power, did great miracles among the people. Some of the non-Christians were jealous but they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which St. Stephen spoke.
- ✠ The jealous people took St. Stephen to the council for trial saying that he spoke against God and Moses. Of course St. Stephen did not do that.
- ✠ St. Stephen was very polite when he was speaking to the council. He started by saying: “Men, brethren and fathers, listen” (Acts 7:2). He then explained to them that he did not say anything against God or Moses and that what he was saying was that they killed the Lord Jesus who is the Son of God (Jesus arose from the dead after three days). So, St. Stephen was witnessing the truth of his faith in front of this powerful council, but he was not afraid. They stoned him.
- ✠ St. Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He was very anxious to go to heaven. So he said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” and for those who were stoning him: “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” (Acts 7:59-60)

**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



1. We must love everyone even those who do bad things to us. We must pray for them as St. Stephen did, seeking the forgiveness of the people who were stoning him.
2. We must never be scared to declare that we are Christians in front of anyone. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**SEPTEMBER**

**SECOND Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### **I AM A CHRISTIAN**

*“And they shall reign forever and ever.”*

I am a C.  
I am a C.H.  
I am a C.H.R.I.S.T.I.A.N.  
And I have C.H.R.I.S.T  
In my H.E.A.R.T.  
And I will L.I.V.E. E.T.E.R.N.A.L.L.Y.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## IN MEMORY OF

### OUR MARTYRS

#### IN MEMORY OF OUR MARTYRS EL-NAYROUZ FEAST

- ✝ El-Nayrouz feast is the beginning of the Egyptian year. The Egyptian calendar is a very old one. The ancient Pharaohs created this system 5000 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus, naming its months after the names of their ancient Egyptian Gods. The Egyptian year has 13 months; they are:  
Tout, Baba, Hatour, Kyahek, Touba, Amshier, Baramehat, Baramouda, Bashense, Baouna, Abiba, Messra and El-Nassey. Each month is 30 days; except the last month, El-Nassey, which is only 5 or 6 days (the minor month).
- ✝ Up until now, the Egyptian farmers still use the Coptic Year system in their timing for agriculture.
- ✝ Egypt had used only the Egyptian year system until the French came to Egypt in the era of Ismail Pasha and introduced the Western year system (January, February, etc.).
- ✝ In the years of Diocletian, in which the numbers of martyrs increased tremendously, the Egyptian year became known as “Martyrs’ Year” and it has been known as that ever since.
- ✝ The Church celebrates these special days, the “Nayrouz Feast,” which is the “Feast of the Martyrs”. This celebration continues for 17 days until the “feast of the cross.”

\* **Note:** This article is taken from “Sout El-Rahi” magazine, St. George Church, Alexandria, Egypt, September 1975.



## NOTES

[illegible]

**SEPTEMBER**

**SECOND Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**SEPTEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE**

Please read Mark 6:30-44, John 6:1-3, the attached handout entitled Jesus Feeds the Hungry People, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/UtrjViTgPHs> or <https://youtu.be/S6ri9cAJrWE>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn from the boy who had the two fish and five loaves. Give what you have to the Lord Jesus so that He blesses it and gives it back to us many, many times more.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Those sitting down ... [had] as much as they wanted" John 6:11*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ The Lord Jesus Christ sent His 12 Disciples to various towns to preach the word of God. After they returned, they met Him and told Him all they had done and taught. There were so many people coming and going that our Lord Jesus and His Disciples did not have time to eat. So He said to them: "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while." So, the Disciples obeyed Him and they started out in a boat by themselves to an isolated place. They were tired, hungry and had no food with them.

## SEPTEMBER

### THIRD Sunday

- ✚ When the Lord Jesus Christ and His Disciples arrived at their isolated destination, they found the people already there waiting for Jesus to hear His instruction about their current problems and about their salvation and eternal life. The Lord Jesus was not angry because they followed Him and His Disciples. They were all very happy and the time went by so fast.
- ✚ It was getting very late, the Disciples were very tired and hungry and the people were hungry as well. All this was in an isolated place. The Disciples said to the Lord “send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat”. But He answered and said to them: “You give them something to eat” (Mark 6:36-37).
- ✚ There was an obedient boy among the crowd who gave his lunch to Jesus.
- ✚ With the boy’s lunch and Jesus’ power, our Lord Jesus and His Disciples fed the 5000 people. “So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish” (Mark 6:42-43).
- ✚ This shows that with the blessing of God, there are no more needs. They did not throw away the leftover food, but they filled twelve baskets.
- ✚ The people wanted to make Jesus their King after this miracle, not knowing that Jesus’ kingdom was in Heaven.
- ✚ Our Lord Jesus showed His power over the world of matter as He showed his power over the wind, the sea, the evil spirits and all types of diseases. But most important is the example of feeding the 5000 people from 5 loaves and 2 fish. His power is exemplified in creating food out of nothing: as He created from the beginning all things from nothing “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:3)

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. As the Lord Jesus and His Disciples went to a deserted place to take rest after all the preaching that they had done, we must also realize that there is time to pray, time to study, time to play, time to eat, and time to take rest.
2. Our Lord Jesus can do everything and we must put our trust in Him. The only



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



thing we must do is to obey Him as the boy obeyed and gave Him his lunch.

**SEPTEMBER**

**THIRD Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### INTO MY HEART

*“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7)*

Into my heart  
Into my heart  
Come into my heart  
Lord Jesus  
Into my heart  
Into my heart  
Come into my heart  
Lord Jesus

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**SEPTEMBER**

**THIRD Sunday**

**JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE**

“Come, let’s go to a quiet place to rest”, said the Lord Jesus to His tired friends. But when they came to the quiet place, crowds of people were waiting for them!

The Lord Jesus was tired, but He knew the people wanted to hear about God; and He loved them. So He began to tell them about God and how to obey Him.

What Jesus had said was so interesting that the people stayed until supper time.

“Look”: Jesus’ friends said to Him; “It’s late. Here we are far from any town. Why don’t you send the people away to get food?” “You feed them,” said the Lord Jesus. “Why, two hundred denarii worth of bread would not buy enough for them!” said Philip.

“A boy here has five little loaves of bread and two fish,” said Andrew. “But what are they among so many people?”

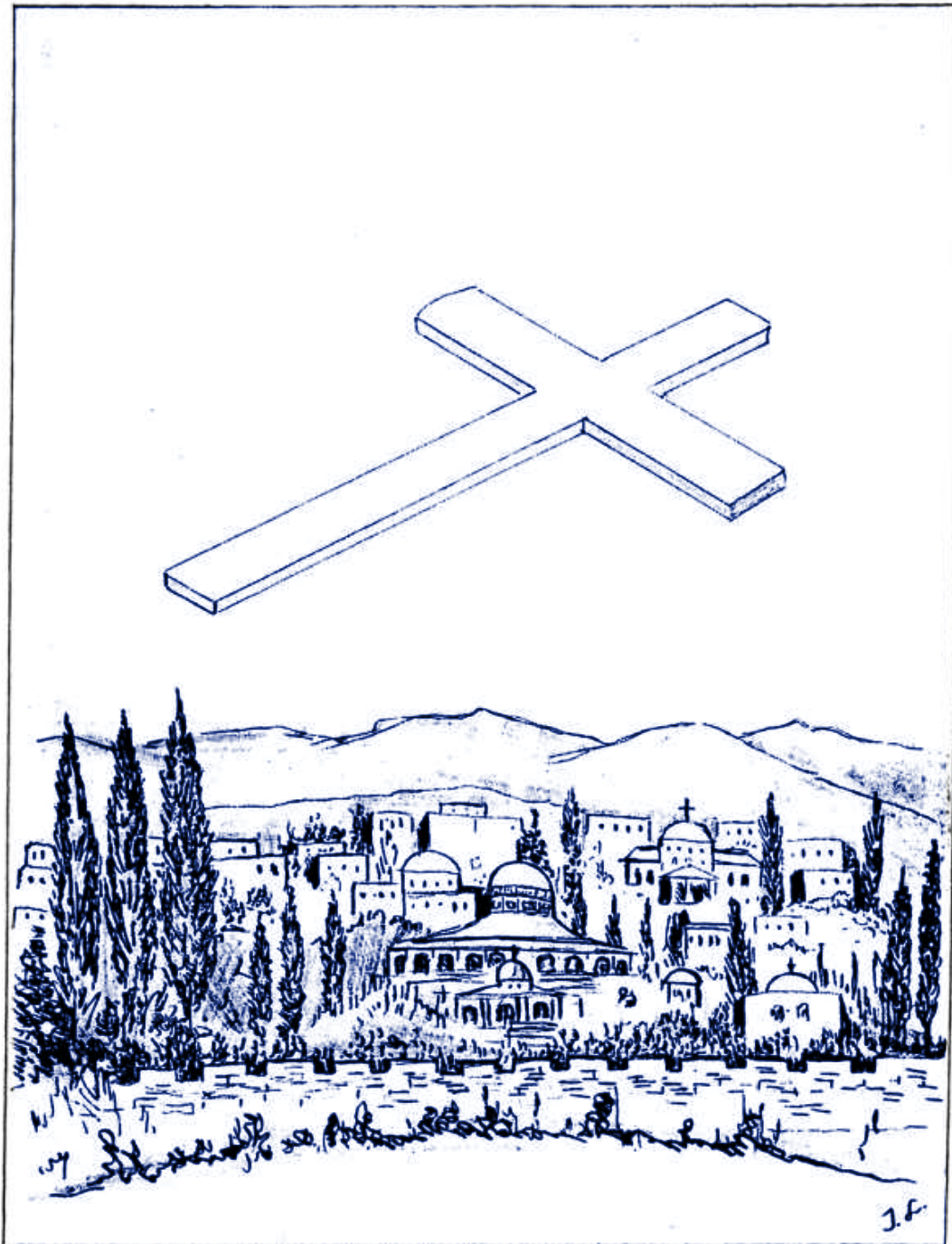
“Make the people sit down” said the Lord Jesus. Everyone sat quietly on the grass as Jesus bowed His head to thank God for the food. Then Jesus broke the little loaves and fish and dropped the pieces into His friends’ baskets. Then Jesus said, “Give the food to the people.” The men gave each person some bread and fish. But there was more! The people kept taking bread and fish out of the baskets and yet there was more left. When the people had all they wanted, there were still twelve baskets left over!

Only Jesus, the Son of God, could make food in this wonderful way!



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**SEPTEMBER**

**FOURTH Sunday**



**SEPTEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

## **THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

Please read the attached materials entitled "The Appearance of the Cross in the Sky", "The Feast Of The Elevation Of The Cross" and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To familiarize the children with making the sign of the Cross and the Cross celebrations. The Cross is a sign of victory and power.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" Matthew 10:38*

### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ When I cross myself, I first put my fingers on my forehead saying, "in the Name of the Father" (thus remembering that my heavenly Father is up in heaven). Secondly, I put my fingers on my stomach saying, "and the Son" (thus remembering that our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God was born from St. Mary and the Holy Spirit). Thirdly, I move my fingers from the left shoulder to the right one saying, "and the Holy Spirit" (thus remembering that the Holy Spirit who is inside me since I was baptized, guides me and leads me to move from the left side, i.e., the bad side, to the right side, i.e., the good side, and become a good person).
- ✚ Describe the three appearances of the shining cross in the sky (as in the



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



attached sheets).

When the people saw the shining cross in the sky they were encouraged and had hope of victory, no matter how great the difficulties were. Hence, the Cross became a sign of victory and power.

Every appearance of the Cross was accompanied by miracles.

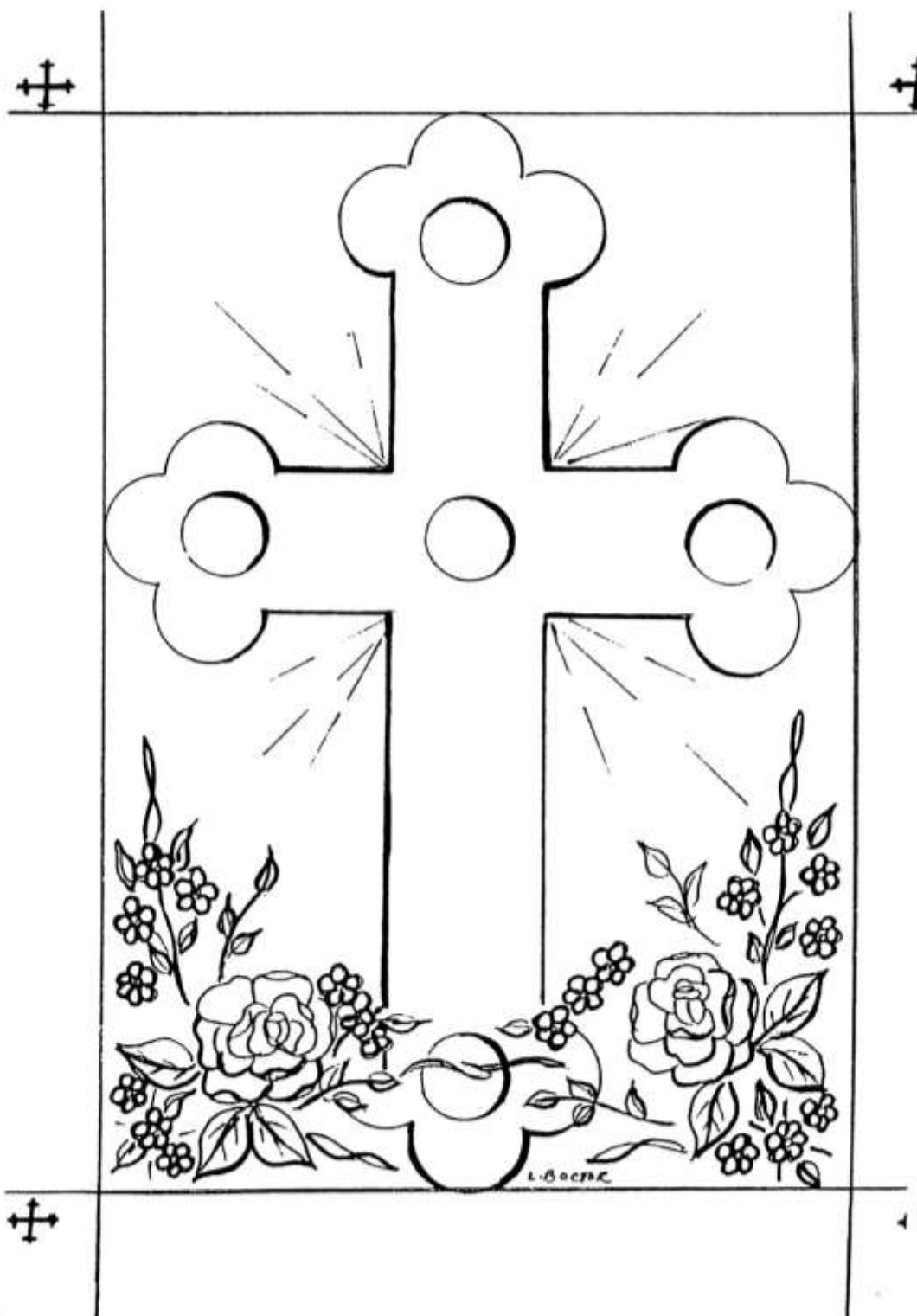
- ✝ You should have a Cross with you and have one in your room. Spend a few minutes daily looking at the Cross with our Beloved Jesus on it and remember that the Lord Jesus has His arms opened to accept anyone who comes to Him.
- ✝ The Jews were defeated by Jesus and His Cross. So many miracles were performed through the Cross, in Jesus' tomb. Of course Jesus' body was not there because He had risen from death. The Jews thought that by hiding the Cross under a big pile of dirt they would get rid of its power. The opposite happened. At the right time St. Helene came, found the Cross, and built a big church on that Cross. Christians frequently visit that church seeking the blessings of the Cross.
- ✝ Salvation and forgiveness were provided on the Cross. Our Lord Jesus Christ secured our salvation by His death on the Cross for our sake.
- ✝ The Cross is a sign of strength because the devil is afraid of the Cross.
- ✝ When the Apostles (like St. Paul and St. Peter) preached Christianity, they were talking about the Cross.
- ✝ Our church celebrates the Cross' feast twice every year.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Every time we cross ourselves we must remember what it means. It means we remember and live in the love of the Holy Trinity (the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit). We also remember that the Lord Jesus loves us to the extent that He died for us on the Cross.
2. Every time we cross ourselves, we trust that we are in company with Christ and thus we should not fear anything. We should especially cross ourselves before we sleep and before entering a dark place.

**SEPTEMBER**

**FOURTH Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

### ***MY CROSS***

My cross, my cross my glory is in you!  
I place you on my bosom and in my bedroom too.

#### REFRAIN

My cross, my cross you're made of lowly wood  
But in my heart, my cross you're more precious than gold

My cross, my cross is with me everywhere  
I sign you every morning and whenever I fear

My cross, my cross My victory's in you  
the pledge of my success in whatever I do

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## SEPTEMBER

### FOURTH Sunday

#### THE APPEARANCE OF THE CROSS IN THE SKY

This happened three times:

1. The FIRST time, the Cross appeared in the sky to Emperor Constantine the Great, to encourage him while he prepared to go to war. He and his officers saw it like a pillar of light in the sky surrounded by the following words: “With it (the Cross) you will conquer! Constantine was encouraged, became a Christian, went to war and was victorious.
2. The SECOND appearance of the Cross was to Aelius Caesar on the doors of the city of Antakia. It appeared in the East like a pillar of light, which startled all those who saw it.
3. The Cross appeared again for the THIRD time to all the people of Jerusalem. This happened in the sacred days of the Pentecostal Feast; to be exact, on the 8th of May 351 A.D, at 3:00 pm (about 9:00 am) a big Cross appeared in the sky on Golgotha stretching to the Mount of Olives, It was very clear and was seen not only by one or two people, but by the entire population of the city as well. It remained for many hours shining brighter than the rays of the sun. The whole city came out to see the apparition. People were astounded, scared, but with great joy they witnessed that heavenly scene. Old and young, men and women of all ages, Christians and non-Christians, from all places praised Jesus Christ, our Lord.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

In the Cross-day Feast we remember the appearance of the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. When the Jews found out the very large number of miracles done in the name of the Lord Jesus' tomb, they became angry and asked everyone in the Jewish country to collect all the dirty things and their garbage and put it on top of the tomb. The Jews continued to do that for over 200 years until a very large pile of dirt and dust was formed. Saint Helene, the mother of King Constantine, went to Jerusalem and asked about the location of the Cross. Nobody told her until she met an old man who told her that the Cross is underneath the pile of dirt, she then ordered that the pile of dirt be removed, it was then easy to expose the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ. Afterwards she built a church on that site and the Christian people continue to visit the Cross and the Church.

St. Helene undertook that task because she loved the Cross, since it had appeared to her son, King Constantine, before he went to war and he subsequently won that war.

\* **NOTE:** This article is extracted from "Sout El Rahi" magazine, St. George Church, Alexandria, Egypt, September 1974.

## SEPTEMBER

## FOURTH Sunday

## NOTES

[illegible]



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**October**

**First Sunday**



**OCTOBER  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**A LAME MAN IS HEALED**

Please read Acts 3:1-11 and Acts 4:5-21 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/AT7cnOkGcBQ>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

- ✚ To learn about the power that St. Peter had in healing the lame man in the name of Jesus Christ.
- ✚ To learn that the bad people were angry because St. Peter helped the man to walk again.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" Acts  
3:6***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ St. Peter and St. John, two of the Lord Jesus' twelve Disciples, were entering the temple to pray. At the gate of the temple, which is called "Beautiful", they saw a poor man who was lame (i.e. could not walk) since birth.
- ✚ The poor man was expecting some money. St. Peter instead gave him a much better gift; he healed him by the power of God.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✙ St. Peter said to the poor man: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” This clearly shows us that the power of healing the lame man is “in the name of Jesus Christ.” The name of Jesus Christ itself is a blessed name that gives comfort and healing power. Later on, the Jewish leaders asked St. Peter, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” (Acts 4:7); St. Peter answered them saying: “by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified” (Acts 4:10).
- ✙ If St. Peter had all the money in the world, it could not enable him to heal others, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, he healed the lame man.
- ✙ After the man was healed, he praised the Lord: “So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple, with them - walking, leaping and praising God” (Acts 3:8).
- ✙ We have to praise the name of the Lord always. We must thank the Lord and praise His Holy name at all times and in all situations.
- ✙ The bad people took St. John and St. Peter to be judged in front of the Jewish leaders.
- ✙ St. Peter was full of the Holy Spirit and answered them. He was not afraid.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. The power that was given to St. Peter to heal the lame man was given to him from our Lord Jesus Christ. This is why St. Peter said: “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.” Every time we need any help we must ask our Lord Jesus and He will give us all our needs.
2. When the Lord Jesus answers our prayers and gives us our needs, we must thank Him, praise Him, and go to church (as the lame man went to the temple) and glorify His Holy name because He has mercy on us.

**October**

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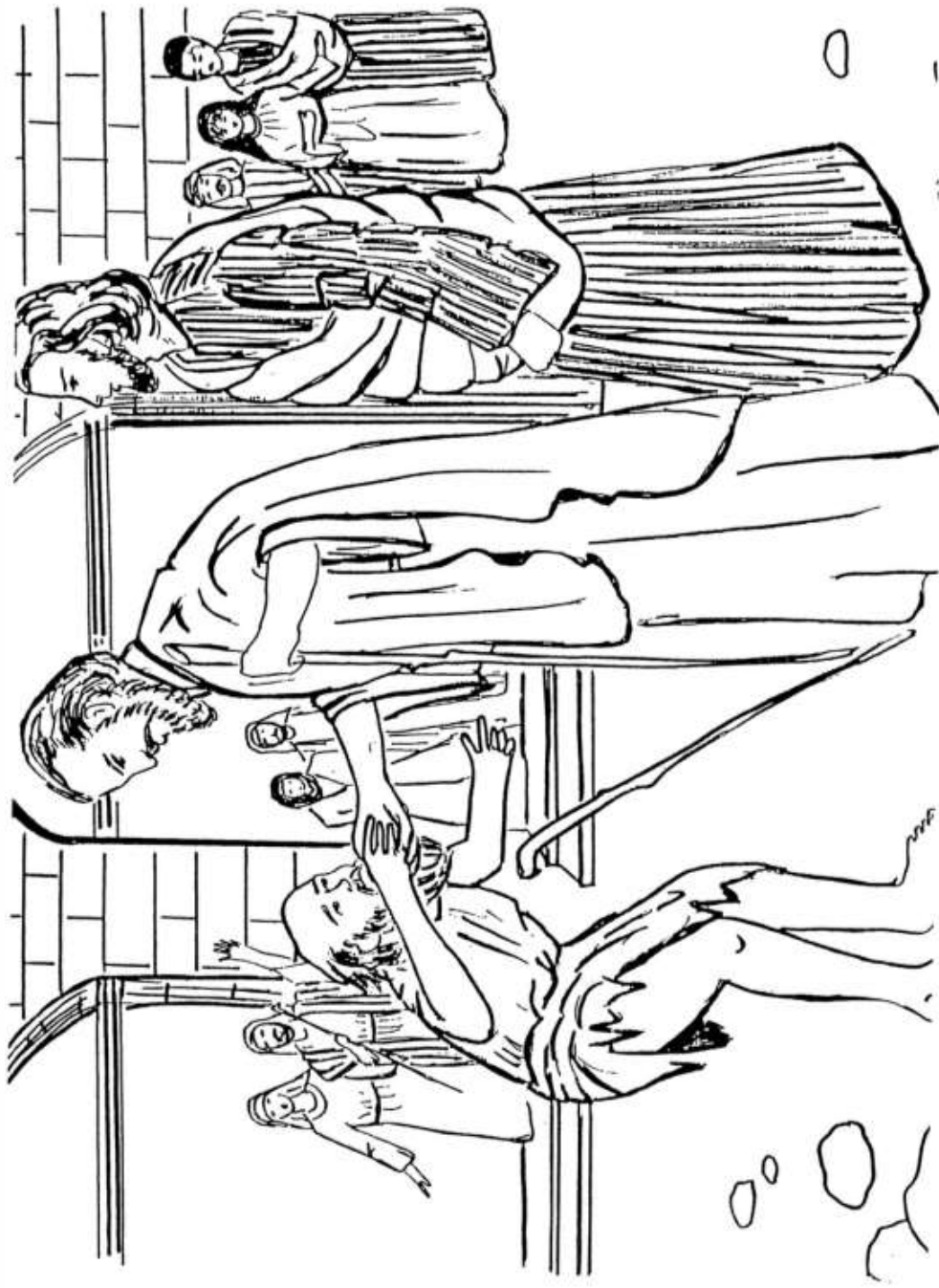
**First Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**October**

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**First Sunday**

[SONGS 🎵](#)

**FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**October**

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**Second Sunday**



**OCTOBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

Please read the story of the ten lepers, Luke 17:11-19, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/1\\_QOhNJ1Zuc](https://youtu.be/1_QOhNJ1Zuc)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn to count our blessings and be thankful at all times even when we are sick.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks," Luke  
17:16***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ We must be thankful to God at **all times** even if we are sick or have a problem.
- ✠ Let us count our blessings: Jesus came for us and He secured our salvation by dying on the Cross. He gave us a happy life. He gave us hands, legs, eyes, ears, etc. and He also gave us a nice church to pray in.
- ✠ Read and tell the story of the ten lepers.
- ✠ The lepers were rejected by all people. When they saw the Lord Jesus they could not get close to Him but they knew that His power could heal them and



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



they shouted loudly saying: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us” (Luke 17:13). This proves that they had faith in the Lord Jesus’ ability and authority to heal them. Also, they showed their respect to Him by calling Him Master. The title Master was designated, at this time, for the most knowledgeable people in the society.

- ✝ Only one of the ten people came back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice (i.e. he was very happy). He fell down on his face at Jesus’ feet giving Him thanks.
- ✝ The man who came back was a Samaritan.
- ✝ The Samaritans were thought to be wicked people who did not believe in God and the Jewish people used to ignore the Samaritans. However this Samaritan who thanked God was better than the other Jewish lepers who were healed with him. This teaches us not to ignore anyone or insult anyone regardless of his/her race or religion.
- ✝ Let us read a part of the prayer of Thanksgiving: “Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, supported us, preserved us, accepted us unto Him, had compassion on us, sustained us, and brought us to this hour”.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

In our daily lives, we say “thank you” to anyone who does us a favor. Let us develop the attitude of being thankful to God at all times.

**October**

**Second Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**October**

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**Second Sunday**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the  
**HOLY BIBLE**  
in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**October**

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**Third Sunday**



**OCTOBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**SAINT PETER AND THE SHEKEL**

**Please read Matthew 17:24-27, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/1Hze-OLHIHM>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To try our best to avoid offending others or creating any problems for other people.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first" Matthew 17:27***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

✠ When St. Peter came home he was sad because he did not have money to pay the taxes. Our Lord Jesus knew what was on St. Peter's mind before he said anything and started by asking him: "What do you think Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take taxes, from their own sons or from strangers?" St. Peter answered: "from strangers". Our Lord Jesus said to him: "Then the Sons are free". This means a king collects taxes from strangers not from his own sons. Similarly, these taxes were collected for the church, i.e., for God. But the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and hence He should not have to pay taxes to the church (i.e., to God). Nevertheless, the Lord Jesus gave up His right and agreed to give the taxes because He knew that it was difficult to



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



convince people that He is the Son of God before His death and Resurrection. To avoid any problems with the people, He agreed to pay the taxes.

- ✙ The Lord Jesus used the fish of the sea to give them a shekel, which is equivalent to four coins. Two coins for St. Peter and two for the Lord Jesus were paid as taxes.
- ✙ From this we learn that Jesus was poor by His own choice since He did not have even this small amount of money to pay the taxes. However, He can use His power as the Son of God to order some of His creatures to come up with the money.
- ✙ When we have any need, all we have to do is come to God and He will use His own ways and means to help us. St. Peter could not imagine that his Master the Lord Jesus Christ was going to use the fish to provide the money.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must learn to be nice to people and avoid causing any problems with them, especially when it comes to money or toys or other material things. Our Lord Jesus did not have to pay taxes, but He did so in order not to offend the people.
2. We must learn from St. Peter to have faith and be obedient to God. When the Lord Jesus asked St. Peter to cast a hook and take the fish that comes up first, open its mouth and take out a piece of money and pay for them both; St. Peter did not hesitate. St. Peter obeyed because he had faith in the Lord's power.

**October**

**Third Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## October

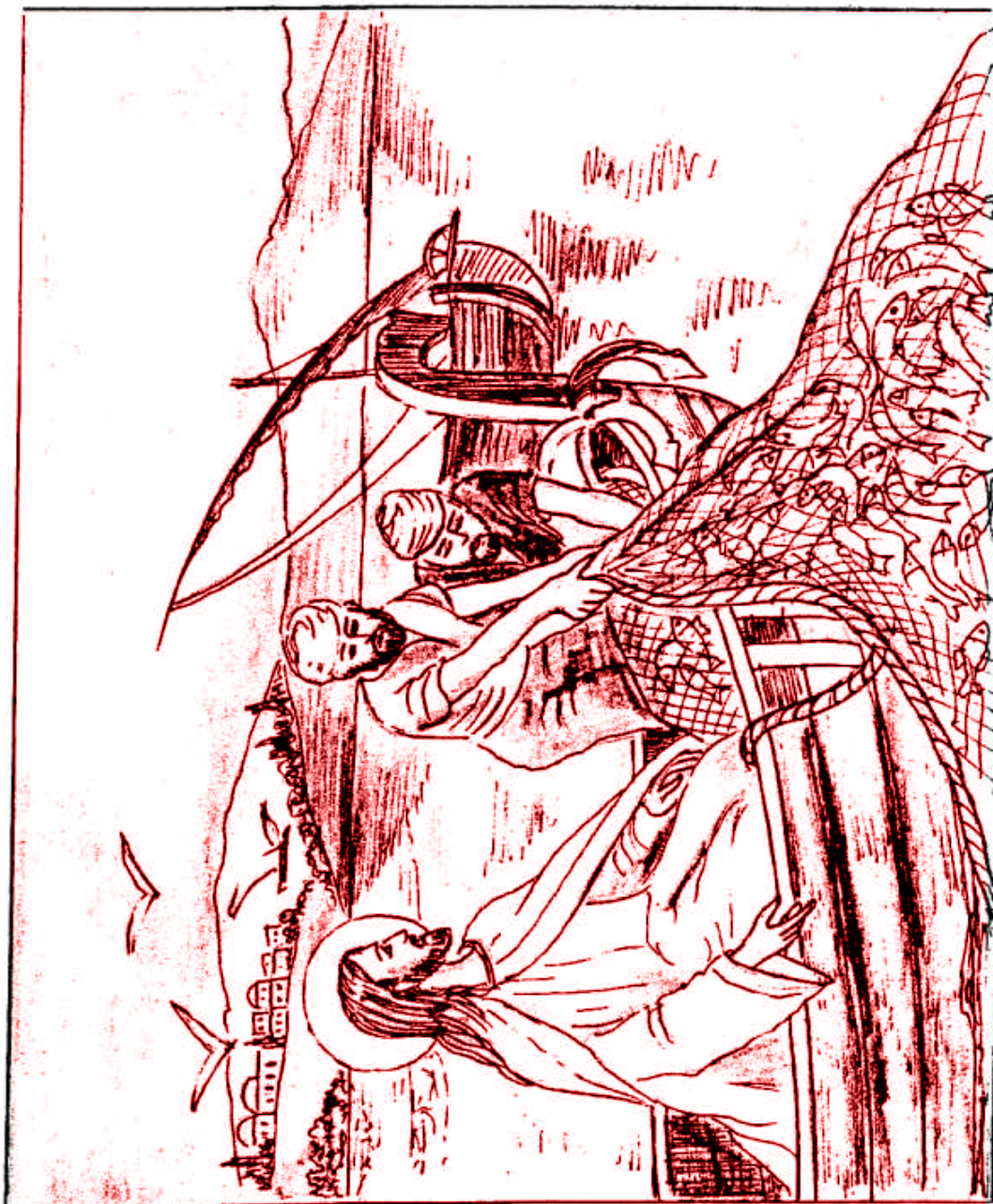
## Third Sunday

## NOTES



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**October**

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**Fourth Sunday**



**OCTOBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE LORD JESUS AND THE FISHERMEN**

**Please read Luke 5:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/EhIwTU9RbxY> or <https://youtu.be/zi7T7qpQHWg>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that the Lord takes care of us and gives us our needs.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"At Your word I will let down the net." Luke 5:5***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Please tell the miracle as in Luke 5:1-11 and ask questions as you go along.
- ✠ Many people had gathered to hear the Lord Jesus speak. In order to be heard by more people, our Lord Jesus sat in Simon's boat, which was a short distance from the shore. Finally, at the end of the day, the people were about to go home. Among these people was Simon (Peter) who was worried because he could not catch any fish all night and he had a family to support. Can you imagine how Simon would feel, entering his house without any food for his family? But Jesus did not let this happen, especially because Simon lent Him his ship from which He taught the people.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✝ When God gives us, He gives us in abundance but we have to listen and do what we are asked to do **even if we do not agree.**
- ✝ St. Peter said: “At Your word I will let down the nets” (Luke 5:5). St. Peter was not convinced that there was still a chance for him to catch any fish after he spent the whole night trying. Remember that St. Peter was a good fisherman who knew his job very well. But, despite all this St. Peter listened and obeyed the Lord Jesus and was rewarded with a tremendous catch.
- ✝ “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord”, said St. Peter (Luke 5:8). He implied that he did not deserve this kindness of Jesus our Lord to enter his ship and do this miracle for him.
- ✝ Do we deserve to come to church? Yes we do. But only when we do what we are told to do in the church and when we respect the house of God.
- ✝ Peter, James and John left all the fish they caught and followed the Lord Jesus because they saw the miracle and believed that He was God.
- ✝ Explain the memory verse: as we depend on God in what we do, He will help us. Even if we do not understand or are not convinced about what He is asking us to do, we must apply “At Your word...” and then obey Him.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. All things are in God’s hands. We must knock on His door and He will open for us and give us all our needs. God will never leave us needy if we ask Him.
2. Like St. Peter, we must obey the Lord and His commandments in the Holy Bible even if we do not understand them.



**October**

**Fourth Sunday**





## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



#### **SONGS** 🎵

#### **PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

**“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)**

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

# October

## Fourth Sunday

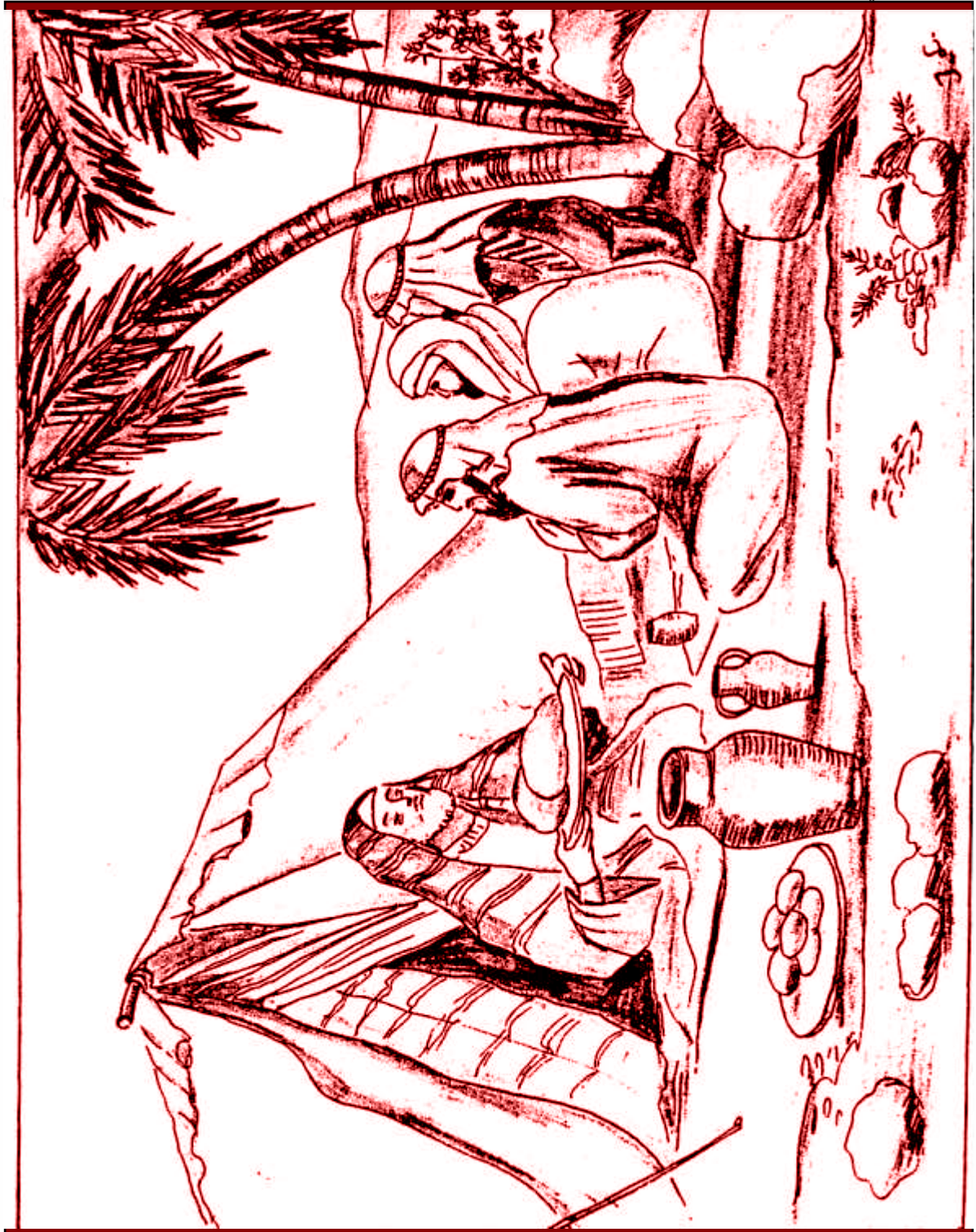
## NOTES

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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**October**

**Fifth Sunday**



**OCTOBER  
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**ABRAHAM INVITED THE LORD AND TWO ANGELS**

Please read Genesis 18:1-15, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/AoRHWy57II> or <https://youtu.be/irtCpnaqZs4>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that the Lord is so kind and is ready to enter our lives. Let us be ready to invite Him and honour Him as the best Visitor of our life.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Sarah your wife shall have a son"*  
*Genesis 18:10*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Abraham was sad because he did not have any children. He asked God to give him a son. God said to Abraham that He was going to give him children more than the number of the stars in the sky. Now, Abraham was happy because he believed that God would do what He said. Please read Genesis 15:1-7. Then He brought him outside and said: "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be" (Genesis 15:5).



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✝ Abraham became very old. Sarah, his wife, was very old too. They were too old to have a baby. But God promised that He would give them a little boy.
- ✝ Three men came to visit Abraham. When Abraham saw the three men he ran to meet them even though he was so old and the afternoon was very hot. Abraham knew that the three men had come to visit him from heaven. One of these Men was God Himself accompanied by two Angels. He asked them to come and eat with him.
- ✝ They were so kind and accepted his invitation and ate with him.
- ✝ God always keeps His promises. He told Abraham and Sarah that He would still keep His promise to give them a child even though they were very old.
- ✝ Sarah laughed because she could not believe she could have a baby.
- ✝ How do we receive our visitors? Do we share our toys with them? Do we try our best to make sure that they spend a nice time at our place?
- ✝ Tell the story of Zacchaeus when he invited Jesus to his house, (*Luke 19:1-10*). “So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully” (*Luke 19:6*).

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must be kind to our visitors and make sure they are very comfortable when they are in our home. Abraham honored his visitors and gained God's blessing.
2. We must trust God. Whenever we ask Him something we must be patient until He gives it to us. Just as God always keeps his promises, we must also keep our promises to others.

**October**

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**Fifth Sunday**

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## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### *King of Kings*

*“And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)*

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**October**

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**Fifth Sunday**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**November**

**First Sunday**



**NOVEMBER  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE LORD JESUS VISITS MARY AND MARTHA**

Please read Luke 10:38-42, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below. (Let the children read in the class).

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/C91ygWW2u0U>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To show that Mary loved the Lord Jesus. She stopped her housework in preparation for her guest and sat down at His feet listening to His words.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Our Beloved Jesus is very kind. He came for us and saved us. We must love Him and listen to His words as Mary did.
- ✠ Mary chose to sit at the Lord Jesus' feet. Martha was serving but the Lord Jesus called her to do like Mary.
- ✠ We have to give time to God. We pray at home, go to church (the House of God) as well as read the Bible.
- ✠ If we choose to be with our Lord Jesus, then He will be with us forever. He



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



will give us happiness, peace and fulfill all our needs.

- ✝ The Lord Jesus called Martha twice to draw her attention to the fact that staying with Him was better than being too busy with worldly matters. It is not fitting that we get busy with other things while the Lord Jesus is in the house. Similarly, when we are in the church, we must not become occupied with other things, rather we should have all our focus on the Master of the house Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✝ Remind the children that Mary and Martha had a brother named Lazarus who died and was resurrected by our Lord Jesus after 4 days. Please tell the story briefly.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Let us learn from Mary not to get too busy with our toys or friends or anything to the extent that we forget to read the Bible every day and listen to the words of God. In fact, we should read the Bible more than just once a day.
2. When we pray, read the Bible, or come to church, we must not get distracted with anything or anyone else except the Lord Himself. Let us only pay attention to Him as Mary did.

**November**

**First Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### MARY AND MARTHA

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

of Mary and Martha  
to fix him something to eat

Mary stayed in the ground  
Opening her heart and ear

kneeling at Jesus’ feet  
in Him she found peace

Martha was quite upset  
And she started complaining

at Mary she threw a fit  
that Mary was not caring

Jesus praised Mary  
But He was not really pleased

what she did was really neat  
with Martha’s great big Feast

When Jesus is anywhere  
We should always be right there

talking and preaching  
listening and learning

Also when we go to church  
We should always be quite

with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## November

## First Sunday

## NOTES



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**November**

**Second Sunday**

**NOVEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**OUR LOVE TO THE LORD JESUS**

Please read John 19:25-27 and Luke 24:1-12, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/xe50\\_LaJgWE](https://youtu.be/xe50_LaJgWE)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To show that we must love Jesus our Lord because He loved us first. Anything that we do for the Lord's sake is rewarded very handsomely here on earth and also in heaven.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God" 1John  
4:16*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Please tell the following three stories showing some examples of people's love for Jesus our Lord:
1. Despite all the dangers that were prevailing at the time of the crucifixion, John (one of the twelve Disciples) followed his Master, the Lord Jesus, to the Cross. The Lord Jesus loved him and indicated that St. Mary would be as a mother to him. So, when we love the Lord Jesus, and show that love, in our actions, He rewards us back very kindly. Please read John 19:25-27 and tell the story in details.
  2. The Marys went to Jesus' tomb with the spices which they had prepared. They exposed themselves to a lot of dangers because of the Jews who hated the Lord Jesus and all His followers. But their love for the Lord Jesus was great and they expressed it by carrying the spices to His tomb. In



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



return for their love, Jesus sent two angels who told them about the happy news of His Resurrection. Please read Luke 24:1-12 and tell the story in details.

3. When our Lord Jesus visited Mary and Martha (the sisters of Lazarus), Mary was sitting at His feet listening to His words. Please read Luke 10:38-42 and tell the story in details.

- ✙ We love our Lord Jesus because He loved us first; He came for us, suffered for us, arose from the dead and ascended to heaven to take us with Him.
- ✙ If we love Jesus we have to love each other and help each other. We must be kind to one another; we must not be aggressive with people; we must share everything with people and we must give to others who need help.
- ✙ If we love Jesus Christ, our Lord, we must listen to what He asks us to do: obey our parents, pray, love all people and be quiet in church.
- ✙ St. John (who wrote the Gospel according to St. John) is called “John the Beloved” because he was the one who put his head on the Lord Jesus’ shoulder at the last supper. He also wrote about love more than anyone else.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We have to show our love for the Lord Jesus by our actions not just in words. We must respect the church (His house): no running, laughing or screaming. We must give money to the poor as the Lord Jesus called them His brothers, visit the sick and help the needy. The reward from the Lord Jesus is peace and joy here on earth and eternal life in heaven.

**November**

**Second Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**SONGS** 🎵

**INTO MY HEART**

**“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7)**

Into my heart  
Into my heart  
Come into my heart  
Lord Jesus

Into my heart  
Into my heart  
Come into my heart  
Lord Jesus

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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# November

## Second Sunday

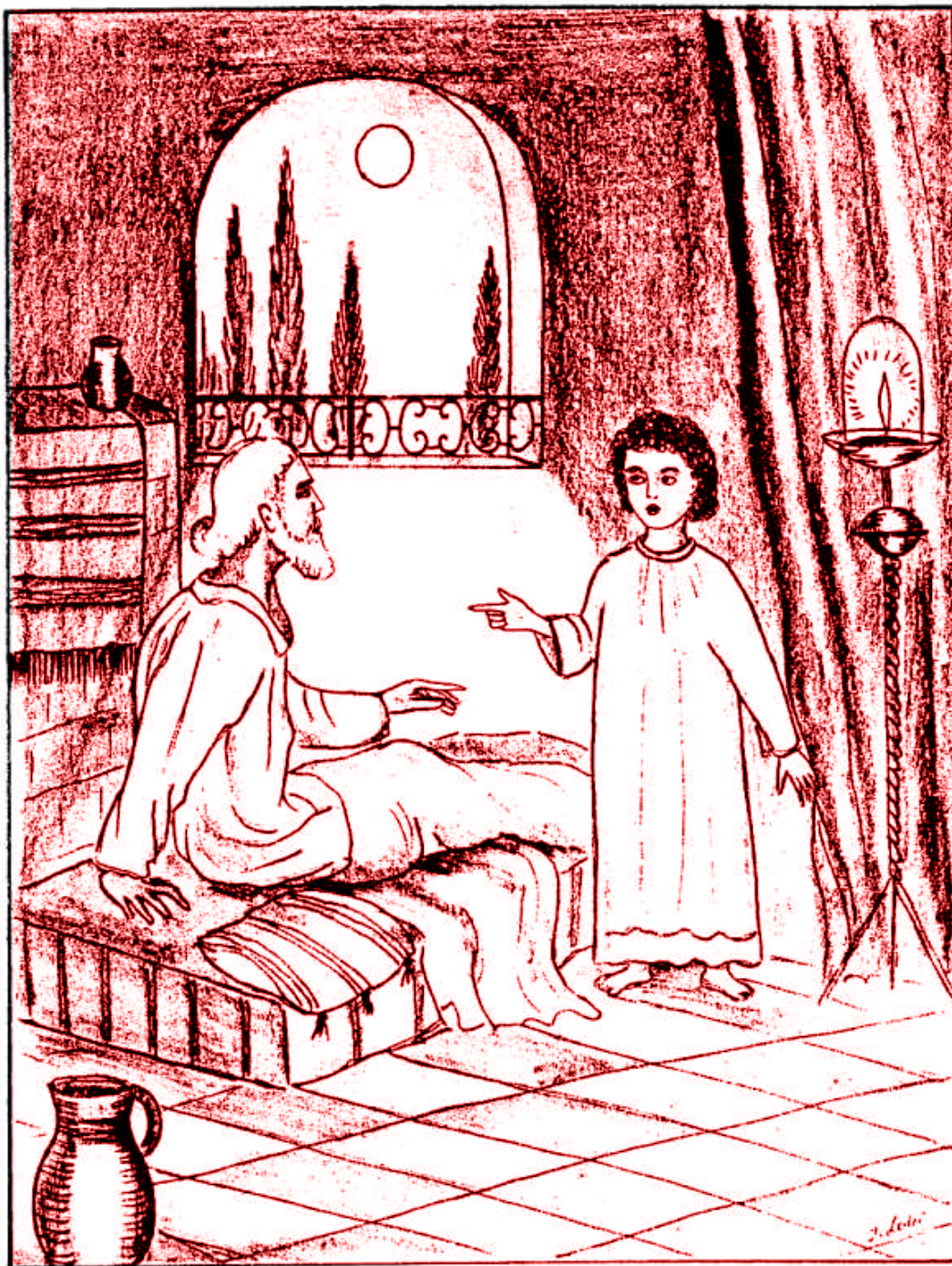
## NOTES

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# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**November**

**Third Sunday**



**NOVEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**SAMUEL'S LOVE FOR GOD**

Please read the attached material "Samuel's Love for God", 1 Samuel Chapters 1, 2 and 3, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/g9albNjFjWk>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To take Samuel's love for God and his honest service at the altar as a good example for us to follow.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears"*  
*1 Samuel 3:9*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Hannah was miserable because she could not have children. She prayed to God and made a vow that if God granted her a son, she would give him back to the Lord to serve Him all the days of his life.
- ✚ Hannah fulfilled her vow to God. After the child Samuel was weaned she sent him to Eli, the priest, to serve God for the rest of his life.
- ✚ After Hannah gave Samuel to God, God gave her three more Sons and two daughters. Remember, in the previous lesson, we learned that if we give



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



something to God, He rewards us back very kindly.

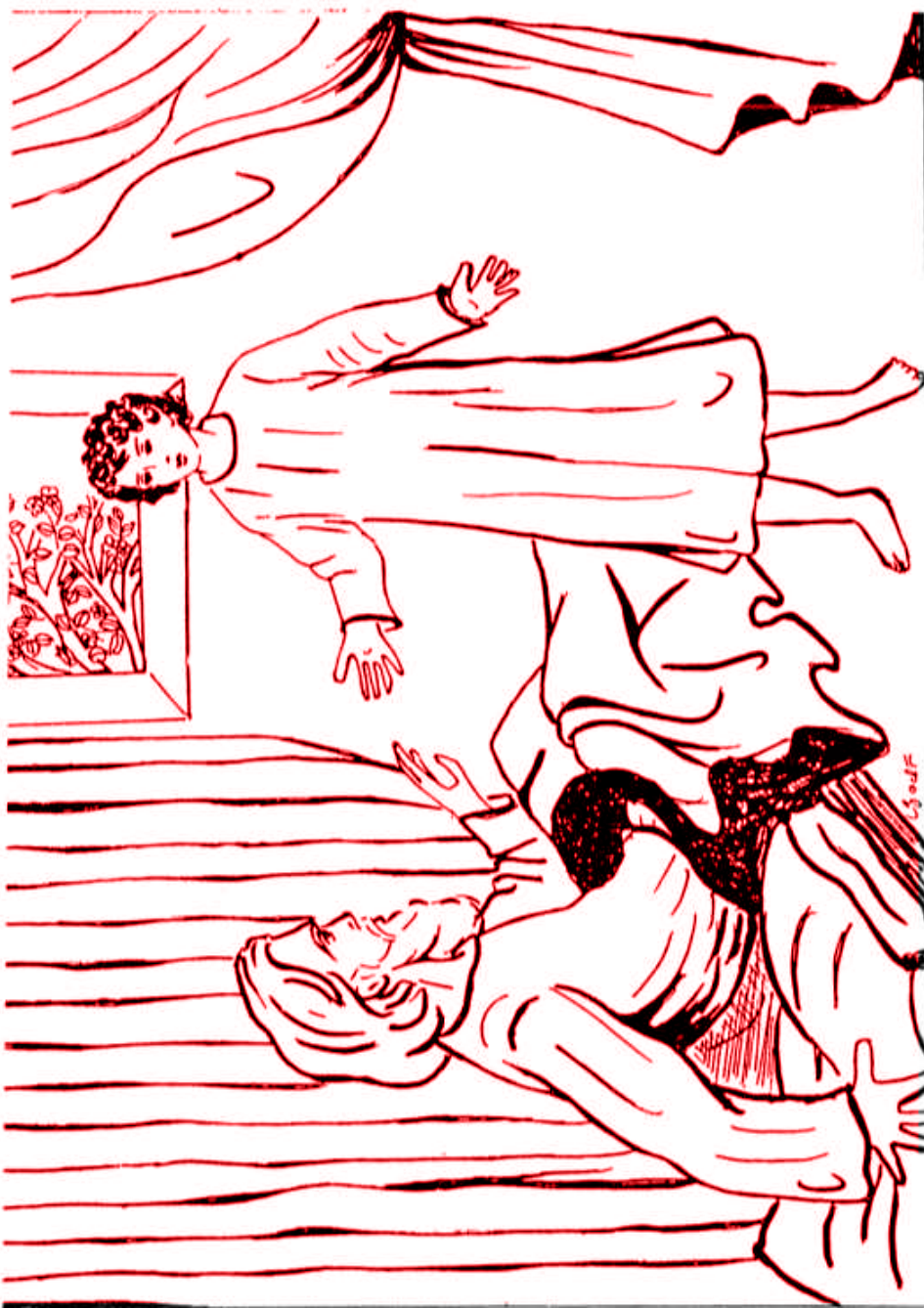
- ✙ Samuel was very honest in serving at the altar: he was cleaning, straightening the books and praying.
- ✙ One night God called Samuel 3 times. Samuel loved God and he was ready to do anything for God; so Samuel said, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.”
- ✙ Eli the priest had bad sons who did not obey God. When God talked to Samuel He told him that He was going to punish Eli’s house for the bad things they were doing. When Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had said, Samuel hesitated to tell him such a thing. But when Eli insisted, Samuel told him, and Eli realized it was God’s will. So, Samuel was honest and did not lie no matter what might happen.
- ✙ As Samuel grew, he loved God more and more. God was with him and all of Israel recognized him as a prophet.
- ✙ Explain the meaning of the word prophet. A prophet is a person who loves God and is considered by people to be a spokesman of God. God may give him the talent of foreseeing the future so he or she can warn people about important events before they happen.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We must love God and be ready to serve Him in whatever way He asks us to. Like Samuel, we can serve God by serving our church, which is the house of God; we can put the books in order, prepare the candles for Abouna and collect money for the poor.

**November**

**Third Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### *O MY CHILDREN*

**“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)**

O my little dear children  
You are so precious come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus Our God  
We love You and praise you  
Our Lord I hear you praising  
and bless you

My eyes upon you all the time.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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## November

### Third Sunday

#### SAMUEL'S LOVE FOR GOD

A certain man of the tribe of Ephraim had two wives named Peninnah and Hannah. Peninnah had children but Hannah had none.

This man, whose name was Elkanah, used to go to Shiloh every year for the religious festival. He would take Peninnah with all of her children and Hannah. When the sacrificial meat was given out, Peninnah and all her sons and daughters would naturally get more than Hannah.

One time, Hannah, who was unhappy because of her childlessness, went off by herself to pray. "O Lord of hosts," she said, "if You will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life."

Eli, the priest, noticed her lips moving and thought she was talking to herself, but Hannah told him of her unhappiness and of her prayer. Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

A short time after their return home, Hannah became pregnant, and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said: "Because I have asked for him from the Lord." And the next time her husband went to Shiloh, she remained at home. "After the child is weaned," she said, "I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever." And, after the child was weaned, Hannah fulfilled her vow. She took him, along with a young bull for sacrifice, to the priest Eli at Shiloh. She told Eli that she was the woman who had prayed for the child, and that now she would leave him there. Each year before going to Shiloh, Hannah would make a little robe for Samuel. Eli would bless Elkanah and Hannah, saying, "May the Lord give you other children to replace this boy whom you have lent to the Lord."

And Hannah had three sons and two daughters, while Samuel was growing up in the presence of the Lord.

One night Samuel was lying in the temple where the ark of God was kept. He suddenly heard someone calling his name. Thinking it was Eli, he got up and went and asked Eli what he wanted. But Eli told him he had not called him. Later, the boy again heard "Samuel, Samuel." Again, he ran to Eli, and again Eli said he had not called him. When it happened the third time, Eli said, "It is the Lord calling you. When you hear it again, say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'"



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



So Samuel said these words the next time the Lord called. Then the Lord told Samuel that He was going to punish the house of Eli the priest because of his immoral and sacrilegious sons whom Eli had not restrained.

When Eli asked Samuel the next morning what the Lord had said, Samuel hesitated to tell him such a dire prediction. But when Eli insisted, Samuel told him, and Eli realized it was God's will.

As Samuel grew, the Lord was with him and inspired him. So all Israel came to recognize Samuel as the spokesman, or prophet of God.

**November**

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**Third Sunday**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**November**

**Fourth Sunday**



**NOVEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD AND A REVIEW OF THE  
LIFE OF ST. MENA**

Please read the attached material entitled *St. Mena the wonder-Maker*, 1 Samuel 16:1-13 for "David's love for God", and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/OnNXbj6udy4> OR <https://youtu.be/41vnmcocZ1A>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

David's heart was full of love for the Lord. Also review St. Mena's life and his love for God.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1Samuel 16:7***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

✠ The Lord rejected Saul and did not want him to be a king anymore because he sinned against God. God wanted to choose the person who would become the new king. God looks at the heart of the person not his/her outward appearance. He sent His prophet, Samuel, to the house of Jesse to choose one of his eleven Sons. Samuel looked at the oldest one of them and found him to be tall with a nice appearance. But the Lord said, "I have refused him." The same thing happened for the other nine sons of Jesse until there was only one



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



left, who was the youngest. His name was David.

- ✝ The Lord chose David because David loved Him. Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David.
- ✝ God's choice is different from man's choice. God chooses special people for special jobs. For example, God chose St. Mary for a very important role so that the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, can be born from her by the Holy Spirit.
- ✝ Why did the Lord choose David? Because God found that David loved Him. David was praising the Lord. All the Psalms of David are prayers and songs to the Lord.
- ✝ David was a prophet, a king and a man of prayers. He said: "One thing I asked the Lord to give, that I live in his house all my life." (Please ask the children to memorize this verse.)
- ✝ We must love our church as David loved the House of God. Do we come early in the morning to church? When we come to church, are we looking forward to being in this Holy place?
- ✝ Review the life of St. Mena "the wonder-Maker" as our church is now celebrating the feast of St. Mena. He left the army and went to the desert because he loved the Lord and wanted to pray and praise Him at all times. They called him "the wonder-Maker" because of the great miracles performed by his prayers.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We must love God in a very sincere way. God knows everything and He knows who truly loves Him.

**November**

**Fourth Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### *O MY CHILDREN*

**“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)**

O my little dear children  
You are so precious come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus Our God  
We love You and praise you  
Our Lord I hear you praising  
and bless you

My eyes upon you all the time.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## **November**

### **Fourth Sunday**

#### **ST. MENA, THE WONDER-MAKER**

St. Mena is considered to be the most well-known Saint in the East and West, due to the many miracles that are still performed by his prayers for us. That is evident in the numerous little clay bottles on which his name and picture are engraved. These were discovered by archeologists, in diverse countries around the world: Heidelberg in Germany, Milan in Italy, Dalmata in Yugoslavia, Marseille in France, Dongola in Sudan, and Jerusalem. Visitors from these cities and others would buy these bottles, which usually contain oil or water for blessing, and take them back to their relatives.

The Saint was born in the year 285 A.D., in the city of Niceous which lies in the vicinity of Memphis. His parents were really devoted Christians: his father was Audexios, and Aufimia was his mother. On the feast of St. Mary, his mother who did not have any children, prayed in front of the Icon of the Virgin with tears that God may give her a blessed son. A voice came to her ears saying "Amen", and thus she called her son Mena.

His father, a ruler of one of the administrative divisions of Egypt, died when Mena was fourteen years old. At fifteen Mena joined the army, and was given a high rank because of his father's reputation; he was appointed to Algeria. Three years later he left the army longing to devote his whole life to Christ. He headed towards the desert to live a different kind of life.

After he had spent five years as a hermit, he saw, in a revelation, angels coronating the martyrs with glorious crowns and longed to join them. While he was thinking of it, he heard a voice saying: "Blessed be you Abba Mena because you have been called to the pious life since your childhood. You will be granted three immortal crowns: one because of your celibacy, the second because of your asceticism and the third because of your martyrdom".

Immediately he felt as if the earth under him was vanishing, and he was overwhelmed with great eagerness to be carried to heaven. In a mood of valor, he hurried to the ruler declaring his Christian faith. His endless sufferings and the tortures that he went through attracted many of the pagans not only to Christianity, but also to martyrdom.

#### **THE SAINT'S BODY**

The Saint's assassins tried to burn his relics but they failed because the believers had loaded his body on a camel and headed towards the western desert. At a certain spot,



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



the camel stopped and the people could not force it to continue its trip by any means. Right there, they buried him where located is a water-well. At that place his present monastery is near the end of the Marriute Lake.

#### **DISCOVERY OF HIS BODY**

It so happened that a shepherd was attending his sheep in that area and a sick lamb fell to the ground. As it struggled to get on its feet again, its scab was cured. The story was spread quickly and the sick who came to this spot recovered from whatever illness they had, just by laying on the ground.

During that time, the daughter of King Zinon, a lover of Christ, caught the itch. His advisors suggested that she should try to go to that place where the previous miracles of healing had occurred, and she did. At night the Saint appeared to the girl and told her that his body was buried in that place. The following morning, she bathed in the well and was healed. She related her vision of St. Mena to her servants, and told them that he cured her.

#### **ST. MENA IN MARRIUTE**

Immediately, King Zinon ordered that the Saint's body be dug out and a church to be founded there. Not only that, but he also ordered the construction of a large city to be named after the Saint. Sick people from all over the world used to visit that city and were healed through the intercessions of St. Mena, the wonder-maker.

Mrs. Bucher, a well-respected historian, recorded that destruction started to take place in the city and its inhabitants were degraded after the Arab Conquest. During the period after Haroun El-Rasheed, the Barbarians attacked it and burned a large portion of it. At the time of El-Mamoun he ordered the destruction of the entire city, and he then used its marble pillars to build his palace and the mosques. It was not until the twentieth century that international missions began to search for the city and the church. The remainder of it, no doubt, demonstrates the glory of the Coptic past.

#### **THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. MENA**

As soon as Pope Cyril the Sixth was coronated on St. Mark's throne, he began to lay the foundations of a very great monastery close to the remains of the old city. Thus in his blessed days, God's will had permitted the old monastery of St. Mena to be reconstructed, and the Copts to visit it and to be blessed by the Saint. What is even



## November

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### Fourth Sunday

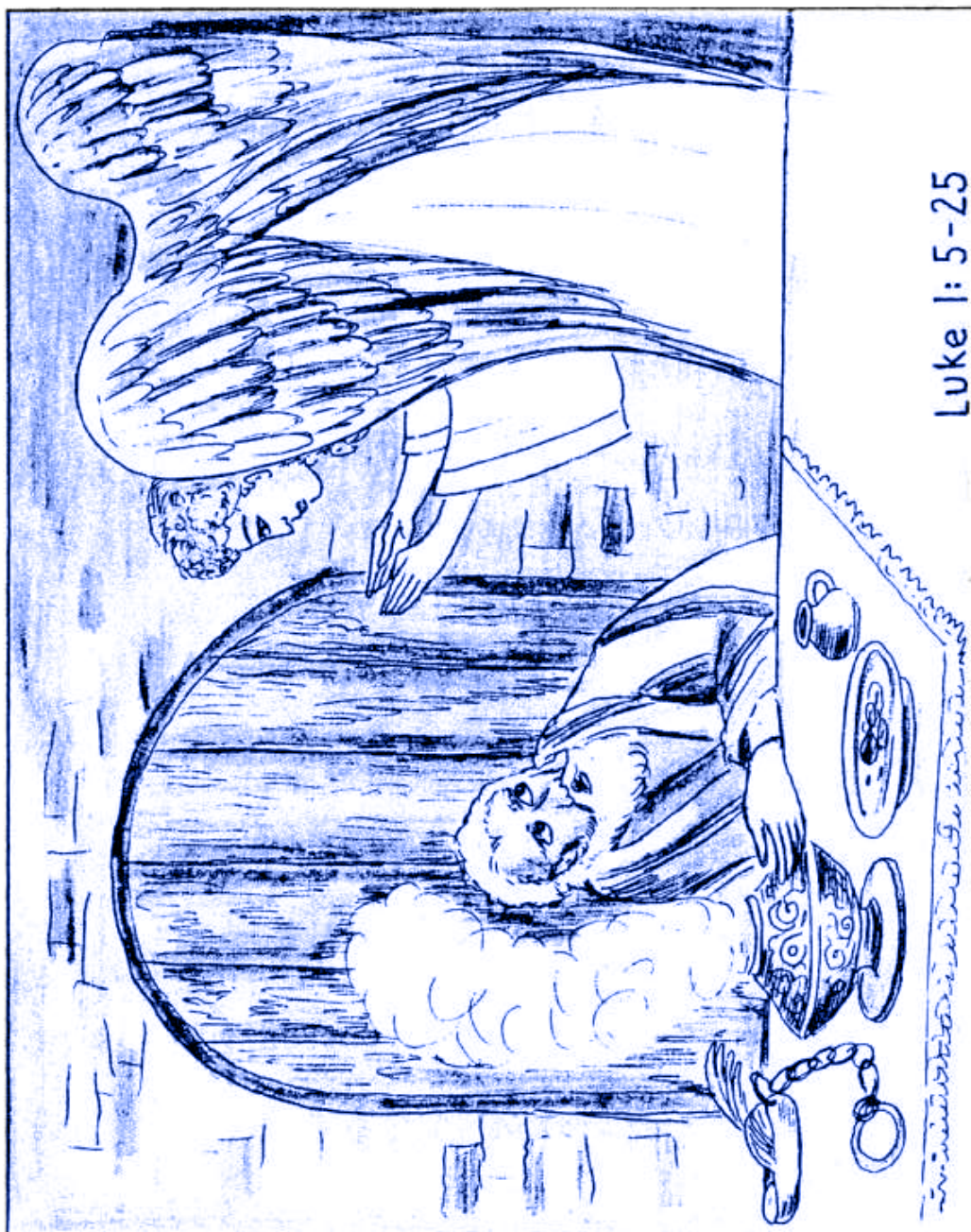
more interesting is that the Pope has stated in his will that his body should not to be buried in the new famous Cathedral in Cairo, but in the monastery of his personal friend and intercessor, St. Mena the wonder-maker!

**\* NOTE:** This article is taken from “Weekly Bulletin”, St. Mary Coptic Church, Melbourne, Australia, November 1976.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**December**

**First Sunday**



**DECEMBER  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IS  
ANNOUNCED**

**Please read Luke 1:5-25, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/Nlmyh5Rx6Dw>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To illustrate the preparation for the birth of our Saviour, through the birth of St. John the Baptist.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"To make ready a people prepared for the Lord" Luke 1:17***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † St. John the Baptist was born before the Lord Jesus Christ. He had one role, which was to tell the people that Jesus was the Saviour, the Son of God.
- † Describe the circumstances of Zacharias and St. Elizabeth who were old. He was a priest and did not have a son. They kept praying for one and at the right time the Lord sent His angel Gabriel to proclaim the good news.
- † There were twenty-four divisions of priests. Each division had a head priest and it took the name of its head. Zacharias was a priest in the eighth division whose head was Abijah. "So, it was that while he was serving as priest before



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



God in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.” Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

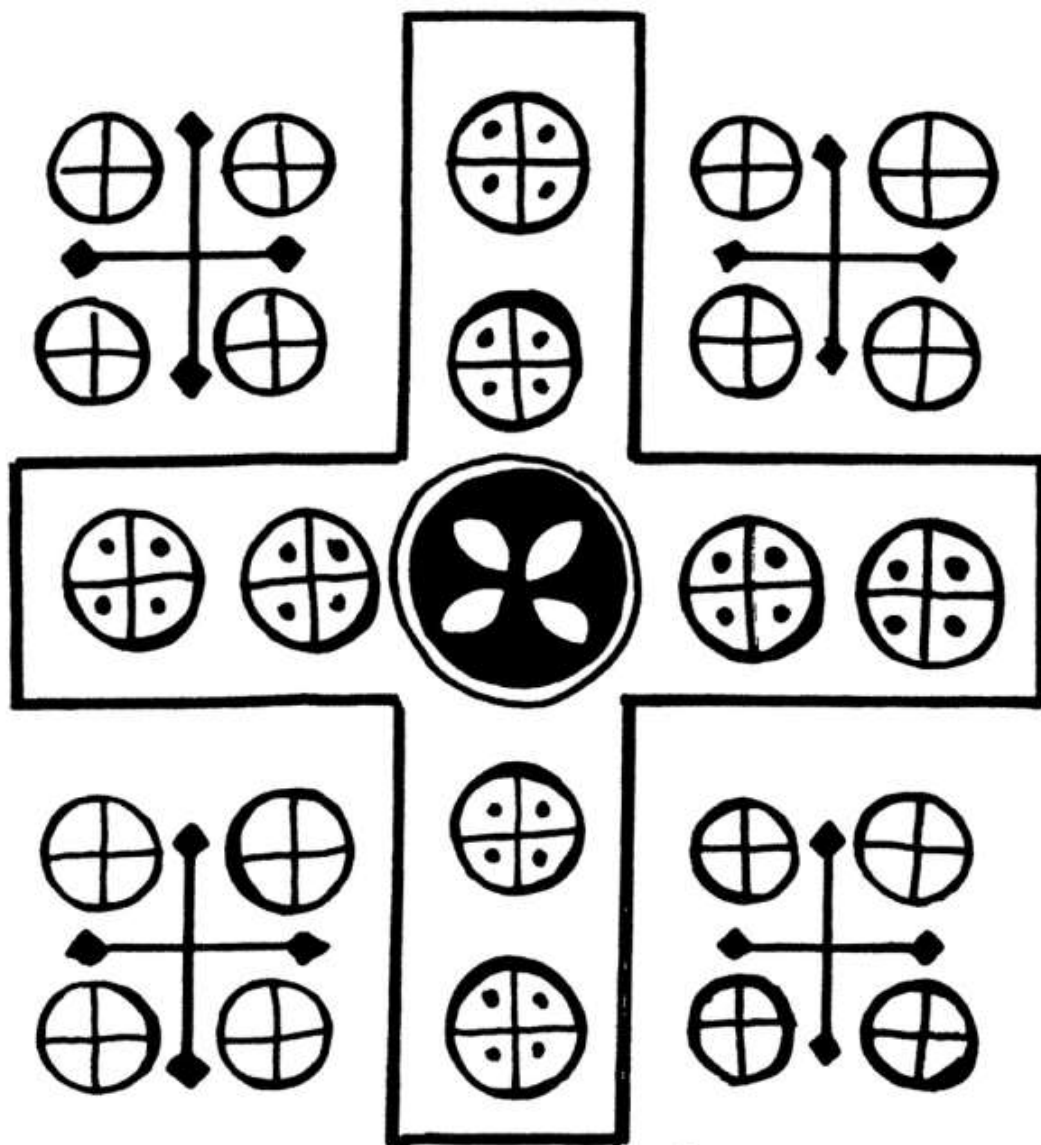
- ✝ The angel Gabriel was the first angel in the New Testament to come with good news. This was the beginning of a series of good tidings.
- ✝ Zacharias was troubled and fear fell upon him when he saw the angel. The angel tried to comfort him saying: “Do not be afraid, Zacharias”. Then the angel gave him the good news. But Zacharias could not believe saying: “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” Then the angel gave him a sign and a punishment at the same time. “You will be mute and not be able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” Zacharias probably forgot that nothing is impossible for God. God performed the same miracle before with Abraham and his wife Sarah (as we studied in a previous lesson).
- ✝ St. Elizabeth hid herself for five months saying: “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me to take away my reproach among men.” Explain, this verse.
- ✝ The personality of John the Baptist: Luke 1:15-17. List all the characteristics of his personality and let the children write them down on a piece of paper and bring it next class.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Everything must be done in good order and in a timely manner. Before the birth of Jesus Christ certain indications had to appear.
2. God keeps all His promises. He fulfills His promises at the right time that He sees suitable. We only have to trust Him and put the control of our life with Him and present all our needs to Him in our prayers.

**December**

**First Sunday**



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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**December**

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**First Sunday**

[SONGS](#) 🎵

**GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART**

*“For our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.”  
(Ps 33:21)*

**REFRAIN**

God is dwelling in my heart  
All His joy He gives to me  
And with Jesus in my heart  
For He is the Son of God

He and I are one  
through Christ his Son.  
what have I to fear?  
in my heart, He is near.

Christians who are baptized  
The great mystery

have you ever realized  
God dwells in you and me.

This joy God gave to you  
Show them that God is love

share it then with others too  
lift their hearts above.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
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# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**December**

**Second Sunday**



**DECEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS IS ANNOUNCED**

Please read Luke 1:26-38, the attached notes entitled “A Christmas Message”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/Qq7NFiZL6ak> or <https://youtu.be/bxW2XqFwRx8>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that the obedience of the Virgin Mary to the message of God is a good example for every one of us in his or her relationship with God.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Rejoice, Highly favored one” Luke 1:28*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Tell the story of the birth of the Virgin Mary from her mother Anna and her father, Youakim, who were old and did not have any children. They prayed to God to give them a child and they promised to give this child back to serve God. At the age of three, her parents gave the little girl Mary up for service and prayer close to the altar. She stayed there until she became twelve years old. An old man named Joseph took her to his house to look after her and she to look after him and they were later engaged.
- ✚ The Virgin Mary used to see angels during her prayers but she was troubled this time because of the greetings of the angel and she



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



was wondering why the angel greeted her that way. St. Mary was very humble.

- ✙ The main characteristic of the Virgin Mary is her obedience to the message of God. She believed the message and obeyed it. We have to listen to what the Bible is telling us and obey it. For example: love each other, listen to our parents, etc.
- ✙ The difference in age between our Beloved Jesus and St. John the Baptist was 6 months.
- ✙ If possible, please let the children act out the conversation between St. Mary and the angel.
- ✙ The angel told the Virgin Mary that the name of the baby was to be Jesus.
- ✙ The angel left her after she said: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord.” The angel was sure St. Mary believed his message.
- ✙ Thousands of years before Christ, Isaiah said: “The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”, Isaiah 7:14. Immanuel means “God is with us”. Explain that many prophets in the Old Testament prophesied about the Lord Jesus Christ before his coming.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

Let us be obedient and accept what the Bible is teaching us. Let us not argue about any of the commandments and learn from St. Mary when she said: “I am the handmaid of the Lord”.

**December**

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**Second Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### **GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART**

*“For our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.”  
(Ps 33:21)*

#### **REFRAIN**

God is dwelling in my heart  
All His joy He gives to me  
And with Jesus in my heart  
For He is the Son of God

Christians who are baptized  
The great mystery

This joy God gave to you  
Show them that God is love

He and I are one  
through Christ his Son.  
what have I to fear?  
in my heart, He is near.

have you ever realized  
God dwells in you and me.

share it then with others too  
lift their hearts above.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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# December

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## Second Sunday

### *A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE*

#### A JOYFUL MESSAGE

Nazareth was such a pretty village among the hills of Galilee, above the sea. In this village there lived a young virgin, named Mary, who devoted all her life to worshipping God.

One day, while she was praying, a bright light suddenly filled her room and an angel-messenger appeared.

“Do not be afraid”, he said, “God has sent me to give you such happy news.”

As Mary quietly listened, the angel said: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you... you will give birth to a child named Jesus. He is the Son of God and you are His Mother. He will save all the world and bring them to Heaven!”

St. Mary was very happy. Bowing her head, she whispered, “I will gladly do whatever God wants me to do.”



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**December**

**Third Sunday**



**DECEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH AND MARY'S SONG  
OF PRAISE**

**Please read Luke 1:39-56 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/s\\_1xtrrA2Ks](https://youtu.be/s_1xtrrA2Ks)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn the story of St. Mary's visit to St. Elizabeth to serve her. The emphasis here will be on the happiness of St. Mary, St. Elizabeth, Zacharias, Joseph and St. John the Baptist.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"The babe leaped in my womb for joy"***

***Luke 1:44***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Describe the long trip that St. Mary took to visit and help Elizabeth, the happy conversation that happened between St. Mary and St. Elizabeth and St. Mary's song of praise.
- ✚ If possible, please let the children act out the conversation between St. Mary and St. Elizabeth.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✙ Humanity has never known a deeper, higher or simpler prayer than the one that St. Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”, let us read this prayer (Luke 1:46-55) carefully in the class.
- ✙ Describe the feeling of:
  - † St. Mary (humility): “He has put down the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly” (Luke 1:52). Even after St. Mary knew that she would be the mother of God, she did not change and stayed humble.
  - † St. Elizabeth (happiness): “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord” (Luke 1:45). St. Elizabeth was happy because of St. Mary’s visit. St. Elizabeth considered it too much for her that the mother of God should visit her: “But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me” (Luke 1:43).
  - † Zacharias’ speech: “Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied saying....” this means he spoke again.
  - † St. Joseph (happiness): “He did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” He looked after the Virgin Mary.
  - † St. John the Baptist: “The babe leaped in my womb for joy” (*Luke 1:44*).
- ✙ We must be very happy these days because we are going to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

The happiest news in our life is that the Lord Jesus came for us, saved us and chose us to become children of God. Let us celebrate these days, with the Virgin Mary, the good news of our salvation.

**December**

**Third Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### **GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART**

*“For our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.”  
(Ps 33:21)*

#### **REFRAIN**

God is dwelling in my heart  
All His joy He gives to me  
And with Jesus in my heart  
For He is the Son of God

Christians who are baptized  
The great mystery

This joy God gave to you  
Show them that God is love

He and I are one  
through Christ his Son.  
what have I to fear?  
in my heart, He is near.

have you ever realized  
God dwells in you and me.

share it then with others too  
lift their hearts above.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**December**

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**Third Sunday**



For the success  
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in his/her preparation  
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# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**December**

**Third Sunday**



**DECEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE NEW YEAR - WE SAY THANK YOU TO GOD AND  
BABY JESUS WAS BORN IN A MANGER**

Please read Luke 2:4-20, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

- † To review God's blessings this year and thank Him.
- † To talk about the love of God who came for us and was born in a manger.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"There was no room for them in the inn"*  
*Luke 2:7*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Let us all say "thank you" to God because He helped us, kept us safe and was so kind to us all through the last year. God gave us a nice church to pray and take communion in. God gave us nice parents to look after our needs.
- † Let us all make a commitment in our prayers to God, in the upcoming year, to do our best and to promise to be of good manners at school, home, church and elsewhere. Also, we have to ask God to help us this coming year as He helped us in the previous year.
- † God loves us because we are His children.
- † Explain why the Lord Jesus was born in a manger. His foster father, St. Joseph, had to go to Bethlehem where he was originally from, to be enrolled with St. Mary. When they arrived, St. Mary gave birth to Jesus and there was



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



no place for him in the inn. They were poor and the modest inn was crowded with people who came to enroll as well. They had to stay outside in a manger attached to the inn.

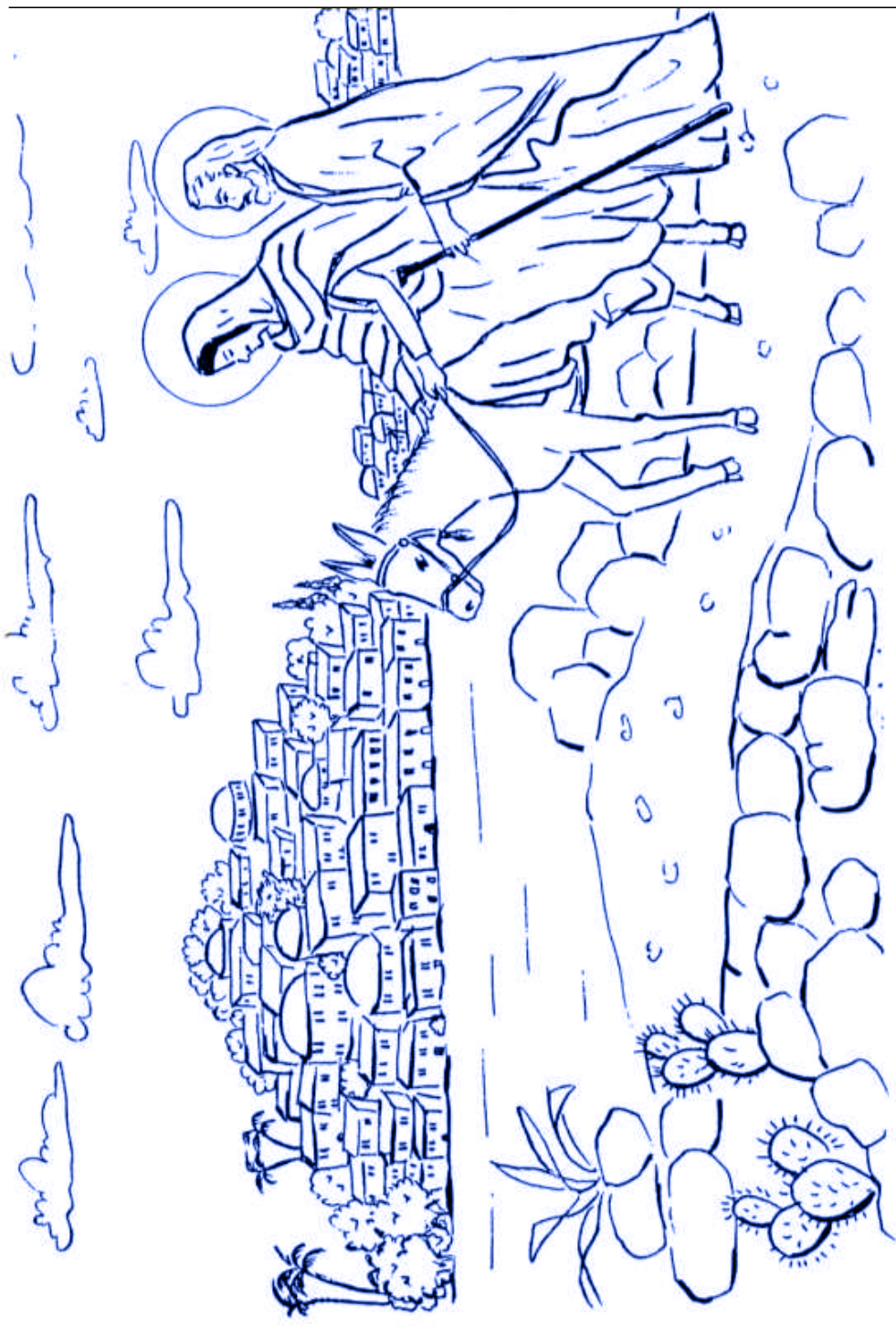
- ✙ The Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He wanted to teach us the first lesson: He was born in a manger. No one can think of a more modest or poorer place than that. In order to be good, we have to be of good character and love God. Being rich and having lots of things and toys are not important. God Himself was born in a manger.
- ✙ St. Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. It was a very peaceful and joyful night.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We should not ask mom and dad to bring many toys or clothes for us. Let them bring as much as they can afford. Jesus was born in a manger to teach us that all these outside appearances are not important. What counts is that we live with God, love Him and have peace in our hearts.

**December**

**Third Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### *I AM GLAD*

*“Behold , I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people” (Lk 2:10)*

I am glad, I am glad  
With Your peace and Your love

that You came to our land  
we will go hand in hand

#### REFRAIN

He came for us  
Our God, our God

with His tender love  
came to save us our God

Saint Mary was pleased  
He told her you will bear

when she heard Gabriel  
our Lord Emmanuel

The angels in the sky  
Glory to God in the highest

praised the Lord for His birth  
and peace be on earth

A bright star far in the east  
It lead them to the manger

appeared to the three wise men  
in the city of Bethlehem

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## December

## Third Sunday

## NOTES

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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**January**

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**First Sunday**



**JANUARY  
FIRST SUNDAY**

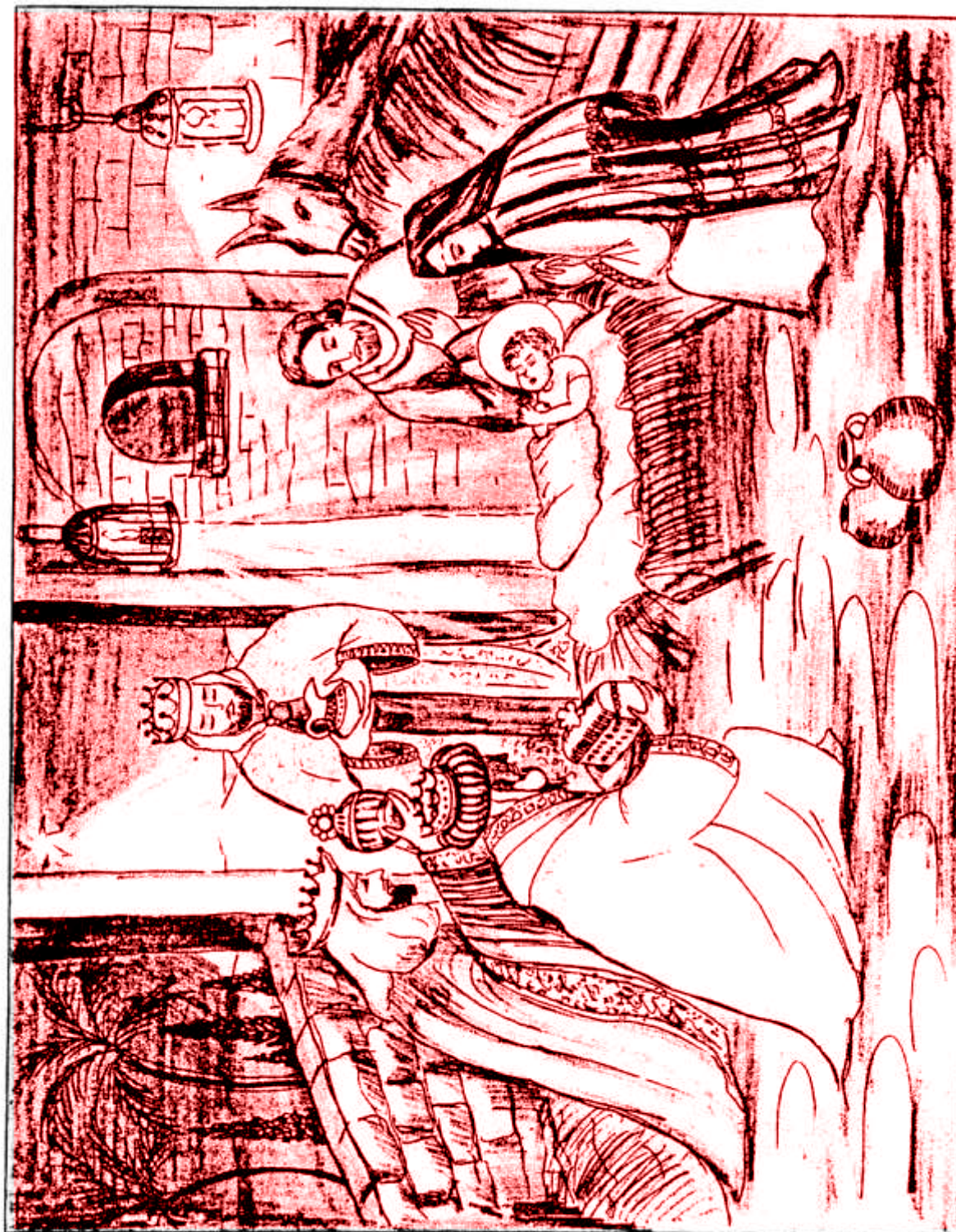
**.Christmas songs and slide presentation**

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**January**

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**Second Sunday**



**JANUARY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS**

Please read the attached material, “The Birth of God’s Son”, Luke 2:4-20 and give lessons with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/Zk1LhngROCM> and <https://youtu.be/TJIC57EvYFo?t=30>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that great joy is in store for Heaven and earth because of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Luke 2:10*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ As darkness and sin were widely spread in the world, the great majority of people were not pleasing to God and for a long time no prophets came to speak to them; therefore, the time was ripe for the Saviour: who is the Son of God Himself, to come and save the world.
- ✚ Although the Lord Jesus did not have a place at the inn and was born in a manger, His birth was accompanied by great joy in Heaven and on earth. In



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



this lesson we learn about the joy that the shepherds had when the angels of heaven broke the good news to them.

- ✙ The shepherds were among the first few people in the whole world to witness the birth of our Lord Jesus. They were chosen by God because they were simple, nice people who were watching their sheep all night. We do not know their names but they participated with the angels in praising the Lord after His birth.
- ✙ What is the work of a shepherd? A shepherd is the one who herds and takes care of the sheep: he feeds and cleans them and protects them from wild animals. Our Beloved Jesus was described as the Good Shepherd because He looks after us in all aspects of life as the shepherd looks after his sheep.
- ✙ As the shepherds were keeping watch over their flock by night, “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, wanting to comfort them said: “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” Not only did an angel of the Lord and the glory of the Lord shine around them, but also a multitude of the heavenly host praised God and said: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.”
- ✙ When the shepherds saw Baby Jesus, St. Mary and St. Joseph, “they made widely known the saying which was told to them concerning this Child. Then the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God.” St. Mary kept all this news in her heart.

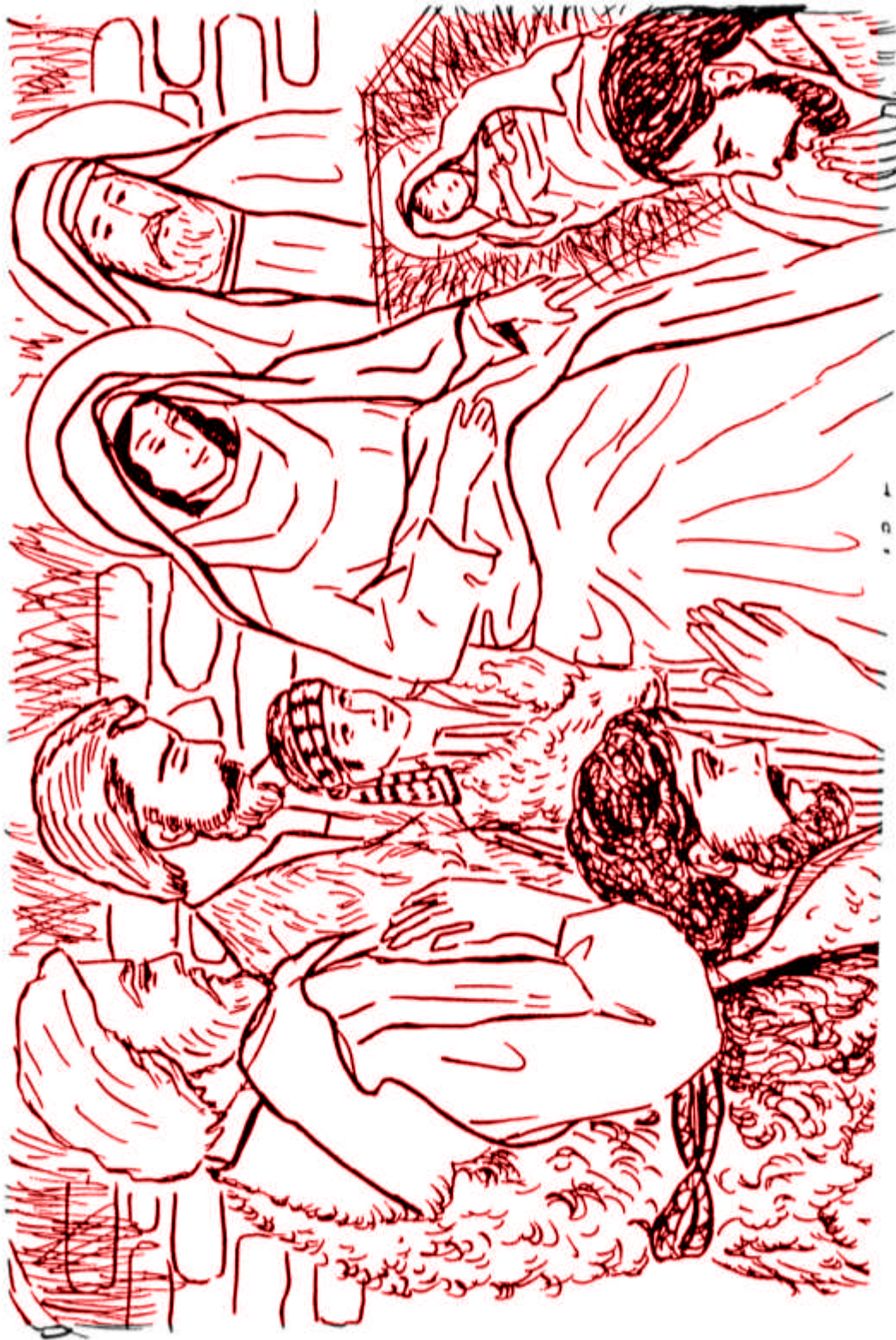
#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. The birth of our Lord Jesus is the source of joy in heaven and on earth. For us it is the happiest news because it means a great honor that lies in the fact that God came for us, took a body the same as ours, lived among us and then lifted us up to heaven with Him.
2. We do not have to be rich and have a lot of things in order to be happy. There was peace and joy in the manger and there was also peace and happiness among the shepherds.



**January**

**Second Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### AWAY IN A MANGER

*“..and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7)*

Away in a manger  
The little Lord Jesus

no crib for a bed  
lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky  
The little Lord Jesus

look down where He lay  
asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing  
The little Lord Jesus

the Baby awakes  
no crying He makes

I love You Lord Jesus  
And stay by my side

look down from the sky  
till morning is nigh

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**January**

**Second Sunday**

## **THE BIRTH OF GOD'S SON**

Now the time was ripe for the Saviour to be born on earth. And how the world needed Him, for everyone was selfish and unhappy! All the people in the world were sinners, just as Adam and Eve had been. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised them that a Saviour would come someday to take away their sins. The prophets also had often told the people of Israel that this wonderful Saviour was going to come.

One day the time came, and God sent His angel to St. Mary. She was a Jewish girl who was a relative of King David who had lived hundreds of years before. Gabriel the angel of the Lord said: "Do not be afraid, Mary! God has greatly blessed you. You are going to have a baby and His name will be JESUS. He will have no human father, for He will be the Son of God. And God is giving a baby to Zacharias and your cousin Elizabeth."

Mary did not understand how she would have a baby, for she was a virgin, that is, she was not married. But the angel explained that this was not necessary, for God would perform a special miracle to make her pregnant while she was a virgin. No other babe has ever been born without a human father. Jesus was different. St. Mary was very excited and happy with the wonderful news that she would be the mother of the Saviour of the world!

She was engaged to be married to an old man named Joseph, who was a carpenter.

In those days the Jews were under the rule of the Romans. They had to do whatever the Emperor of Rome and his assistants told them to do. Now he made a law that the name and address of every Jew must be written down. He instructed everyone to go to the city where his ancestors had lived, so that the Roman officers could record their names. Ancestors mean relatives who lived hundreds of years before. So St. Joseph and St. Mary went to Bethlehem where King David used to live, because they were relatives of his, though he had lived hundreds of years before they were born.

But when they arrived at Bethlehem there was no room for them at the little hotel; it was already full. So they went out to the stable where the donkeys and camels were kept, to sleep on the straw. And while they were resting in the stable, Mary's baby was born. He was the little Son that the angel Gabriel had told her about. Yes, Jesus was born out there in the stable, and Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



That same night some shepherds in the fields outside the town were watching their sheep to protect them from wild animals. Suddenly an angel, surrounded by a bright light, appeared to them. They were very frightened. But the angel said: “Do not be afraid; for I have good news for you, and for all people. In the city of David your Saviour is born! His name is Christ the Lord.”

“And this is how you will know Him: you will find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger!”

Then suddenly many, many other angels appeared, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men!”

After the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other: “Let’s now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass which the Lord has made known to us”; so they ran to the village and soon found St. Mary, St. Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger! Afterwards the shepherds returned to their flock again, praising God for what they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.

**January**

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**Second Sunday**



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## St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



Matthew 3:13-18

**January**

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**Third Sunday**



**JANUARY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**EPIPHANY**

**Please read Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:18-34 and the attached notes entitled Epiphany -- The Baptism of Jesus Christ, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/ VMNO2MAmwA](https://youtu.be/VMNO2MAmwA)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To know the difference between the baptism by St. John the Baptist and our baptism.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"This is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit" John 1:33***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Tell the facts in detail, about when the Lord Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist, Mark 1:4-8. John saw the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and settling on Jesus and heard the voice of the Father saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased". **This is the Holy Trinity:** the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. After this event, Jesus started His service.
- ✚ Our Beloved Jesus taught us a lesson to be modest, for He allowed John the Baptist to baptize Him.
- ✚ John the Baptist came to "baptize people with water unto repentance, but He



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:1).

- ✙ When we are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are actually “born of water and the Spirit,” (John 3:5). We become vessels of God and “the Spirit of God dwells inside us.” Then we become true children of God.
- ✙ Ask the children to practice celebrating their baptismal day every year because it is their spiritual birthday. This is, of course, in addition to their usual birthday.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. The Holy Spirit has been inside every one of us since we were baptized. St. John the Baptist baptized with water, but Jesus baptized us with the Holy Spirit and we became children of God. This is a very great honour and blessing for us.
2. As we are now the children of God, we must behave as such so that when the people around us see our good deeds, they would glorify our Father’s name.

**January**

**Third Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### AWAY IN A MANGER

*“..and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger” (Luke 2:7)*

Away in a manger  
The little Lord Jesus

no crib for a bed  
lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky  
The little Lord Jesus

look down where He lay  
asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing  
The little Lord Jesus

the Baby awakes  
no crying He makes

I love You Lord Jesus  
And stay by my side

look down from the sky  
till morning is nigh

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**January**

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**Third Sunday**

**EPIPHANY**

**THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST**

**January 19 (according to the Julian Calendar)**

**GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING:**

At the very end of the Jordan River and just before it pours its waters into the Dead Sea, there is a shallow area in the river that could be crossed by wading. It is now called the ford of 'Bethabara', (the crossing way). There, for many years, merchants and travelers from Arabia, Persia and India crossed the river on their way to Jerusalem, Egypt and Africa. It is a very rugged spot. During the summer, the heat is terrible, the air is heavy and the surface of the Dead Sea is the color of lead. There too were located the lost cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (Read Gen. 13-19). The smell of Sulphur still hangs in the air as if to remind people forever that: "... the wage of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Winter is a bit better because a cooling breeze blows down the Jordan Valley in the evening to replace the heat of summer.

**INTRODUCTION**

In this unfriendly spot of land, one day, a prophet or a messenger of God appeared around the year A.D. 30. He was a strange, rough looking man. His only garment was a camel skin caught at the waist by a strip of leather. His food was locusts and wild honey.

The message of that man was no more attractive than his appearance. He cried to everyone who passed by and, out of curiosity, they stopped a moment to listen: "The reign of God is about to begin. Right now, God has His axe set ready at the base of the tree of your life. Unless you repent of your wicked ways, and submit your life to His rule, He will chop you down and throw you into the fire."

However, there was a happy side to his preaching. Everyone, who truly repented would be forgiven. But, how would the repentant be forgiven? The messenger did not explain. Instead, he led his listeners to the river's edge and dipped their sweaty, dust-covered bodies into the refreshing water. Just as the water of the Jordan River cleansed their bodies, so God would clean their filthy, sin-stained souls. The Prophet called this 'baptism'. That is why we call that messenger of God 'St. John the Baptist'.



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



The word 'baptism' is derived from the Greek word 'baptismos' which means 'emersion'.

#### **CROWDS COME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:**

In the early Jewish tradition, and until the coming of the Messiah, every hundred years or so God used to send a prophet to preach to the Jews to return to their God and to foretell about the coming of the Messiah, the Saviour who would release them from their bondage. When St. John the Baptist appeared at the Jordan River, it was more than 300 years since the Jews had a prophet say to them, "Thus saith the Lord...". The Jews were waiting for either another prophet or the Messiah Himself. Therefore, the word spread like fire through the land, "There is a new prophet preaching at the Jordan ford. There is a message that has come from God"

#### **THE BAPTISM OF THE MESSIAH:**

People crowded to see and listen to the new prophet. Among the crowds were the rich, the poor, the officials of the Temple and those of the government, the sophisticated and the ordinary people. As they listened, their consciences awoke and they remembered their past sins. They streamed into the water to be baptized by St. John and become cleansed from their sins.

One day, someone asked another: "Can this be the promised Saviour, the Messiah?" In a few minutes, everyone was asking the same question. Right away John answered: "I am only a voice crying in the wilderness, a voice preparing you for the coming of the Saviour. Soon, someone will come after me, someone greater than I am and that I am not fit to untie His sandals. He will baptize you with the fire of the Holy Spirit."

Among the crowds, there was a stranger from a faraway city called Galilee. He also stepped into the water to be baptized. But this particular Man was different from all other men. This man alone had no sins. He is the only Man who did not need to be baptized. Why then did He join the wicked and the sinners at the water's edge? This thought came to St. John himself, and he said to Jesus Christ: "It is I who needs baptism from You, and yet You come to me?" But the Lord Jesus insisted. Do you know why? Because Jesus is carrying on His back a heavy burden-all the sins of all those people who ever lived or will ever live and trust in God's salvation. That is why He is called the Saviour.

Something else happened at His baptism. After His emersion into the water, as Jesus

## January

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### Third Sunday

stood up, suddenly above His head, the sky opened up, and the Holy Spirit descended in the shape of a dove and rested on Him; and God the Father Himself said: “This is my Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

#### **EPIPHANY IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH:**

We in the Orthodox Church, consider this event, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, one of the major feasts of the Church. It is called the ‘Epiphany’, which is a Greek word that means ‘showing forth’ or ‘manifestation’. In this event, our Lord Jesus Christ was not only declared by God the Father to be His only Begotten Son; but it also shows forth the three Persons of the Holy Trinity; the Father speaks from heaven, the Son in the Jordan River being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descends from heaven taking the shape of a dove.

On Epiphany Eve, and just before the Divine Liturgy, a special service is held in the Orthodox Church. It is called the ‘Lakan’ which means ‘the blessing of the water’. This is to commemorate the blessing of the water of the Jordan by having Christ baptized in it and by having the Holy Spirit descending on our Lord. In this service, the priest asks for God’s blessing of this water. He says: “Bless this water that is set before thee and give it the blessing that you gave to the Jordan by the descent of the Holy Spirit...Let it be a fountain of blessing, a holy gift, a healer of the sickness of the body and the soul,.. and a blessing to our homes...”

At the end of the service, the priest blesses the people with that water by crossing their foreheads three times. The people also fill small bottles with that water and take them home to use when there is an illness in the family or to bless a new home, office, business, car, etc..

\* **NOTE:** This article was originally written by Fr. Marcos and printed in the “Building”, January 1982. It is hereby reprinted by permission of the author.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**January**

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**Fourth Sunday**



**JANUARY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**FRIENDSHIP**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/DJgROx4wFKM>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To emphasize to the children that we have to be careful in the choice of our friends.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil" Proverbs 4:14***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Any individual is affected by the people he/she deals with. A son or daughter is affected by the parents, family members and friends. The Bible teaches us to be careful in choosing our friends.
- ✚ The memory verse is clear that we must not deal with people who do bad things or do not obey the Bible. Our friends must be from God's believers.
- ✚ **Examples:**
  - ✚ Daniel and the 3 young men (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego); when they were in a foreign land after they were captured as prisoners



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



by King Nebuchadnezzar - (read Daniel Chapter 1), they were determined not to mix with any people from this new country. The reason was that all the people in that new country did not believe in God.

- † The story of the prodigal son when he took his share of money and went away from his father's house and lived with bad people. He lost all his money and became in need of money from people and he was even anxious to eat pigs' food. When he returned to his father and confessed that he was wrong, his father accepted him.
- † Please explain the two above stories in detail.
- † This is why David started the Psalms by saying: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners." (Psalm 1:1).
- † At school we must choose good friends who do not say bad words or do bad things. When someone at school says bad words or does a bad thing, we must not judge him/her and say he/she is a sinner and we must still love him/her and pray for him/her, but we must not take him/her as a friend with whom we spend our leisure time and play with.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We should love all people, but our close friends must be God's people and believers of the Lord Jesus Christ,
2. It is also a good practice to start from now to develop friendships with the Saints; like St. Mary, St. Mark, St. George, St. Mena... etc. We learn about their life, follow their examples, and seek their prayers and their help. After all, what are friends for?

**January**

**Fourth Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES

*“The lamp of the body is the eyes. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” (Mat 6:22)*

O be careful little eyes	what you see (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little eyes	what you see.
O be careful little mouth	what you say (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little mouth	what you say.
O be careful little hands	what you do (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little hands	what you do.
O be careful little feet	where you go (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little feet	where you go.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**January**

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**Fourth Sunday**



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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**January**

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**Fifth Sunday**



**JANUARY  
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**OBEDIENCE**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that obeying God and our parents is a commandment from God. If we love God, we must keep His commandments.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right"***  
***Ephesians 6:1***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † God created us with a free will to do what we like to do, but this does not mean that we should not obey His commandments.
- † We choose to obey because:
  - † This is God's commandment
  - † When we obey, it means that we are taking advice from God or our parents who know more than us. Hence, the outcome of things (questions or problems or choices) will be to our advantage.
  - † We are sure that God loves us and wants the best for us. In fact, we do not know what is best for us, but God knows and has given all his commandments for our benefit. Similarly, our parents love us and want



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



the utmost benefit for us.

✝ Obeying God and our parents gives us blessings and we end up as winners.

✝ **Examples:**

- ✝ Abraham obeyed God when he asked him to leave his homeland and go to another land (please tell the story in detail as in Genesis 12:1-9). Abraham ended up in the Promised Land and lived with his wife in peace with God and with people.
- ✝ Joseph obeyed his father when he asked him to go and look for his brothers who were away for a long time. It ended very good for Joseph (tell the story in detail as in Genesis 37:12-17). Joseph ended up to be the second most important man in Egypt. Joseph also helped his family when they came to Egypt because of the famine in their homeland.
- ✝ The Lord Jesus was obedient to his parents. Although the Lord Jesus is the Son of God, and St. Mary and St. Joseph were just people created by Him, He obeyed them. One time St. Mary and St. Joseph could not find Jesus (He was about 12 years old). They kept looking for Him until they found Him in the Temple. “Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was **subject to them.**” Luke 2:51. (Please tell the story in detail **as in Luke 2:41-51**).

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must obey God, Abouna, our parents, Sunday School and day school teacher. We will always be winners and blessed, when we obey them.
2. We must not obey any wicked advice from anyone that is against God’s commandments.

**January**

**Fifth Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### **O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES**

*“The lamp of the body is the eyes. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” (Mat 6:22)*

O be careful little eyes	what you see (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little eyes	what you see.
O be careful little mouth	what you say (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little mouth	what you say.
O be careful little hands	what you do (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little hands	what you do.
O be careful little feet	where you go (2)
For the Father up above	is looking down in love
So be careful little feet	where you go.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**January**

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**Fifth Sunday**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



## February

### First Sunday



### FEBRUARY FIRST SUNDAY

#### SUNDAY: A HOLY CONVOCATION

Please read Leviticus 23:1-3, Luke 23:50-56, Luke 24:1-5, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

#### PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that Sunday is a holy day. Why? How should we behave in it?

#### MEMORY VERSE:

*"They rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment"*  
*Luke 23:56*

#### PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- ✚ God created the world in six days and on the seventh day He rested to teach us the same concept. This teaches us that there is a suitable time for everything. There is a time to pray, to sleep, to study and to rest.
- ✚ Please read Leviticus 23:1-3. In the Old Testament the Lord told Moses that man should work for six days and keep one day completely dedicated to God. In the Old Testament it was the Sabbath, which means *rest*. In the New Testament, Sunday is the Holy day for God.
- ✚ We consider Sunday to be a Holy day because on it we remember that our Lord Jesus arose from the dead so that we may also arise from the dead.
- ✚ What do we mean by the Lord's Day? It means we pray more on it, we take communion, we behave very well (i.e. more careful than any other day of the week) and rest (i.e. do not work on it). **It is the Lord's Day.** Even if we used



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



to watch some TV programs throughout the week, we should not watch any TV programs on Sunday.

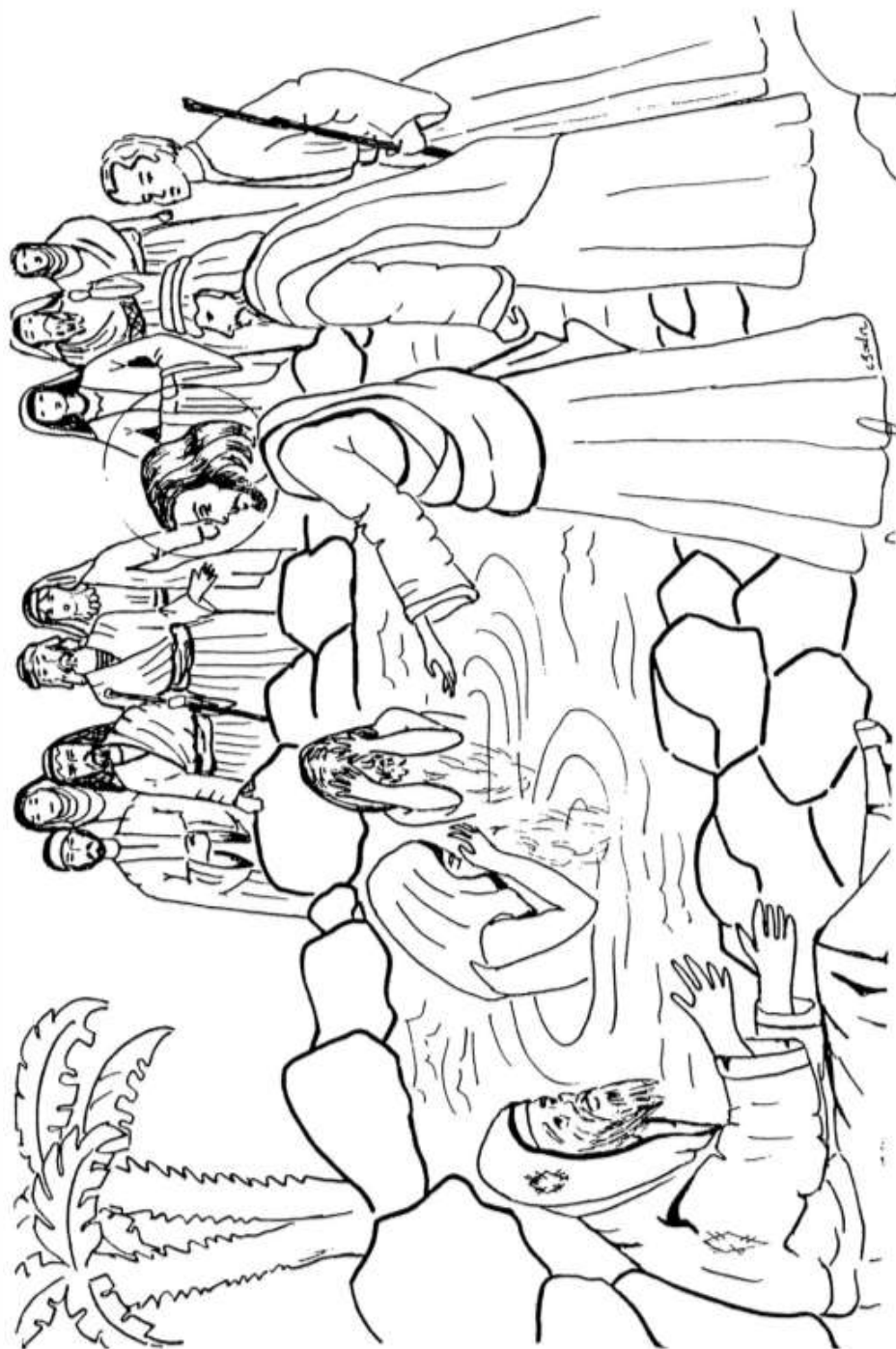
- ✙ After the Resurrection of our Beloved Jesus, the Disciples considered Sunday to be a Holy convocation. They had the Divine Liturgy and spent the whole day praising the Lord and praying.
- ✙ In dedicating Sunday to the Lord, we have to be careful to fulfill it in a spiritual and not rigid manner. Remember that the Pharisees reserved the Sabbath in a rigid way to the extent that whenever our Lord Jesus did a miracle on the Sabbath they were complaining. For example, when Jesus gave sight to the man born blind it was on the Sabbath. The Pharisees complained saying: "This Man (meaning Jesus) is not from God because He does not keep the Sabbath" (John 9:16). Can we help someone who is in need of something on Sunday? Yes! We have to do better on Sunday than any other day of the week. Can we visit a friend in the hospital on Sunday? Yes!

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Sunday is a very special day. It reminds us of the Resurrection of Jesus, our Lord, from the dead. Let us dedicate Sunday to God and make it an ideal day.
2. Making Sunday an ideal day and experiencing how nice it is to be with God all day, is good practice for us. It will lead us to try to make all days ideal like Sunday. "Taste and see how sweet is the Lord"

**Febrauary**

**First Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### O MY CHILDREN

*“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)*

O my little dear children  
You are so precious come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus Our God  
We love You and praise you Our Lord.

I hear you praising and bless you  
My eyes upon you all the time.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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**February**

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**First Sunday**



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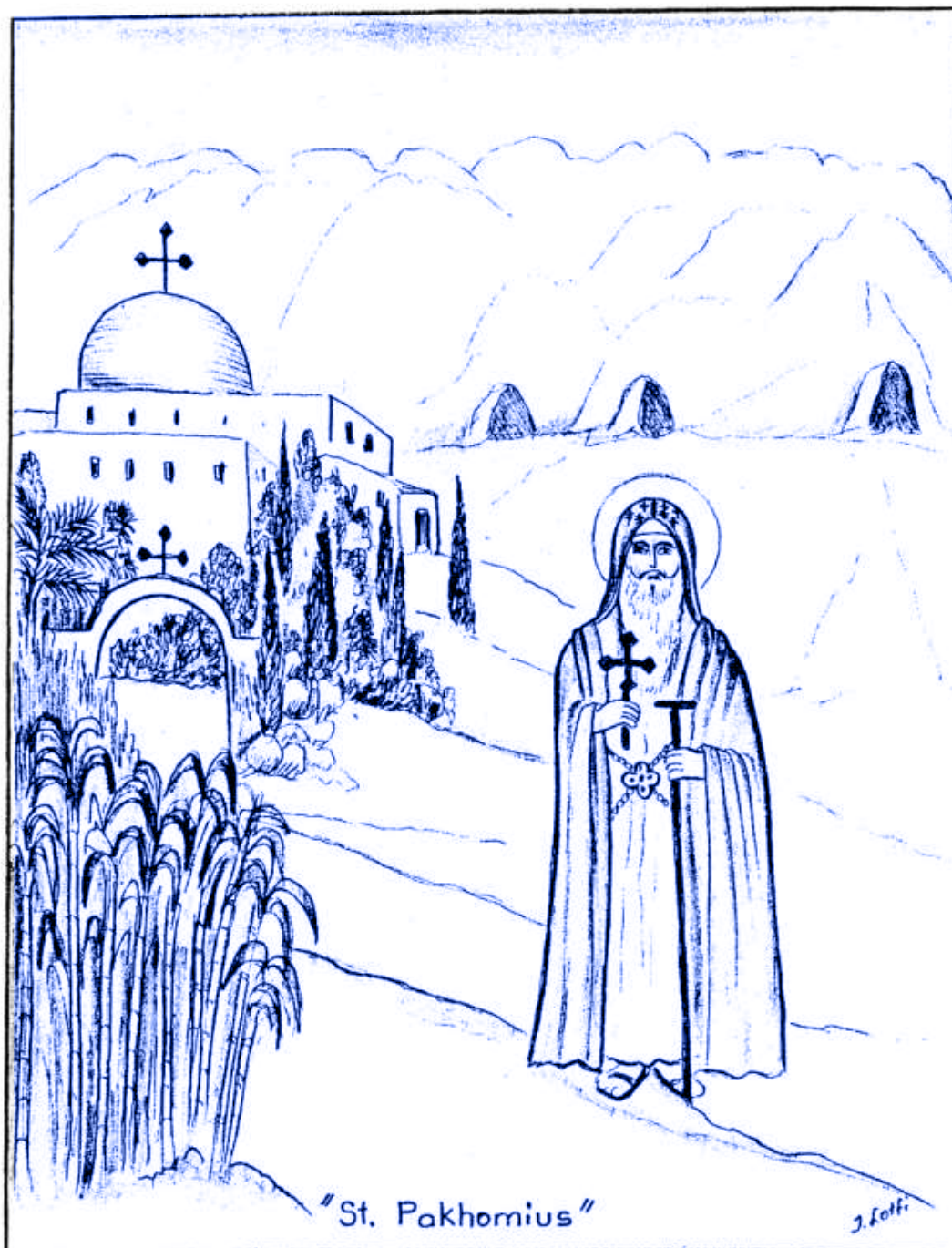
**HOLY BIBLE**

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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



"St. Pakhomius"

**February**

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**Second Sunday**



**FEBRUARY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND THE LIFE OF ST.  
PACHOMIUS**

**Please read Matthew 5:43-48, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that St. Pachomius became a Christian because of the good characters of the Christians, whom he met.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Love your enemies" Matthew 5:44***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ What is the most effective way to convert new people to Christianity? By being a good example. When we are good examples and follow the commandments of God, other people will be converted to Christianity. They will follow our footsteps.
- ✚ Our Lord Jesus said: "Love your enemies." This means we have to love everyone: brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors and even people who do not like us.
- ✚ God is love, and when we love other people, this means that we are the children of God.
- ✚ The Disciples of the Lord Jesus only knew "You shall love your neighbor and



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



hate your enemy,” (Matthew 5:43). But their Master Jesus Christ came to teach them and us a new type of love: “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you”, (Matthew 5:44). This type of teaching was beyond the understanding of the Disciples, and they needed more depth in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in order to apply it to their life.

- ✝ Love produces more love; hatred produces more hatred; fighting produces more fighting. If a person loves his/her enemy he puts down his/her fire of hatred and he therefore, causes his/her enemy to exchange his/her love.
- ✝ “Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you”, (Matthew 5:44), there are various levels of prayers. One may pray to God to give him/her his needs, or forgive his/her sins, or thank Him for what He has given him/her. But Jesus wanted to establish a special high level of prayer----Pray for your enemies. We must learn to pray for the people who do bad things to us so that God may help them.
- ✝ Tell the story of St. Pachomius as follows:  
When St. Pachomius and his people were traveling and ran out of water and food, a group of Christians gave them water. This group of Christians knew that they were non-Christians and that they were planning to kill the Christians the next day, but they did exactly as the Lord Jesus told them to do. They loved their enemies and helped them. The result: St. Pachomius, who was one of those non-believers in God who planned to kill the Christians, became a Christian himself.
- ✝ Regarding our friends at school, if we behave as good Christians, then even if some of them do not like our Lord Jesus, due to our good characters, they will start to love the Lord Jesus and may become Christians.
- ✝ What are the indications to other people that we are the children of God?
  - † We are quiet because Jesus was quiet.
  - † We love other people because God is love.
  - † We read the Bible because our Lord Jesus told us to. If we are the children of God, we like to listen to what He is telling us in the Bible because we discover Christ in His Book.
  - † We obey our parents because our Lord Jesus told us to. (Remember what we stated in the lesson of obedience before.)

# Februuary

## Second Sunday



What is a Monk?

He lives away from the city and devotes most of his life to prayer. He loves everybody and prays for all.

St. Pachomius was one of the very famous monks and he performed a lot of miracles.

### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must love and pray for all people even the ones who do not like us.
2. The first step towards loving the people who do not like us is loving the people who live with us and being nice to them. The second step is to pray for the people who do not like us.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### CHRISTIAN LOVE

*"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13:13*

In Christianity, the A-B-C's  
First Corinthians thirteen

spell L-O-V-E.  
tells us what love really means.

Love is patient, love is kind  
Love is humble, love is meek

looks not for mistakes to find  
love will never self-seek.

Does envy, never selfish  
Is not jealous, is not rude

never proud nor snobbish  
love rejoices in the truth.

Bears all things  
Hopes all things  
Now remains faith, hope and love

believes all things  
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but the greatest of these is love

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**February**

**Second Sunday**

NOTES



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**February**

**Third Sunday**



**FEBRUARY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**GOD BLESSES OUR HOMES**

**Please read John 15:1-8, 1John 1:1-10, and give the lesson with the emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that when we love the Lord Jesus, He comes and lives with us in our hearts and in our homes.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I am the Vine, you are the branches"*  
*John 15:5*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ What do we mean by God Bless our Homes? It means that God blesses all the members of the family as one unit and their life-sharing together at home. When God blesses our home, we become as branches and our Beloved Jesus is the "Vine". So, we are all members united in love with each other and with Jesus. Parents love their children, children love their parents, children love each other and all love the King and Father of our life-our Lord Jesus Christ. The family becomes a small church; her head is Christ Himself.
- ✚ If all members of the family are living with our Beloved Jesus, then the whole family has an honest and true fellowship. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7).



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✝ When God blesses our home, it will be full of peace, love and hope.
- ✝ The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the water of the River Jordan. God's voice was heard. The Spirit of God fluttered like a dove over the water. The water in the river was made holy.  
  
Every year, water is blessed and made Holy in church. On that day we remember the baptism of the Lord Jesus in the Jordan River. The priest entreats God to bless the water for us.
- ✝ One of the saints said: "The family that prays together stays together." This means when the family prays together, God blesses the home and our Lord Jesus unites this family.
- ✝ God blesses our food, our health and protects our homes.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Unity of the family around the Lord Jesus Christ brings blessings to our homes. The family must read the Bible together and pray together at least once a day.

**February**

**Third Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### SONGS 🎵

#### CHRISTIAN LOVE

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**February**

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**Third Sunday**



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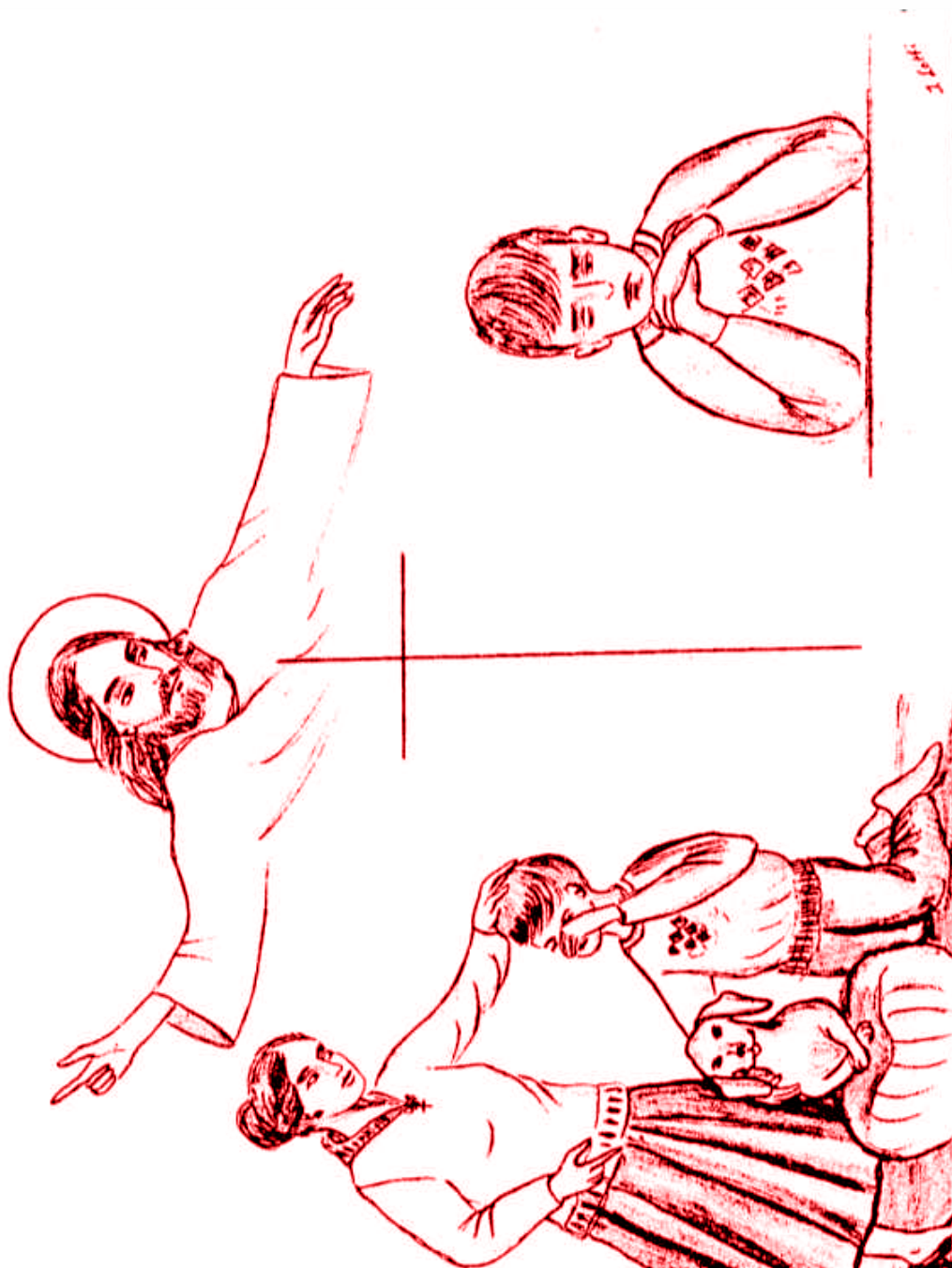
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# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**February**

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**Fourth Sunday**



**FEBRUARY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**WE WISH TO SEE JESUS**

**Please read John 12:20-26, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/0mUz4w\\_nWQU](https://youtu.be/0mUz4w_nWQU)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To know that our Lord Jesus is with us in our daily life. We must feel His presence with us.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"And where I am, there My servant will be also" John 12:26***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ For the feast of the Passover (the largest Jewish feast), many people came from various nations to worship. The offerings could only be made in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- ✠ When the Greeks came to worship, the news was broken to them about Jesus Christ and all the miracles that He had performed. So, they said to Philip (one of the twelve Disciples): "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Then Jesus answered: "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified, most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies,



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain.”, (John 12:23-24). This means that the spread of faith among people, like those Greeks, was not going to be achieved by physically seeing the Lord Jesus. On the contrary, a greater number of people believed after the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried and arose from the dead. This is similar to the grain of wheat which when falls in the ground and dies, brings forth much grain.

✙ After our Beloved Jesus ascended to Heaven we no longer see Him in the flesh, but we can see Him spiritually and feel His presence with us. “His name is Immanuel which is translated **God is with us**” (Matthew 1:23).

✙ **We can see Jesus our Lord spiritually in the following:**

✙ **If two meet in His Name:**

Jesus promised if two or three meet in His Name, He will be among them. When we pray together before we eat supper for example, Jesus is with us. So we have to be nice and love each other. When people get together to pray, Jesus comes among them. When we are taking a lesson in Sunday School about the Lord, He comes and stays with us in the room. We must behave very well and respect the teacher and each other.

✙ **In the Divine Liturgy:**

In the Divine Liturgy Jesus Himself comes to the Altar. The korban becomes the Body of Jesus and the wine becomes the Blood of Jesus.

✙ **When we repent:**

When you do something wrong, feel guilty about it and apologize to God, He forgives us.

✙ **When we do kind deeds:**

When we help a sick or poor person or even our younger sister or brother, our Lord Jesus is with us and gives us peace, joy and love. Jesus said: “and where I am, there My servant will be also.”

This means if we do kind deeds, we are servants of God and He will be with us.

✙ **When we follow God’s commandments:**

Jesus said: “Whoever loves Me, will do My commandments and I will show him/her Myself”.



## February

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### Fourth Sunday

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

Our Beloved Jesus is with us although we do not see Him with our eyes. He takes care of us and protects us.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**February**

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**Fourth Sunday**

[SONGS](#) 🎵

**O MY CHILDREN**

*“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)*

O my little dear children  
You are so precious come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus Our God  
We love You and praise you Our Lord.  
I hear you praising and bless you  
My eyes upon you all the time.

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## NOTES

**February**

**Fourth Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**MARCH  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (I)  
?Do you Love your Brother**

Please read Luke 10:25-37, the attached story “Do you Love your Brother?” and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/osfQg4vKtq8>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is the first lesson in a series of two lessons: “Love Leads to Action” We have to show our love in actions.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*“Love one another, as I have loved you”  
John 13:34*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † A lawyer was trying to test our Lord Jesus by asking Him: “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Our Lord Jesus told the lawyer that the key commandment to inherit eternal life is “love”. But the Lord wanted to show this lawyer that love is not just a word but an action. The Lord Jesus told him the parable of the Good Samaritan. Describe the parable in detail.
- † In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite who serve in the temple, and are supposed to act according to God’s commandment, failed

## March

### First Sunday

to help the wounded man. Therefore, they did not have true love. Now, a Samaritan, who the Jews rejected, helped the wounded man. Indeed this Samaritan had true love.

- ✚ So, love must be shown by performing merciful deeds unto others. If you love your mother, help her keep the house tidy, listen to her and pray for her.
- ✚ Tell the attached story in detail. Explain how each one of the two brothers showed his love to the other.
- ✚ It is not enough that we say that we love our brothers or sisters; we must show this love in a practical way. Love is not just words.
- ✚ If you love your younger brother or sister then teach them good manners, help them out, play with them, pray with them and if they makes a mistake (because they are young) do not hit them.
- ✚ If you love your older brother or sister, then listen to them, respect them, help them, pray with them and give them the bigger share of things because they need more.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

In our daily life, love must be shown with all dealings at school, at home and at church.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



## March

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### First Sunday

#### SONGS 🎵

#### CHRISTIAN LOVE

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## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### **DO YOU LOVE YOUR BROTHER?**

In the far east of Toronto, lived two brothers. They were farmers. Each of them owned a part of a small farm. They were good hardworking men; accordingly, their farm was producing good crop.

John, the older brother, was sitting with his wife Judy and his children near the fireplace. He considered himself to a lucky man as he was surrounded by the love of his family. He thought about his younger brother and his welfare: "My brother Peter is not as lucky as I am; maybe I should give him part of my crop to help him out; he is still young and he might have more expenses than I. At midnight, I will go and add to his pile some of my corn without telling him."

Meanwhile, Peter was sitting in his living room having a cup of tea. He was thinking about his life, and how he has more than enough as he was single and does not have the responsibility of children. He thought about his older brother. "I have more money than I need, but my brother is married and has so many expenses; he needs more money than I do. At midnight, I will go and add to his pile some of my corn without telling him."

At midnight, each one separately went to the farm and added up more corn to his brother's pile. In the morning, both of them were amazed to see that their piles were the same size. The following night, the two brothers did the same thing, and in the morning they were surprised to see their piles as if they were not touched! They did the same thing for four days. Finally on the fifth day, as they were bringing their crops to each other's pile, they met. They were so surprised. They dropped the crops and hugged each other. Their mutual love was a true and pure one, for which they were thankful to God. They knew that they were fulfilling God's commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

## March

### First Sunday





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**MARCH  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (II)  
St. Serapamoun Abou Tarha**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is the second lesson in a series of two lessons on “Love Leads to Action.” The example here is the life of St. Serapamoun Abou Tarha.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” Matthew  
5:7***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Please review the previous lesson as it is part 1 of this series about love. Ask the children if they remember the story “Do you love your brother?”
- ✙ Tell them the story of St. Serapamoun. His name was Ealeels before being consecrated as a monk. He was a very simple poor man. He used to carry a vessel of oil on his donkey and go in the street to sell it. After he got the money he used very little for himself and then bought food, clothes and other things and put it in a big container and carried it and went to the houses where the sick and poor lived. He loved them. In order to let no one see him, he used to cover his face with a large cloth. Only his eyes appeared. This is why they called him St. Serapamoun Abou Tarha (Tarha in Arabic means a large cover for the head and shoulders). One night a carpenter suspected that this man was a thief because he was covering his face. The carpenter followed him in various streets until he knew that he was St. Serapamoun. St. Serapamoun



**March**

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## **Second Sunday**

blessed him and asked him to tell no one.

When we do something good, we do it to please God, not to show off. “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven”. (**Matthew 6:1**). “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” (**Matthew 6:3**).

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We must do our deeds of mercy in complete secrecy. In this way our deeds of mercy would be examples of true love of our hearts and not just to show off.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



## March

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### Second Sunday

#### SONGS 🎵

#### CHRISTIAN LOVE

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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



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**March**

**Second Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**MARCH  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**GOD KNOWS AND SEES EVERYTHING**

**Please read the attached story entitled “Grandmother’s Gift”.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn to be honest because God sees and knows everything. We must keep God pleased with us because He is our Father who takes care of us.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”***

**1 Timothy 4:12**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Please tell the attached story in detail. Try to act it out. David utilized the inability of the dog to tell the truth, to hide the facts from his mother. David forgot that God saw him.
- ✙ Peter taught David an important lesson. Even if the people do not see us, God sees us. Therefore, we must be honest.
- ✙ We can set a good example for other people. Peter was a good example for David.
- ✙ From the memory verse, we can see that as a true Christian, I must be a good example in a lot of things: in speech (in what I say), in conduct (in all my actions), in love (in how I feel towards others), in spirit (the Holy Spirit inside

## March

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### Third Sunday

me is in command of all that I do), in faith (I have true faith in Jesus Christ and am ready to declare it no matter what happens), in purity (all my thoughts must be pure).

- ✚ I must avoid any behavior, which would cause my younger brother or sister to stumble or be offended. Please see Romans 14:13-21.
- ✚ Our parents are ready to forgive us if we tell the truth about doing something wrong and say that we are sorry. But we will be punished if we deny what we did (because no one saw us when we did it).
- ✚ Do not blame other people for your mistakes. The honourable thing to do when you make a mistake is to admit it, and to apologize.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. When we do or think about something, we must remember that God knows and sees everything. Everyone will be judged by God, according to his or her deeds.
2. Remember that we must not displease God, who loves us very much by doing bad things. God sees everything.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



## March

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### Third Sunday

#### SONGS 🎵

#### O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES

*“The lamp of the body is the eyes. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” (Mat 6:22)*

O be careful little eyes	what you see (2)
For the Father up above So be careful little eyes	is looking down in love what you see.
O be careful little mouth	what you say (2)
For the Father up above So be careful little mouth	is looking down in love what you say.
O be careful little hands	what you do (2)
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**





## **GRANDMOTHER'S GIFT**

David always liked to play with his puppy, Ricky. One day while he was playing with him, he hit a parcel on the table in the living room. His mother had told him several times that he was not allowed to play in the living room, and that parcel was a gift to his grandmother.

"Now I am in trouble", David said to himself, "When Mom comes home and finds out what happened, she will certainly punish me."

Ricky started barking. David shouted, "Go away, Ricky. Leave me alone." Ricky slept under the sofa in the living room and David went to his room.

His Mom entered the house and saw the broken gift in the living room. She thought it was Ricky who did it because he was sleeping in the living room.

She shouted, "Get out of here, Ricky, see what you have done."

David heard his Mom shouting and saw Ricky going out of the living room very sadly not moving his tail. Ricky went to David and started barking as if to tell him: "David, you have broken that gift not me, and you deserve that scolding."

David became very confused, Should he tell the truth to his Mom and get himself in trouble, or should he just let it go and leave the blame on Ricky?

*i. At this moment, the doorbell rang. Peter, David's older brother, entered the house. David saw Peter going to his room and opening his piggy bank and take all his money out. David asked him: "Why are you taking all your money? What are you going to buy?"*

Peter answered: "I am going to buy glass for a window."

David asked: "Why?"

Peter answered: "Because I broke Mrs. Smith's glass window while I was playing baseball with my friends."

David asked: "Did Mrs. Smith ask you to buy it?"

Peter answered: "No, she was not even there, but I felt that I should be honest and tell her." David asked: "If she does not know that you are the one who did it, why waste all your allowance on that?"

Peter answered: "I do not want her to blame any innocent kid. Besides, don't forget

## March

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### Third Sunday

that God sees and knows everything.” Immediately Peter went to buy the glass window. Peter’s last words touched David’s heart and taught him a lesson. David’s conscience bothered him. Immediately he went to his mother’s room and burst into tears saying: “I am the one who broke that parcel, Mom. I bumped into the table while playing in the living room and the parcel fell and broke. It is not Ricky. I am the one to be blamed. I am sorry, Mom.”

His mom forgave him and thanked him for his honesty.

**\* NOTE: This article is taken from “Voice of Jesus” magazine, Coptic Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, February 1983.**

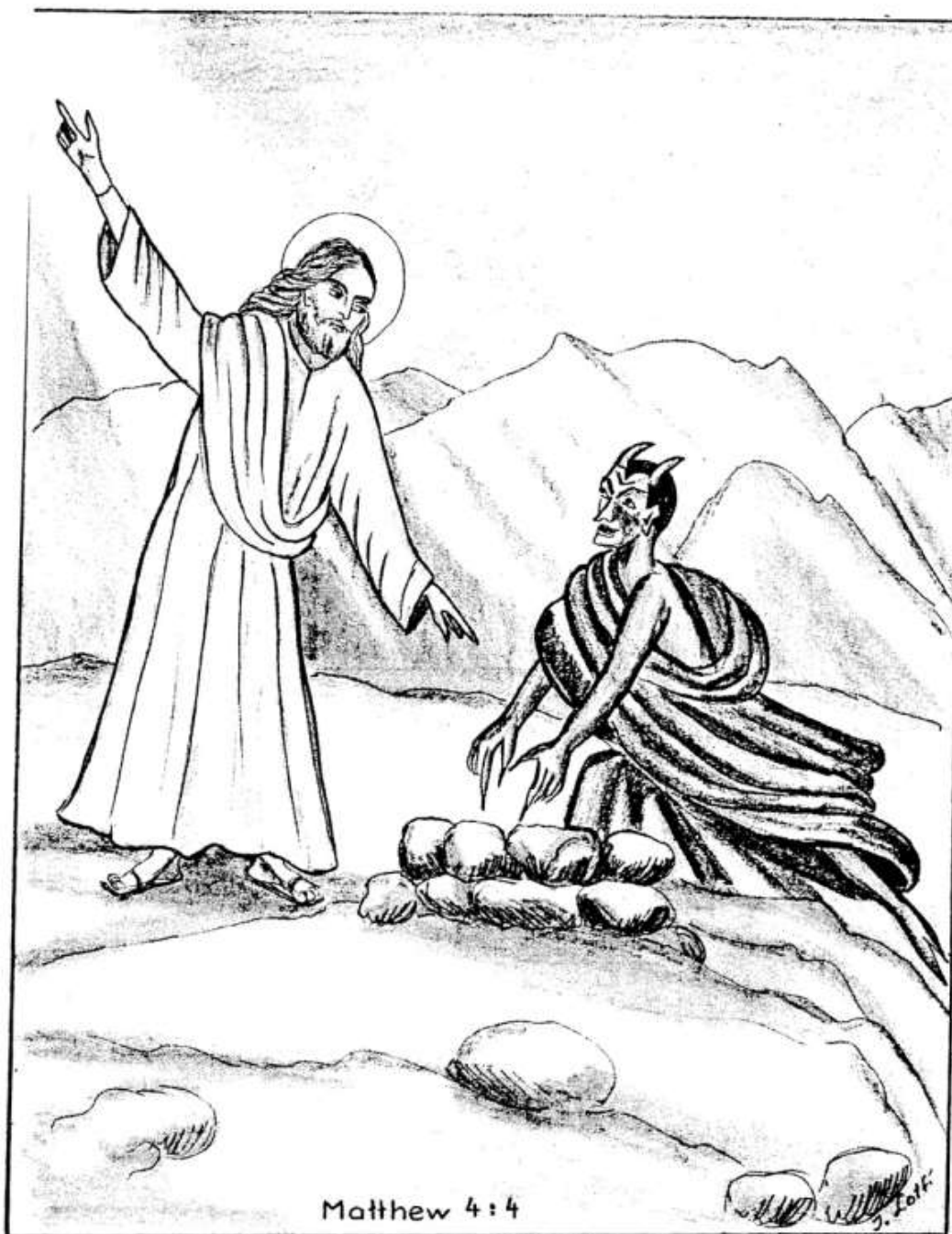


## NOTES

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**March**

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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**MARCH  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**The Great Lent**

**Please read Matthew 4:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/afzoWMTkKHY>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that the power of the word of God helps us to defeat the devil.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone" Matthew 4:4***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ These days our church is fasting. What are the things that we are not supposed to eat in lent? Beef, milk, cheese, etc.
- ✙ Did our Lord Jesus fast? We try to do things that our Lord Jesus Himself did. Yes, Jesus fasted.
- ✙ Tell the story and conversation between our Lord Jesus and the tempter. This temptation happened after the Lord Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist.
- ✙ The tempter came to the Lord Jesus Christ after He fasted for forty days and

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forty nights and tried to defeat Him by deceiving Him to fall into temptation. The devil made three trials. In every one of these trials the Lord Jesus started his answer by saying: “It is written.” This means written in the book of God, i.e., the Bible.

- ✚ Our lesson then is that by reading the Bible and memorizing some verses, it will help us to defeat all temptations of the devil.
- ✚ Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights and fasted **for us** to teach us that we should fast, and also that the word of God is our shield against the devil.
- ✚ We have several periods of fasting in our church. One of them is the one that we are celebrating now and it is called The Great Lent. When we fast now we remember that, our Lord Jesus fasted for us forty days and forty nights.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

When we fast, it does not mean just a change of food, but it means a change in life and behavior. In order to achieve a change in life and better behavior, we must read the Bible, pray for God’s help and do our best.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**March**

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[SONGS](#) 🎵

**King of Kings**

*“And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)*

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



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# **St. George and St. Rueiss**

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### **APRIL FIRST SUNDAY**

#### **When Millions Saw St. Mary**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To know how, when and what miracles were performed through the apparition of St. Mary at Zaitoun, Cairo. To allow the world to reflect positively on its faith in God and its love for St. Mary.

##### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ The apparitions occurred over and around the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Mary in Zaitoun, a busy Cairo suburb which lies close to the route taken by the Holy Family during their flight into Egypt.
- ✝ The land on which the church stands, originally belonged to a family of devout Copts. A member of this family was thinking about what to build on it. The Blessed Virgin reportedly appeared to him in a dream and told him to build a Coptic church on the site, and that in approximately fifty years she would bless it in a singular manner. The church was built in 1925.
- ✝ The first apparition was seen on April 2, 1968. There was a garage in front of the church where a group of workers were changing shifts. They saw some movement on the middle dome of the church. They saw a “white lady” kneeling beside the Cross at the top of the dome. A Muslim worker with a seriously wounded finger with a bandage on it, as he was pointing that finger at the luminous being of St. Mary, it was cured immediately.
- ✝ Various other apparitions of St. Mary took place: carrying an olive branch, kneeling to the Cross, carrying baby Jesus, and luminous doves appeared and flew around the church.
- ✝ Thousands of Egyptians used to stay overnight waiting to see St. Mary. Others

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## **First Sunday**

needed help from St. Mary to get over some sickness or problems, and through her intercession and her blessings they were cured or their problems were solved.

✠ These apparitions have been accompanied by two important matters: The first is the vivid spirit of belief in God, the Other World and the Saints; thus having many of the unbelievers and those of weak faith repent through this miraculous cure that have occurred to many patients.

✠ Please mention at least two miracles that God performed through the intercession and prayer of St. Mary during her appearances.

1. A famous cure concerned the complete disappearance of a recurrent cancer in a 40 year old man. In the early 1960s he developed a malignant tumor in his bladder and was operated on by a doctor. Two years later the tumor re-appeared it was the size of a lemon. The patient became very weak and his case was declared incurable. He managed to get to the church at Zaitoun, despite the pressing crowds, and witnessed an apparition of the Blessed Virgin. At that moment, all the pain and symptoms of the disease vanished. He subsequently underwent a thorough medical examination, which confirmed that he was completely cured.
2. A busy Cairo housewife and devout Moslem had been afflicted with serious disease for years. Despite the best medical attention, her condition steadily deteriorated and her husband feared for her life. When the apparitions began, he went alone to Zaitoun since his wife was too ill to make the journey. Standing before the radiant vision, he begged for the cure of his wife “through the intercession of St. Mary”. When he returned home in the early hours of the morning, he was overjoyed to find his wife completely healed. She revealed that she had just experienced a profound dream in which she found herself surrounded by beings that looked like ‘nuns’ dressed in white. When she woke up at 4 a.m., she was amazed to find herself cured. A medical examination by the doctors confirmed the miraculous healing.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

St. Mary is our Mother. We have to ask her to pray on our behalf to God so that He might help us.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**April**

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## **First Sunday**

### **SONGS** 🎵

#### **WATCHING US**

**‘Behold, great is thy intercession, strong and acceptable with our Savior.’ (the sixth prayer)**

#### **REFRAIN**

Watching us, hearing us, loving us  
She is St. Mary  
We are her children

she could never possibly forget us  
Mother of Jesus who saved us  
and she is always guiding us.

She is in heaven in her glory  
And is always interceding

the pride of all our saints  
with the saints on our behalf

She is heaven but she appears  
Spreading on earth love and peace

to her children everywhere  
and preserving faith for all

She is heaven but she sees  
Mettias was hand-cuffed in jail

when her children are in tears  
but she came and broke the chains

She is in heaven but she hears  
Anba Abraam come out and see

the pleadings of a great Pope  
the faith that moved the mountain

She is in heaven but she leaves  
In the church she comes and shares

many miracles where she appears  
with faith we witness her care.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



## NOTES

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**April**

**First Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

## Coptic Orthodox Church



### APRIL SECOND SUNDAY

#### **Palm Sunday: The People Received the Lord Jesus with Joy**

Please read Luke 19:29-44, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/z-39h0xYqdE>

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To show that the Disciples of our Lord Jesus, and the people in Jerusalem received Him with joy. Let us also be joyful when we take communion, because we are actually taking Jesus our Lord inside us.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***"The whole multitude of the Disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice."  
Luke 19: 37***

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ On Palm Sunday we rejoice and become exceedingly glad holding Palm branches. We remember the victorious entrance of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, close to His final stay on earth in the flesh.
- ✙ Describe in detail the entrance of the Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem as mentioned in Luke 19:29-44.

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## **Second Sunday**

- ✚ Among the people who were rejoicing and receiving the Lord with songs were the twelve Disciples, the seventy Apostles, various people who were healed, others were people who rose from the dead like Lazarus, and many more people who were visiting Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast (a major Jewish feast) which was a few days away.
- ✚ Our Lord Jesus' Disciples did everything He had instructed them to do. They brought the colt, they put their clothes on it and the Lord Jesus sat on it and they were singing with joy "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord" (**Luke 19:38**). And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried out, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest" (**Matthew 21:9**). Hosanna means save us. In this statement it means Glory to our Saviour.
- ✚ When Jesus our Lord arrived at Jerusalem, there was no palace prepared for Him. But the Lord Jesus went directly to the Temple. When He arrived, He found people buying and selling in it. He kicked them out saying that His house is a house of prayers and He cleaned the Temple from all these foreign things. This shows us that when we receive our Beloved Jesus in our life we are cleansed from all our sinfulness. It is exactly like the light when it is put on in a room and all the darkness immediately disappears.

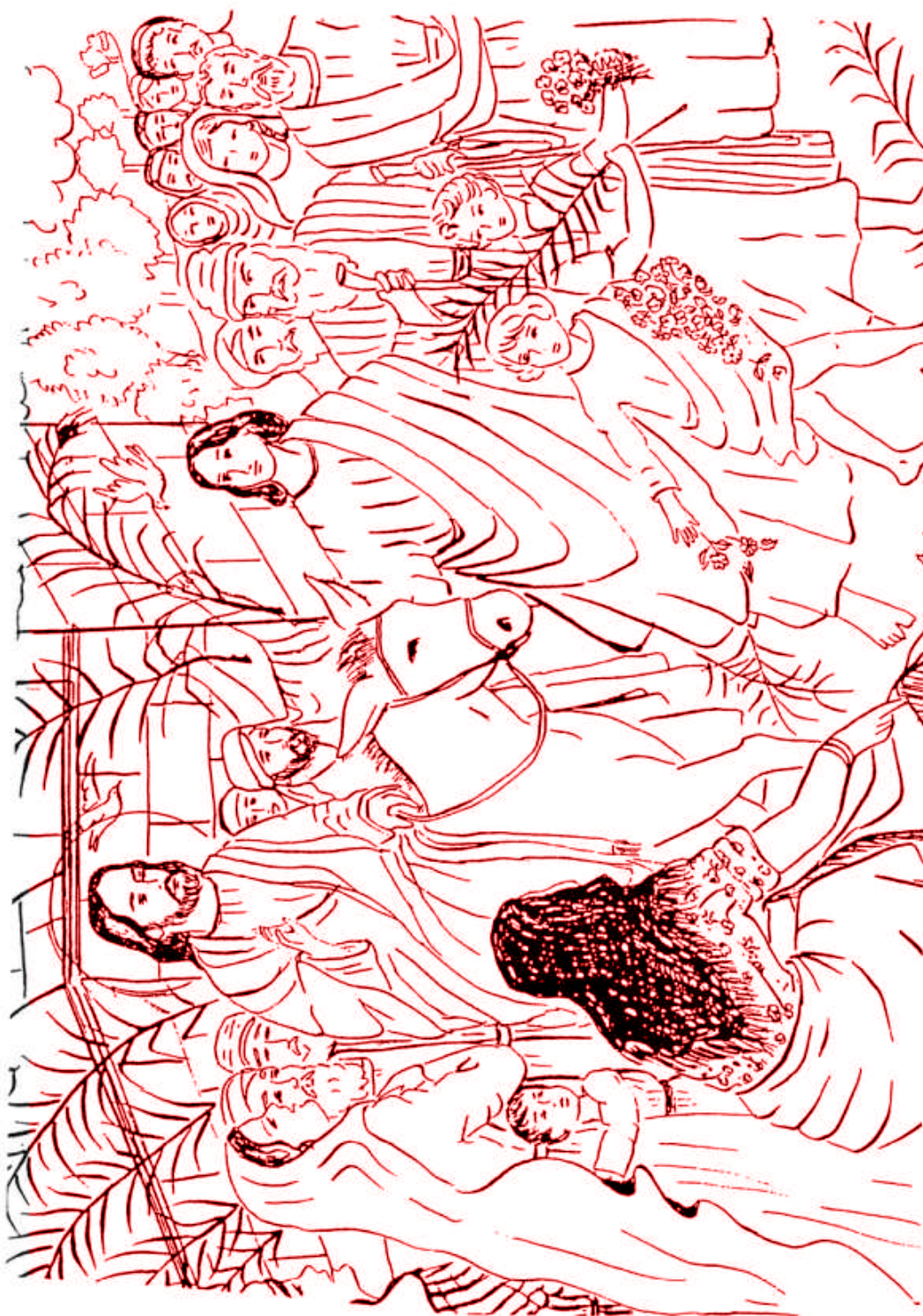
### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON:**

1. When we go to church, the house of God, we must be exceedingly glad. We are not just going because it became a routine for us to go to church every Sunday. We must appreciate that when we go to church, we are entering a very honored and blessed place to take special blessings in our life. We are meeting the Lord Jesus the King of Kings in the church; we must be very happy.
2. When we take communion we actually receive the Lord Jesus Himself. We have to be very happy, humble and peaceful to receive the Lord Jesus in our hearts.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**April**

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## **Second Sunday**

### **SONGS** 🎵

#### **THE HYMN OF PALM SUNDAY**

***"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!" John 12:13***

He Who is above the Cherubim  
With great glory riding a colt

today appeared in Jerusalem  
surrounded by ranks of ni-angelos.

#### **REFRAIN**

Oussana khi ni - et – chocee  
Ef-es-marō- enjevi-ethni-yo

fai pe epouro empi - Israel  
khen efran em epchoice ente nigom.

On the way they spread garments  
With joy and praise they did sing

from the trees they cut branches  
Hosanna to the Son of David.

Today God fulfilled many words  
As Zachariah prophesied

the prophecies and the proverbs  
this prediction of Jesus Christ.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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# The Power of Christ in His Crucifixion

### PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Luke 23:44**

✠ Start by reviewing what the children already know about the events of the Crucifixion:

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† Why was the Lord Jesus crucified?  
(He died to save us)

† **The first power:**

From the 6th hour of the day (i.e. noon) until the 9th hour (i.e. 3:00 in the afternoon) it was dark over the whole land. During this time we always have daylight, but because our Beloved Jesus was crucified the sun was not shining and the earth was completely dark. It was dark as a sign that even nature was opposing the unfairness of the people who were hurting Jesus. This is a miracle that never happened before. Remember that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and He had full authority on nature and showed that in various miracles before. For example, He stopped the winds that threatened the life of the Disciples while they were in the boat; He walked on the water of the sea of Galilee.

† **The second power:**

At the ninth hour (i.e. 3:00 in the afternoon) when Jesus died, “the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised” (Matthew 27:51-52). “When the centurion and those with Him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly saying: “Truly this was the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:54). Even the people who saw Jesus on the Cross in what seemed to be a very weak condition, declared that He is the Son of God; because of the great powers that accompanied the crucifixion.

† In addition to these powerful signs, the most powerful action of our Lord Jesus during His Crucifixion was when He said: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). This shows that our Lord Jesus Christ was in the position of power not the position of weakness because He was seeking forgiveness for the people who were hurting Him.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Cross is a sign of power. Every time we cross ourselves we gain strength from Jesus our Saviour who had full power during His Crucifixion and asked for the forgiveness of the people crucifying Him.
2. Let us learn to say, “**God forgive you**”, to anyone who does or says



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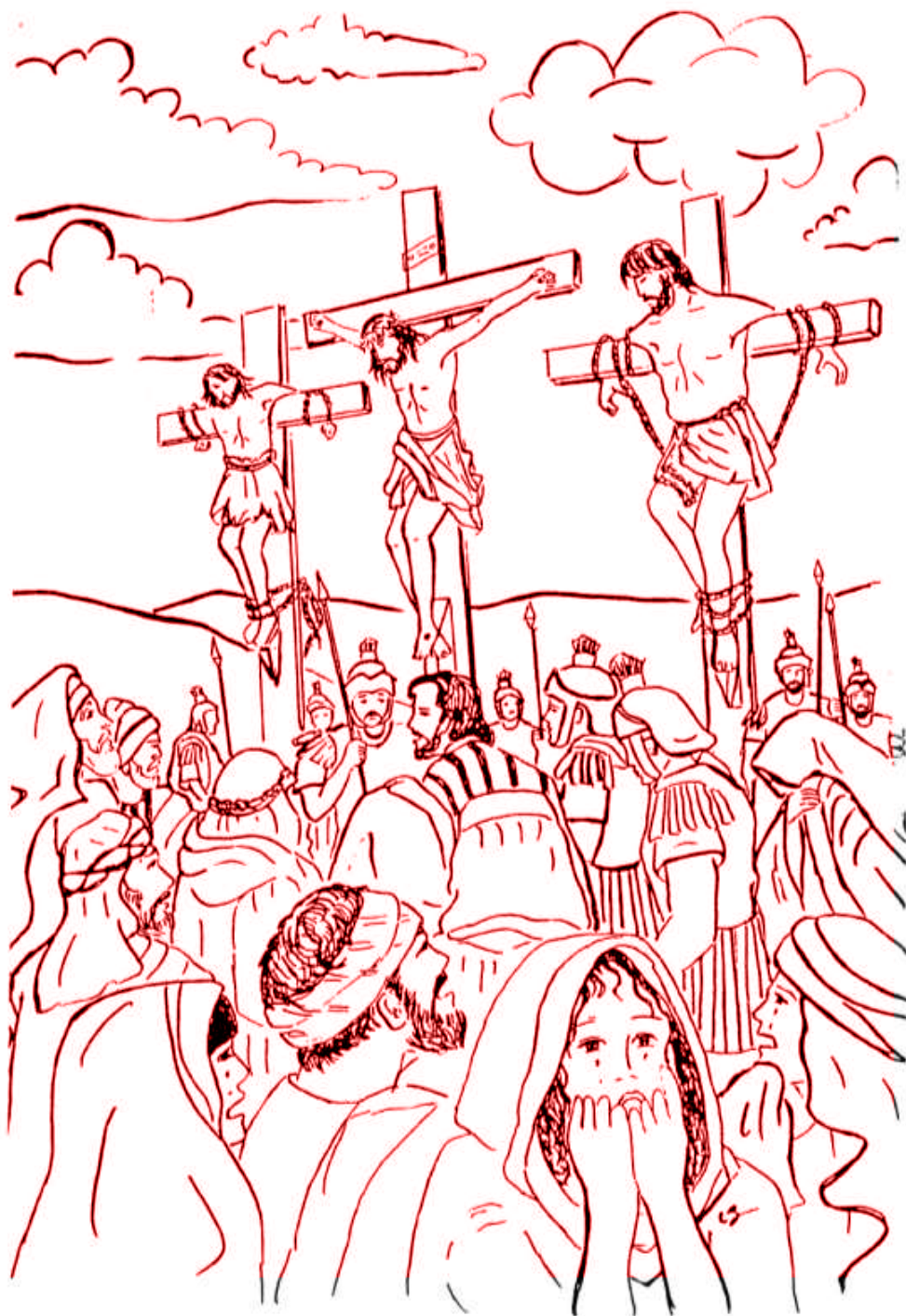
### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



something bad to us. If we do this, then we will be sharing the Cross and the glory with our Lord Jesus. “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10).

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**Third Sunday**





## SONGS 🎵

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**Third Sunday**



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**April**

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## **Fourth Sunday**



### **APRIL FOURTH SUNDAY**

#### **The Resurrection of Christ The Angel Talks to Mary Magdalene**

**Please read Luke 24:1-12, the attached notes entitled “The Egg and the Chick”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn about the events of the Resurrection and its joyful effect on us.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life” John 11:25***

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE**

- ✚ Our Lord Jesus arose from the dead on the third day. It was Sunday, early in the morning.
- ✚ Our Lord Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to His Disciples. She was the first one to go to the tomb. Therefore, the Lord gave her the blessing to be the first to see Him after His Resurrection.
- ✚ Mary Magdalene was crying because she did not find Jesus. When Mary saw the Lord Jesus Christ after His Resurrection from the dead, she ran very quickly to tell the rest of the Disciples about the joyful news.
- ✚ Our Master Jesus Christ arose from the dead by Himself. He did not need the angel to remove the stone from the door of the tomb. The angel came only to



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make the announcement, but Jesus arose from the dead with the stone at the door of the tomb.

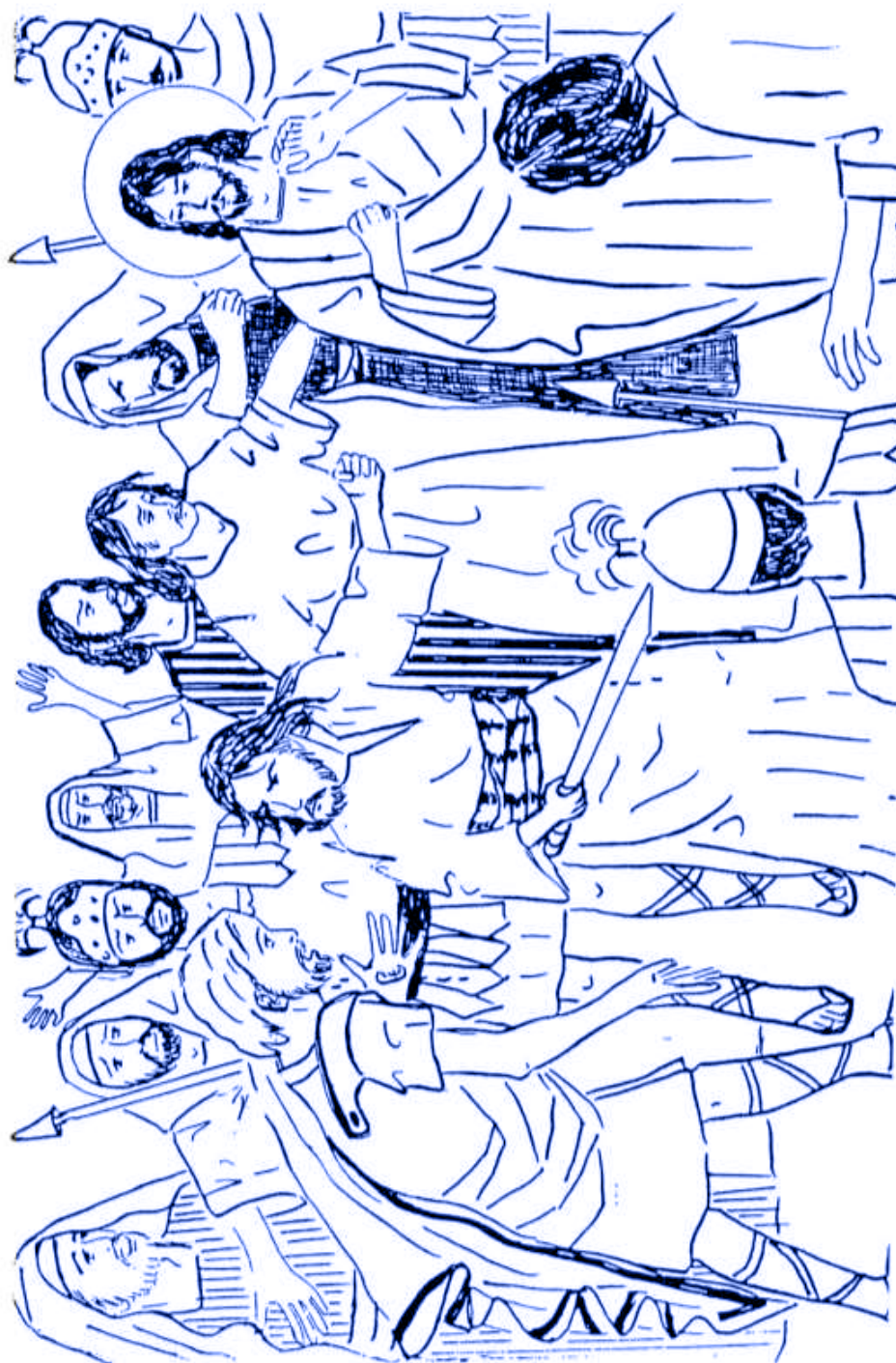
- ✙ Every Sunday, it is a celebration in memory of the Resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ from the dead.
- ✙ Tell about the preaching of Mary Magdalene with regard to the Resurrection (the attached material "*The Egg and the Chick*").
- ✙ Jesus is alive. The angel said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and the third day rise again" (Luke 24:5-7).

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. They crucified our Beloved Jesus, buried Him, put a huge stone on His tomb, sealed the tomb and put around it armed soldiers. All these could not stop the Resurrection. The Lord Jesus arose from the dead to defeat death forever and all the powers of Hades.
2. Let us not forget that we worship God, Who not only loves us and was crucified for us, but who is very powerful. His power is unlimited. Therefore, we have to recognize that after the Cross, there is also the glory of the Resurrection. This is a source of great joy for us.

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## **Fourth Sunday**





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### SONGS 🎵

#### GENTLE JESUS RISEN LORD

*“ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the lord’s death till He comes.” (1Cor 11:26)*

Gentle Jesus risen Lord  
With our hearts so full of joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

#### REFRAIN

We come, we come

we come to Your table

Bringing gifts of all we are  
Gifts of life and love and joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we find life  
Life You gave for us to share

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we are one  
One with You and one another

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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## **Fourth Sunday**

### **THE EGG AND THE CHICK**

Christians all over the world eat eggs on the resurrection feast. This goes back to the Apostles' years. The Christians thought of the coming out of the baby chick from an egg as a symbol for the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It is known that Mary Magdalene, during her preaching, went to the ruler and talked to him about the resurrection of Christ. He did not believe and insulted her. Then she brought an egg to him and said: "How can you believe that the chick comes out from the egg and do not believe that the Creator of the whole world was able to conquer death and rise from the dead?" He then, believed.

**NOTE:** This article is taken from "Sout El - Rahi" magazine St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt, May 1975.



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**May**

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## **First Sunday**



### **MAY FIRST SUNDAY**

#### **The Lord Jesus Granted Mary Magdalene Joy Instead of Sadness**

Please read John 20:1-18, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/xe50\\_LaJgWE?t=173](https://youtu.be/xe50_LaJgWE?t=173)

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To know that we can only have a happy life if our Lord Jesus enters our life.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Jesus said to her: 'go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God'"*  
*John 20:17*

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Please review the previous lesson entitled "The Resurrection of Christ - the Angel Talks to the Marys".
- ✠ Mary Magdalene was a sinner and had seven evil spirits inside her. When the Lord Jesus met her, He cast away the evil spirits from her. She followed Him since then, loved Him and had a very happy life.



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- ✙ When the Jews crucified our Beloved Jesus, Mary Magdalene (as well as all His followers) was very sad. She thought this was the end and that she would never see the Lord Jesus again.
- ✙ Please let the children read from the Bible in the class: John 20:1-18.
- ✙ Jesus asked her: “Woman, why are you weeping?” as if He was telling her: “I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” (John 11:25).
- ✙ Explain the above statement as follows: when we believe in the Saviour Jesus Christ and become one with Him our life will be full of happiness and even when we die we will live again in paradise. This is why our church teaches us that when a believer dies, he/she is transferred to paradise where there are neither tears nor sorrow.
- ✙ If we want to be happy in life we have to look at our Lord Jesus Christ and feel His presence in our lives. When Mary Magdalene thought that she lost the Lord Jesus she was sad. But she became very happy again when she met the resurrected Lord. How do we meet the Lord? We meet Him in our prayers, when we read the Bible, and when we take communion-we eat His Body and drink His Blood and we become one with Him.
- ✙ Mary Magdalene carried ointment to our Lord Jesus because of her love for Him and because she did not know that He would rise from the dead.
- ✙ Mary Magdalene was very sad and in tears to the extent that she did not recognize the Lord and thought that He was the gardener. Then she found that someone was calling her by her name. Then her eyes were opened and she realized that He was the Lord Jesus.
- ✙ We should not be sad when we lose something or when someone makes us angry. We feel happy as soon as we remember that we are the children of God and our life is in His hands. **A true Christian must always be happy.**

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus from the dead changed the fears and sadness of humanity into peace and happiness. No matter what happens to us: if we get sick or



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**First Sunday**

if a member of the family gets sick or passes away, we must always remember that Christ arose from the dead with great glory. Then we gain faith that there is nothing difficult for Him and that He will end all things to our advantage. “For all things work together for the good of those who trust in Him.”



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**May**

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## **First Sunday**

### **SONGS** 🎵

#### **GENTLE JESUS RISEN LORD**

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the lord’s death till He comes.” (1Cor 11:26)*

Gentle Jesus risen Lord  
With our hearts so full of joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

#### **REFRAIN**

We come, we come

we come to Your table

Bringing gifts of all we are  
Gifts of life and love and joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we find life  
Life You gave for us to share

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we are one  
One with You and one another

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

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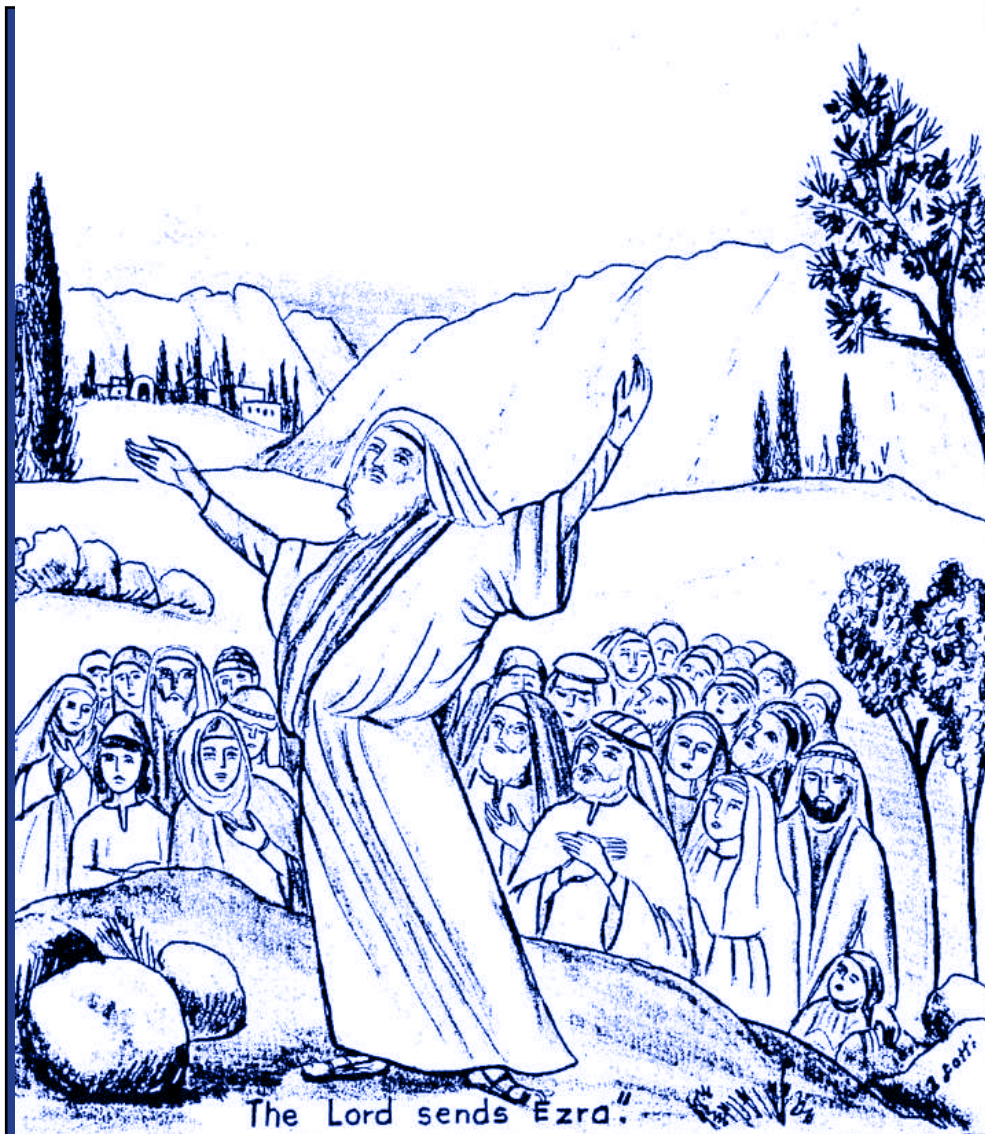
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## **First Sunday**





# The Lord Sends Ezra

**May**

## **Second Sunday**

that this displeases God Who loves us. God, because of His great love, may allow that we go through some difficulties in order to feel that we have sinned and hence repent, confess and come back to Him. This is similar to our parents at home when they try to discipline and teach their children if they find them misbehaving. In this case, the parents do this not to hurt their children's feelings but only to let them know that they did something bad so that they would stop and improve their behavior.

- † The Jewish people, living away from their homeland after they were taken as captives by their enemies (the non-believers), were very sad. All their belongings back home were taken from them. "All the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. And those who escaped from the sword, he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia", (2 Chronicles 36:18-20). Please describe in detail the difficult situation of the Jews in Babylon after they angered God because of their sins.
- † Now, the time came that God made a plan to let the Jews go back home.
- † God told the king of Babylon to let His people go back to their homeland Jerusalem to rebuild the house of God which was ruined. The king of Babylon obeyed God and permitted the Jews to go back home.
- † When the people arrived at Jerusalem they started right away to build the house of God. But they needed a leader in their religious life, which they forgot during their years in captivity. Their prayers were not as good as before. In order to help them God sent Ezra to teach them. Ezra was a good man who knew the Bible very well and he lived according to God's commandments. For months Ezra walked through the city and taught God's word.
- † Ezra prayed to God to accept their repentance. The people confessed their sins, and the Lord accepted their prayers.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Let us ensure that our behaviour does not hurt the feelings of our Lord Jesus who loves us very much. We may experience difficulties if we repeatedly



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**

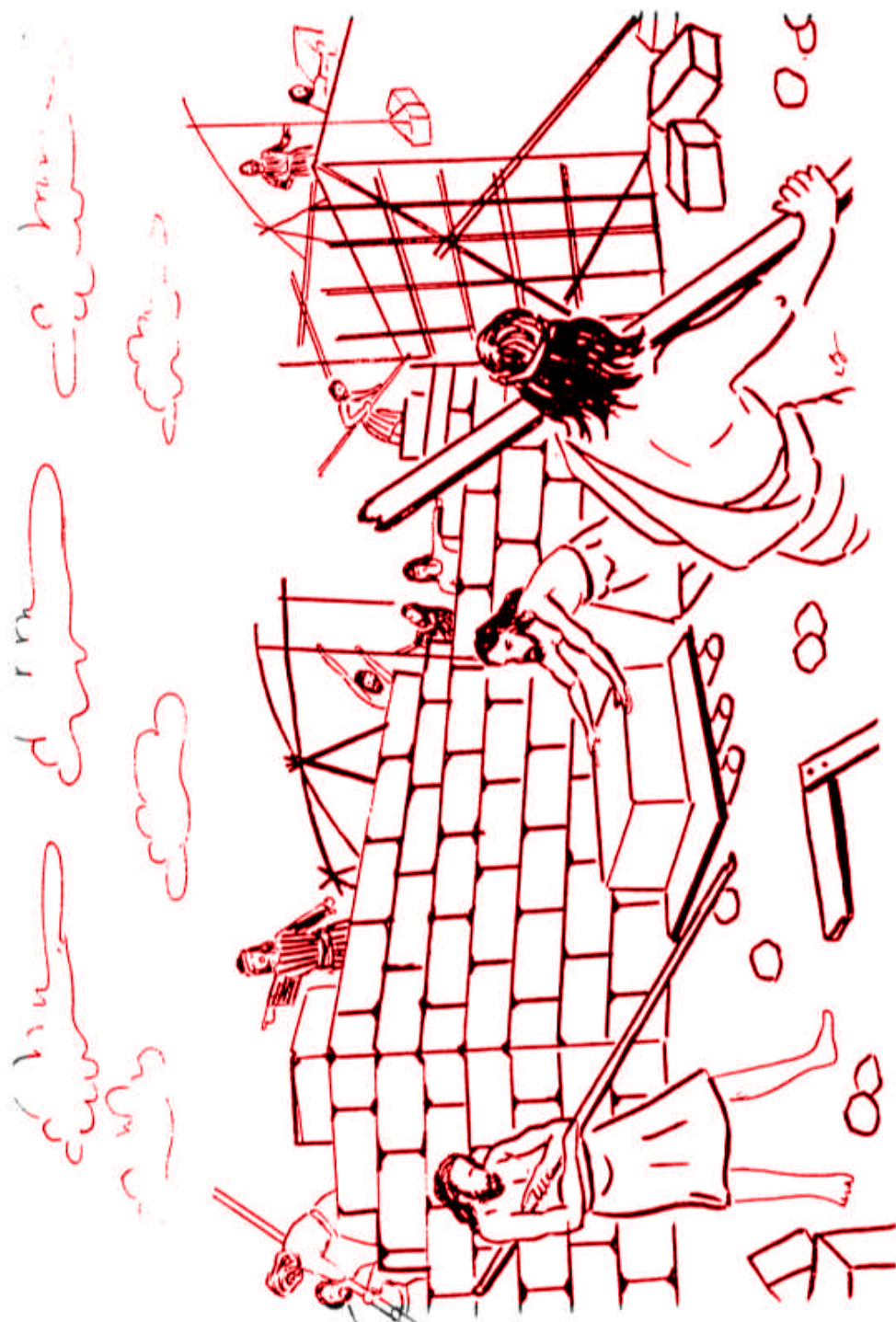


displease God by our unrighteous behaviour.

2. When we repent, confess to Abouna and come back to God, He will accept us.  
Never delay repentance and confession.

**May**

**Second Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### [SONGS](#) 🎵

#### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
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Spirit I adore you  
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Lay my life before You  
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**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**May**

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## **Second Sunday**

### **THE LORD SENDS EZRA**

#### **The People Return to Jerusalem:**

“We can go home at last!” said the Jews. We are free to leave Babylon and go back to Jerusalem. For 70 years the Jews had been slaves in Babylon. Now the Lord made the new king of Babylon willing to free the Jews. The new king said, “Go back to Jerusalem and build the Temple of the Lord.” When the Jews arrived in Jerusalem, they saw that it had been destroyed 70 years ago. The city walls were torn down, the houses were heaps of brick and clay and the beautiful Temple was now broken down and burned.

#### **A New Temple is Built:**

Rebuilding the Temple was exciting. One man started to sing praises to God. Soon others joined him. The sounds of the axes, hammers and singing could be heard miles away. It took many years to rebuild the Temple. Finally it was finished. The Jews finished the job that God had wanted them to do.

#### **Ezra Goes to Jerusalem:**

The Jews did not obey and worship God the way they used to, God helped them to worship Him again. God sent Ezra to teach His word to His people. For months Ezra walked through the city and taught God’s word. One day a Jewish leader went to visit Ezra. The Jewish leader said: “The Jews have sinned against God. They have married people from idol-worshiping countries.”

Ezra was shocked. He did not know that the Jews have broken God’s rule. Ezra went to the Temple to pray. He said: “God, I am ashamed of **our** great sin. You brought us back from slavery, because You are kind and good. Now we have broken Your rule again”. The Jews heard Ezra’s prayer. They said: “We are sorry for our sin. Tell us what to do.”

Ezra said: “Confess your sins and change your sinful ways”

The Jews said: “We will!”



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Coptic Orthodox Church



**May**

**Third Sunday**



**MAY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**Let us be Kind to the Disabled**

**Please read 2 Samuel 9:1-13, 2Samuel 21, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** [https://youtu.be/slW1\\_1GbqQQ](https://youtu.be/slW1_1GbqQQ)

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that we must be kind to the disabled as King David was.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"David said to Maphesbosheth: Do not fear"***  
***2 Samuel 9:7***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ King Saul used to hate David although David was good. Saul tried several times to kill David, but God kept David safe. Now the time came for Saul's era to end. "The Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa." 1 Samuel 31:1. King Saul and his three sons were also killed. One of Saul's sons, Jonathan, was David's friend.
- ✚ After King Saul was dead, David became the King. Saul's house was completely destroyed and the majority of his friends were killed.



## St. George and St. Rueiss

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- ✙ David asked: “Is there still anyone left in the house of Saul, that I may show him **kindness** for Jonathan’s sake?” David wanted to do this because he was a good man, although Saul had wanted to kill him.
- ✙ There was only one person left who was the son of Jonathan (Jonathan was the son of Saul.) This person’s name was Maphesbosheth and he had crippled feet.
- ✙ When the crippled man came to David, David told him not to be afraid. David did two things:
  - † He gave the crippled man all the land left from Saul.
  - † Because the crippled man needed someone to look after him, David said: “Maphesbosheth shall always eat at my table.”
- ✙ David was so kind to the crippled man. Let us learn from him to be kind to the disabled.
- ✙ Disabled people are children of God. He created them as He created us. When we are kind to them, God will also be kind to us. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7).
- ✙ When we look at a disabled person, we must give thanks to the Lord for our health and pray for a way to help those who are disabled. Let us thank Him for our hands, eyes, legs and all the parts of our body.
- ✙ Take time to give special treatment to those who are disabled. When we go to a shopping centre we find the parking spots close to the door of the shopping centre that are reserved for the disabled. Even the government gives them special treatment. So, never laugh at a disabled person, instead offer him/her all the help you can.
- ✙ When you see a blind man in the street, help him. If you have a disabled person at school, help him out and never insult or laugh at him.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must not wait until we are asked to do something good. As David did, we must take the initiative to do good, to be kind and to help others.



**May**

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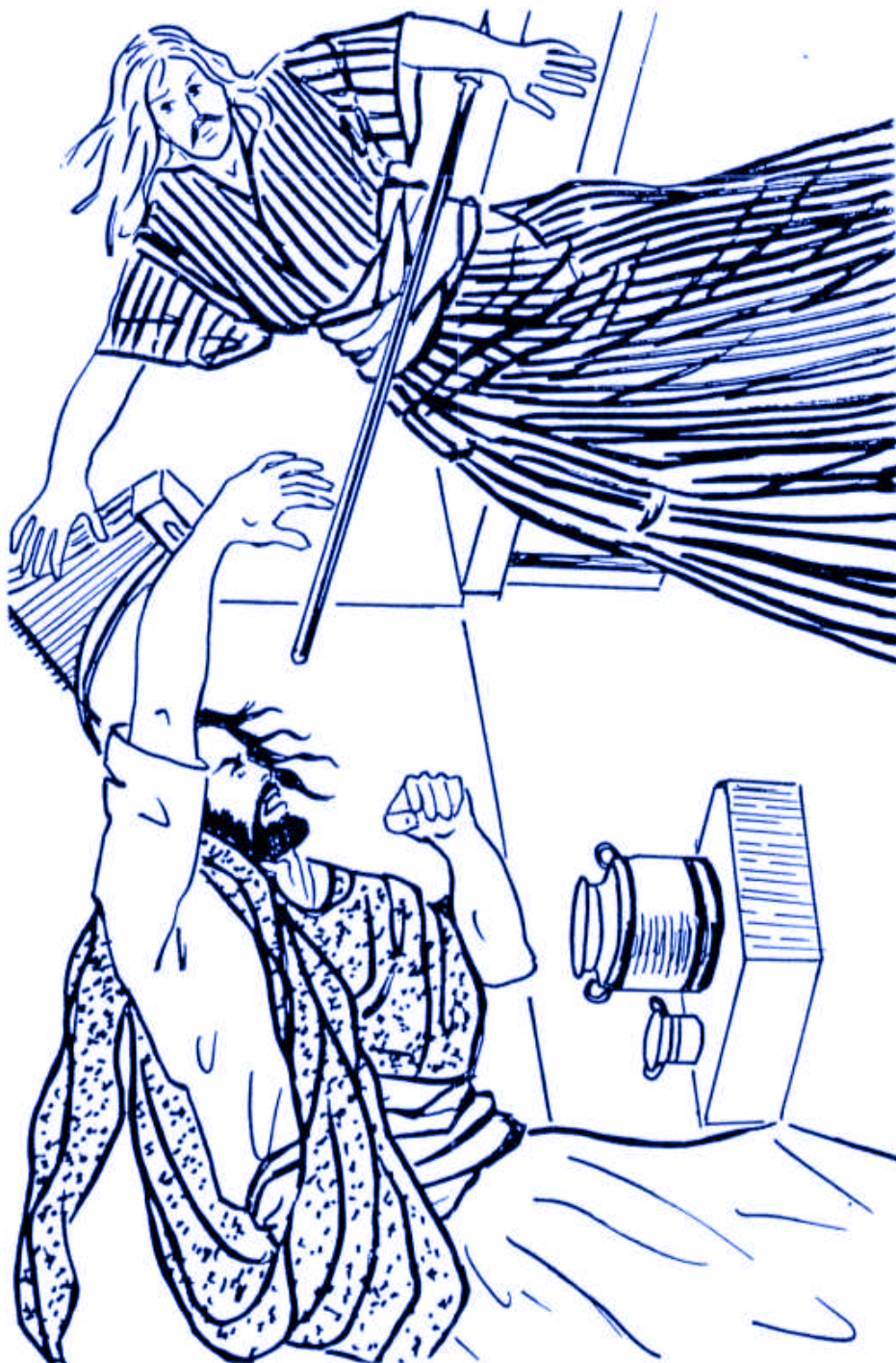
**Third Sunday**

2. We must give extra love and care to the disabled.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**May**

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**Third Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

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**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class

**May**

**Third Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**MAY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**God is the Source of Every Good Gift**

**Please read the attached material entitled “The Delicious Pie”, and give the lessons with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that God is the source of everything good in our lives. He arranges everything for us. We must thank Him for His great love for us.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights” James 1:17***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please tell the story of “The Delicious Pie” in detail.
- † Everything we have in our lives is similar to this delicious pie. So many people worked to give it to us. But if we go back, we find that the original help came from God. God is the source of every good gift: “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace”. (John 1:16)
- † The clothes that we wear, the house that we live in and the food that we eat, who pays for all these? Our parents do. But our parents have to work to get money and pay for all of these expenses. In order for our parents to be able to work, our Lord gives them health. Therefore, the gift of health and strength given to our parents from God shows us that “Every good gift and every

**May**

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## **Fourth Sunday**

perfect gift is from above.” (James 1:17)

- † Let us take, for example, the milk that we drink. It comes from the cows; the cows have to eat their food to produce the milk. God created the food that the cows eat. God sends rain to water the plants. Without rain plants cannot grow and we cannot live.
- † Ask the children to suggest something they enjoy and see how God has arranged it for them.
- † God created Adam and Eve after He created everything for them: the sun, the sea, the air, the plants, the fruits, the vegetables and the animals.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We should entreat God to help us and give us His spiritual gifts: peace, love, joy and faith. We must also realize that all the nice things that we already have are from God.





**May**

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**Fourth Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

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## St. George and St. Rueiss

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#### THE DELICIOUS PIE \*

Mike came back from school very hungry. He found that his mom had prepared a delicious pie for him to eat for a snack. After he ate the pie, he said to his mom. 'Thank you, Mom! That was a great pie, it really filled me up.'

His mom said: "Do not thank me, Mike, but thank the grocery store from where I bought the flour."

Mike went to the grocery store and said to the salesman: 'Thank you for the flour from which Mom made the pie.'

The salesman told him: "Do not thank me, but thank the millstone who ground the wheat into flour."

Mike went to the millstone and said: "Thank you for the wheat which you ground to make flour, from which my mom made the delicious pie."

The owner of the millstone said: "Do not thank me, but rather thank the farmer who planted the wheat in the field."

He went to the farmer and said: "Thank you for the wheat you planted, from which my mom made the delicious pie."

The farmer said: "Do not thank me. Thank God for giving us the seeds to plant and for sending rain so the seed may grow into wheat."

Mike said: "Thank you God, You are the source of every good gift. Without You, Mom wouldn't have been able to make that delicious pie."

**\* NOTE:** This article is taken from "Voice of Jesus" magazine, Coptic Orthodox Church of Chicago, Il., October 1982.

**May**

## **Fourth Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**JUNE  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**The Ascension Feast: They Returned to Jerusalem with  
Great Joy**

Please read Luke 24:44-53, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/UcFw8pLBSIo>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that the ascension of our Lord Jesus gave the Disciples great joy.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights,..." Luke 24:52***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven after 40 days following His appearances at various places to His Disciples and to the chosen people.
- ✙ Our Lord Jesus focused in His last talk with the Disciples (Luke 24:44-49) on the following:
  - ✙ All the stages of His life, His suffering, His Crucifixion and His Resurrection were all foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you,

**June**

## **First Sunday**

that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” (Luke 24:44).

- † There is no forgiveness of sin without the Cross and the salvation carried out by Him.
- † Preaching to the whole world will happen by the Disciples after they gain the power of the Holy Spirit. He told them to stay in Jerusalem until they gain the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ✚ Describe the ascension of the Lord Jesus after He had this last discussion with the Disciples. “He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven” (John 24:50-51).
- ✚ “They worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.” Why were they filled with great joy? Because “two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, Men of Galilee, 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 1:10-11). Also, they were happy because when the Lord Jesus will come, He will take them (and all His people to heaven).
- ✚ Let us observe here the change of the feelings of the Disciples. One time before the Crucifixion, the Lord said to His Disciples: “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me where are You going? But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart” (John 16:5-6). So, the Disciples were very sad when the Lord Jesus told them that He is leaving them and going back to heaven. Maybe they did not understand or they did not have enough faith or maybe they loved Him so much and did not want to leave Him. Now after Jesus’ Crucifixion, Resurrection, appearances and His explanation to them about all the events, they became very pleased when He was ascending to heaven because they had faith; they knew that He is going to prepare a place for them in heaven and that He is going to send to them “the power from on high”, (Luke 24:49). That is the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord Jesus ascended to heaven to prepare a place for each one of us. If we follow Jesus Christ on earth we will be with Him also in heaven.



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

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2. Our hearts will be filled with joy if we look up to heaven, think about heaven and remember that our future is in heaven since the Lord had prepared a place for us there. From now on, let us not focus on worldly matters such as food, toys, clothes, and outside appearances. Let us give to the poor and by doing so, make a treasure in heaven for us.

**June**

**First Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### **GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART**

*"For our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name."  
(Ps 33:21)*

#### **REFRAIN**

God is dwelling in my heart  
All His joy He gives to me  
And with Jesus in my heart  
For He is the Son of God

He and I are one  
through Christ his Son.  
what have I to fear?  
in my heart, He is near.

Christians who are baptized  
The great mystery

have you ever realized  
God dwells in you and me.

This joy God gave to you  
Show them that God is love

share it then with others too  
lift their hearts above.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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**June**

## **First Sunday**

# **NOTES ON THE ASCENSION OF JESUS**

- † There is no prophet or Saint who died, arose from the dead, and ascended to heaven except the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God.
- † The ascension of Jesus after His resurrection is a proof of His Divinity.
- † When Jesus talked to Nicodemus He told him “No man has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man, who is in heaven” (John 3:13).  
So, when the Lord Jesus was speaking with Nicodemus, He was in heaven at the same instant.
- † But Jesus ascended with our flesh which He took from the Virgin Mary, that is with my flesh and yours. Hence, Jesus blessed our bodies and opened the gates of heaven for us.
- † “And raised up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).
- † He ascended into heaven so that we could realize that our true place is in heaven. We should be thinking about heaven and should not let the things of the world control our lives.
- † We can remember the ascension during the following:
  - † Every time we pray the Lord’s prayer and say “Our father who art in heaven...”, we realize that Jesus meant that praying is standing in heaven.
  - † During the Divine Liturgy, when we stand in the altar, we are considered as if we are standing in heaven.
  - † Every time we neglect the world and concentrate on Jesus we ascend to heaven.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**June**

**Second Sunday**



**JUNE  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**Pentecost**

**The Power from Above Came Down Upon the Disciples**

Please read Acts 2:1-12, the attached material entitled “Pentecost,” and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/1J895V2b0d8>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

The Disciples started preaching after they gained the strength of the Holy Spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“But tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with  
power from on high” Luke 24:49***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Describe what happened on the day of the Pentecost. The Disciples were in Jerusalem, not afraid anymore from the Jews who hated the Lord Jesus and His followers. They were not afraid because the Lord Jesus told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for Him to send the Holy Spirit. They were in the upper room with the Virgin Mary.
- † What happened when the Holy Spirit came? They **heard** a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and **saw** tongues as of fire, distributed and



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resting on each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.

- ✙ The Holy Spirit guided the Disciples in all their preaching and all their writings. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to stand in front of the kings of various countries and defend their faith. Can you name one of the Disciples? St. Peter. Also the other Disciples defended their faith in front of the whole world.
- ✙ Do you have the Holy Spirit inside you? Yes, every Christian receives the Holy Spirit inside them when they are baptized. When a baby is to be baptized, Abouna prays for him/her in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, blows some air in his/her face to accept the Holy Spirit, and then uses the Ointment (the myroun) and anoints the baby with it.
- ✙ The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles understanding, strength and guidance. They were able to do several miracles in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. These miracles were supporting their preaching and when the people saw these miracles, they believed that these people belonged to a very powerful God.
- ✙ Some of the Disciples and Apostles wrote parts of the New Testament. For example, the four Gospels of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. They wrote the Gospels having the complete guidance of the Holy Spirit. This means that the Gospels present the word of God to us because they have been inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- ✙ The Holy Spirit gave all these powers to the Disciples and Apostles. What does the Holy Spirit give us now? "But the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22).

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must learn from the Disciples to be obedient. When the Lord Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until he sent the Holy Spirit, they did.
2. As the Disciples and Apostles gained the power of the Holy Spirit, we also have gained the Holy Spirit inside us when we were baptized. The Holy Spirit



**June**

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**Second Sunday**

can give us power and all the fruits mentioned above.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**June**

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**Second Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

***WHEN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD***

***“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Gal 5:25)***

REFRAIN

When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my heart

I will love as Jesus loves.

REFRAIN

I will pray as David prayed.

REFRAIN

I will preach as Peter preached.

REFRAIN

I will serve as St. Paul served.

REFRAIN

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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#### ***PENTECOST***

##### **The Descent of the Holy Spirit**

In the Old Testament, Pentecost was the feast, which occurred fifty days after the Passover. As the Passover feast commemorates the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrates God's gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the new law, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples of Christ.

The Apostles received "the power from high" and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the Birthday of the Church.

It must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago; it is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church Today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah, and we all received His Holy Spirit. We are the "Temple of the Holy Spirit". God's Spirit dwells in us. We, by our own membership in the Church, have received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of Chrismation.

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who has revealed His Wisdom in the fishermen by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into the net. O Lover of Man, Glory be to thee.

**June**

**Second Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

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### JUNE THIRD SUNDAY

#### Elijah

Please read 1 Kings 17:1-24, 1 Kings 18:1-46, and the attached notes entitled “Elijah” (please take a copy with you in class to show the children), and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/2T5gAXoerjw>

#### PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To know that as God took care of Elijah and did what Elijah asked for, He also takes care of every one of us.

#### MEMORY VERSE:

*“The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning” 1 King*

*17:6*

#### PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- ✝ The great majority of the people, at the time of the prophet Elijah, were bad and did not like God. The prophet Elijah rebuked King Ahab because he asked God to prevent the rain.
- ✝ Do you know what happens when we do not have rain? We do not have plants or food to eat.

**June**

## **Third Sunday**

- † Because there was no food, God sent ravens to feed Elijah. Every day in the morning they brought him bread and meat. God takes care of His people so that they never become in need of anything.
- † God told Elijah to go to a poor widow's house to look after her needs. One day her son died, but Elijah prayed for him and God accepted the prayers of Elijah and brought him back to life.
- † God listened to Elijah's requests and sent a fire upon the sacrifice offered by the Prophet Elijah so that the king might return to God. God supported Elijah by giving him the power to do miracles. The Lord Jesus also supported His Disciples and enabled them to perform many miracles. Please mention some miracles that St. Peter and St. Paul did.
- † Elijah prayed to God to bring back the rain and God did.
- † Why did God listen to Elijah's prayers? Because Elijah was a good man and did everything God told him to do.
- † By Elijah's robe, the water of the Jordan was divided, and Elijah and his disciple Elisha passed through.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. *Whatever we ask God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, He will give us and take care of us. He will give us all our needs. But we have to be good and do what God wants us to do.*



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**June**

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**Third Sunday**





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**June**

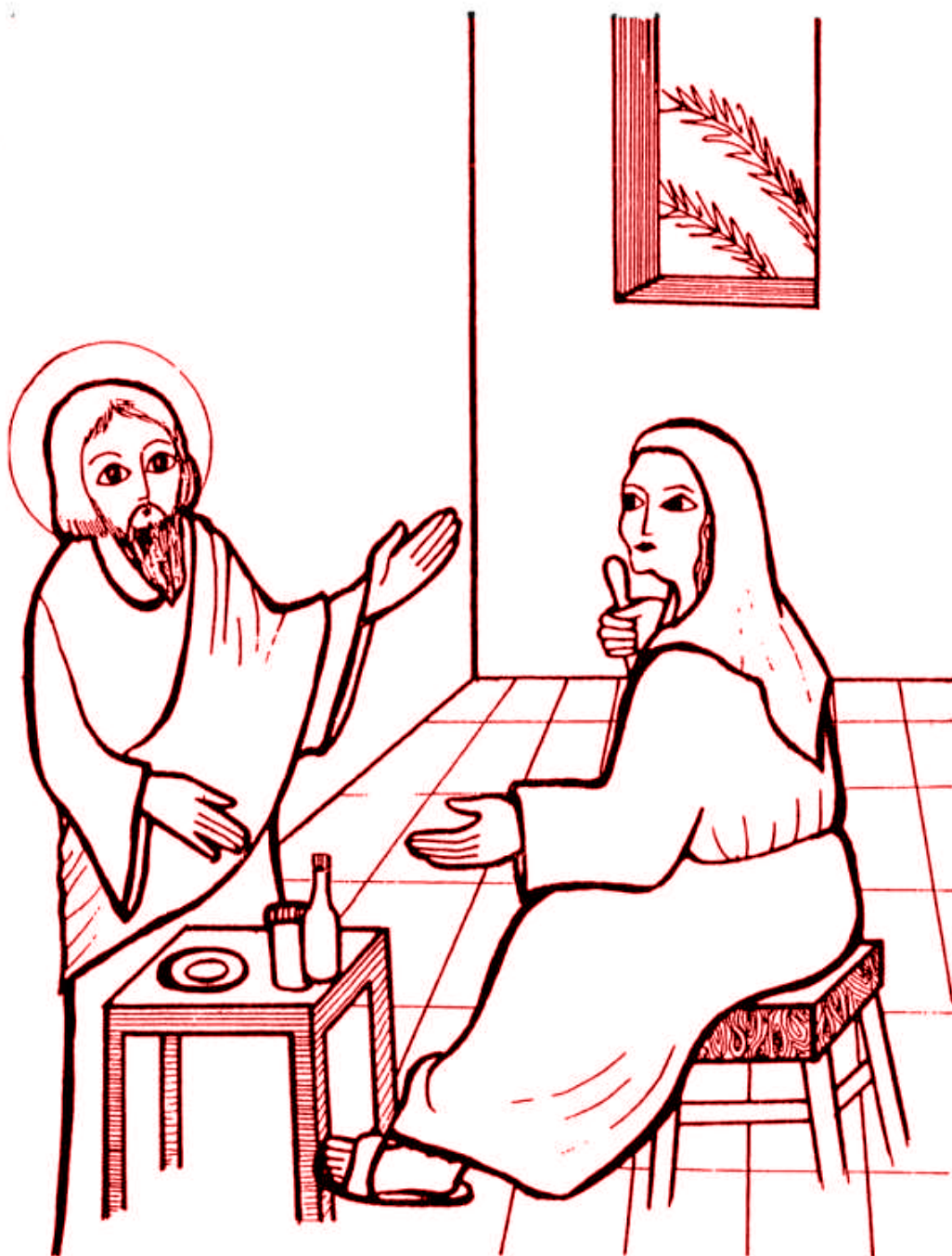
**Third Sunday**





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**June**

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**Third Sunday**





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**June**

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**Second Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**King of Kings**

*“And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)*

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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**June**

**Third Sunday**





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**JUNE  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**Solomon Built a Temple for the Lord**

Please read 1 Kings 6, 7, 8 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/2n0N6iE3n30> or <https://youtu.be/IU2EqsWBivE>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To know that king Solomon loved God and did his best to build a great Temple. Let us always do our best for our beloved Church.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I have sanctified this house which you have built to put My name there forever" 1 Kings 9:3*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Now one of David's sons, Adonijah, wished to be king after his father's death without permission from his father. So he prepared himself by gathering some strong soldiers to support his claim of the throne. When David knew about this, he summoned Zadok, the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and told them to have Solomon ride on his own royal mule. And he ordered them to anoint him king over Israel and to say "God save King Solomon". After David died, Solomon then sat upon the throne of his father, and the kingdom was firmly established.

**June**

## **Fourth Sunday**

- † David wanted to build the Temple, but God told him not to and that his son would build it. David, however, still loved God and collected large amounts of gold, silver, wood, iron, and lots of other things for the Temple. He also prepared the drawings of it.
- † When Solomon became the king after his father David, he started to **prepare** for building the Temple. He collected lots of materials for 3 years. In the fourth year, Solomon started to build the Temple and he needed a large number of people to do so. (Remember that in order to do something you have to prepare for it. For example, you need to prepare for a birthday party in order to have a good one.)
- † Solomon raised a labor force from all over Israel to work on the Temple, thirty thousand wood cutters, seventy thousand carriers, and eighty thousand stone masons. The Temple was ninety feet in length, thirty feet in width, and forty-five feet in height. The roof was of cedar, and the interior was paneled in cedar. At the far end he made an inner shrine; in front of it was a cedar altar. Inside the inner shrine he had carved two huge angels with outstretched wings, which were covered with gold. There were also carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers on the doors, and these were also covered with gold. It took seven years to finish the temple. (Remember that you need time, preparation, and attention to complete an important task.)

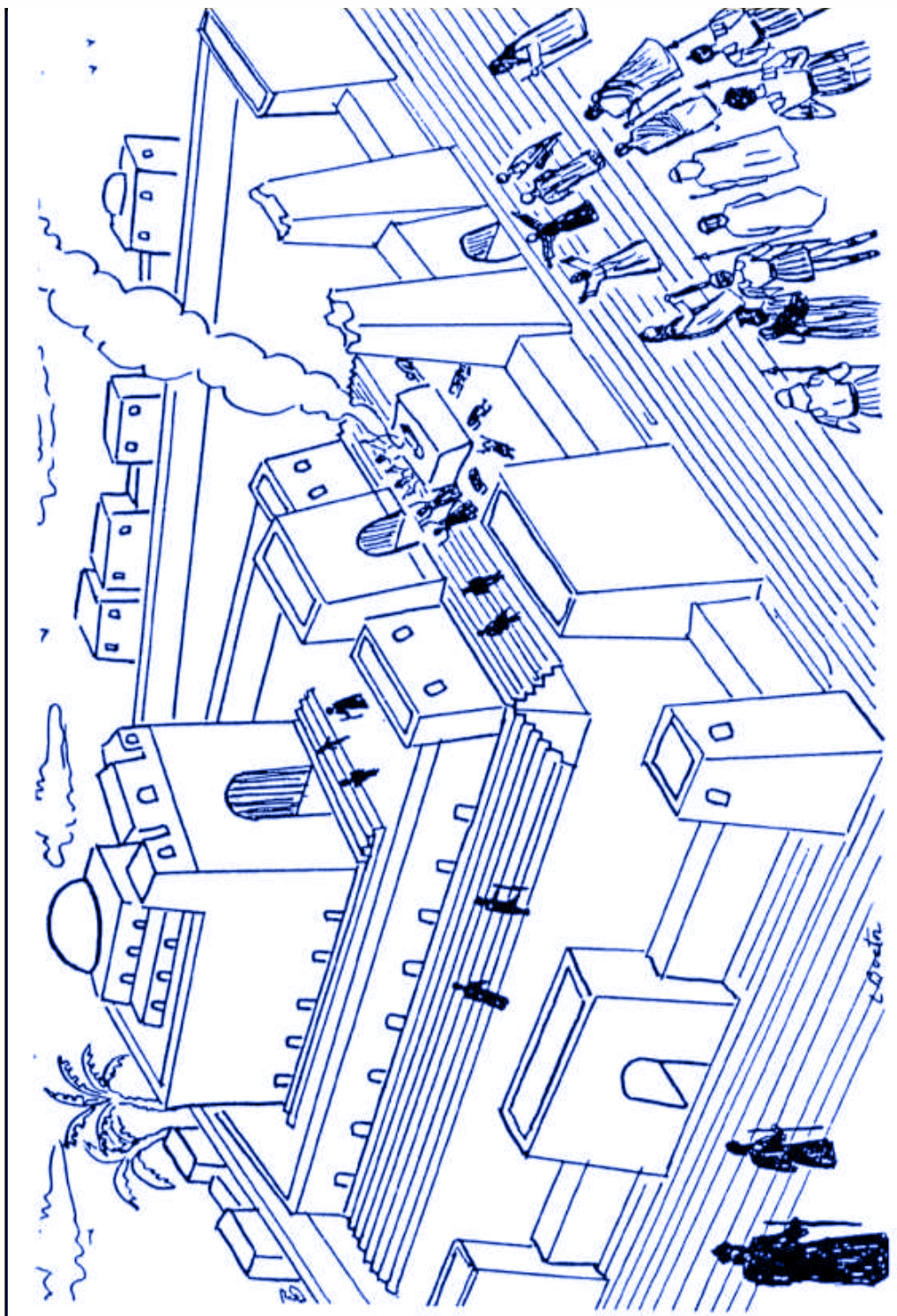
### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We must do like what Solomon did: love God and love to build churches (remember that the church is the house of God). Every time we hear of a new church being built, we must rush to help as much as we can: by our prayers, by our donations, and by collecting donations from others as well.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**June**

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**Fourth Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE**

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat 7:24)*

A wise man built his house upon the rock (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the rock stood firm.

A foolish man built his house upon the sand (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the sand went down.

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (3)  
And the blessings will come upon you.  
As the blessings come down, the prayers go up (3)  
And the house in the Lord stands firm.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



## NOTES

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**June**

## **Fourth Sunday**





# **St. George and St. Rueiss**

## **Coptic Orthodox Church**



### **JULY FIRST SUNDAY**

#### **The Apostles' Feast ( I ) -The Life of St. Peter**

**Please read the attached material “The Life of St. Peter” (please take copy with you in class to show the children), and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is the first lesson in a series of two lessons on the life of St. Peter. In this lesson we learn that St. Peter was growing in faith.

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19***

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Our Church celebrates the Apostles' Feast on July 12<sup>th</sup> of every year.
- ✙ The Lord Jesus Christ had 12 Disciples. Their names are mentioned in Mark 3:14-19. He also had 70 Apostles. St. Mark was one of the 70 Apostles.
- ✙ We will study the life of St. Peter. Please describe it in a story-like fashion. The first lesson covers the life of St. Peter up to the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The second lesson covers from the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus up to St. Peter's martyrdom.

**July**

## **First Sunday**

- ✠ St. Peter and St. Andrew his brother were fishermen. The Lord Jesus called them and they left their nets and followed Him (Matthew 4:18-19).
- ✠ Peter was one of the 3 Disciples (Peter, James, and John) who witnessed the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. He went with the Lord Jesus to the mountain when He was talking to Moses and Elijah, while His appearance was white as light (Matthew 17:1).
- ✠ In the Last Supper, the Lord Jesus washed St. Peter's feet (John 13:6-7). At first St. Peter did not want Him to. But Jesus told him: "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." This shows us that we have to be humble as our Master Jesus Christ was when He washed His Disciples' feet.
- ✠ St. Peter slept in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40). He could not stay awake although it was only few hours before the bad people came to take the Lord to crucify Him on the Cross.
- ✠ St. Peter was eager to defend the Lord Jesus when the bad people came to take Him from Gethsemane. He cut off the ear of one of the servants of the High Priests (John 18:10-11). Our Lord Jesus healed the ear of the servant and told St. Peter to put back his sword.
- ✠ During the trial of our Beloved Jesus, Peter denied his Master the Lord Jesus in front of a slave because he was afraid of the Jews. When he heard the rooster crow, he remembered his sin of denying his Master and he cried (John 18:25-27 and Matthew 26:75). He repented and the Lord accepted him as will be seen later.
- ✠ St. Peter went to the tomb of the Lord Jesus to find out that the Lord arose from the dead (John 20:1-10). Later on, the Lord Jesus appeared to the Disciples (including Peter) and gave them peace. The Disciples were full of joy as they saw the Lord.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

As Peter grew in faith gradually, we must also grow in faith every day by the help of God and by our continuous prayers and readings of the Holy Bible.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**First Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**First Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**First Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**July**

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**First Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**Second Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



For the success  
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in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class

**July**

## **Second Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✙ In front of the largest Jewish council called the Sanhedrin, St. Peter was not afraid anymore and was speaking to them about the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:1-12). Note the drastic change of St. Peter who denied his Master before in front of a slave. This drastic change was because of the action of the Holy Spirit inside him.
- ✙ When Ananias and his wife brought the money for the poor but were not telling the right price for the land, St. Peter said, "You are lying to God." Ananias and his wife dropped dead (Acts 5:1-11).
- ✙ The Lord sent His angel to save St. Peter from prison (Acts 5:17-20). St. Peter came back to the rest of the Disciples who were very happy to receive him. They were praying for him.
- ✙ Tabitha was raised from the dead by the power of the Lord Jesus' name through the prayers of St. Peter (Acts 9:36-42).
- ✙ At the end of his preaching, St. Peter showed his great love to our Lord Jesus and his confidence in eternal life by his martyrdom in Rome with St. Paul.
- ✙ Let us ask St. Peter to pray on our behalf so that God may forgive us our sins.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

St. Peter showed his faith and love to the Lord Jesus by preaching the word of God and finally, he was martyred for the sake of the Lord Jesus' name. We must also show our love to our Lord Jesus by our good deeds. We must love one another, obey God and our parents, pray to God at all times, and never deny that we are Christians. When others see our good deeds as Christians, they will glorify the name of the Lord and some of them may become Christians.

**July**

## **Second Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

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#### SONGS 🎵

#### PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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## July

## Second Sunday

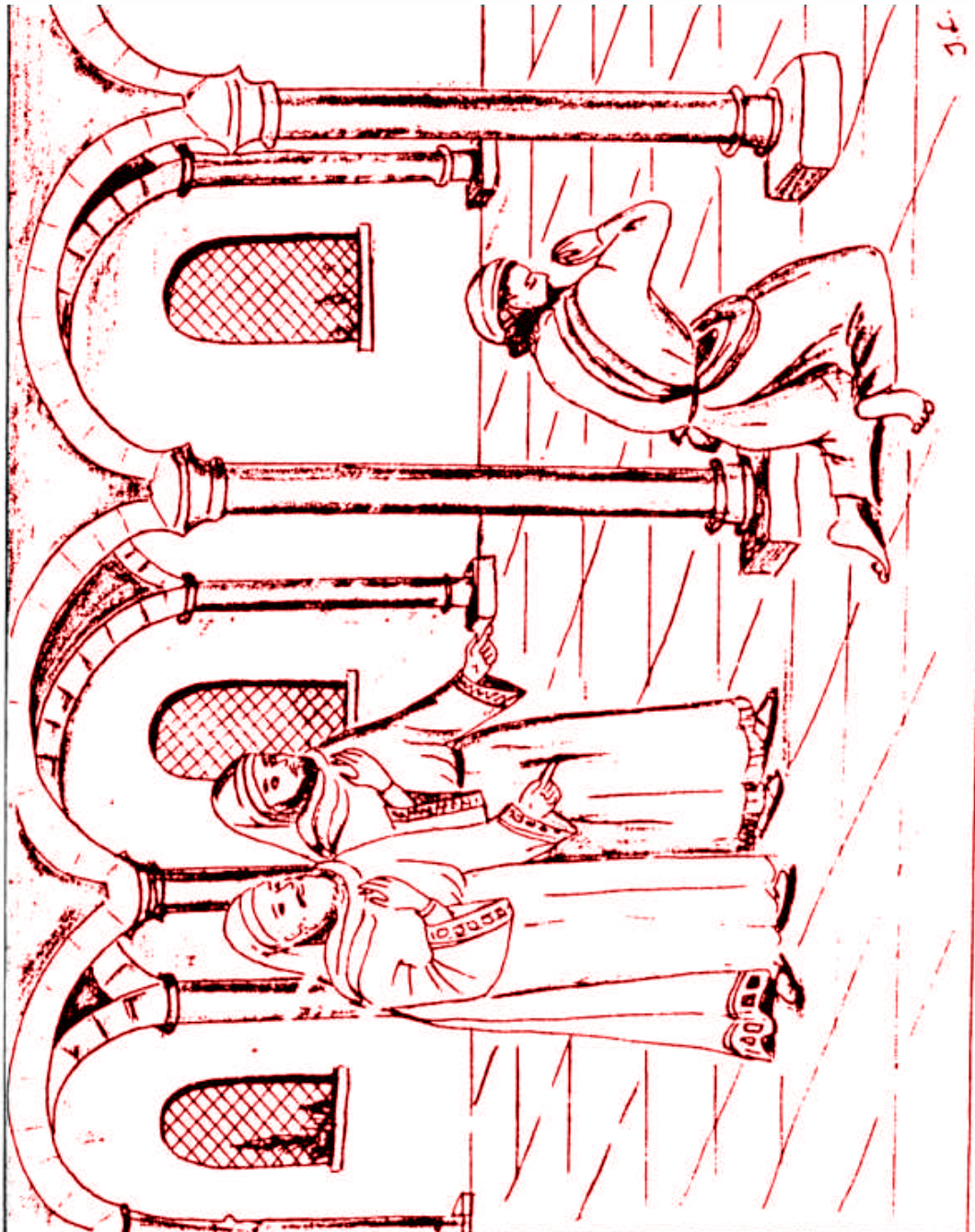
## NOTES

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# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**July**

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**Third Sunday**



**JULY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

**Please read Luke 18:9-14, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/YWK2edNPPXE>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

A very important principle in prayer: we must be humble and feel that we are in need of God's help.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"For everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" Luke 18:14***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ The Lord Jesus told many parables during His teachings to simplify the ideas for the people so that they could understand what He meant. What is a parable? It is a story to explain a certain implied meaning.
- ✚ Explain the parable as follows:
  - † The Lord Jesus Christ told the parable to some people who considered themselves to be righteous and despised others. So this shows the



## St. George and St. Rueiss

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purpose of the lesson; i.e., not to think we are good and others are bad.

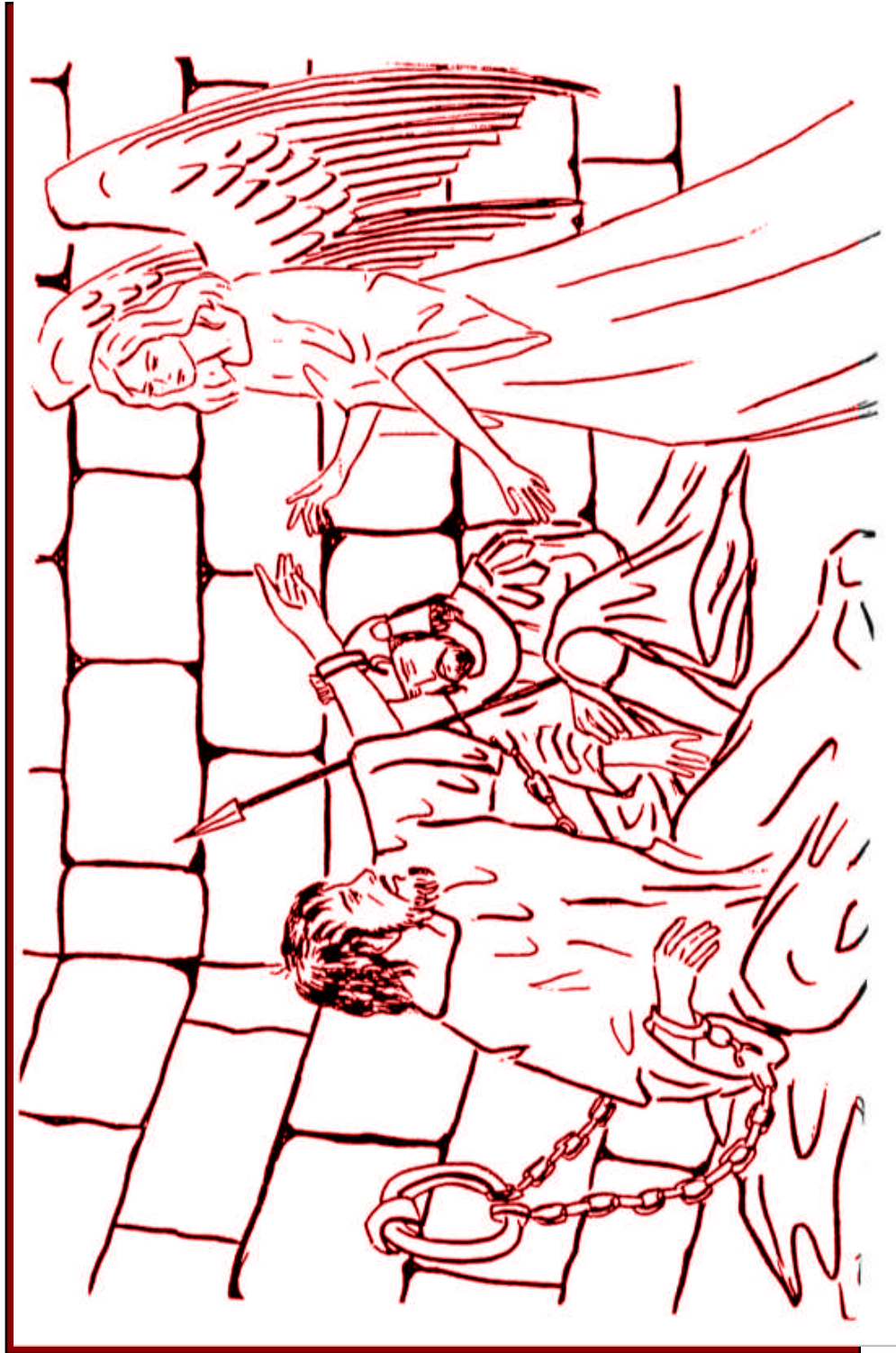
- † The Pharisee went to pray, proud of himself. He went to praise himself and not God. He went not to entreat God and he actually did not gain anything. Not only that, but he was judging the tax collector. (Note that the tax collectors at this time were known as sinners.)
- † The Pharisee thought that the most important thing is to fast, pray, and give tithes but he forgot the basic principle, which is more important than all these; is loving God and people. He said, “I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I possess” (Luke 18:12). If these practices are not founded on love and humility, they become fruitless.
- † The tax collector came and stood far with his head down. He knocked on his chest saying: “God be merciful to me a sinner.” He was humble and felt that he was needy. He admitted that he was a sinner who needed the mercy of God.
- † What is the net result? “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.”

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must be humble.
2. We must not judge other people.
3. When we pray we must admit that we are sinners who need the mercy of God.

**July**

## **Third Sunday**





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**SONGS** 🎵

**INTO MY HEART**

*“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7)*

Into my heart into my heart  
Come into my heart Lord Jesus

Into my heart into my heart  
Come into my heart Lord Jesus

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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**July**

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**Third Sunday**



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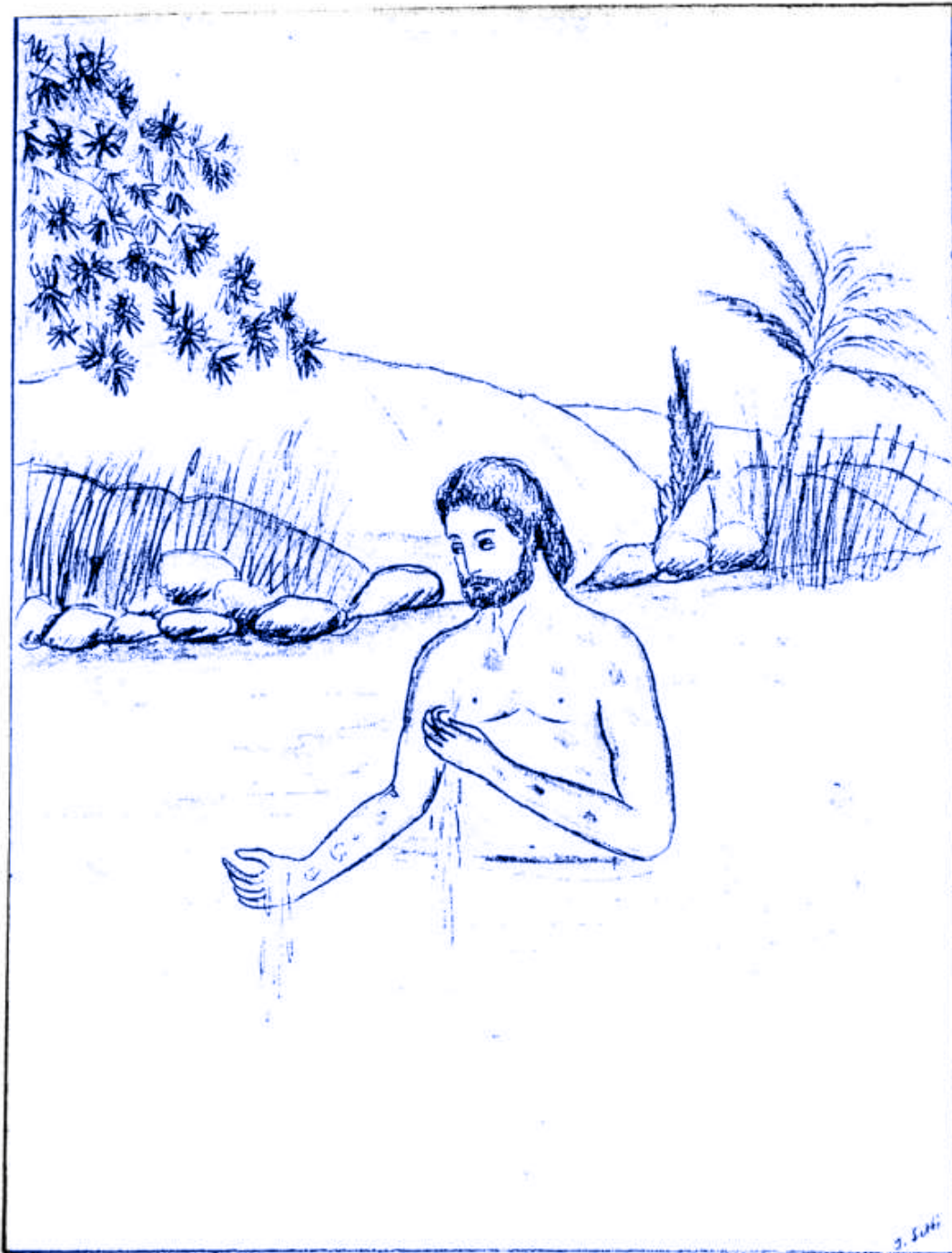
**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
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**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**Fourth Sunday**



**JULY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**God Expects Believers to Serve Him  
Naaman Learns about God from a Young Girl**

Please read 2 Kings 5:1-16, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/8KYeqpCKkio> or <https://youtu.be/D1PkEmhzhYY>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that a young girl helped Naaman to heal from his sickness. We can help others too.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Even a child is known by his deeds, by whether what he does is pure and right" Proverbs 20:11***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a leper. The Syrians in one of their raids on the land of Israel carried a little girl, and took her with them to Syria where she became a maid in Naaman's house.
- ✚ The girl chose to serve the Lord regardless of her circumstances. She was faithful and did a little job; it was the Lord who made it big. The girl led



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Naaman to the Prophet Elisha to be healed.

- ✝ The king of Syria sent a letter with Naaman to the king of Israel. He took expensive gifts with him.
- ✝ The king of Israel tore his clothes when he read the letter saying “Am I God to kill and to make alive, that this man sends words to me to cure a man from his leprosy?”
- ✝ When Elisha the man of God heard this, he asked the king to send Naaman to him. When they came to Elisha’s house, he did not even go outside but he only sent a messenger saying: “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times and your flesh will be restored.”
- ✝ Naaman was angry and went away because Elisha did not come out to see him and pray for him. Naaman did not obey what Elisha told him to do.
- ✝ While Naaman was angry and going back to Syria, one of his servants advised him to obey Prophet Elisha, and to go to Jordan and wash 7 times. He said to Naaman: “My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you “Wash, and be clean?” (2 Kings 5:13). This shows us that miracles and great actions from God do not require that we do a lot of things. They only need obedience and doing very small things. Then God does the big part of the miracle. Can you recall a miracle that Jesus did with a very small portion of work done by the people? We all know the miracle of feeding the 5000 people from five loaves and two fish. The people obeyed Jesus and offered what they had. Then He blessed the five loaves and the two fish, fed the 5,000 people, and 12 baskets full of food were left over.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We can do a little job similar to the little girl who led Naaman to the Prophet Elisha and the Lord can take our little efforts and multiply them to bring great results beyond our imagination. Examples:

1. If we tidy the books at the church and keep the church quiet and clean, our prayers in the church as well as others will be more effective. This is a great benefit.



**July**

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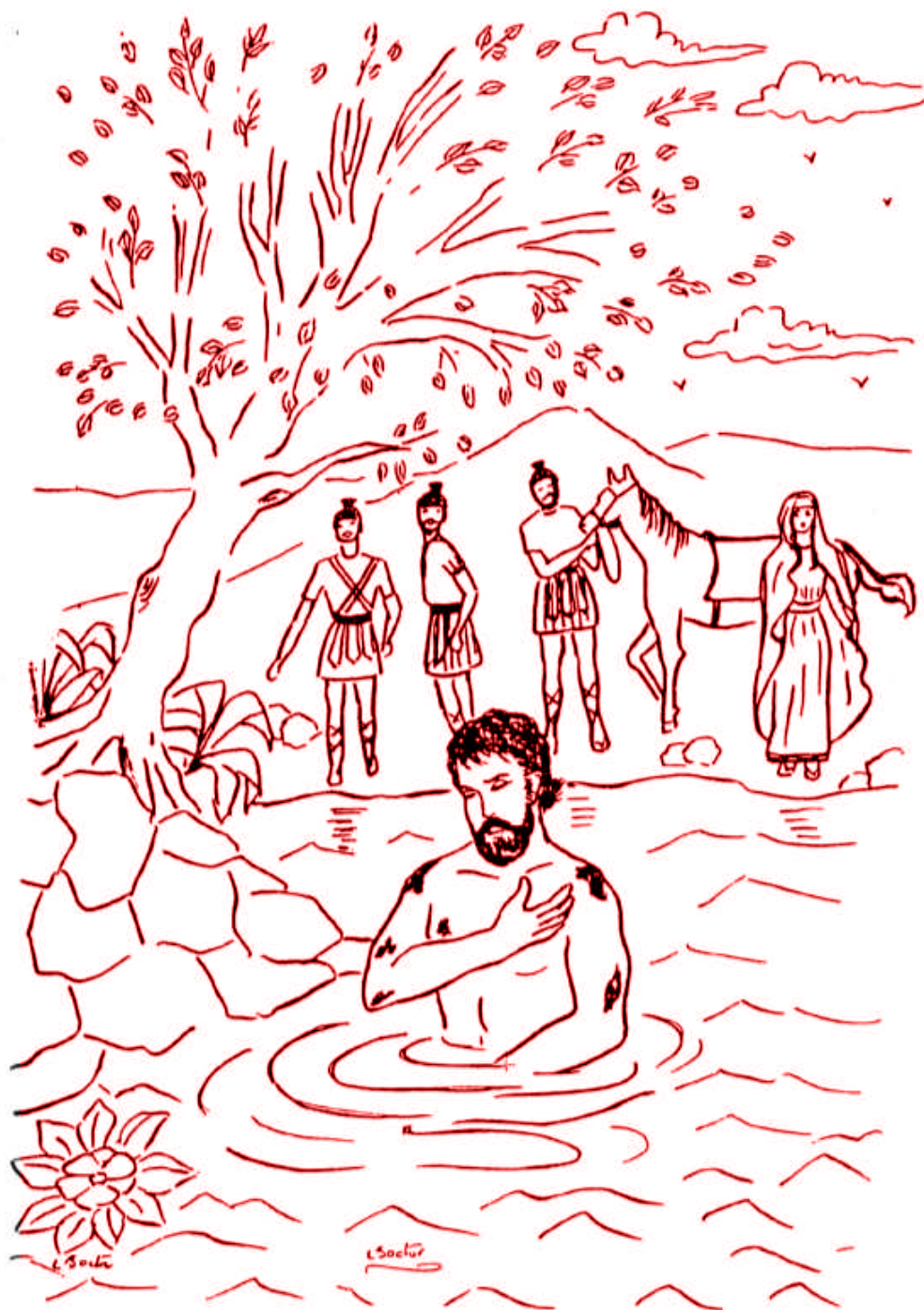
## **Fourth Sunday**

2. If we keep collecting money for the poor, no matter how little, God is going to bless it and it will become a lot.
3. If we keep our clothes, our toys, and our school things tidy and in the right place, mom does not have to get tired from cleaning the house. She then can spend her efforts on more useful things for the family.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**July**

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**Fourth Sunday**

**SONGS** 🎵

**O MY CHILDREN**

*“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)*

O my little dear children  
You are so precious come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus Our God  
We love You and praise you Our Lord.

I hear you praising and bless you  
My eyes upon you all the time.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



## NOTES

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**July**

## **Fourth Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



**JULY  
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**God Expects Believers to Perform Miracles Free of Charge  
Elisha and Gehazi**

Please read 2 Kings 5:19-27, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/qRQpchiZll8?t=14>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn that believers are given power from God to perform miracles and to bear witness to the power of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing" 2 Kings 5:26*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ Start by reviewing the last lesson's story: until Elisha healed Naaman and said, "Go in peace".
- ✝ Elisha's disciple did not understand why his teacher Elisha did not take any of the gifts that Naaman brought.
- ✝ Why didn't Elisha take any money?

**July**

## **Fifth Sunday**

God gives the believers power to heal and to perform miracles. God gives this power freely and expects the believers to perform miracles also freely. This is why the Lord Jesus said, “Free you took, free you give.” When a believer is performing a miracle he is doing it to bear witness to the power of God. **Hence, he is serving God**, because when the people witness the miracles, they will believe in God. An example of this is when Naaman **was healed**. “Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him, and said, “ Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel” 2 Kings 5:15.

- ✠ Describe what Elisha’s disciple (Gehazi) did.  
Gehazi wanted to take something from Naaman. He ran after him and claimed two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to Elisha and they need a talent of silver and two changes of garments. Naaman gave him **two** talents of silver and two changes of garments. When Gehazi arrived close to Elisha’s house, he took the silver and the two changes of garments from the two men who were helping him carry the things and let them go. When Gehazi entered the house, he lied to his master Elisha, and said that he did not go anywhere. Elisha, the man of God, knew about what his disciple did. Then Elisha asked that the leper of Naaman be on Gehazi and his descendants forever. Then Gehazi went out leprous, as white as snow. This was the punishment for Gehazi’s greed.
- ✠ When the Saints of our church performed miracles in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, they never took money from anyone. In fact, the majority of them were poor, but their faith and love for our Saviour were above all money and the desire for it. Remember the place for money was “at the feet of the Apostles.”

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We have to be honest and not tell a lie even if we are in a very difficult situation.
2. God’s believers are given power to perform miracles in order to glorify God’s name so that more people believe in God.
3. When we do a favor for someone we must not expect or ask for a return.



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**July**

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## **Fifth Sunday**

### **SONGS** 🎵

#### **CHRISTIAN LOVE**

*"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13:13*

In Christianity, the A-B-C's  
First Corinthians thirteen

spell L-O-V-E.  
tells us what love really means.

Love is patient, love is kind  
Love is humble, love is meek

looks not for mistakes to find  
love will never self-seek.

Does envy, never selfish  
Is not jealous, is not rude

never proud nor snobbish  
love rejoices in the truth.

Bears all things  
Hopes all things  
Now remains faith, hope and love

believes all things  
endures all things  
but the greatest of these is love

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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**July**

**Fifth Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**AUGUST  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**The Virgin Mary and the Life of Obedience**

Please read Luke 1:26-38, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/PW-Pzi5Gs7g>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

To learn the life of obedience from St. Mary the Virgin.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Behold the maidservant of the Lord" Luke 1:38***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Start by mentioning in a story-like fashion the obedience of the Virgin Mary in the following circumstances:
  - † When the angel Gabriel came to her and announced Christ's birth from her by the Holy Spirit, she said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord." She accepted and obeyed in full humility.
  - † When Baby Jesus was born outside the house in a manger, she accepted and obeyed without any complaint.
  - † In her escape to Egypt during a very difficult situation, she accepted

## August

### First Sunday

and obeyed without any complaint.

- † When the Lord Jesus had to leave her and go for service in Judea and Galilee, she accepted and obeyed without any complaint.
- ✚ The obedience of the Virgin Mary has the following characteristics:
  - † It is an obedience based on love. It is the obedience of sons and daughters rather than the obedience of a servant or a slave.
  - † It is obedience to God. St. Mary accepted and obeyed under all circumstances because she knew that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God, and He is in charge and in full control of all circumstances.
  - † It is an obedience that is based on conviction. St. Mary was a deep thinker, a deep believer, and her obedience was due to her conviction.
- ✚ Eve did not obey God. On the contrary, St. Mary obeyed God. What was the result of each of these actions? Because Eve did not obey God, Adam and Eve had to leave paradise. When St. Mary obeyed God, the paradise was opened again for Adam and all the believers.
- ✚ As St. Mary was able to obey, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are also invited to live a life of obedience; but how?
  - † We must obey God even if we do not know why God wants us to do certain things this way. We will understand later, but let us obey now. All what we have to know now is that God loves us very much and when He asks us to do something, it is for our benefit.
  - † We must obey our parents because when we obey our parents we fulfill God's commandments. On the contrary, we must not listen to any friends who do not believe or love God.
  - † We must be committed to live with God. Then it will be easy for us to listen and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit inside us.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Let us learn from St. Mary to say "Yes" to God's will and God's



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

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commandments. Let us obey without any complaint. If we truly love God, we will keep His commandments.

2. God's commandments are for our benefit. For example, when God asks us to pray, read the Bible, fast, take communion, come to Church early... etc., all these are to our advantage in our daily lives, here on earth, and for our eternal life as well.

**August**

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**First Sunday**





# St. George and St. Rueiss

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### SONGS 🎵

#### WATCHING US

‘Behold , great is thy intercession, strong and acceptable with our Savior.” (the sixth prayer)

#### REFRAIN

Watching us, hearing us, loving us  
She is St. Mary  
We are her children

she could never possibly forget us  
Mother of Jesus who saved us  
and she is always guiding us.

She is in heaven in her glory  
And is always interceding

the pride of all our saints  
with the saints on our behalf

She is heaven but she appears  
Spreading on earth love and peace

to her children everywhere  
and preserving faith for all

She is heaven but she sees  
Mettias was hand-cuffed in jail

when her children are in tears  
but she came and broke the chains

She is in heaven but she hears  
Anba Abraam come out and see

the pleadings of a great Pope  
the faith that moved the mountain

She is in heaven but she leaves  
In the church she comes and shares

many miracles where she appears  
with faith we witness her care.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**August**

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**First Sunday**





**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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**AUGUST  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**God Gives His People Power (I) -Power to Elijah**

Please read 1 Kings 18:1-40, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/9xiyljA9qz0>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is lesson one in a series of three lessons about the power that God gives to His faithful people. We too can be very powerful if we believe in God and live a righteous life.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice"***

***1 King 18:38***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ The word of the Lord came to Elijah saying: "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." At that time there was severe famine in Samaria. So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. At the same time, Ahab was searching very thoroughly for Elijah to help bring back the rain. Obadiah, who was in charge of Ahab's house, was sent to search for Elijah and when he met him he said: "There is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you." (1 Kings 18:10). Elijah sent Obadiah to tell Ahab that he found him. Then Ahab went and met Elijah.

## August

### Second Sunday

- ✚ King Ahab and his people were worshiping idols. Prophet Elijah told them that this was wrong but they did not listen. When King Ahab met the prophet Elijah he started by attacking him saying: “you are the trouble of Israel.” He said that because there was no rain for a long time. (Remember that rain is needed for everything: plants, rivers, etc.). The Prophet Elijah told him (Ahab) that the real trouble was him and his people because they did not believe in God.
- ✚ The Prophet Elijah wanted to teach Ahab and all his people, before God sent back the rain, to worship the true God, who is great and powerful, and to stop worshiping idols, which are helpless. He asked him to gather all the prophets of the Baal (the name of the idol). They were 450 prophets. He told them to make an offering to the Baals without a fire and pray all day long for the Baals to send a fire for the offering. What do you expect from idols? Nothing happened and no fire came.
- ✚ Then Elijah made his offering asking for a huge amount of water to fall on it. He poured the water on the offering because it is known that water puts off the fire.
- ✚ Then Elijah prayed before he did the miracle. Let us discuss what he said in 1 Kings 18:36-37.
- ✚ The fire fell from heaven and ate everything even the water. It must have been a very strong fire.
- ✚ How could God show the whole world the people who believe in Him? By giving these people special power. This is why before Elijah performed this miracle, he said: “Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that **these people may know** that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back” (1 Kings 18:37).
- ✚ Then the people of Israel knew that Elijah’s Lord was the real God and that there were no other gods except Him. Then they killed the 450 prophets of the Baals.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. God is powerful and He gives His people power. If we want to be powerful and live a righteous life we must believe in God.



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



2. God grants His faithful people special talents, strength, and power so that when non-faithful people see them, they will turn to God and become believers. In our daily life as well, if the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, peace, joy... etc.) are clear in our behaviour, others will glorify God's name and may become true believers in Him.

**August**

**Second Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

## August

## Second Sunday

## NOTES

[illegible]



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church





**August**

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**Third Sunday**



**AUGUST  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**God Gives His People POWER (II) -Power to Elijah**

**Please read 1 Kings 19:1-18, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/VVXIIm27PgHY>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is lesson two in a series of three lessons about the power that God gives to His faithful people. We too can be very powerful if we believe in God and live a righteous life.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on  
coals, and a jar of water"  
1 Kings 19:6***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✚ Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, wanted to kill the Prophet Elijah because he killed their 450 prophets of Baals who did not believe in God.
- ✚ Elijah left sad and asked for himself to die. He slept and God sent His angel with cake and water to him. He slept again and God sent food for him again. The angel asked him to eat to be strong enough to be able to travel. "So he



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



rose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God!"

- ✝ Prophet Elijah went to Horeb, the mountain of God. Elijah told God that he was very disturbed, for the people of Israel have forsaken God's covenant, thrown down the altars, slain God's prophets, and they wanted to also kill him.
- ✝ God wanted to show Elijah that He is working very quietly and that He will act when necessary. God said to Elijah: "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains, and broke the rocks into pieces before the Lord, **but the Lord was not in the wind**; and after the wind an earthquake, **but the Lord was not in the earthquake**; and after the earthquake a fire, **but the Lord was not in the fire**; and **after the fire a still small voice.**" (1 Kings 19:11-12). Then the Lord explained to Elijah that He takes care of everything and will act at the right time.
- ✝ God told Elijah that there were 7,000 people who never worshiped Baal or any idols and for those 7,000 people God did not want to hurt the cities of the Israelites.
- ✝ Now God was giving Elijah power to go back to the wilderness of Damascus to anoint Hazael to be king over Syria, Jehu to be anointed king of Israel and Elisha to be anointed to be prophet in his place. This is now the power given to the "Man of God". He can anoint kings and prophets.

#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

We should not be sad about anything. God is in full control. He sees all things, He hears all things and He will act at the right time. So, we must always be happy and believe that all things will work together for the best.

**August**

**Third Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### SONGS 🎵

#### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

***“FOR THERE ARE THREE THAT BEAR WITNESS IN HEAVEN: THE FATHER, THE WORD, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THESE THREE ARE ONE.” (1Jn 5:7)***

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
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Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION  
CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**

**August**

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**Third Sunday**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

**HOLY BIBLE**

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



# St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**August**

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**Fourth Sunday**



**AUGUST  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**God Gives His People POWER (III) -Power to Joshua**

Please read Joshua 10:1-27, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/ihjxANTdy80>

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:**

This is lesson three in a series of three lessons about the power that God gives to His faithful people. We must not be afraid of anything because God supports us.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"And the Lord said to Joshua, Do not fear them" Joshua 10:8***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

✚ After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua to lead the children of Israel. God promised Joshua that He will give him power as He gave Moses: "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:5-6). In Joshua's time, there were wicked people ruled by wicked kings in different cities around Joshua and his people. Joshua and his people belonged to God.

✚ In this lesson we learn about the support and power that God gave to Joshua.



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### Coptic Orthodox Church



- ✝ Five kings of five cities went to fight Joshua, but the Lord said to Joshua: “Do not fear them.” In the same manner God is telling every one of us, who loves Him, not to fear anything.
- ✝ The Lord carried the fight for Joshua. He guided him and also threw down great stones from heaven on the five kings’ armies and many of them were killed by the stones more than by Joshua’s sword.
- ✝ Then Joshua prayed that the Lord may let the daylight last longer in a certain city and the night may last longer in another city, and the Lord did. “So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the people had revenge upon their enemies” (Joshua 10:13). Even nature can help fulfilling the prayers of the faithful.
- ✝ Remember that the enemies of Joshua did not believe in God. Not only that but they worshiped idols and also wanted to kill God’s people. Would God stay silent? Of course not, He will protect His people.

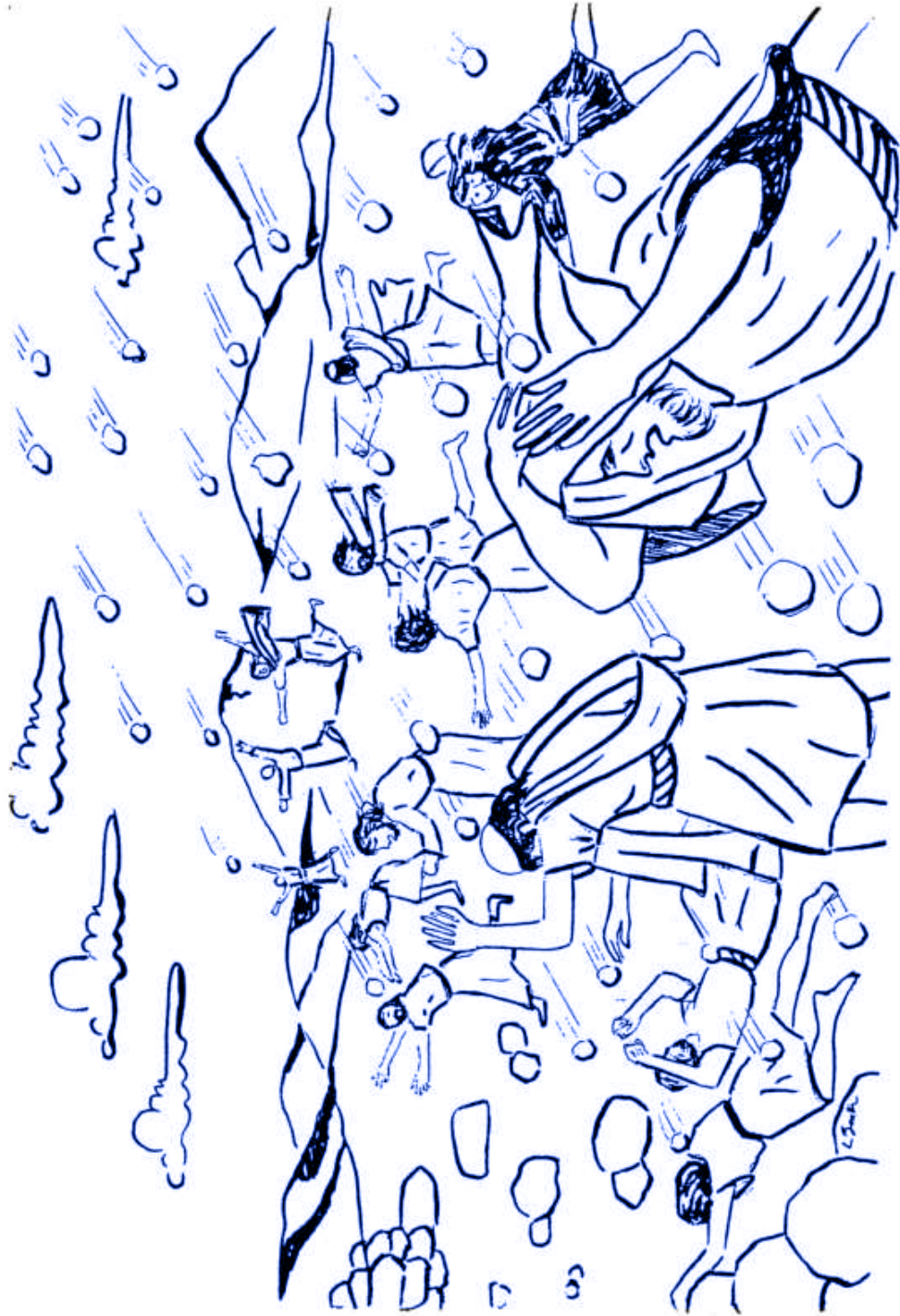
#### WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. If we are sons and daughters of God we must not fear anyone because God will protect us. But we must be true believers of God. We should pray to God and He will answer our prayers.
2. There may be some difficult problems at home (for example the mother is ill) or at school (for example the lessons are difficult) that we may think that these problems are very difficult to solve. However, as the Lord supported Joshua and gave him power, He supports us and all His people in all generations to overcome any problems.

**August**

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**Fourth Sunday**





## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### [SONGS](#) 🎵

#### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

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**RECITATION CURRICULUM:  
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CURRICULUM AT THE END OF THIS BOOK.**



**August**

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**Fourth Sunday**

**RECITATION CURRICULUM**



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

### **Coptic Orthodox Church**



**In addition to all the memory verses and songs in the lessons, please teach the following recitation items throughout the year:**

#### *Recitation 1*

##### ***We Magnify Thee, O Mother of the True Light***

We magnify thee, O mother of the True Light, and we glorify thee, O Virgin Saint Mother of God, for thou hast born unto us the Saviour of the world; He came and saved our souls. Glory be to Thee, O Christ, our Master and our King, the honour of the apostles, the crown of the martyrs, the joy of the righteous, the stability of the churches, the forgiveness of sins. We evangelize and preach the Holy Trinity, One Godhead. We worship Him and glorify Him. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord send Thy blessings. Amen.

#### *Recitation 2*

##### ***The First part of the Thanksgiving Prayer:***

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, supported us, preserved us, accepted us unto Him, had compassion on us, sustained us, and brought us to this hour. Let us then ask Him, the Almighty Lord our God, to keep us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life. O Master, Lord, God Almighty, Father of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank Thee upon every condition, for any condition, and in whatever condition, for Thou has covered us, supported us, preserved us, accepted us unto Thee, had compassion on us, sustained us, and brought us unto this hour.

## August

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### Fourth Sunday

#### Recitation 3

#### **Psalm 23: The LORD is my shepherd;**

I shall not want.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
Forever.

Note: It will be beneficial if the teacher can include the recitation items of the previous years as well.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

**Coptic Orthodox Church**



For the success  
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in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class

## Refernces

### MAJOR REFERENCES (with permission)

- (1) Books by the Thrice-Blessed Pope Shenouda III of blessed memory up to March 2011.
- (2) El-Keraza Magazine, head publisher: the Thrice-Blessed Pope Shenouda III of blessed memory, all issues up to March 2011.
- (3) Books by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, up to the present time.
- (4) El-Keraza Magazine, head publisher: His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, up to the present time.
- (5) Recorded Sermons by His Grace Bishop Rowiss up to March 2011.
- (6) Books by His Grace Bishop Moussa up to the present time.
- (7) All books by Mr. Kamal Habib (Late Bishop Biman Bishop of Mallawi)
- (8) Books by His Grace the Late Bishop Youanis, Bishop of El-Gharbia.
- (9) Books by Late Father Bishop Kamel of St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt.
- (10) All issues of “Sout El-Rabi” magazine, St. George Church, Alexandria, Egypt.
- (11) Books by Father Tadros Y. Malaty, St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt, up to the present time.
- (12) “Bahgat El-Aiad” by Yassa Mansour, 1970.
- (13) “The Seven Church Sacraments” by St. Habib Girgis the Archdeacon, 1968.
- (14) All colouring books, Father Tadros Y. Malaty, St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt.



**St. George and St. Rueiss**

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THE FOLLOWING TABLES  
OF CONTENTS REFLECT  
THE CHANGES IN THE  
TIMING OF EASTER AND  
THE ASSOCIATED,  
BEFORE AND AFTER,  
CELEBRATIONS IN  
VARIOUS YEARS

## Major

### Refernces

#### EXTRA TABLE OF CONTENTS IMPORTANT FOR VARIATIONS IN CHURCH CALENDAR AND FEASTS

*(When Easter is on the first week of April)  
(In the following Years: 2007, 2010, 2018, 2029, 2034, 2037, 2045, 2048)*

#### **SEPTEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS HEALS SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Sept., *EL-NAYROUZ FEAST*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Sept., *THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS*

#### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct., *A LAME MAN IS HEALED*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct., *THANKSGIVING TO GOD*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Oct., *SAINT PETER AND THE SHEKEL*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Oct., *THE LORD JESUS AND THE FISHERMEN*

5<sup>th</sup> week of Oct., *ABRAHAM INVITED THE LORD*

#### **NOVEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Nov., *THE LORD JESUS VISITS*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Nov., *OUR LOVE TO THE LORD JESUS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Nov., *SAMUEL'S LOVE FOR GOD*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Nov., *DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD*

#### **DECEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Dec., *THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Dec., *THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec., *ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Dec., *THE NEW YEAR*

#### **JANUARY**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan., *THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Jan., *EPIPHANY*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., *FRIENDSHIP*

5<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., *OBEDIENCE*



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### **FEBRUARY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb., ***SUNDAY: A HOLY CONVOCATION***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb., ***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb., ***GOD BLESSES OUR HOMES***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of Feb., ***WE WISH TO SEE JESUS***

#### **MARCH**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, ***GOD KNOWS AND SEES EVERYTHING***  
(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March, ***THE GREAT LENT***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, ***PALM SUNDAY***  
(taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April)
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of March, ***THE POWER OF CHRIST IN HIS CRUCIFIXION***  
(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April)

#### **APRIL**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of April, ***THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST,***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of April)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, ***THE LORD JESUS GRANTED***  
(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (I)***  
(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March)
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of April, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (II)***  
(taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March)

#### **MAY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, ***WHEN MILLIONS SAW ST. MARY***  
(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May, ***THE ASCENSION FEAST***  
(taken from 1<sup>st</sup> week of June)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May, ***PENTECOST***  
(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June)
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of May, ***GOD IS THE SOURCE***

## Major

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### Refernces

#### **JUNE**

1<sup>st</sup> week of June, ***THE LORD SENDS EZRA***

(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May)

2<sup>nd</sup> week of June, ***LET US BE KIND TO THE DISABLED***

(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May)

3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, ***ELIJAH***

4<sup>th</sup> week of June, ***SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE***

#### **JULY**

1<sup>st</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST ( I***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST (II)***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, ***THE PARABLE OF***

4<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***

5<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***

#### **AUGUST**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Aug., ***THE VIRGIN MARY AND***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( I )***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( II )***

4<sup>th</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( III )***



# **St. George and St. Rueiss**

## **Coptic Orthodox Church**



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*(When Easter is on the second week of April)*

*(In the following Years: 2012, 2015, 2017, 2023, 2026, 2028, 2031, 2039, 2042, 2050)*

#### **SEPTEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS HEALS SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Sept., *EL-NAYROUZ FEAST*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Sept., *THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS*

#### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct., *A LAME MAN IS HEALED*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct., *THANKSGIVING TO GOD*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Oct., *SAINT PETER AND THE SHEKEL*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Oct., *THE LORD JESUS AND THE FISHERMEN*

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#### **NOVEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Nov., *THE LORD JESUS VISITS*

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Nov., *OUR LOVE TO THE LORD JESUS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Nov., *SAMUEL'S LOVE FOR GOD*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Nov., *DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD*

#### **DECEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Dec., *THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN*

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3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec., *ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Dec., *THE NEW YEAR*

#### **JANUARY**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan., *THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Jan., *EPIPHANY*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., *FRIENDSHIP*

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## Major

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### Refernces

#### ***FEBRUARY***

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb., ***SUNDAY: A HOLY CONVOCATION***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb., ***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb., ***GOD BLESSES OUR HOMES***
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (II)***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, ***THE GREAT LENT***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March)
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## St. George and St. Rueiss

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## References

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(When Easter is on the third week of April)

(In the following Years: 2006, 2011, 2014, 2022, 2025, 2033, 2036, 2038, 2041, 2044, 2047, 2049)

#### SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS HEALS SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW*

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3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec., *ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Dec., *THE NEW YEAR*

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1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan., *THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS*

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Jan., *EPIPHANY*

4<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., *FRIENDSHIP*

5<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., *OBEDIENCE*



## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### **FEBRUARY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb., ***SUNDAY: A HOLY CONVOCATION***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb., ***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb., ***GOD BLESSES OUR HOMES***
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#### **MARCH**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (I)***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (II)***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, ***GOD KNOWS AND SEES EVERYTHING***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of March, ***THE GREAT LENT***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March)

#### **APRIL**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of April, ***PALM SUNDAY***  
(taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, ***THE POWER OF CHRIST IN HIS CRUCIFIXION***  
(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April, ***THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of April)
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of April, ***THE LORD JESUS GRANTED***  
(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May)

#### **MAY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, ***WHEN MILLIONS SAW ST. MARY***  
(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May, ***THE LORD SENDS EZRA***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May, ***LET US BE KIND TO THE DISABLED***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of May, ***THE ASCENSION FEAST***  
(taken from 1<sup>st</sup> week of June)

#### **JUNE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of June, ***PENTECOST***  
(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June, ***GOD IS THE SOURCE***  
(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of May)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, ***ELIJAH***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of June, ***SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE***

## Major

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### Refernces

#### ***JULY***

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST ( I***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST ( II )***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, ***THE PARABLE OF***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***
- 5<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***

#### ***AUGUST***

- 1<sup>st</sup> week of Aug., ***THE VIRGIN MARY AND***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( I )***
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( II )***
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER ( III )***



# **St. George and St. Rueiss**

## **Coptic Orthodox Church**



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*(When Easter is on the first week of May)*

*(In the Following Years: 2013, 2016, 2021, 2024, 2027, 2032, 2040, 2043)*

#### **SEPTEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Sept., **JESUS HEALS SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW**

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Sept., **EL-NAYROUZ FEAST**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept., **JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE**

4<sup>th</sup> week of Sept., **THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS**

#### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Oct., **A LAME MAN IS HEALED**

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct., **THANKSGIVING TO GOD**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Oct., **SAINT PETER AND THE SHEKEL**

4<sup>th</sup> week of Oct., **THE LORD JESUS AND THE FISHERMEN**

5<sup>th</sup> week of Oct., **ABRAHAM INVITED THE LORD....**

#### **NOVEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Nov., **THE LORD JESUS VISITS**

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Nov., **OUR LOVE TO THE LORD JESUS**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Nov., **SAMUEL'S LOVE FOR GOD**

4<sup>th</sup> week of Nov., **DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD...**

#### **DECEMBER**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Dec., **THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN**

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Dec., **THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec., **ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH**

4<sup>th</sup> week of Dec., **THE NEW YEAR**

#### **JANUARY**

1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Jan., **THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS**

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Jan., **EPIPHANY**

4<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., **FRIENDSHIP**

5<sup>th</sup> week of Jan., **OBEDIENCE**

## Major

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### Refernces

#### ***FEBRUARY***

1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb., ***SUNDAY: A HOLY CONVOCATION***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb., ***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES....***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb., ***GOD BLESSES OUR HOMES***

4<sup>th</sup> week of Feb., ***WE WISH TO SEE JESUS***

#### ***MARCH***

1<sup>st</sup> week of March, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (I)....***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of March, ***LOVE LEADS TO ACTION (II)....***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, ***GOD KNOWS AND SEES EVERYTHING***

4<sup>th</sup> week of March, ***ELIJAH***, (taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June)

#### ***APRIL***

1<sup>st</sup> week of April, ***WHEN MILLIONS SAW ST. MARY 3***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, ***THE GREAT LENT***

(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of March)

3<sup>rd</sup> week of April, ***PALM SUNDAY***

(taken from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April)

4<sup>th</sup> week of April, ***THE POWER OF CHRIST IN HIS CRUCIFIXION***

(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April)

#### ***MAY***

1<sup>st</sup> week of May, ***THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST***

(taken from the 4<sup>th</sup> week of April)

2<sup>nd</sup> week of May, ***THE LORD JESUS GRANTED***

(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May)

3<sup>rd</sup> week of May, ***LET US BE KIND TO THE DISABLED***

4<sup>th</sup> week of May, ***GOD IS THE SOURCE***



## **St. George and St. Rueiss**

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#### ***JUNE***

1<sup>st</sup> week of June, ***THE LORD SENDS EZRA***

(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May)

2<sup>nd</sup> week of June, ***THE ASCENSION FEAST***

(taken from 1<sup>st</sup> week of June)

3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, ***PENTECOST***

(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June)

4<sup>th</sup> week of June, ***SOLOMON BUILT A TEMPLE***

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1<sup>st</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST (I)***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of July, ***THE APOSTLES' FEAST (II)***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, ***THE PARABLE OF***

4<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***

5<sup>th</sup> week of July, ***GOD EXPECTS BELIEVERS***

#### ***AUGUST***

1<sup>st</sup> week of Aug., ***THE VIRGIN MARY AND***

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER (I)***

3<sup>rd</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER (II)***

4<sup>th</sup> week of Aug., ***GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE POWER (III)***

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Sept., *EL-NAYROUZ FEAST*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Sept., *JESUS FEEDS THE HUNGRY PEOPLE*
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- 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Dec., *ST. MARY VISITS ST. ELIZABETH*
- 4<sup>th</sup> week of Dec., *THE NEW YEAR*

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- 1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan.
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## St. George and St. Rueiss

### Coptic Orthodox Church



#### **FEBRUARY**

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(taken from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May)

***LET US BE KIND TO THE DISABLED***

(taken from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May)

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(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May)

2<sup>nd</sup> week of June,

3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, ***THE ASCENSION FEAST***

(taken from 1<sup>st</sup> week of June)

4<sup>th</sup> week of June, ***PENTECOST***

(taken from the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June 3)

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