



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

GRADE FOUR

Revised Edition 2021

PREPARATION AND WRITING

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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 ΗΓΑΓΡΙΑΡΧΗΣ ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΗΡΙΟΥ
ΚΟΡΘΟΔΩΣΟΣ

بِسْمِ الْبَرَكَةِ الْإِبْرَاهِيمِيَّةِ الْاَنْثُوذَكِيَّةِ

Date { / / 19
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الى الدينيه المباركيه القوي مرقس الياس عبد المسيح
والذين تادرس يعقوب ملطي

سلام رحبه وبعد ،

نارني ابنا د. محفوظ وسعه المنهج القترح لدارس
التربية الكنسية بالمهجر . وقد درست معه الخطوط الاساسية
للمنهج ، دوره الدخول في التفاصيل . وايدت له بعض ملاحظات
من جهة مناهج هذه العقيدة والحقق : وفي الواقع انه الجهد المبذول
جهد كبير جداً يستحق الشكر . ومع ذلك تحتاج دروس الكتاب
المقدس الى زيادة . وسأرسل لكم ملاحظات اخري بالتفصيل بمشيئة
الرب .

فليبارك الرب كل ما قام به ابنا محفوظ من جهود في اعداد
المنهج ، وفي جميع المادة ، وفي عمل الترجمة . وليبارك الرب
ايضاً كل من اشتركوا في العمل ، وفي المراجعة
وليكنه صدقنا هو ما نستطيع الوصول اليه من كان على قدر
امكانياتنا . ويمكنه تزويد المنهج ايضاً بالصورة المناسبة والتي
تقرها كنيتنا من النواحي العقيدية والطقسية والتاريخية
الرب معكم . كودنا بخير

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سيد القديسة اعزلك

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 subjects. 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 upbringing 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).

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,

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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 upbringing 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 upbringing 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 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,

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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 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.

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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 interaction with the teacher. Above all, the teachers should define clearly the purpose behind the lesson and present it in the form of problems that attract the attention of the students.
- 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, but it is 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 with the life of the

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children and related to the problems they face. We should provide guidance that is needed most for them.

- 4) The teacher must present the lesson and illustrate it with relevant information. It should be presented as a coherent unity without ambiguity or contradiction. The teacher may use illustrations to help him/her explain what he/she means.
- 5) Application of Christian principles to 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 may also 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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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.

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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.

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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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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.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



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.
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.

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

10. 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.
11. 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.

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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 proven 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. 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.

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

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

THE PREPARATION OF

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- 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.

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.

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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

AGE 9 TO 10 YEARS

INTRODUCTION

TEACHING IN GRADE 4 (AGE 9 TO 10 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 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, and 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 as colouring, cutting and pasting pictures, etc.
- 5) Although 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ as the One who was innocent and accepted suffering, but His suffering and death were not the end, as 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 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 of back to the total again. Children should love the teacher, the class, the lesson and come very anxiously to class.



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**SEPTEMBER
FIRST SUNDAY**

“THE FIRST LIE AND THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT”

Please read the attached material entitled, “The First Lie and the Forbidden Fruit”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/VG3D9EOwSyc>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To show that the devil is the greatest liar. We must not listen to him. We must keep in mind to speak only the truth.

MEMORY VERSE:

The serpent said, “you will not surely die” Genesis 3:4

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Introduction:

Children please listen to this scenario: Once you forgot to do your homework and when you were asked by your teacher you lied and said that your mom was not feeling well and you had to look after your younger siblings. Your teacher called home and finds out that you were not telling the truth. Discuss the reasons for doing this and the consequences of this lie. What do the Ten Commandments tell us about lying?

- + Tell the story of Adam and Eve, and then start by emphasizing that God wanted Adam and Eve to live in the Garden of Eden, enjoy it and live a very

SEPTEMBER

FIRST Sunday

peaceful life. God loved Adam and Eve a lot.

- + Eve had a bad conversation with the serpent. As usual he lied to Eve and convinced her not to obey God saying, “You will not surely die” Gen. 3:4 if you eat from the forbidden fruit.
- + Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden. They spiritually died, because anyone living away from God is considered to be spiritually dead. Adam and Eve became miserable, led a sinful life and were under the influence of the devil.
- + God, being merciful, had prepared a plan of salvation for all mankind.
- + Please tell the story of Isaac and Jacob. Jacob lied to get his father’s blessing (birthright) from his brother Esau. As a result he suffered greatly when his uncle and sons had lied to him. Please read the attached material.
- + All this teaches us that we must not discuss anything with the devil or let him lead us to doubt the word of God. The main mistake that Eve committed was that she allowed the questioning of God’s word and discussed things with the serpent.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Take time to think before you act because the devil can give you wrong ideas and make you fall into temptation.
2. Do not lie.
3. Large mistakes usually start with a small mistake. Giving the devil a chance to tempt us with a small mistake leads to a much bigger mistake. Example: A younger brother used to steal small things from his old brother. He got used to that and then he stole something from a store and fell into a huge problem. Let us all be careful from the temptations of the devil even from “small sins.”

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SONGS 🎵

O TAKE MY HAND DEAR SAVIOUR

“Lead me and guide me ... For You are my strength.” (Ps 31:3,4)

O take my hand Dear Saviour
Till at my journey's ending

and please lead me
I'll dwell with Thee

REFRAIN

I need Thee, O Lord
O bless me, my Lord

I need Thee
I come to Thee

Thou Mighty God of ages
When the tempest rages

O be Thou near
I need not fear

When evening shadows lengthen
My faith heart Saviour strengthen

the night has come
and bring me home

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

SEPTEMBER

FIRST Sunday

THE FIRST LIE AND THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT

The serpent deceived Eve as he told her that she and Adam would not die if they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We know that Satan is the greatest liar.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree, they lost their purity and innocence at once. They did not realize that they were naked until they had eaten from the forbidden fruit; they felt guilty for this reason, and hid themselves from God. This was man's first sin, which was the transgression of the law, Adam and Eve brought death to mankind and all other living beings.

As Adam and Eve transgressed God's law and disobeyed His commandment, the grave results to their transgression, or rather sin, were:

- a) Both were cast out of the Garden of Eden.
- b) Women were to suffer the pain of child bearing.
- c) Men were forced to labour for their food among the thorns and the thistles.
- d) Death was brought on mankind.
- e) God cursed the serpent.

Consequently, we became in need of Christ, our Saviour to redeem us from the hands of the devil. Without our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and redeemer, no one can overcome the devil and go back to paradise.

Story: Jacob and Isaac

When Isaac became old, he could not see very well. His son Jacob wanted to get the blessings of his father Isaac, instead of his older brother Esau. Jacob lied to his father. He put on his brother's clothes and entered his father's room, taking advantage of his weary vision. He took the good food instead of his brother Esau and offered it to his father Isaac. Because he lied to his father, other people lied to him and he suffered a lot. His uncle Laban lied to him and gave him another daughter named Leah instead of the one he loved named Rachel to marry. Also, after selling their brother Joseph, his sons lied to their father Jacob and brought a shirt covered with blood. They told him that they found his beloved son, Joseph, dead; Jacob kept weeping for the loss of his son until he lost his sight and could not see. These are the consequences of lying!

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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

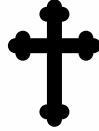
SEPTEMBER

FIRST Sunday



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**SEPTEMBER
SECOND SUNDAY**

**EL - NAYROUZ FEAST: "THEODORA, THE PURE
VIRGIN"**

Please read Romans 8:35-39

Please read the attached material entitled "Theodora, the Pure Virgin."

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Familiarize the children with the Coptic year and show them an example of a person who loved God more than anything else in the world.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ..." Rom. 8:35

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Question:

Why is the Coptic year called the year of the martyrs?

What do we as Christians look forward to in our after life and how can we reach it?

- + Theodora means "gift of God". "Theo" is the Greek for "God" and "Dora" is the Greek word for "gift".
- + The Coptic year has 13 months. Twelve months have thirty days each and one short month has 5 or 6 days.
- + The Coptic year took the name of "Year of the Martyrs" from the time of

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SECOND Sunday

Diocletian when the number of martyrs increased tremendously. Our Coptic Orthodox church has offered the largest number of martyrs in the whole world.

Definition of a “Martyr”:

- + A martyr is an individual who loves God with all his/her heart. He/she enjoys being with God and is ready to keep the commandments of God in front of the whole world, even if this costs him/her his/her life.
- + Describe the life of St. Theodora, the pure virgin
 1. She loved Jesus more than anything.
 2. She did not want to get married, in order to keep herself completely dedicated to God.
 3. St. Theodora looked at the happy life in heaven and wanted to gain the crown of martyrdom. When the Christian man wanted to save her purity, he also wanted to be killed instead of her, she said this statement, “Do not steal my crown of martyrdom.”
 4. God sent the Christian man to help her maintain her purity and to protect her from the bad people. She did not want to lose the crown of martyrdom that she wanted so badly.
 5. God helped her to preserve her purity and to gain the crown of martyrdom.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We must look at the happy life in heaven waiting for us if we listen to God and bear witness for His name. So stick to your Christian values: love, honesty, honoring your parents, etc.
- (2) If we have good intentions and goals to achieve in life, God will know it and He will help us to achieve it and much more, as He did with St. Theodora.
- (3) We must keep all our senses (eyes, ears, etc.) pure and resist all the

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temptations of the devil. We must do our best and God will help us.

SONGS 🎵

THE MARTYRS AND NAIROUZ

Come, Ye faithful people, come Where there is eternal life	to the heavenly Jerusalem and we'll live in peace with our Saviour
Nairouz is the beginning of the year Who defended faith without fear	when we remember our martyrs and lived in peace with our Saviour
Our ancestors were brave Now in Heaven they are crowned	for their faith their lives they gave And they lived in peace with our Saviour
Our martyrs won their crowns And they opened Heaven's doors	when they laid their lives down now they live in peace with our Saviour
Never flinched they from the flame They shed their blood for His Name	nor from the tyrant's sharpest aim Now they live in peace with our Saviour
By their faith they saw the land They put their souls in His hand	where triumphant now they stand And lived in peace with our Saviour
If Satan comes to divide us And His peace will be with us	the voice of God will gather us And we'll live in peace with our Saviour
Lord, deliver us from all sin And lead us to Thy Kingdom	that eternal life we may win O our King, and our Saviour

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



SEPTEMBER

SECOND Sunday

THE STORY OF ST. THEODORA THE PURE VIRGIN

Theodora, a beautiful noble virgin of Alexandria, was accused of being "a Christian," because of her refusal to marry. She said that she would not abandon her faith in God and was determined to live a life of purity. When she was told to offer sacrifices to the gods, she refused and said she only worshiped Our Lord, her helper.

So, St. Theodora was taken away to a den of sin. A Christian man, dressed as a soldier came into her room. He took off his soldier's cloak and hat and told her to put them on and escape.

When this man, Didymus, was discovered, he was sent to execution. On the way, Theodora ran out of the crowd crying to Didymus, "you have the right to save my chastity, but not to steal my crown of martyrdom." Then she was also taken and beheaded with him. Thus the Lord whom she loved very much arranged for her to maintain her purity and also gain her heavenly crown.

NOTES

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SEPTEMBER

SECOND Sunday



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**SEPTEMBER
THIRD SUNDAY**

“JACOB’S TRIP TO HIS UNCLE”

Please read the attached material entitled “Jacob’s trip to his uncle”, Genesis 28:10-16, Genesis 29:1-12, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/iGfjv73QBTg>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that just as God comforted Jacob, He will also comfort us. His house (the church) is a place made for our comfort and peace.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“The angels of God were ascending and descending on it”
Genesis 28:12*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Questions:

Give a biblical example of someone who was obedient.

What are the rewards of being obedient to God, our parents and guardians?

- + Jacob obeyed his parents as the Bible said in Gen. 28:7 “and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.” God comforted him as he traveled a long way to his uncle Laban, God said to him “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land: for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you” (Genesis 28:15).

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Third Sunday

God also sent His angels to Jacob while he was asleep. Jacob saw the angels come up and down and so He realized that God was taking care of him.

- + Just as God told him, “I am with you.” God is telling us the same. We face difficulties sometimes but if we submit ourselves to God, He will be with us, protect us, help us, and give us eternal life. We also have to do as Jacob did i.e. obey our parents.
- + When Jacob awoke, he said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Gen, 28:17. From this, we ask: what is the definition of the “house of God”? It is:
 - + A place of prayers.
 - + A place where the angels ascend and descend.
 - + A place where God speaks to his people.
 - + It is the gate to heaven.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. As we submit ourselves to God and obey our parents, Our Lord will be with us, comfort us, protect us and help us.
2. Our church is a very blessed place in which we get peace and comfort. We must go to church regularly and enjoy participating in the prayers and activities.

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SONGS 🎵

THE MARTYRS AND NAIROUZ

Come, Ye faithful people, come Where there is eternal life	to the heavenly Jerusalem and we'll live in peace with our Saviour
Nairouz is the beginning of the year Who defended faith without fear	when we remember our martyrs and lived in peace with our Saviour
Our ancestors were brave Now in Heaven they are crowned	for their faith their lives they gave And they lived in peace with our Saviour
Our martyrs won their crowns And they opened Heaven's doors	when they laid their lives down now they live in peace with our Saviour
Never flinched they from the flame They shed their blood for His Name	nor from the tyrant's sharpest aim Now they live in peace with our Saviour
By their faith they saw the land They put their souls in His hand	where triumphant now they stand And lived in peace with our Saviour
If Satan comes to divide us And His peace will be with us	the voice of God will gather us And we'll live in peace with our Saviour
Lord, deliver us from all sin And lead us to Thy Kingdom	that eternal life we may win O our King, and our Saviour

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



SEPTEMBER

THIRD Sunday

JACOB'S TRIP TO HIS UNCLE

Now Jacob is taking a long walk to another country. His father told him to go there so that he can find the girl who will marry him. Jacob was tired and was lying down to sleep, (because it was night) and he had a dream. Jacob dreams that he sees stairs or a ladder that is so high; it goes right up into the sky. Angels were going up and down the ladder. Then, in his dream Jacob saw God standing at the top of the ladder, telling him that many wonderful things will happen to him because God loves him.

Jacob was a long, long way from home, he was in another country. He was helping a girl whose name was Rachel, who was taking care of her father's sheep. While he was talking, Jacob found out that the girl was a friend. She invited him to come to her house. Her father would be glad to see Jacob. He would let Jacob and Rachel get married. Rachel's father was Jacob's uncle and his name was Laban; Jacob would live in that country with Rachel.

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. On the left side, there are several small, dark, irregular marks or smudges, possibly from a scanner or a pen. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

SEPTEMBER

THIRD Sunday



St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**SEPTEMBER
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE CROSS AT THE HIGHEST POINT INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH**

Please read the attached articles and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To show the importance of the Cross in Christianity, in our Coptic Orthodox Church and in our daily lives.

MEMORY VERSE:

"But God forbid that I should have glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." Gal 6:14

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Question:

What does the Cross mean to us as Christians?

- + The Cross is a sign of glory for Christians, because salvation happened through the Cross. On the Cross, God proved His love for us. When we carry the Cross, we remember the power of the Cross in our lives and what Our Lord Jesus did for us.
- + Why do we make the sign of the Cross on ourselves? Why do we put the Cross at the highest point inside and outside the church? The reasons are:
 1. The sign of the Cross has been a sign of victory over the devil in both the

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old and the New Testaments. Please read Ex. 17:8-13 and the story of the Victory of Moses through the sign of the Cross.

2. Our Lord Christ taught a lot about the Cross in the beginning of His service and in His teachings before He was crucified. So, we remember to carry the Cross in our lives (i.e. any problem we may face) thankfully.

* Matthew 10:38, "And he who does not take his Cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

* Matthew 16:24, "If a man would come to me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow me."

3. Our Lord Jesus' crucifixion has been the source of salvation. Everything the Christians are enjoying in the New Testament: (salvation and forgiveness) was completed on the Cross. Through the Cross, Jesus paid the price of our sins and died for us so that we may have eternal life.

4. The Cross is the subject of glory: * Galatians 6:14 "but God forbid that I should have glory except in the Cross of our Lord Christ by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

5. The Cross is the subject of the preaching:

* I Corinthians 1:23 "But we preach Christ crucified to Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness"

6. The Cross is the subject of strength:

* 1 Corinthians 1:18 "for the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

* St Paul mentions here that "the message of the Cross" is the "power of God," Therefore, when we mention the word of the Cross or when we make the sign of the Cross, we are filled with heavenly strength.

7. The devil is very scared from the sign of the Cross:

Every time we Cross ourselves, the devil becomes very scared, because he remembers that through the Cross, Jesus Christ defeated him and gave salvation to his people. The devil then escapes from the sign of the Cross. Remember that when St. George put the sign of the Cross on the cup that was filled with poison water, he was able to drink it without being poisoned. (Please tell the story in a bit more detail).

8. The feast of the Cross in the Coptic Church:

The Coptic Church observes two feasts in honour of the Holy Cross of Christ.

9. From the sayings of the church fathers:

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* Hail to the Cross that God was crucified on and stretched His hands for everybody.

* Adam was dismissed from paradise, because of one tree. Because of the Holy Cross, he regained his original status.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The Cross is very dear to us as Christians. Through crossing ourselves we gain heavenly strength and victory over the devil.
- (2) We must put the sign of the Cross on ourselves many times during the day: as soon as we get up in the morning, before we eat, before we enter a place, before being driven in a car, before we sleep.
- (3) Because the Cross is very dear to us, we put it at the highest point inside and outside the Church. We also hang the Cross in many locations in our homes.

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FOURTH Sunday

1) The Apparition of the Cross in the Sky

This happened three times:

1. The first time, it appeared in the sky for the Emperor Constantine the great to encourage him before he goes 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.”
2. The second time, the Cross appeared for Aelius Caesar on the doors of the city of Antioch. It appeared in the East like a pillar of light, which startled all those who saw it.
3. The third time, the Cross appeared to all people in Jerusalem. This happened in the sacred days of the Fifties’ Feast, to be exact, on the 8th of May the year 351 AC at 3:00 p.m. (about 9:00 am). A Cross appeared in the sky on Golgotha stretching to the Mount. It was very clear and was seen by all the people of the city. It stayed many hours shining brighter than the sunrays. The entire city came out to see the apparition astounded, and scared, yet filled with the great joy of witnessing this heavenly scene. Old and young, men and women, Christians and non-Christians from different places praising Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Feast of the Cross

On the feast of the Cross, we recognize the discovery of the Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. When the Jews noticed the very large number of miracles done by Jesus, they got angry and asked everyone in the Jewish country to collect all the dirt and the waste and put it at the top of the Cross. The Jewish people continued to do so for over 200 years until a very large pile of dirt was formed. Saint Helena, 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 dug out the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ from beneath this dirt. She then built a church on the Cross and the Christian people had the opportunity to visit the Cross and the church. St. Helena did this, because she loved the Cross since it appeared to her when she was with King Constantine before he went to war and was victorious.

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The First:

On the 17th of Toot (around the 28th of Sept.) is the commemoration of the consecration of the church of the Holy Cross, which is built by the empress Helena, the mother of Constantine.

The Second:

On the 10th of Baremhaat (around the 19th of March) is the commemoration of the discovery of the Holy Cross by the same emperor.

SEPTEMBER

FOURTH Sunday

SONGS 🎵

SHERE PI ESTAVROS

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

Christ has come to us
With His blood He redeemed us

from heaven to save us
Shere pi estavros

Because Jesus loves us
He died for us

He came and lived with us
Shere pi estavros

He was crucified
With wondrous authority

and obtained victory
Shere pi estavros

The Cross is my life
The starting of my prayer

my strength and my hope
Shere pi estavros

A lot of the saints
Conquered the devils

with the sign of the Cross
Shere pi estavros

They moved many mountains
Exactly as He said

and the dead arose
Shere pi estavros

And I am their son
I will follow them

proud of the Cross
Shere pi estavros

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



THE CROSS IN OUR LIFE

BY H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

On the occasion of the feast of the Cross, we mention the following points:

- + Our first relationship with the Cross starts by baptism, where our old Adam is crucified so that sin will never enslave us.
- + The Church has carried the Cross during the martyrdom period and in all the persecutions that followed it during the lapse of time...
- + The beauty of the Cross is that the Church carried it with joy and patience,... without any complaint or grumbling...

The Cross has changed into a longing that the Church desires and proceeds towards.

The way in which the Christians received death puzzled the pagans. It was a reflection of the Christians' faith in eternal joy and disdain of the world, with all its pleasures and enjoyments...

The prisons turned into temples, where hymns and prayers echoed from the Christians who were joyful to receive death...

- + The third field where we carry the Cross is narrow gate...

A person might constrain himself for the sake of God. He isolates himself from the world and all its desire. He disclaims everything for God's sake... by fasting devoutness, self-control and enduring others' offences.

- + The Cross of weariness could also be included in this field...

One toils in one's services for God and labors in (crucifying the flesh with its passions), as the Apostle says, *"He toils in struggling and crucifying the thought and overcoming oneself,"* knowing all the time that he *"will receive his own reward according to his own labour"* (ICor 3:8).

Christianity could never be separated from the Cross....

The Lord Jesus told us plainly that *"... In the world you will have tribulation"* and he also said, *"and you will be hated by all for my name's sake."* (Mat10:22)

- + We welcome and rejoice in the Cross, and see our strength in it. As the Apostle said, *"For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God"* (I Cor. 1:18)

SEPTEMBER

FOURTH Sunday

NOTES

[illegible]

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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

Fifth Sunday



**SEPTEMBER
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**PARABLES OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ABOUT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN “I”
THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER “THE WORD OF GOD”**

*Please read Luke 8:4-15 Matthew 13:1-9, and give the lesson with
emphasis on the points below.*

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/IZEO_Ls2ERs

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn how to benefit from reading the Holy Bible. As Christians, we are supposed to be similar to the good soil and bring fruits in our life.

MEMORY VERSE:

***“But others fell on good ground and yielding a crop....” Matt
13:8***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Question:

What is our number one source for learning how to be good people in general and good Christians in particular?

- + Why did Our Lord Jesus use parables in teaching about the kingdom of heaven? Our Lord Jesus used parables (i.e. examples from daily life) to explain to His Disciples and us something about the kingdom of heaven. We all try our best to

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Coptic Orthodox Church



enjoy our share in the kingdom of heaven. In this parable of the sower Our Lord Christ taught us that we must have a “fruitful life” while we are living on earth so that we have a place in heaven as well.

- + God loves all of us. He gives equal opportunity to each one of us; For this reason the sower who went out to sow, put equal amounts of seeds in all kinds of land including: the wayside, the stony places, among thorns and good ground. The sower wanted fruits from each one of these kinds of land.
- + The seeds represent the word of God sent to us in the Holy Bible. If we love God we will keep his Holy Commandments and bring fruits in our lives i.e. lead a good Christian life similar to the situation of the seeds when they fell on good grounds.
- + Our Lord Christ Himself explained to His Disciples the parable of the sower. Please read Matthew 13:18-23 and explain it to the children.
- + How can we benefit from the word of God, which is sent to us in the Holy Bible?
 1. Read daily (minimum one chapter per day).
 2. Read both the Old and New Testaments.
 3. Pray before you read the Bible so that God would send you a personal message and lets you hear His voice.
 4. Read the word of God with full respect and attention.
 5. Read the word of God in full humbleness.

Each one of us must utilize all the blessings that Our Lord Jesus has given to us and enjoy a true membership in the kingdom of heaven bearing good fruits, “But the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness (Gal. 5:22-23).

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The most important thing for us all is to have a place in heaven. We have to



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First Sunday

benefit from the word of God as well as all the other blessings that He has given to us in order to lead a true Christian life here on earth. Thus we qualify for the kingdom of heaven.

- (2) God gives equal opportunities to all people (similar to giving out seeds on all types of soils).

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SONGS 🎵

O TAKE MY HAND DEAR SAVIOUR

“Lead me and guide me ... For You are my strength.” (Ps 31:3,4)

O take my hand Dear Saviour
Till at my journey's ending

and please lead me
I'll dwell with Thee

REFRAIN

I need Thee, O Lord
O bless me, my Lord

I need Thee
I come to Thee

Thou Mighty God of ages
When the tempest rages

O be Thou near
I need not fear

When evening shadows lengthen
My faith heart Saviour strengthen

the night has come
and bring me home

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

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First Sunday



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**OCTOBER
FIRST SUNDAY**

**PARABLES OF OUR LORD JESUS ABOUT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN “II”
“THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED”**

Please read Mark 4:26-34 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/iffKH0-y7O_I

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To illustrate that we are all still very young. We know a little bit, but we are still growing. We must do what we can no matter how small it may be and God will do the rest.

MEMORY VERSE:

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things” I Corinthians 13:11

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Questions:

What did God promise us if we continue to grow in faith and worship? Give an example of a biblical character to whom God fulfilled his promise?

- + In this parable, Our Lord Jesus wanted to teach us that our life must be in continuous growth. He used the growing seed as an example.

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First Sunday

- + Have you seen a seed? Yes. When you see the seed, it is completely closed. It is very small. How can a small seed like this grow and become a big tree. God does this through His power.
 - + When we put the seed in the soil, in order for it to become a big tree, two things have to happen:
 1. Human action: to place the seed in the soil and feed it.
 2. God's action: God uses the seed, the soil and the food that we give to the seed to help it grow into a big tree through His power. One of the Saints said that without God's help man cannot do anything and without man's work God will not do.
- Similarly in our lives: who makes our bodies, knowledge, and spirits to grow? God makes the growth. But we also have to do our small part as well by making an effort in school, at home, with our studies, in prayers and in listening to God.
- + As we are growing, we must make sure that our knowledge and our faith are growing. Now suppose we do not understand something in the Bible, does this mean the Bible is incorrect? No. The Bible is correct but we still won't understand it until later.
 - + The parable of the mustard seed is a good example for a life full of fruits that started very small but soon grew. Story: David was the youngest of his brothers, and then he grew and became king, prophet and Saint.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS STORY?

- (1) Let us do our share in growing: through reading the Bible, going to church regularly, praying regularly, getting the best marks we can at school and seeking God's help in our lives. Without God's help we cannot achieve anything.

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SONGS 🎵

I WILL ENTER HIS GATES

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

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

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**OCTOBER
SECOND SUNDAY**

**PARABLE OF OUR LORD JESUS ABOUT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN “III”
THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN “WHO IS
THE CLOSEST FRIEND?”**

*Please read Luke 10:30-37, the attached article entitled “Christian Behaviour”,
and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.*

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/osfQg4yKtq8>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that a merciful individual will have mercy from God and will have a place in Heaven.

MEMORY VERSE:

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

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + One way to show God that we love Him is to love God’s people. Give examples of how we can do that.
- + Please tell the parable of the Good Samaritan in a story fashion, Review from the previous lessons the general meaning of a parable, its purpose and the meaning behind it.

October

Second Sunday

Who is the closest friend to the injured man?

- + A real friend is one who helps. Suppose you have a friend, you ran into trouble and asked him for help. He has not helped you. Is he a true friend? No. Do you stop loving him? No. Do you stop praying for him? No. But you must realize that he is not a true friend.
- + The Jewish people looked down at the Samaritans. The Jewish people never mixed with the Samaritans. One time when they wanted to insult our beloved Lord Jesus they said to him “we said that you are a Samaritan and that you have a devil.” In this parable, Jesus wanted to prove that a good person is measured by what he or she does not by anything else.
- + Do we help each other? Do we care for each other? Do we care for our younger ones? Are we kind to them? See the memory Verse. Let the children know this memory verse by heart.
- + How can we become kind? God is kind and if we would like to win His kindness in our lives, we have to be kind to others. If we are kind to people when they need something, God will also send others to be kind to us when we are in need of something.
- + When we are merciful to people God will be merciful to us and will give us a place in Heaven. So, one can learn from this parable that those who are merciful will have a place in Heaven. An example of a person who had a lot of mercy was St. Mary the Virgin when she traveled a very long distance to serve St. Elizabeth during her pregnancy.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) If we are true Christians we have to behave like Christians. The first characteristic of a true Christian is love. Love is not just a word. Love is kindness.

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- (2) As true Christians, we have to be kind and helpful to all people regardless of their race, religion or gender. However, when it comes to friends, we have to be very selective. We choose our friends from among true Christians.

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Second Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

I WILL ENTER HIS GATES

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

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



CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOUR

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III

There is nothing that life with God means just faith or love or spirit without caring much about virtues or behaviour.

But the Bible is concerned with the Christian behaviour, especially about condemnation, as it says, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit."* (Rom 8:1). Then one's behaviour in the spirit is what protects one from condemnation.

This spiritual behaviour is considered an evidence of being firm in God. The Apostle, expects a very high level by saying, *"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."* (1 Jn 2:6)

Therefore, we are also expected to act according to the spirit, by taking the behaviour of Our Lord Jesus as an example to follow...

The importance of Christian behaviour is shown in God's saying, *"You will know them by their fruits."* (Mt 7:16)

This behaviour has two sides: positive and negative. Each side has its own danger. Therefore, St. John, the Apostle says, *"But 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 Jn 1:7). This shows the positive side.

As for the negative side, the Apostle says, *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practise the truth."* (1 Jn 1:6)

Therefore, our Christian behaviour is an evidence of our fellowship with God. It is also an evidence of our fellowship with the Church...

Accordingly, the Church sets apart anyone who does not behave properly, as in St Paul's letter to the Corinthians, *"Put away from yourselves that wicked person."* (1 Cor 5:13)

St John also says, *"But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who leads a disorderly life and not according to the tradition which he received from us."* (2 Thess 3:6)

If behaviour is considered of no significance and only faith is important, why then did the Apostle consider it the top of joy, when he said, *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."* (3 Jn 4)



October

Second Sunday

We are believers, but we have to, "*... lead a life worthy of the calling with which you were called..* " (Eph 4:1). We also have to bear fruit, "*Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire...*" (Mt 3:10)

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October

Third Sunday



**OCTOBER
THIRD SUNDAY**

THE LIFE OF ST. MATTHEW

Please read the attached materials entitled “St. Matthew”, “Your Eternity”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that when we love God, we will be ready to give up all materialistic things for His sake. As God called Levi to become His Disciple, He is also calling every one of us to follow Him.

MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus said to Matthew “follow me and he rose up and followed Him”. Matt. 9:9

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + What’s your favorite activity? What would you do if the Lord Jesus came and called you during this activity?
- + Our church celebrates the feast of the martyrdom of St. Matthew on Baba 12 (around October 22)
- + His name was Levi. He became one of the 12 Disciples. He followed Jesus and left everything. Can we give up something we like because of our love for Jesus? Can we stop playing to pray? Can we save some money for the poor? Levi was his old name and he became St. Matthew because he loved Jesus and gave up a lot for him. In return Our Lord Jesus Christ has given him a new life that is much happier and hence even His name changed from Levi to St. Matthew.

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- + St. Matthew wrote the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He preached Christianity in Philistine, in Side and Sour and then went to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia he entered the city of the priests who worshipped idols. He taught them about Jesus and convinced them that He is the true God. While he was preaching to them a table came from heaven and a great light appeared with it. They believed in Christ and he baptized them.
- + One time the son of the King of Ethiopia died. St. Matthew prayed for him and gave him life again.
- + After he preached in other countries, he came to Jerusalem he wrote his Gospel in Jerusalem.
- + He was martyred by stoning on the hands of Photos the King.
- + St. Anthony the Great also gave up all his possessions to the poor for the sake of God and to concentrate on the life of prayer. He became the first monk.
- + May the prayers of St. Matthew be with us.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) I will follow Jesus and give up some of my comforts, some of my toys and carry the Cross after Jesus. I will help my parents in doing the housework even if they do not ask for my help.
- (2) We are also called by Our Lord Jesus to become Christ-like and be able to attract others to become Christians.

October

Third Sunday

SONGS 🎵

I PUT MY LIFE INTO YOUR HANDS

*“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
(Matt 11:28)*

I put my life into Your hands
Lead me and guide, hold my hand
Please protect me lest I fall
Bless me and sanctify my soul

my Saviour and my Lord
and help me serve Your word
Your Holy name I always call
until I see the Lord

REFRAIN

Your tender voice I hear
Come to Me o troubled come
Come to Me heavy laden come

whether I am far or near
I will help you to overcome
and I shall give you rest

When life's troubles worry me
All the clouds will disappear
The Lord is my shield and my hope
His love protects me from the foe

when darkness is so near
when the Lord's light appear
He is my strength and my goal
until I see the Lord

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

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YOUR ETERNITY

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Most people think only of their lives on earth, all their wishes are concentrated on this earthly life. All their efforts and struggle are for its sake, but as for their eternity, perhaps they never think of it...

Your whole life on earth is not worth a twinkle of an eye, if compared with the endless eternity...

Your life on earth is just the preparation for such an eternity, the immortal life...

Maybe sticking to a worldly honour makes you lose all the respect that the saints receive in the everlasting glory...

Nevertheless, you still stick to this worldly honour and sacrifice your eternity, as if you do not care!!

Perhaps your sticking to some of the temporary or passing worldly pleasures deprives you of eternal happiness...

Therefore, you have to be convinced with the importance of eternity, put it always in front of your eyes. Everything becomes of small value compared to it.

How good is the saying of the Apostle, St Paul, to the Corinthians, *"While we do not look at the things which are seen, but all the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal."* (2 Cor 4:18)

Truly, in this view, the main difference between a wise person and an ignorant person is quite clear.

The ignorant is short sighted, his look does not proceed beyond the visible things. But the wise person looks too far, to even after death... and keeps thinking: What will become of me after I take off this body? Where shall I go? What shall I be?

And you, brother, with what are you busy...?

Where did you leave your heart? Here or there...?

For where your heart is, there your treasures will be also...

The wise feel they are strangers on earth and do not concentrate their hopes on earth, but *"... he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* (Heb 11:10)

He who gives importance to his eternity is raised above the earth and all earthly things. Nothing in this world attracts him.

The whole world is behind him and not in front of him...



October

Third Sunday

St. Matthew

St. Matthew is known by two names: Levi, and by St. Matthew the son of Alpheus. It is probable that Levi was his original name and that he took, or was given the name of Matthew (“the gift of Yahveh”) when he became a follower of our Lord. He seems to have been a Galilean by birth, and was by profession a publican, or gatherer of taxes for the Romans, a profession which was infamous to the Jews, especially those of the Pharisees’ party; they were in general so grasping and extortionate that they were no more popular among the Gentiles. The Jews abhorred them to the extent of refusing to marry into a family that had a publican among its members, banished them from communion in religious worship, and shunned them in all affairs of civil society and commerce. But it is certain that St. Matthew was a Jew, as well as a publican.

The Story of Matthew’s call is told in his own gospel. Jesus had just confounded some of the Scribes by curing a man who was sick with palsy, and passing on saw the despised publican in his customhouse. “And he said to him, ‘Follow me’. And he rose up and followed Him.” Matthew left all his interests and relations to become our Lord’s Disciple and to embrace a spiritual commerce. We cannot assume that he was totally unacquainted with our Saviour’s person or doctrine, especially as his office was at Capernaum, where he had resided for some time and where our Saviour had preached and wrought many miracles, which no doubt had an influence upon him. But the great cause of his conversion was, as St. Bede remarks, “He who called him outwardly by His word at the same time moved him inwardly by the invisible instinct of His grace.” The calling of St. Matthew happened in the second year of the public ministry of Christ, who adopted him into the holy family of the Apostles, whom are the spiritual leaders of His Church.

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



October

Fourth Sunday



**OCTOBER
FOURTH SUNDAY**

RUTH

Please read the book of Ruth, chapter 1 to 4 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/pyr3AyI7zVY>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law. God rewarded her for her faithfulness. She was very polite in her dealings with everyone.

MEMORY VERSE:

Ruth said to Naomi "For whether you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge" Ruth 1:16

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Opening Question:

How does God expect us to treat all people? What does He promise us in return?

- + The book of Ruth is known to be written by the prophet Samuel.
- + A Moabite girl named Ruth was married to a Jew who was a believer of God. When he died, she went back with her mother-in-law and worshiped God as her mother-in-law did. Her mother-in-law was an old lady who needed help. Ruth put her future on the line and went with her mother-in-law.

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- + This is the only book in the Bible that is named after a Moabite girl's name because of the very significant role that she played.
- + The Lord Jesus came from the descendent of Ruth. Please read Matthew 1:1-16. She got married to Boaz; she had a child and named him Obed. "He is the father of Jesse, the Father of David" Ruth 4:17
- + This book shows us the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ by flesh to both the Jews (represented by Boaz) and the Gentiles (represented by Ruth) and to all people in the world.
- + Ruth was very polite, when speaking to her mother-in-law, to Boaz and to the harvesters. We must also be very polite and kind when we speak to other people.
- + Ruth showed a lot of love to her mother-in-law. See the memory verse.
- + When Naomi and Ruth entered Bethlehem, the whole city was moved and they asked: Is this Naomi? They all expected Naomi to be back to her land with her husband and her children and all her belongings. But she came back with nothing except her daughter-in-law. But the Lord worked with her and the Bible said "for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons...." Ruth 4:15
- + Boaz became Ruth's husband. Ruth gave birth to Obed. God rewarded Ruth. She was polite, she had love and she sacrificed her own life to accompany her mother-in-law.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) God looks from up above. When we do good things to others, He will reward us generously.
- (2) We have to be polite when we deal with all kinds of people.
- (3) As God worked with Naomi and Ruth, He is willing to work with us. The church prays saying to God "participate in the work of thy servants". Let us also pray in our personal prayers asking God to work with us.

October

Fourth Sunday

SONGS 🎵

I PUT MY LIFE INTO YOUR HANDS

**“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
(Mat 11:28)**

I put my life into Your hands
Lead me and guide, hold my hand
Please protect me lest I fall
Bless me and sanctify my soul

my Saviour and my Lord
and help me serve Your word
Your Holy name I always call
until I see the Lord

REFRAIN

Your tender voice I hear
Come to Me o troubled come
Come to Me heavy laden come

whether I am far or near
I will help you to overcome
and I shall give you rest

When life's troubles worry me
All the clouds will disappear
The Lord is my shield and my hope
His love protects me from the foe

when darkness is so near
when the Lord's light appear
He is my strength and my goal
until I see the Lord

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

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



Moses

November

First Sunday



**NOVEMBER
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF EXODUS “I” - THE NEED FOR
SALVATION FROM THE SLAVERY IN EGYPT**

Please read chapter 1 of Exodus and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below

VIDEO: <https://v637g.app.goo.gl/Rs78AgDKXkFq5S256>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is a series of 4 lessons from the book of Exodus. We would like to emphasize God’s love and His plan to help His people. In this lesson we would also like to show that the suffering of the Israelites in Egypt is similar to the suffering we experience when leading a sinful life.

MEMORY VERSE:

“But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew.” Ex, 1:12

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Chapter 1: Israel’s suffering in Egypt and the need for salvation from the slavery in Egypt:
- + Exodus 1:1-7 “The Hebrews in Egypt”
The existence of the Hebrews in Egypt happened when Jacob and his family brought the Hebrews in Egypt and they increased in number and became strong. Joseph was the first one to come to Egypt when his brothers sold him. Later on, he helped the whole world overcome the famine.

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- + Exodus 1:8-14 “Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt”
The Jews were under the authority of the Egyptians. The Egyptians made the children of Israel their slaves. The new King of Egypt did not know Joseph and was very afraid of their growth. He made a plan to destroy them. This is similar to what the devil practices on us when he sees our spiritual growth.
- + Exodus 1:15-22 “Killing of the newborn males” The killing of the males: The king wanted to weaken the Hebrews by having a minimum number of men. So he ordered the killing of all newborn males.
- + “But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive” Ex, 1:17. The Lord rewarded the midwives not because they lied to the king but because they had mercy. In this scenario, the king represents the devil who always likes to do evil things like killing. The devil would like to kill us in all aspects: our minds, our spirits, and our lives.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The people and their slavery in Egypt are similar to enslavement to the devil when one leads a sinful life. We have to reject the devil and any sinful actions.
- (2) We lose our peace when we lie or commit any other sin. Why? Because we become like slaves to the devil, who in turn makes us miserable beings.

November

First Sunday

SONGS 🎵

PSALM 150

Praise God, in all His saints
Praise Him, in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him, for His mighty acts.
Praise Him, according to the multitudes of His greatness.
Praise Him, with the sound of the trumpet
Praise Him, with psaltery and harp
Praise Him, with timbrel and chorus
Praise Him, with strings and organs
Praise Him, with pleasant-sounding cymbals
Praise Him, upon the cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the name of the Lord our God. Alleluia
Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever and to the ages of ages, Amen Alleluia, Alleluia
Glory be to Thee, our God Alleluia.
Glory be to our God. Alleluia
O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hear us and have mercy upon us.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:
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St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



November

Second Sunday



**NOVEMBER
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF EXODUS “II” - “THE PREPARATION OF
MOSES TO SERVE”**

Please read Exodus chapters 2 & 3 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/8kNTUX0mWP8>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson two in a series of four from the book of Exodus. We would like to emphasize God’s love and plan to help His people. In this lesson we learn that God knows everything about us and will act to help us with His strong hands at the proper time.

MEMORY VERSE:

***But Moses said to God “Whom am I that I should go to the
Pharaoh” Exodus 3:11***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous lesson.

- + Exodus 2:1-4 “Moses in the river”
God protects Moses. God is preparing Moses for something very important: to get the Hebrews out of Egypt.
- + Exodus 2:5-10 “Moses in the Palace”

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Moses is in the palace of the king to see for himself the wickedness against his people. This was arranged by God as part of the preparation of Moses.

- + Exodus 2:11-15 “Moses serves by his own initiative”
Moses started serving God in a wrong way. He was very enthusiastic, but in a wrong way. As a result, he killed the Egyptian.
- + Exodus 2:16-25 “Moses’ flight to Median”
Moses became a shepherd and married the daughter of a priest. As a shepherd, Moses learned to be kind, patient and careful. These are the qualities of a good shepherd.
- + Exodus 3:1-5 “Moses at the Burning Bush”
God spoke to Moses from the bush which was burning but not consumed. This is a symbol of the Virgin Mary who had Our Lord Jesus in her womb and did not get burnt by His Divinity.
- + Exodus 3:6-10 “God’s call for Moses to serve”
Moses was invited by God to go to Pharaoh in order to bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. This section of the Bible says that God: saw, heard and knew about the suffering of His people and that He had a plan to save them.
- + Exodus 3:11-13 Moses tried to decline from his mission
Moses started to think of his weaknesses and wanted to decline from going to pharaoh.
- + Exodus 3:14-22 “The strong hands of God”
God told Moses to tell the people of Israel that He has seen their affliction and will get them out of Egypt. Not only did the people of Israel leave Egypt, but also God promised them not to leave empty handed but will take many possessions from the Egyptians.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

November

Second Sunday

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) God loves us and He will act at the right time to help us. He will never forsake us.
- (2) We learn from Moses' actions to be patient and wait until God gives us the indication to serve.
- (3) As Moses preferred to help his people and leave the enjoyment in the palace, we also have to do our best to serve our church. We must learn to give up our comfort, time and money for the sake of our church.
- (4) God helps the humble people. When Moses felt that he was weak for his mission, God gave him great support and strengthened him.

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SONGS 🎵

PSALM 150

Praise God, in all His saints
Praise Him, in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him, for His mighty acts.
Praise Him, according to the multitudes of His greatness.
Praise Him, with the sound of the trumpet
Praise Him, with psaltery and harp
Praise Him, with timbrel and chorus
Praise Him, with strings and organs
Praise Him, with pleasant-sounding cymbals
Praise Him, upon the cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the name of the Lord our God. Alleluia
Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever and to the ages of ages, Amen Alleluia, Alleluia
Glory be to Thee, our God Alleluia.
Glory be to our God. Alleluia
O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, hear us and have mercy upon us.

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November

Second Sunday



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**NOVEMBER
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF EXODUS “III” - “MEETING THE
PHARAOH IN THE PALACE”**

Please read chapters 4, 5, and 6 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://v637g.app.goo.gl/2YSAV47MUBRCs6yq9>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson three in a series of four from the book of Exodus. We would like to emphasize God’s love and plan for His people. In this lesson we learn that we have to be patient for things to happen.

MEMORY VERSE:

***“And I will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach
you what you shall do” Exodus 4:15***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous lessons.

Chapter 4: Moses Returns to Egypt:

- + Three miracles for the people Exodus 4:1-9
God allowed Moses to perform miracles to prove to the people that God met him and asked him to serve

November

Third Sunday

- + “I am not eloquent” Exodus 4:10-13
Moses felt that he was too weak to do the work.
- + Aaron will help Moses...Exodus 4:14-17
God provided Moses with help. Two are better than one.
- + Moses left Median (Exodus 4:18-23)
- + The start of the work (Exodus 4:27) Moses met Aaron.

Chapter 5 and 6: Let My People Go:

- + Meeting with the Pharaoh in the palace...Exodus 5:1-5
Pharaoh (who represents the devil) became very angry when he heard the name of God.
- + Increased the hardship on the people...Exodus 5:6-15
- + The complaint of the Hebrews...Exodus 5:16-23
Moses lost his patience when he said “Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people?” Exodus 5:22
- + The Assurance of the Lord to Moses ... Exodus 6:1 -13

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) If God is with us, we must be patient and not fear anything. It may appear at first that we cannot reach what the Lord wants us to do. He wants us to worship Him away from the slavery of the world (represented here by Egypt). We must be patient because God will help us to get out of Egypt (i.e. to get rid of all the bad things and the sin) and live with Him.
- (2) Two are better than one. This is why God sent Aaron with Moses. We also have to take each other's opinion and cooperate with one another.

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[SONGS](#) 🎵

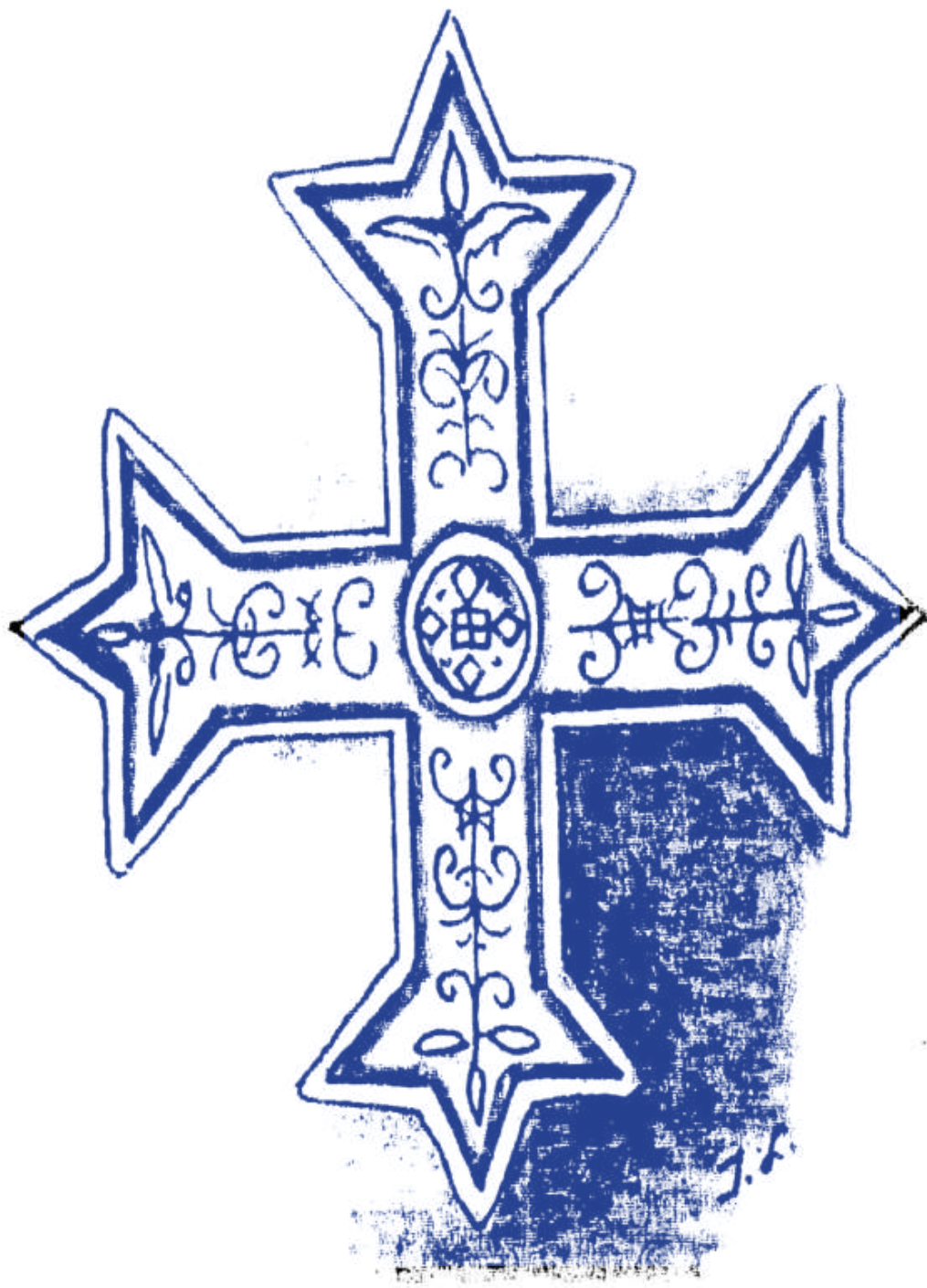
AWESOME GOD

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God

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Third Sunday



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**NOVEMBER
FOURTH SUNDAY**

THE BOOK OF EXODUS “IV” - “THE TEN PLAGUES”

Please read Exodus Chapters 7 to 12 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://v637g.app.goo.gl/7RuKfJDGAEnAJTbU8>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson four in a series of four lessons from the book of Exodus. In this lesson we learn that we can defeat the devil with the help of God.

MEMORY VERSE:

“The Lord said to Moses see I have made you as God to Pharaoh” Exodus 7:1

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous three lessons.

Chapter 7: Moses before the Pharaoh:

- + Introduction to the plagues...Exodus 7:1-13
- + The change of water to blood...Exodus 7:14

Chapter 8 to 12: The ten Plagues and the Passover:

- + A plague of frogs...Exodus 8:1-15
- + A plague of lice...Exodus 8:16-19

November

Fourth Sunday

- + A plague of flies...Exodus 8:20-32
- + A plague on the cattle of the Egyptians...Exodus 9:1-7
- + A plague of sores on the skin...Exodus 9:8-12
- + A plague of a hail storm... Exodus 9:13-35
- + A plague of locusts...Exodus 10:1-20
- + A plague of darkness...Exodus 10:21-29
- + A plague of killing every first-born in Egypt...Exodus 11 and Exodus 12

- + **Pharaoh's position with respect to the plagues:**
 1. In the beginning he accused Moses and Aaron of making the people lazy... Exodus 5:17
 2. As the plagues started, he cried to Moses and Aaron. Exodus 8:15
 3. As the plagues became more severe, he told Moses to make their worship and offerings in Egypt...Exodus 8:25
 4. Moses insisted that they must go out of Egypt to worship God. Pharaoh agreed only to let them in the wilderness but to stay close by... Exodus 8:28
 5. Then Pharaoh allowed only men to go out i.e. without their women and children Exodus 10:10. But Moses refused.
 6. Pharaoh allowed them to go out but without their cattle. Exodus 10:26. But Moses refused.
 7. Then ultimately, Pharaoh let them all go under the huge power of God in the tenth plague.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We can say no to the devil and refuse to do anything bad.
- (2) We must insist on worshiping God while we are free from the devil (represented by Pharaoh and the Egyptians).
- (3) No matter how strong the devil is, (represented by the pharaoh) God is much stronger and He can protect us and save us from the devil.

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- (4) When we say that the Lord Jesus is our Saviour, we mean that He saves us from slavery of sin and the devil as He saved his people from slavery in Egypt.

November

Fourth Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

AWESOME GOD

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God

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

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



December

First Sunday



**DECEMBER
FIRST SUNDAY**

**WHEN IT COMES TO GOD, DO NOT SAY: “HOW” AS
ZECHARIAH DID**

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:

We must trust the promises of God and not question Him. Let the children understand that when the Lord Jesus came he fulfilled His promise. God does things His own way.

MEMORY VERSE:

“For he will be great before the Lord” Luke 1:15

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Please read the Bible to the class, Luke 1:5-25 and explain as you go along.
- + Describe the conditions in which St. John was born. His parents were too old to have a son, but they kept praying. God promised that when we pray in faith, He will give us what we need and much more. Remember that God is our heavenly Father who loves us very much. We must trust God’s promises and always pray with faith.
- + Zechariah remained silent because he did not believe the message of God. He could not comprehend God’s love and instead questioned Him. What God was about to do was above Zechariah’s understanding. That is why he questioned Him.

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- + Archangel Gabriel appeared in the Altar. He was shining and brought good news, Zechariah was afraid.
- + Ask the children to list what they know about St. John the Baptist from what is mentioned in Luke 1:5-25: concerning his life, his personality and his role.
- + Before the Lord Jesus came, St. John the Baptist told the people that Jesus is God incarnate, the Lamb of God, and the Saviour. This was the job of St. John the Baptist; to tell people about Christ. What would you like to do when you grow up? Please ask the children this question. Would anyone like to work as a preacher or in a church to serve God?
- + Even if we do not understand what the Bible is teaching us, we must trust God, obey God, and say no to the devil. As we grow older, we shall understand more.
- + God promised Adam and Eve when they committed the original sin, that He would save them again. Many centuries passed by, but God's promise held true.
- + Let us be happy these days. Why? Because it is nearly Christmas. What is the main purpose of this occasion? The main purpose is the birth of Jesus Christ; we celebrate this because He came to save us.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) As God fulfilled His promise, we must also fulfill our promises to our parents, friends and all people. Let us question only the devil. Never question God Who loves us.
- (2) When we pray let us only submit our requests to God and not question Him. God has His ways which are above our understanding.

December

First Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

FEAST OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST: VERSES OF THE CYMBALS

Hiten ni epresveya ente
pisengenees en
Emmanueel Youannis
epshiri en Zakhareyas,
Epchois..

Through the intercessions
Of the kinsman of Emmanuel
John the son of Zachariah
O Lord grant us the
forgiveness of our sins.

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

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



December

Second Sunday



**DECEMBER
SECOND SUNDAY**

**“THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS WAS ANNOUNCED”
“LET US BE OBEDIENT”**

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 let the children rejoice for this joyful news and know these events by heart.

MEMORY VERSE:

*Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord!” Luke
1:38*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Start by reviewing the story of the birth of St. John the Baptist. The conversation between the Angel and Zechariah was different from the one with the Virgin Mary. The Angel started greeting the Virgin Mary to the extent that she was very surprised.
- + Zechariah did not believe the message of the angel. The Virgin Mary believed and obeyed.
- + Ask the children to talk about the main characteristics of the Virgin Mary: simplicity (“let it be to me according to your word”), humility, and obedience “I am the handmaid of the Lord.”
- + **Discuss:**

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What is the meaning of the word, 'obedience'? It means that we should follow God's word, even if we don't understand it now. Similarly, we have to obey our parents, teachers and father of confession. When we do so, we are winners.

- + The Holy Spirit granted the Virgin Mary the greatest gift. She gave birth to a child who is Holy. He is the Son of God. This happened because of God's love for her and her obedience to Him. As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit who can work in us and give us great gifts. But we must be obedient as St. Mary was.
- + What are things that make us happy? Is it more toys? Is it more food? Is it more clothes? What should make us rejoice? It must be true peace and a share in eternal life; which can only be obtained from our faith and life with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Let us be extra happy and rejoice these days as we prepare for Christmas.
- (2) Let us sing the hymns of the month of Kyiahk with the church.

December

Second Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

TO MARY CAME GABRIEL

“Blessed are you among women” (Lk 1:28)

To Mary Came Gabriel
And told her God is with you

to a village in Galilee
O Mary, peace be with you

Hail O favorite one on earth
And His name Emmanuel

you will bear Jesus the Christ
means the Lord is with us

In the manger the Lord was born
On the hay was His bed

the heaven is His throne
Christ the King He laid His head

The angels of the heavenly host
Glory to God in the highest

praised the Lord for His birth
and peace be on earth.

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

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December

Third Sunday



**DECEMBER
THIRD SUNDAY**

“ST. MARY THE SERVANT AND MOTHER OF GOD”

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

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/PSy8AUCi2qQ>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To show that we must take the initiative to serve others and be good to them.

MEMORY VERSE:

“And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her house” Luke 1:56

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Please start initially by reviewing with the children all that they know about St. Mary and her help to St. Elizabeth.
- + Let the children read Luke 1:39-56 and explain as you go along. St. Mary went into the hill country with haste to serve St. Elizabeth by her own initiative. St. Elizabeth was a very old lady and was pregnant. How did St. Mary serve St. Elizabeth? List all the housework she might have done. St. Mary is the Mother of God. We too have to help others especially around our own house or apartment.
- + After St. Mary served St. Elizabeth for three months she went back to her home and did not attend the party of St. John’s birth. She refused to be praised.

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We too must serve without asking or expecting any reward. As St. Mary refused any praise from people, God rewarded her handsomely:

1. The Lord glorified St. Mary and gave her the title, “Mother of God.”
2. The Angel cheerfully greeted her.
3. St. Elizabeth greeted her and received her in her house with joy.
4. St. John the Baptist jumped for joy inside Elizabeth’s womb when St. Mary arrived and was filled with the Holy Spirit.
5. St. Joseph honored St. Mary and helped her by fulfilling her every need as the Angel asked him.
6. All generations’ call St. Mary blessed.
7. When St. Mary departed from this world the Angels took her body away to Heaven.
8. St. Mary makes many miracles through her prayers to God.

+ With all this glory in St. Mary’s life, she was a servant of God. Even the Lord Jesus Himself did not come to be served but to serve others and die on the Cross to save us. When we serve others, we should help the needy and the elderly in order for us to follow the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Mother St. Mary.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Take the initiative to help others at home, school and in the church.
- (2) As St. Mary refused any praise from people, God rewarded her very well. We too, when we do something good to others, we must thank God and wait for His heavenly rewards only.

December

Third Sunday

SONGS 🎵

THE FIERY BUSH

REFRAIN

The fiery bush that Moses
Burning with fire from within

Is a figure of the blessed Mother of the light
Nine full months in her womb,

I open my mouth and speak
And honour Mary, the Mother of the Light

Gabriel announced to her
She carried her Lord in her womb

David, you father, spoke of you
The God of gods became your son:

You are the Mother of your creator
race
He came and dwelt in your womb

had seen in the wilderness
and the bush was not consumed

who carried the Divine Ember
with a perpetual virginity.

about the hidden mysteries
Blessed are you among women

the incarnation of the Word
Blessed are you among women

with prophetic sayings
Blessed are you among women

who came to save the human
Blessed are you among women

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

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



December

Fourth Sunday



**DECEMBER
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE PEOPLE OF JUDEA KEPT THE NEWS IN THEIR
HEARTS
“THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK”**

Please read Luke 1:57-66 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

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

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

We must learn to think more and speak less. We must think before we speak.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“And all these who heard them (the news) kept in their hearts
saying what kind of child will this be” Luke 1:66*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Please review with the children all that they know about the pre-Christmas events.
- + Please read Luke 1:57-66 and explain as you go along. Some of the comments are as follows:
 1. The Angel’s message to Zechariah is now complete and they now have a son. Their neighbors were exceedingly glad for them. Should we learn to share feelings with other people? When they are happy or sad we must share their feelings as a sign of our love for them.

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2. What were the reactions of the people when they heard the good news?

- + They were happy-Luke 1:58
- + They were afraid-Luke 1:65
- + The people of Judea discovered that all the good news was from God and that they had to start following God's commandments. They kept thinking about them in their hearts-Luke 1:66.
When we read the Holy Bible we must think about the Word of God. In this manner we can benefit from the word of God and apply it in our lives.
- + If someone tells us a secret, we must keep the secret and not spread it out. We must start to think more and speak less.
- + St. Arsanius, the teacher of the kings' sons, used to speak only as needed. He said, "many times I spoke and regretted it, but I never regretted to be silent."
- + It is also a good habit not to interrupt anyone while he or she is speaking.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Think and then speak. When you speak choose the right words and do not say anything inappropriately.
- (2) We must share with people the circumstances that they go through whether joyful or sorrowful. This way they will share with us also when we go through special circumstances.

November

Fourth Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night! Holy night!
Round you Virgin Mother and Child
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night! Holy night!
Glories stream from Heaven afar
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

All is calm, all is bright
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace

Shepherds quake at the sight!
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Son of God, love's pure light
with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth

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January

First Sunday

**JANUARY
FIRST SUNDAY**

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

- + **Christmas SONGS**
- + Thank God for the previous year.
- + Preparation for the New Year.

(Please read the attached material entitled “The New Year Prayer”.)

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THE NEW YEAR PRAYER

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Lord, make it a blessed year...
A pure year to please You...
A year in which Your Spirit prevails...
And joins in working with us...
Hold our hands and guide our thoughts from the beginning of the year till its end...

Let this year be Yours, to please You...
It is a New Year, spotless; let us not tarnish it with our sins or impurities...
Lord, be with us in every work we intend to do this year...
Silent we will be and you will do everything...
Let us rejoice in all Your deeds, and say with John the Evangelist:
"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." (Jn 1:3)

Let this year, O Lord, be a happy year...
Put a smile on each face and gladden every heart...
Let Your grace emerge in our trials and help those who are tempted...
Grant us peace and quietness of mind...
Give those who are in need, cure the sick and console the grieved...
We do not ask You, God, only for ourselves...
But we ask for the whole, because they are Yours...
You created them to rejoice in You. Then make them happy with You...
We ask You for the Church, for Your mission, that your word may reach every heart...
We ask you for our Country, for the world's peace that Your Kingdom may come everywhere.

Let it be a fruitful year, full of goodness...
Every day and every hour has its own work...
Do not allow a futile moment...
Fill our life with activity, work, and production...
Grant us the blessing of a productive and holy toil.
Let the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with us in all our deeds...

We thank you, God, for you have kept us till this hour and granted us this year, that we may bless you...

January

First Sunday

NOTES

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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

January

Second Sunday



**JANUARY
SECOND SUNDAY**

**GOD DOES NOT LEAVE HIMSELF WITHOUT
WITNESSES**

Please read Matthew 2:1-12 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/xhD8lG9VDVc>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To show if we can be as good of witnesses for Our Lord Jesus Christ as Christians who saw Him during the time of His birth?

MEMORY VERSE:

"He did not leave Himself without witness" Acts 14:17

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + When we review the events during the birth of Our Lord Jesus, we can learn many things. One of the things we can learn is that while the majority of the people at the time of Jesus' birth were living in the darkness of sin, there were some people who were good. This is why it was said about the years of Jesus' coming: "And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" John 1:5.

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- + Before the coming of our Lord Jesus to the world (i.e. in the Old Testament), the world was living a very corrupt life. Yet God did not leave Himself without witnesses. There were many examples: Moses, David, Elijah...etc.

January

Second Sunday

✝ Discussion:

Review some of those good witnesses with the children.

Note: Please tell each story briefly.

St. Mary Please read--Luke 1:35

St. John the Baptist--Luke 1:15

St. Zechariah and St. Elizabeth--Luke 1:6

St. Joseph the carpenter--Matthew 1:19

St. Simon the old man Luke 2:25

Prophetess Anna-- Luke 2:36-39

The shepherds-- Luke 2:8-20 (Tell the story in detail.)

The Wise Men--Matthew 2:1-12 (Tell the story in detail.)

- + Through those small number of witnesses including, the Disciples of the Lord; Christianity spread in the whole world and it became the largest religion.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Even though we may see many people who do not believe in the Lord Jesus, we must show our belief through our behaviour. As good Christians, we should not shout, lie, or hit, and should be kind to other people even if they do bad things to us. This way we show our Christianity in our daily lives. This is the meaning of being a witness.
- (2) Being a witness of Christ has a very large effect in spreading Christianity all over the world. Please do not think it has a small effect.

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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 led them to the manger

appeared to the three wise men
in the city of Bethlehem

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**JANUARY
THIRD SUNDAY**

“GOD IS FAIR”

Please read Matthew 13: 1-9 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/IZEO_Ls2ERs

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that God is fair. He gives equal opportunity to everyone. In return, he wants a fruitful life from everyone.

MEMORY VERSE:

“But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” Matthew 13:8

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Our Lord Jesus spoke in parables to explain certain ideas about the Kingdom of Heaven to the people and make it simple enough for them to understand.
- + In this parable, the seeds represent the word of God, the land represents the heart of the person who receives the word of God, and the sower represents God who gives His word to us.
- + God loves everyone and He is fair. When He sends His word, He sends it to all types of people, similar to the sower who puts seeds in all types of land. God

January

Third Sunday

gives everyone an equal opportunity. Hence, the usefulness of the Word of God in our lives depends on our approach in receiving the word of God.

- + Please Discuss: the seeds which fell on the wayside:
When people listen to the word of God and do not understand nor apply it in their life, the devil then comes and picks up all the blessings from their life. In this manner, the birds that came and picked up the seeds represent the devil.
- + Please Discuss: the seeds, which fell on stony ground:
We have to think of God's love. We have to put the word of God in our hearts. The seeds which fell on stony ground represents people whose hearts are rough, have no feeling or kindness, and who do not think of God's love.
- + Please Discuss: the seeds, which fell among thorns:
For people who are too involved in the world's activities and do not give time for God. We have to learn to think about heaven, pray, go to church, and participate with others in God's work.
- + Please Discuss: the seeds, which fell on good ground:
Christians are supposed to have good hearts. God Has given us His spirit to help us lead our lives, understand His word and bring fruits in our lives. But we have to repent and be humble for the Holy Spirit to work in us.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) God loves each one of us and He gives us many gifts and blessings. But God is also fair and wants to see that we are doing well and benefiting from these blessings. This is just fair.
- (2) As Christians, we can lead a very happy life if we maintain our hearts pure through regular repentance and reading of the Holy Scriptures. We have to maintain the purity that we obtained after our Baptism.

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SONGS 🎵

I WILL ENTER HIS GATES

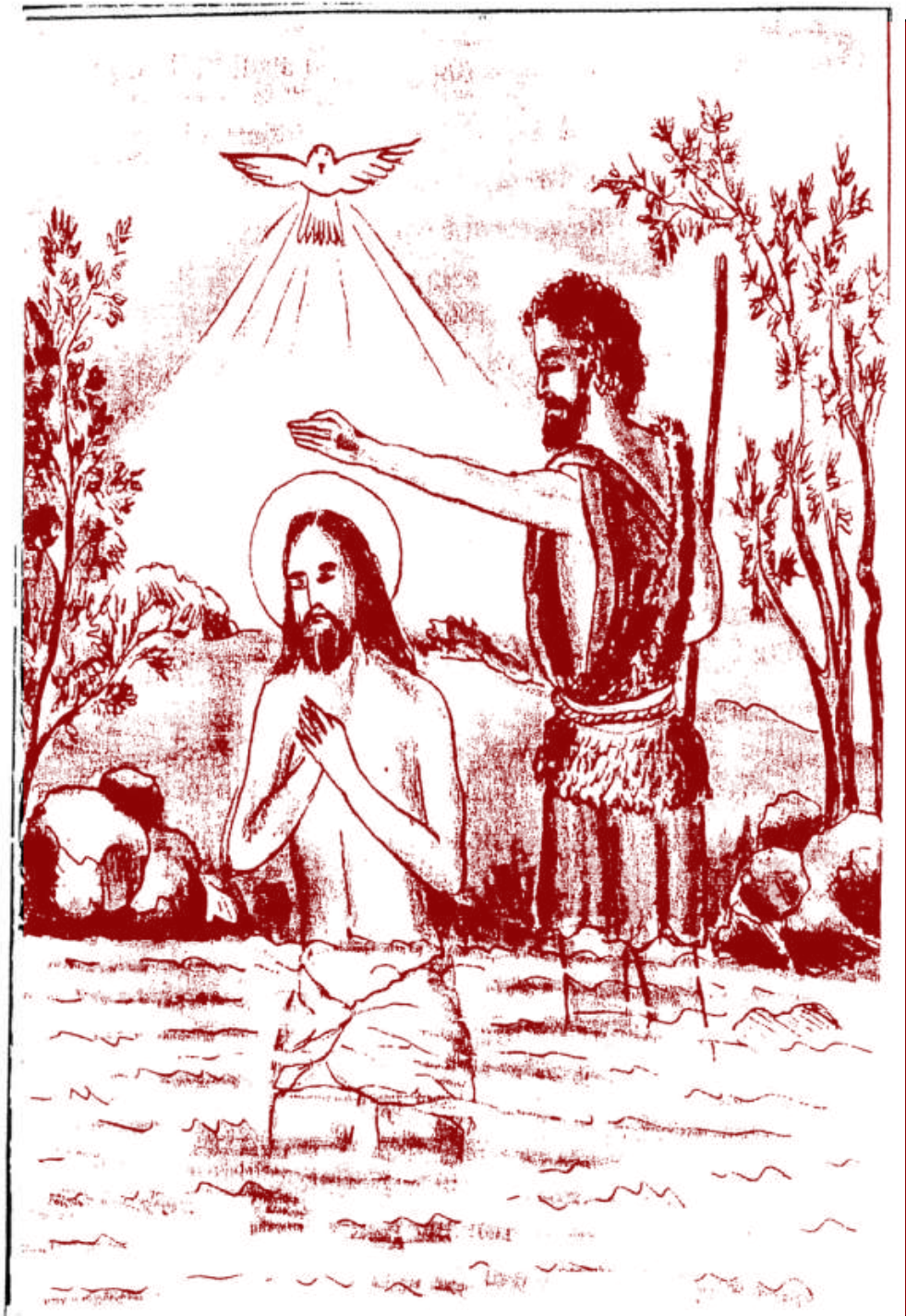
I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

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**JANUARY
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**LESSONS BENEFITED FROM THE EPIPHANY
IN BAPTISM WE BECOME NEWLY BORN.**

Please read Matthew 3:13-17, the attached material entitled “What is Epiphany?”, “Contemplation on the Epiphany”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/9_dr9njVzKM

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that when we were baptized we became children of God. None of us were born Christian. Baptism is our second birth; our first one is from Mom and Dad.

MEMORY VERSE:

“The heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove” Matthew 3:16

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Opening Question:
Why do we get baptized?
What is the meaning of epiphany?
Did the Lord Jesus need to be baptized?
- + Start by describing what happened when Our Lord Jesus was baptized by St. John. A great multitude of sinners came to remember that they must repent. This

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is similar to washing themselves in the water of the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Among those people came Jesus Who had no sin. He went to St. John although He did not have to be baptized since Jesus is God and John is a person created by God. Jesus did it to show us our need of baptism and hence, He established the sacrament of baptism. Baptism means new birth. It makes a big change in the individual's life. Before it the devil had an authority on the individual and after it the devil would have no authority and can only fight the individual from the outside.

- + When Jesus was being baptized by St. John, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove. The Father's voice was heard saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

What happens when a child is baptized?

1. Abouna first prays on the water and uses 3 types of oil and several passages are read from the Bible. Thus the water has a special power for Baptism. The Priest also prays on the person to be baptized and prepares him or her for baptism.
2. Abouna immerses the child 3 times in the water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In Baptism, all sins that are inherited from Adam and Eve are washed away and the child becomes a child of God. Now, when the child grows up, he or she can pray and say "Our Father who art in heaven." This is because God becomes his or her heavenly Father. What does this mean? Let us discuss.
3. The individual will have a great Christian life here on earth. Read John 10:10
4. Also in heaven, the individual will have a place in the Paradise reserved for him or her. How can you get to that place, which is reserved for you? Love God, love people, believe in God and pray in brief to be a good Christian.
5. After Abouna baptizes the child, he anoints him or her with myroun oil or crysma oil and prays for him or her to accept the Holy Spirit (36 times on his or her joints and openings). "You are an Altar of God and the Spirit of God is inside you."

Note:

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Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.



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WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Our baptism day is the day in which we become God's children. It is a new birth. As God's children we have to behave accordingly.
As God's children we have eternal life and a crown is reserved for us.
- (2) We should celebrate two birthdays each year: the first birthday is from Mom and Dad and the second birthday is from God in Baptism.
- (3) As the newly baptized person wears a white garment after Baptism to signify full purity, we must always remember to keep ourselves pure through regular repentance.

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SONGS 🎵

THE EPIPHANY

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Mat 3:17)

On Epiphany every year
We celebrate once a year

we are happy with one accord
the baptism of our Lord

On the Jordan shores there stood
Preaching, teaching, all good

John the Baptist baptizing
the people repent , sin despising

Jesus came to John the saintly
He said “ No, I am not worthy

asking him to be baptized
I am in need to be baptized”

Jesus stood in the Jordan
John saw the Holy Spirit

to be baptized by John instead
as a dove above Christ’s head

There opened were the heavens
This is My Beloved Son

the voice of the Father heeded
in whom I am well pleased

We are immersed in baptism
Our sins are forgiven

three times in holy water
new birth we have with our Father

Alleluia, Alleluia
Jesus Christ the Son of God

Alleluia, Alleluia
was baptized in the Jordan

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CONTEMPLATION ON THE EPIPHANY (El Ghetas)

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III



Adam sinned and did not ask for forgiveness or seek it...

As for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy and the only one without sin, **He stood in front of the Baptist as a repentant, representing Adam and his descendants. The Lord offered on their behalf, a baptism of repentance in its most sublime form.**

He carried their sins not only during his crucifixion, but in His life as a Son of Man. Therefore, God was pleased with Him and said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Mt. 3:17)

It does not please God to see one justifying himself, finding excuses as Adam and Eve did. Instead of judging themselves in front of God they started blaming some one else.

The Lord Jesus did not blame anyone. He took the sin of another, carried it instead of him and offered a baptism of repentance. Therefore, He pleased the Father who said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Mt. 3:17)

The one who is without sin, carried sin for our sake... He did not feel ashamed to walk forward with the sinners and ask his servant, John, to baptize Him. When the great prophet became shy of the situation, He gently said to him, *"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* (Mt. 3:15)

By doing this He gave us a practical lesson. **He gave a lesson to carry the sins of others...**

To happily pay the price on their behalf...

Not to justify ourselves, no matter how innocent we are...

And by this we fulfill all righteousness...

Would you be able to train yourself to gain this virtue?

St. John Chrysostom says, "If you are unable to carry the sins of others and relate them to yourself, try at least not to judge another, and let him carry your sins..."

If we fail to carry the sins of other people, try at least to endure their failings towards us and forgive them...

In this manner, we become like Christ, and become worthy of being called sons of God. And with the same kindness that we deal with people, God is going to deal with us...

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What Is Epiphany?



Epiphany is when Jesus was baptized.

Why was Jesus baptized?

He did not need to be baptized because He does not have any sins. He was baptized so that we can follow His example. In modesty, Jesus bowed His head under the hand of John the Baptist, although He is his creator. This teaches us a lesson in humility.

At first, St. John refused to baptize Jesus telling Him, “I need to be baptized of You and yet, You come to me,” Then Jesus told him, “If you please.” Jesus was so courteous and polite in answering St. John. Are we courteous and polite in dealing with others? Do we always say “Please” and “Thank you?”

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Trinity was manifested. The Father spoke from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I’m well pleased.” The Son was in the Jordan River, and the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove.

Jesus was baptized to teach us that we should be baptized. But why should you be baptized? I am sure you don’t remember the day you were baptized because you were a tiny baby. But you have probably seen one of your brothers, sisters, or relatives being baptized. Do you know what happened that day, the day of your baptism? The priest immersed you 3 times in the water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This had a great meaning. This was the most important day of your life! On that day, all your sins inherited from Adam and Eve were washed away, and you became a child of God, what a great honour and privilege! Do you know what it means to become God’s child? Your heavenly Father is God Himself, the King of Kings. If you were the son or daughter of an earthly king, I am sure He will protect you; your heavenly Father will take care of you wherever you go because you are His child. Whenever you are in trouble, whether you are sick or have a hard test, He will help you. A father always wants to please his children; and likewise your Heavenly Father always wants to please you. He watches over you even when you are sleeping.

When you become God’s child in baptism, you do not only have rights as God’s child, but you also have responsibilities. Any king’s child has to appear in a respectable manner. It will be a shame if a king’s child behaves sinfully. If you are the child of the King of Kings, you have to behave in a Christian way and reflect your Father’s image. You have to behave differently at school, even if the other kids make fun of you, because you are a special person, the child of the Great King, God; Never forget the most important day of your life, the day of your baptism, the day you became God’s child.

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**FEBRUARY
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE LORD JESUS DID THESE FOR ME NOT FOR
HIMSELF**

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To explain that all the actions that Jesus did when he was on earth in the flesh were done because He loves me. He did those actions for my benefit only.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew
28:20***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

From the life of the Lord Jesus, give examples of how Jesus showed His love for me?

- + The Lord Jesus is God Incarnate. All actions, teachings, and miracles have an everlasting effect i.e. they can happen again in our lives today even though the Lord Jesus is not on earth, in the flesh.
- + God became man and was called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." He is with me as He promised "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" Matthew 28:20
- + He was baptized so that we are reborn and can defeat the devil. He was baptized to open the door for us to also be baptized. He taught His Disciples to baptize all nations. Matt 28:1
- + On the mountain, He defeated Satan to show us how to defeat Satan: by prayers, fasting, reading and meditating on the word of God in the Bible.

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- He wants me to lead a victorious life over Satan.
- + In the wedding of Cana of Galilee, He changed the water into wine to change sadness to happiness. Jesus did it for me. He wants me to be happy. He blessed the sacrament of marriage by attending the marriage at Cana of Galilee. This miracle was done for me.
 - + He fed 5,000 people from 5 loaves and 2 fish. He satisfies all my needs. He wants me to have no need for anything. I just have to ask Him. I have to present all that I have to Him and He will bless it and give it back to me more blessed.
 - + Jesus opened the eyes of the one born blind; He can open my eyes to see that living with God is so good. The Lord Jesus did it for me.
 - + As the Lord Jesus gave life to Lazarus, He gives me a new life. Jesus loves me. As He raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus gives me strength to be better and to overcome my sins. He performed this great miracle to enhance my faith that Jesus is God incarnate.
 - + Even when I make mistakes and come back to Him saying, "I have sinned", Jesus opens his arms and hugs me. This encourages me to repent.
 - + Jesus offered His life on the Cross by His own free will to save me. Jesus did it for me. Nothing can prove Jesus' love more than His death on the Cross for me so that I can live. He did not deserve to die on the Cross. But he did it for me.
 - + Jesus rose from the dead so that I can say, "O Death where is your sting?" 1 Cor. 15:55, I can now defeat death. I know that even after I die, the Lord Christ will raise me again in His second coming.
 - + Jesus ascended to heaven to prepare a place for me. I have a place in paradise.
 - + When Jesus comes back He will take me with Him. I will live with Him forever. Jesus did it for me.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Everything good in our lives is from God. God came for us, became one of us, taught us, blessed us, saved us and He is with us now. Let us feel His presence with us in everything we do.

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- (2) The Lord Jesus is God and He never needs anything. He does all things for our benefit.

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SONGS 🎵

JESUS SO GENTLE

Jesus, so gentle
Pitying, loving Saviour
Pardon our offenses
Break down every idol

Jesus, priceless treasure
Long my heart has panted
In Thine arms I rest my
Foes who would molest me

Jesus, so lowly
Thou hast made us holy
Give us holy freedom
Draw us, holy Jesus

Jesus, so lonely
Teach us that only
Lead us on our journey
Through terrestrial darkness

Jesus, so broken
Be this the token
Stay with us, O Holy
Scatter all the darkness

Jesus, victorious
Teach us how glorious
Guide us, our Saviour
Lead us, holy Jesus

Son of God Most High
hear Thy children cry
lose our captive chains
which our soul detains

truest friend to me
thirsting after Thee
whenever I fear
cannot reach me here.

Child of the earth
through the new birth
fill our hearts with love
to the realms above

weary and sad
love will make us glad
be Thyself the Way
to celestial day

silent and pale
love will never fail
and bring us Thy Light
of our lonely night.

Mighty and free
death is to be
with Thy holy hand
to the promised land.

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For the success
of this Sunday
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in his/her preparation
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**FEBRUARY
SECOND SUNDAY**

**PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (I):
ISAAC A SYMBOL OF CHRIST**

Please read Genesis chapter 22:1-14, chapter 24:1-67 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/uof6QNKfooA>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study some of the personalities of the Old Testament and learn from their lives. Isaac was an excellent individual. He was a symbol of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord will send His Angel before you" Genesis 24:7

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ Isaac the son of promise:

God promised Abraham that He will give him children from his wife Sarah. Abraham believed and waited until he and his wife became too old to have children and then God gave him a son and named him Isaac. Isaac was very obedient to his parents.

+ Isaac obeyed both his father Abraham and God:

Please read and explain from Genesis 22:1-14

Isaac obeyed his father and carried the wood. Abraham obeyed and believed the



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orders from God. Isaac became a symbol of Christ because he carried the wooden Cross (like Isaac did). Isaac came back safe and alive; the Lord Jesus resurrected from the dead.

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+ Isaac and his marriage:

Please tell in more details.

Genesis 24:1-64:

Abraham wanted to choose a wife for his son from among the believers of God; God chose Rebekah to be Isaac's wife; Isaac had two sons: Jacob and Esau.

+ Isaac loved peace:

Isaac did not fight with people who destroyed his wells. Instead he went to other locations and dug up more wells. The people came back and apologized. Please tell the story in more details. (Genesis 26:24)

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Many personalities in the Old Testament are symbols of the Lord Christ. Each one is a symbol in a certain aspect.
- (2) Christianity is based on obedience. True Christians must obey the commandment of God. The ultimate result of obedience is always success for the obedient individual.

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Second Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

WHERE HE LEADS ME I WILL FOLLOW

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow Me.” (Mat 16:24)

I can hear my Saviour calling	take your Cross and follow, follow me
Where He leads me I will follow	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
If I am sick or if I am healthy	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
Whether in peace or times of war	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
I'll go with Him through the judgment	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
He will give me grace and glory	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way

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February

Third Sunday



**FEBRUARY
THIRD SUNDAY**

**PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (II):
JOSHUA AT THE WALLS OF JERICHO**

Please read Joshua 6:1-25 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/ruqGz1480uc>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Joshua did as God told him and followed His word. Joshua was a winner. Let us follow his example. He showed his faith clearly at the wall of Jericho (which represents the temptation of the devil).

MEMORY VERSE:

***"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth" Joshua
1:8***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ Background of Joshua:

Joshua was a disciple of Moses. He was sent by Moses to check the Promised Land. When he came back with his friends, they felt that the people of this land were very strong and that it was impossible to defeat them. However, Joshua believed that God was stronger and was able to give them the Land. When Moses felt that his time was almost over and that he would pass away, he handed over the leadership to Joshua. Read Deuteronomy 31:7-8 and tell it in a story fashion.

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+ **God's commandment to Joshua:**

Please read Joshua 1:7-9 and explain the memory verse. It means that God wants Joshua to know His word by heart and apply it in his life. Remember that God gives His Commandments out of love only. Commandments are not given to show authority over us.

+ **At Jericho:**

Please read Joshua 6:1-25. Joshua did exactly as God told him. He had faith that if he did so, Jericho's fence would fall and he would take over. Joshua was honest in following God's word. He was also honest with Rahab who had helped his people.

- + If we abide in Christ, we are stronger than the devil and all the world's temptation. What does the fence of Jericho represent in our modern day life? It represents all the temptation of the devil like: wrong ideas, watching TV, stealing, saying bad words, lying, etc... If we abide with our Lord Jesus Christ, we can defeat all these temptations.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We have to have faith similar to Joshua's, who believed that God will give him Jericho.
- (2) We have to be accurate in listening and doing things according to the word of God: Do not lie, love your sisters and brothers, and help all people.

February

Third Sunday

[SONGS](#) 🎵

WHERE HE LEADS ME I WILL FOLLOW

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow Me.” (Mat 16:24)

I can hear my Saviour calling	take your Cross and follow, follow me
Where He leads me I will follow	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
If I am sick or if I am healthy	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
Whether in peace or times of war	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
I'll go with Him through the judgment	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way
He will give me grace and glory	I'll go with Him, with Him all the way

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February

Fourth Sunday



**FEBRUARY
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT (III):
DAVID WAS CHOSEN BY GOD TO SERVE "A"**

Please read 1 Samuel 16:4-13, the attached material entitled, "The Sheppard King", and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/detxO5kcuYo>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study the life of David with God in a series of four lessons. In this lesson we learn that God looks at the heart of the person not his appearance. This is the reverse of what the world does.

MEMORY VERSE:

"For I have provided Myself a king among his sons" 1 Sam. 16:1

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ **God chose David:**

The people of Israel were affected by their neighbors and asked prophet Samuel to appoint a king for them. They selected a king called Saul and the prophet came and anointed him with the Holy Oil. He advised him to follow God's commandments. Saul was the first king of Israel, but he did not keep his promise to God and did not follow His commandments, so the spirit of God left him. God asked the prophet Samuel to go and select another king

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from Bethlehem from the house of Jesse. With the guidance of God, Samuel chose David, the youngest of all the sons of Jesse. The spirit of God came upon David and blessed him after Prophet Samuel anointed him. God chose David from among his brothers although he was the youngest and was not even invited to attend the celebration when Prophet Samuel visited his father's house. Why? God looked at David's heart and found him to be good for God to work with.

+ **David the Shepherd:**

David was a shepherd; he was looking after his father's sheep. Please note that many of the prophets who were chosen by God were shepherds; for example, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Shepherds usually have special characteristics of kindness, courage, and patience staying up late to look after the sheep. Those are the same qualities that are required from a leader.

+ **David the Singer:**

David was well known for his talents in playing music and writing songs that praise the Lord. Some of his very popular psalms are:

Psalm 103:1-3 - explain it to the children

Psalm 93:1-3 - explain it to the children

In our church we sing the Psalms of David. St. James said, "If someone is happy, he should sing." James 5:13

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) God told Samuel not to look at the appearance in his selection of a new king for Israel. Today too, God looks at our hearts. Let us keep our hearts clean. The world looks at external appearances, but God looks at the heart (i.e. the feeling and thoughts of the individual).

February

Third Sunday

SONGS 🎵

FORGIVE ME MY REDEEMER

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” (Ps 32:1)

REFRAIN

Forgive me my redeemer
My eyes are filled with tears

You are the living God
You'll come and forgive us

With all the world's temptations
O strengthen us, O Lord Jesus

Lord overlook our sins
And place Your hands upon us

We are your hands creation
All sinners and believers

O Lord we are not worthy
Your love is overwhelming

Our hearts You are seeking
With all his heart repenting

and bless me O Lord Jesus
pleading for forgiveness

very soon You will come
and wipe away our tears

we fall into tribulations
we are pleading O Lord

be gracious unto us
please bless us one and all

Your servants and Your children
lead us to still waters

Your gifts we're not deserving
in reverence we bow down

and blessed is the one listening
and with no turning back.

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THE SHEPHERD KING

The prophet Samuel anointed Saul to become the first king of Israel. But Saul was not faithful to the responsibilities, which God gave him. He did not obey God's commandments.

God sent Samuel, his prophet, to bring a new King. Samuel came to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem and saw his sons, one after the other, but none of the seven pleased God. Then he asked Jesse if he had other sons. There was only the youngest, who was with the sheep in the fields. Samuel asked to see him.

The young shepherd, David, came in and God said to Samuel: "Arise; anoint him, for this is he." Samuel poured oil on David's head from his horn in the midst of his brothers. God was pleased with David because his heart was pure and he followed the ways of God: "I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will."

February

Third Sunday



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in the class

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KING DAVID LEARNING TO GIVE UP HIS OWN WAY

March

First Sunday



**MARCH
FIRST SUNDAY**

**PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT "III":
DAVID RELIED ON GOD "B"**

Please read 1 Samuel 17:1-52, the attached material entitled, "David the Hero", and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/7zLAcUZkxHA>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study the life of David with God in four lessons. In this lesson we learn that God supports the people who rely on Him.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"You came to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin.
But I came to you in the name of the Lord of hosts," 1 Samuel
17:45***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ David and Goliath:

In the days of King Saul, the war started between him and his neighbors. The two armies of Israel and Palestine stood in front of each other across the mountain ready for war. Suddenly a very strong man called Goliath came out challenging the people of Israel to send their strongest man to fight him. Goliath also insulted the name of God. The Israelites were scared and fled away while Goliath continued to insult God and his people. David came to ask about the peace of his three brothers

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in the army of King Saul. He heard about Goliath and how the people of Israel were scared of him. David insisted on fighting Goliath. With a small stone, David defeated Goliath and cut his head. “But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts.” We can also defeat the devil if we are supported by God and we live as His good children. We must not worry. We have to do what we can and rely on God to do the rest for us.

+ **The Lord of the weak people:**

In many occasions in the Old and New Testaments we see God standing beside those who are weak, giving them victory.

Old Testament:

He stood with David, and Joseph. (Tell the stories)

New Testament:

He stood with the Samaritan woman and encouraged her, accepted her repentance, and blessed her. He stood against the Pharisees who thought highly of themselves. He stood with the woman who was caught committing sin when the people wanted to stone her. He told her, “Go in peace.” (Tell the stories.)

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Always feel that you are in need of God and that He will give you strength. We are all weak without God’s blessings and strength, so let us ask Him to provide for all our needs and tell Him that we are weak without Him.
- (2) Relying on God does not mean that we do not work and do our share.
- (3) Relying on God means not to worry and to leave some room for God to work with us.

March

First Sunday

SONGS 🎵

Our Father

“when you pray say: Our Father in heaven...” (Lk11:2)

Our Father Who art in heaven
We cry unto you in afflictions

hallowed be Thy name
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your name will be glorified O Helper and blessed at all times
Have mercy on Your servants

Our Father Who art in heaven

Your kingdom come To my Lord
This is my prayer and pleading

And Your Holy spirit fills my heart
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done on earth
Makes us obedient to your word

fulfilled and we submit to it
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done in heaven
Save us all from trials

on earth, You are our Master
Our Father Who art in heaven

This our daily bread
Your mercies are multiplied

Give us, O glorious God
Our Father Who art in heaven

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DAVID THE HERO

The Spirit of God left Saul and came upon David. After some days, David stood before Goliath the Champion.

He decided to save the people from that evil man as he saved his sheep from the mouths of lions and bears. He came forward to fight that evil man. The man laughed when he saw this young shepherd with a stick in his hand. David said to him “you come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts.” (1 Sam. 17:45) David killed him with his sling and stone. Goliath’s followers fled and the people of God were saved.

All the people were happy because they were saved from the enemy who attacked them. The streets were filled with people. Wherever David went, many people assembled around him. All the women were singing in the streets this song, “Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands.”

Saul heard them and was jealous, he hated David. He knew that David would become King after him. But Jonathan, the son of Saul, liked David as his own soul. God was with David and saved him from Saul’s hands. On the contrary, it happened that Saul, without knowing it, fell twice in the hands of David. He could have killed Saul, yet he did not, but he honored him as the Lord’s anointed.

March

First Sunday

NOTES

[illegible]

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March

Second Sunday



**MARCH
SECOND SUNDAY**

**PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT "III":
DAVID THE KING "C"**

Please read 2 Samuel 5:1-3, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/xPIQV2davzA>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study the life of David with God in a series of four lessons. In this lesson we learn how he became a king.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"And the Lord said to you, you shall shepherd My people
Israel and be ruler over Israel" 2 Samuel 5:2***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + In the previous two lessons we learned that God chose David and told Prophet Samuel that he was the one to be anointed and to replace Saul. David was a shepherd, a good singer, and a musician. David was given strength over Goliath and was a strong believer in God who was with him. Please review this story.
- + When David defeated Goliath, the people loved him and his popularity exceeded that of King Saul. One time, King Saul tried to kill David while he was playing music for him, Saul needed David to play music for him, because when Saul angered God by not obeying Him, the Spirit of God departed from him and he

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was troubled by bad thoughts and feelings ever since. He needed the music to calm him down. Please tell the story.

- + The war broke between King Saul and his neighbor and he was killed along with his sons. The people came to David and made him King instead of Saul. Therefore, it took a long time between the date when Prophet Samuel anointed David to become king and when he was actually made king. Meanwhile, King Saul was doing his best to kill David. David had a chance to kill King Saul but did not do it because he was sure that God would save him and was convinced that there was no need for him to kill him even though King Saul was trying to kill him with a whole army.
- + After he was made King, he did good in the eyes of God. He was fair to people, he worshiped God, he was merciful to the people from the house of Saul, and he thought of building a great temple for God. He prepared everything for the building of the temple but God told him that his son Solomon would build it instead of him.
- + One time David made a mistake. Is there anyone perfect? God sent Nathan the prophet to tell him that he sinned against God. David admitted his mistake. He repented and continued to cry for the rest of his life although Nathan the prophet told him "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die." 2 Samuel 12:13. Please also read Psalm 51:1-4.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We have to have patience and wait for things to happen. We should thank God for opening the door of repentance for us. As He accepted David, He will also accept us but we must repent i.e. feel sorry for what we have done and not to do it again.
- (2) No one is perfect. The Holy Bible shows us that so many people who were really good fell into sins but they recovered. God helped them to correct what they had done wrong. Therefore, let us not lose hope when we fall into a sin. Let us learn, repent and receive.

March

Second Sunday

SONGS 🎵

Our Father

“When you pray say: Our Father in heaven...” (Lk11:2)

Our Father Who art in heaven
We cry unto you in afflictions

hallowed be Thy name
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your name will be glorified O Helper and blessed at all times
Have mercy on Your servants

Our Father Who art in heaven

Your kingdom come O my Lord
This is my prayer and pleading

And Your Holy spirit fills my heart
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done on earth
Makes us obedient to your word

fulfilled and we submit to it
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done in heaven
Save us all from trials

on earth, You are our Master
Our Father Who art in heaven

This our daily bread
Your mercies are multiplied

Give us, O glorious God
Our Father Who art in heaven

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MARCH THIRD SUNDAY

PERSONALITIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT "III": DAVID, A SYMBOL OF THE MESSIAH "D"

Please read 2 Samuel 7:8-29, the attached material entitled "The Messianic King", "The Lord's covenant with David" and "David the Great Prophet." Please give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study the life of David with God in a series of four lessons. In this lesson we learn that David became a symbol for Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord has sworn in truth to David He will not turn from it. I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body." Ps.132:11

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous three lessons about David as follows:

- 1. The selection of David "The Shepherd King":**
God sent his prophet Samuel to select a new King instead of King Saul. The good shepherd, David, came in and the Lord said to Samuel "Arise, anoint him, for this is he".
- 2. David defeated Goliath:**
David said to Goliath "you come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts." (1 Sam. 17:45)

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3. The Messianic King:

David always appeared before God in humility, seeking the will of God and the Glory of His name. David became the symbol of the Messiah. Read 2 Sam. 7:8-29

4. The Lord's Covenant with David:

The prophet Nathan was sent from God to David to declare: "when your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish the throne of his Kingdom forever" (2 Sam. 7:12-14). Tell this in a story manner.

This promise was realized when the Lord Jesus came. The Angel said "...The Lord God will give him the throne of His father David and of His Kingdom there will be no end" Luke 1:30-33. Tell this in a story manner.

5. David, the great prophet:

The Holy Spirit guided David in his prophecies. He was very humble. David became a symbol of Christ in humility, love and kindness.

6. Activities:

1. Read the following psalms and find out verses referring to our Lord Jesus Christ: Psalm 2 -- Psalm 16 -- Psalm 22 -- Psalm 41 -- Psalm 110.
2. Compare (Psalms 2 and 16) with (Acts 13:33-37).
3. What is meant by saying that "Jesus is the Son of David"?
4. Make a wall-magazine with your colleagues, about the life of David the King and Prophet, using the story of his life in 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We should be Christ-like in our thoughts and actions.
- (2) The Kingdom of God is for people who are humble, kind and rely on God (similar to David, such a great example).

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SONGS 🎵

Our Father

“when you pray say: Our Father in heaven...” (Lk11:2)

Our Father Who art in heaven
We cry unto you in afflictions

hallowed be Thy name
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your name will be glorified O Helper and blessed at all times
Have mercy on Your servants

Our Father Who art in heaven

Your kingdom come O my Lord
This is my prayer and pleading

And Your Holy spirit fills my heart
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done on earth
Makes us obedient to your word

fulfilled and we submit to it
Our Father Who art in heaven

Your will be done in heaven
Save us all from trials

on earth, You are our Master
Our Father Who art in heaven

This our daily bread
Your mercies are multiplied

Give us, O glorious God
Our Father Who art in heaven

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THE MESSIANIC KING

David became king after Saul, when he was thirty years old. But he was sad for Saul and his sons who were killed fighting, especially for his friend, Jonathan.

David was a good king. He received power from God. Unlike Saul who was trying to establish his own kingdom, David always appeared before God in humility seeking the will of God and the Glory of His Name. He continuously chanted his psalms, glorifying God.

God chose David to become king in a very special way. He had to become a symbol for a greater king, the Messiah. The kingdom of David symbolized the eternal kingdom of heaven. This has been expressed when the Lord of Hosts said to David: "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people...your house and your kingdom shall be made for ever before me; your throne shall be established forever." David answered: "who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that thou hast brought me thus for?...Because of thy promise, and according to thy own hear, thou hast wrought all this greatness...and with thy blessings shall the house of thy servant be blessed forever." (2 Sam. 7:8-29).

With this spirit, David ruled all his life. He knew that God had given him a special mission, to prepare the way for his coming to earth. David's earthly kingdom symbolized the kingdom of heaven, which our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of David, had established: His church throughout the world forever.

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The Lord's Covenant with David

During his reign, David administered justice and equality to all his people. He cared for them with a straight heart, and loved them as he loved his sheep when he was a shepherd.

One day God sent His prophet Nathan to declare David the Lord's covenant with him: "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Sam. 7:12-14)

This covenant has been realized in the Lord Jesus Christ who has come from David's posterity in the flesh. "Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel, a Saviour, Jesus, as He promised." (Acts 13:23) David chanted with God's promise in his psalms: "The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back: 'One of the sons of your body will sit on your throne.'" (Ps. 132:11)

This promise was realized when Angel Gabriel came to the Virgin and said to her: "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give him throne of his father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:30-33) In many occasions, the people called Jesus the Son of David. Barthimaeus, the blind man, cried to Him, "Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me." Jesus entered Jerusalem as King: "Hosanna to the Son of David." (Matt 21:9).



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Third Sunday

THE GREAT PROPHET

David was not only a great king; he was also a great prophet. The Holy Spirit guided him in his prophecies. His psalms point to the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, his Divinity, His suffering and His resurrection. “I will tell of the decree of the Lord He said to me: ‘You are my son, today I have begotten you...’” (Ps 2:7) “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in...” (Ps 24:7)

Those psalms are only examples of David’s prophecies concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Paul talked about their meaning (Read Acts 13:33-37).

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**MARCH
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**PALM SUNDAY
THE LORD PREPARED FOR HIS GREAT ENTRANCE
TO JERUSALEM**

Please read Luke 19:29-44, Matthew 21:1-11, the attached material entitled “Remember O Lord our gatherings bless them”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

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

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Describe the events that led to the great entrance of our Lord Jesus to Jerusalem. As He prepared for His great entrance, He can prepare our hearts to receive Him. We must pray for this.

MEMORY VERSE:

***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.” Luke
19:38***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- ✝ Please read Luke 19:29-44 with the children, and explain the various parts as follows:
Jesus knows everything because He is God. He told His Disciples to enter the village appointed to them and upon entering they will find a colt, He told them what to say to the owner so that he may give them this colt.
- ✝ Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a colt instead of a horse. It was known that during these days, when a king entered city for war he rode a horse, but Jesus is humble. He said to His Disciples one time “Peace be with you” and He taught the Disciples that when they enter a house to teach people, they should first say “Peace be with you”.

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- ✚ In the memory verse, the Disciples were singing saying: Blessed is the King. Jesus is the king, who comes in the name of the Lord, i.e. He is coming from God and God loves people and gives them peace. The Disciples continued saying: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.
- ✚ The Lord Jesus went to the city of Jerusalem because he knew of the destruction that will happen to it. Jerusalem was a selected city from God entitled to have the offerings to God. It was expected that this city would be the first to receive Jesus and follow His teachings and believe in Him. The opposite happened; the people of Jerusalem refused Him and went so deep in evil. Please read Ezekiel 22:3-31 to see what God was saying through prophet Ezekiel about Jerusalem. Jerusalem's last chance: When Jesus entered the city, this was their last chance and they did not know this, "You did not know the time of your visitation" Luke 19:44.
- ✚ The prophecy of Jesus about Jerusalem was that after 35 years from the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem, Rome was to attack the city and completely demolish it. Blood was shed all over Jerusalem. Why? Because the city did not know Jesus and continued in their evil ways.
- ✚ In the Divine Liturgy our church prays for the blessing of our Lord in our meetings. As He prepared for Himself this great entrance to Jerusalem He can guide us, be with us in our meetings and manage our lives.
- ✚ This great entrance to Jerusalem has various aspects related to it:
 1. Many of the people who greeted the Lord and welcomed Him turned against Him in few days and said: "Crucify Him, crucify Him." Are we committed to Christ our Saviour?
 2. The children greeted Him and praised His Holy Name with heavenly praise, "Hosanna in the highest, this is the King of Israel." These words were above the head of everyone. When the people tried to stop them the Lord said, "If you stop them, the stones would speak." Therefore, the Lord Jesus in this great entrance had declared His personality for the simple people to have faith and through His faith they can get salvation.
 3. When we celebrate Palm Sunday in our church we sing for the Lord in a truthful manner saying, "Hosanna in the highest." We say it in full faith and love.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

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WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

As the Lord prepared for Himself His great entry into Jerusalem, I pray to Him to prepare my heart to receive Him.



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SONGS 🎵

THE HYMN OF PALM SUNDAY

*“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the lord! The King of Israel”
(Jn 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.

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REMEMBER, O LORD, OUR GATHERINGS, BLESS THEM

By H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Our gatherings are not when we get together, but when we meet with God, or when we meet each other and God is there in the midst, according to his true promise, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them."* (Mt 18:20)

God gathered with Adam and Eve in Paradise, and that was the first Church. Noah gathered with his family in the ark and God was there in the midst. God was also in the midst of the three young men who were in the burning furnace. God gathered with Moses on the mountain and it was a blessed gathering, the face of Moses shone with light as he came near to the real Light.

In the New Testament, God used to gather with his Disciples in any place: on the mountain, in a house where he healed the paralytic, or in the wilderness where he blessed the five loaves, or in the fields or in a special meeting at Jacob's well, or in the house of Mary and Martha.

One of the most beautiful pictures presented to us in the Revelation is, *"...in the midst of the seven lamp stands, one like the Son of Man."* (Rev 1:13). It is the picture of God in the midst of His Church, in the midst of His people and in His right hand, the angels of the Churches. This was preceded by the Lord's gathering with His Disciples for forty days after the resurrection, *"...being seen by them during forty days and speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."* (Act 1:3). He invited them to this gathering by saying to Mary Magdalene, *"Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."* (Mt 28:10)

Just seeing Him could be an aim in itself.

He said to them before, *"... but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."* (Jn 16:22)

We gather with God in His house, therefore we rejoice in going to the house of God, as the Psalmist says, *"I was glad when they said to me, 'let us go into the house of the Lord'."* (Ps 122:1)

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Coptic Orthodox Church



God used to gather with people in houses:

One of the first houses that became Churches is the house of St Mark, "*...the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*" (Mk 12:12). And in the upper room, the Holy Spirit descended, and our saint, St Mark, learned the ideals of gatherings and taught them to us.



March

Fourth Sunday



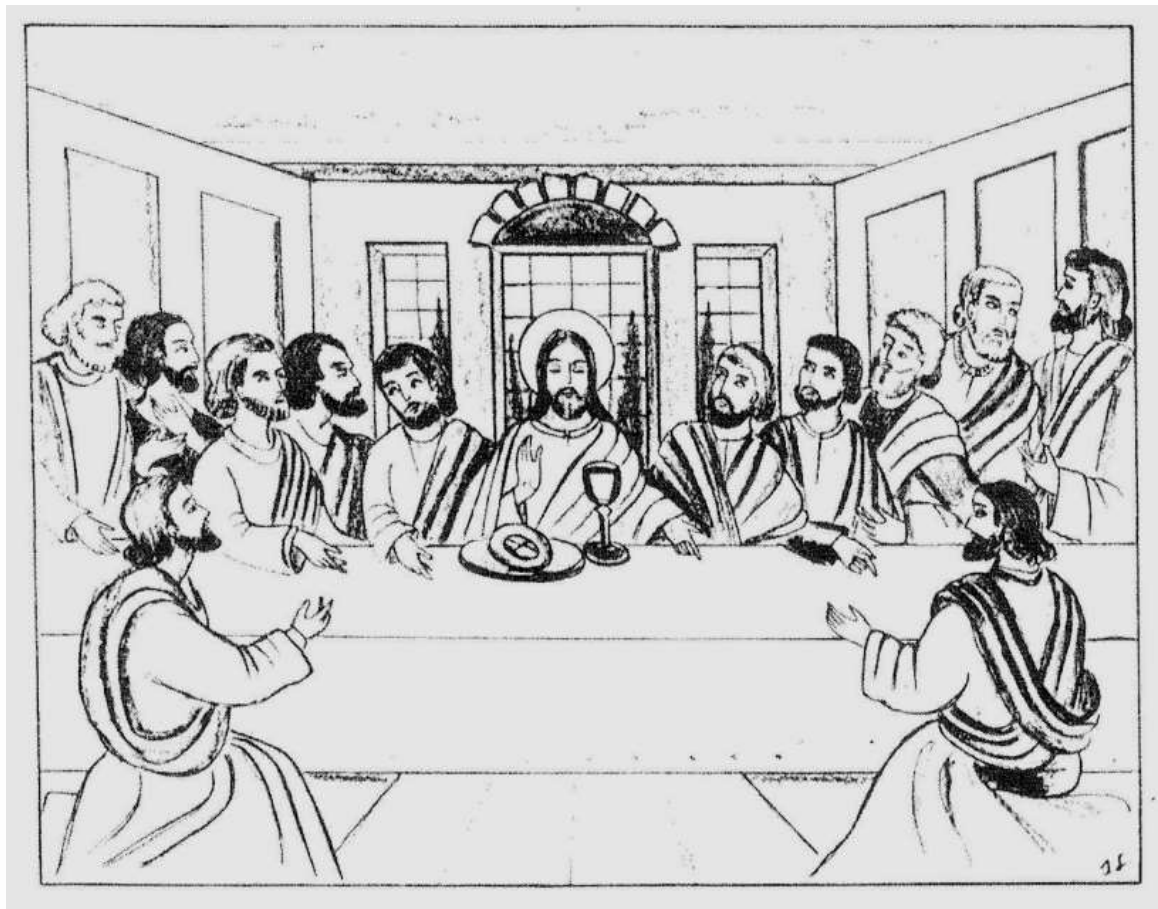
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March

Fifth Sunday



**MARCH
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PASSION WEEK IN THE
COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH**

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To show how Christians in the early church have lived the passion week and why. We would also like to determine what we can do in our present life?

Memory hymns:

*"Thine is the power and the glory and the blessings and the
strength forever Amen"*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

(A) The passion week as the church lived it in early times:

The Passion Week is also called the Pascal week and is the most important week of the year and the deepest one spiritually. It is a week filled with many holy memories in the most serious stage of our salvation and it is the most important chapter of atonement. The church has chosen for this week special readings from both the Old and the New Testaments. These readings are filled with emotions and feelings that are very effective and they explain clearly the relationship between God and the human race. The church also has chosen for us a collection of deep hymns and deep spiritual explanations.

In the early stages of the church, Christians needed to receive this week in full respect and lead these days with deep ascetic life:

(1) They needed to abstain from eating anything sweet like cake or honey or any

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Coptic Orthodox Church



sugar, because it was considered to be unsuitable for them to eat anything sweet while remembering the sufferings of our Lord on their behalf.

- (2) Many people don't cook at all because of ascetism on one hand and because they do not want to be distracted from the prayers and the spirituality of that week. Many people used to eat only bread and salt. Many people who are capable did not eat at all for these days at least from Thursday evening until the Easter feast.
- (3) The ascetism in that week included no decorations and women will have no make-up or wear any jewelry.
- (4) The whole week was dedicated to worship. The people needed to stop working and meet in the churches at all times for prayers, singing and meditating.

Even the Christian rulers gave orders to stop all work in governments' departments so that people can be focused only on prayers. They let people who were imprisoned to get out of jail and also go to church so that these prayers can help them straighten up. One of the great emperors was Theodosius the Great.

(B) What can we do now to benefit from the Passion Week?

- (1) We can finish our homework very fast and head to church.
- (2) We can abstain from eating any sweets and practice very deep fasting.
- (3) We can stop watching TV or listening to the radio or looking over the internet unnecessarily.
- (4) We must behave outside the church as good and as serious as inside the church.
- (5) Focus on the Pascal readings. Everyone must have his or her book.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The Passion Week in our Coptic Orthodox Church represents an important corner stone in our spiritual life. The church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has prepared a very spiritually rich program. To benefit from all these prayers of the Passion Week, we have to try to reach the level of practices of the

March

Fifth Sunday

Christians of the early years as much as we can.

(2) We must participate in all the prayers and hymns of the Pascal week.

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SONGS 🎵

NEAR THE CROSS

“For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”(1Cor 1:18)

Jesus keep me near the Cross
Free to all, a healing stream

there a precious fountain
flows from Calvary’s mountain

REFRAIN

In the Cross, in the Cross
Till my raptured soul shall find

by my glory ever
rest beyond the river

Near the Cross, a trembling soul
There the bright and morning Star

love and mercy found me
sheds His beams around me

Near the Cross, O Lamb of God
Help me walk from day to day

bring it’s scenes before me
with its shadows over me

Near the Cross, I’ll watch and wait
Till I reach the golden strand

hoping trusting ever
just beyond the river

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

March

Fifth Sunday



St. George and St. Rueiss

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**APRIL
FIRST SUNDAY**

“WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES” FEET

Please read John 13:1-20, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/bv5ajWNrnt4>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn a lesson in humility from the washing of the Disciples’ feet by the Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

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

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Events of Maundy Thursday:

- + On Thursday, Our Lord Jesus asked His Disciples to prepare supper so that He could celebrate the Passover with them. They made this Last Supper in St. Mark’s house. The Lord Jesus washed His Disciples’ feet. Then He declared that Judas was going to hand Him to the chief priests. In the Last Supper, The Lord Jesus established the sacrament of the Holy Communion.

The Washing of the Disciples’ Feet:

- + The Lord Jesus took off His garment, tied a towel around His waist and started to wash the feet of His Disciples; though He is the Teacher and the

April

First Sunday

Lord. When St. Peter refused that Jesus would wash his feet, Jesus told him “If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.” (John 13:8) Then Peter let the Lord wash his feet. The Lord is telling each one of us that: we need to be clean from inside and outside, we need to be humble, we need to serve whoever needs our help and we need to be ready before we take the Holy Communion. Remember that the Lord gave the Disciples the Holy Communion after He washed their feet.

The Lakan Service:

- + In our church, the priest blesses everyone with the blessed water in the “Lakan service” before the liturgy on covenant Thursday during the Holy Week. This is a great blessing for us. Everyone should participate in the “Lakan Service”.
- + The Holy Spirit works only in the humble people and gives them great heavenly gifts. Saints are humble people. St. Mary the Virgin is the best example for humility.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Be helpful to anyone who is sick, or in need of any kind of help.
- (2) Never think you are better than anyone else. Be humble.
- (3) We need to repent before we take the Holy Communion. We need to come early to church asking the Lord to prepare us to receive the Holy Communion.
- (4) Let all of us attend all or the majority of the services during the Holy week, follow all the events and meditate on them.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



SONGS 🎵

I WILL SING THE WONDROUS STORY

“But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)

I will sing the wondrous story
How He left the realms of glory

of the Christ Who died for me
for the Cross on Calvary.

Yes, I will sing the wondrous story
Sing it with His saints in glory,

of the Christ Who died for me
gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me
Raised me up and gently led me

found the sheep that went astray
back into the narrow way.

Days of darkness still may meet me
But His presence still is with me

sorrow's path I oft may tread
by His guiding hand I'm led

He will keep me till the river
Then He'll bear me safely over

rolls its water at my feet
made by grace for glory meet.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Sing it with His saints in glory

of the Christ who died for me
gathered by the crystal sea.

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April

First Sunday



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**APRIL
SECOND SUNDAY**

**“THE RESURRECTION IS THE GLORY OF
CHRISTIANITY”**

Please read Matthew 28 and Luke 24 and tell the events of Christ's Resurrection. Please also read the attached material entitled the “Resurrection of Christ”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/HL8R158Ujp4>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn that death could not defeat the Lord Christ. Death will not be an end to true Christians. Therefore, Resurrection is the glory of Christianity.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Why do you seek the living among the dead” Luke 24:5

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + First describe the events of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus mentioned in Luke 24 early on Sunday morning. The two Mary's went to the tomb and did not find their beloved Jesus. The Angel told Mary Magdalene that Jesus rose from the dead. Afterwards, Jesus met Mary Magdalene and told her to tell the Disciples and Peter about His Resurrection.
- + Peter and John came to see the empty tomb for themselves, as Mary Magdalene told them that He had risen from the dead. Peter was older than John, so even when John arrived at the tomb first, he did not enter until Peter

April

Second Sunday

arrived and entered before him. We must respect our elders. Please read John 20: 1-10.

- + Our Lord Jesus rose from the dead to let us also rise from our sins, since the punishment of sin is death. If we do not rise from our sins then we cannot benefit from the Resurrection of Christ. Therefore, regular repentance is needed.
- + Our beloved Lord rose from the dead by Himself. He did not need the Archangel Michael to open the gates of the tomb. The Archangel came only to make the announcement. Jesus rose from the dead with the stone at the door of the tomb and the guards around it. The Lord Jesus is God.
- + The guards thought (by the plot of the chief priests) that His Disciples came at night while they were asleep and took His Body. This was a big lie.
- + Through the resurrection of Christ, He conquered death and death no longer had power over the believers. Just as Jesus rose from the dead He will raise us as well in His second coming.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) **Easter is the greatest feast in our beloved Coptic Orthodox Church because the Resurrection of Christ gave us power over sin and death. Let us all be very happy and sing the joyous songs of Resurrection.**
- (2) In our Liturgy, as we pray for the repose of the departed souls, we say “For there is no death for thy servants but a departure”. **This is only in Christianity** and this is the reason for us to say “The Resurrection is the glory of Christianity”.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



SONGS 🎵

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."
(Jn 11:25)*

O sons and daughters let us sing
Over death has risen triumphing.

the King of heaven the glorious King
Christ is risen from the dead.

On Easter morn, at break of day
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.

the faithless women went their way
Christ is risen from the dead.

An angel clad in white they see
Your Lord doth go to Galilee

who sat and spake unto the three
Christ is risen from the dead.

That night the Apostles met in fear
And said, My peace be on all here.

amidst them came their Lord dear
Christ is risen from the dead.

When Thomas first the tidings heard
Until he came and speak the word.

He doubted if it was their Lord
Christ is risen from the dead.

My pierced side, O Thomas see
Not faithless, but believing be.

behold My hands, My feet, said He
Christ is risen from the dead.

How blessed are they who have not seen and yet whose faith has constant been
For the eternal life shall win. Christ is risen from the dead.

On this most holy day of days
In laud and jubilee and praise.

to God your hearts and voices raise
Christ is risen from the dead.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:
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April

Second Sunday

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

“Why seek ye the living among the dead He is not here but is risen: Remember how He spoke unto you when He was yet 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

References: Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:1-8

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-6

MEMORY VERSE:

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

The egg and the chick Christians all over the world used to make eggs during the feast of the resurrection. This goes back to the time of the apostles. Christians related the baby chick emerging out of the egg to the resurrection of Christ from the dead. It is known that during the preaching of Mary Magdalene, she went to the King of Rome and told him about the resurrection of Christ. He did not believe and insulted her. She then brought an egg to him and said, “How can you believe that the chick comes out from the egg and not believe that the creator of the world was able to conquer death and rise from the dead. Then he believed.

Sham El-Nessim:

Sham El-Nessim is an old Egyptian feast. It is the spring feast that the ancient Egyptians celebrated. The Coptic Christians are accustomed to celebrate Sham El-Nessim as an Egyptian feast on the day following Easter.

NOTES

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April

Second Sunday



St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



**APRIL
THIRD SUNDAY**

**JOYS OF THE RESURRECTION
THE LORD AT THE LAKE OF GALILEE AFTER HIS
RESURRECTION**

Please read John 21:1-14, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/nA14i1Bshdo>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To feel the happiness of the Disciples when they saw the Lord Jesus after His resurrection at the lake of Galilee. The resurrection is a great source of joy for us now.

MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said to them come and eat breakfast" John 21:12

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

What is the largest feast in our church? Easter.
Why is Easter the largest feast in our church?
How do you feel in it?

- ✙ What a drastic change did the resurrection of the Lord do to His Disciples! During His crucifixion the Disciples were afraid and ran away (except John the Beloved who followed Him to the Cross). All the Disciples stayed together in the upper room (the upper room represented the Church) fearing the Jews. The door was shut closed when the Lord came to them and granted

April

Third Sunday

them peace and happiness instead of fear. This caused a major change in the Disciples. The resurrection is a great source of joy.

- ✠ In another incident after the resurrection, the Disciples were very poor and lonely while at the lake of Galilee. They couldn't catch any fish and were saddened. They sadly remembered that the Lord helped them before when he was with them to catch plenty of fish. But He was not there. The Disciples wondered.
- ✠ They hoped He would come and transform their sadness to joy. Suddenly, the Lord appeared to them standing on the shore. Yet the Disciples did not know it was Him. He asked them: "children have you any food?" they answered "no". He said "cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some". So they cast, but they were unable to draw it in because it was heavy with fish. The Disciple exclaimed: "it is the Lord!" They brought the fish to the shore and the Lord Jesus sat with them and they had breakfast together. The Disciples were filled with great joy. What a great difference did the resurrection do to the Disciples? Resurrection will always be the great source of joy for us.
- ✠ No one can accept the crucifixion of the Lord without His resurrection. So the resurrection of Christ is at the core of our faith.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Christ cares about us in all aspects. He cares about our daily living needs as well as our spiritual life.
- (2) Christianity is a religion of joy because it gives solutions to all our problems. If we are sick or in need of food or in need of shelter Our Lord Jesus will not deny His love for us and will give us all our needs and more. Through His resurrection He opened the way for us to have eternal life after we depart from this world.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



SONGS 🎵

ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

On the first day of the week
Christ the Lord rose again

before the dawn began to break
clothed in majesty to reign

REFRAIN

Our Lord is risen today
Who did once, upon the Cross

O triumphant holy day !
suffer to redeem our loss.

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing
Who endured the Cross and grave

unto Christ our heavenly King
Sinners to redeem and save

By the pains that He endured
Now, above the skies He is King

Our Salvation He procured
where the angels ever sing

He who gave for us His life
Now became our Life-giver

who for us endured the strife
freeing us from death forever

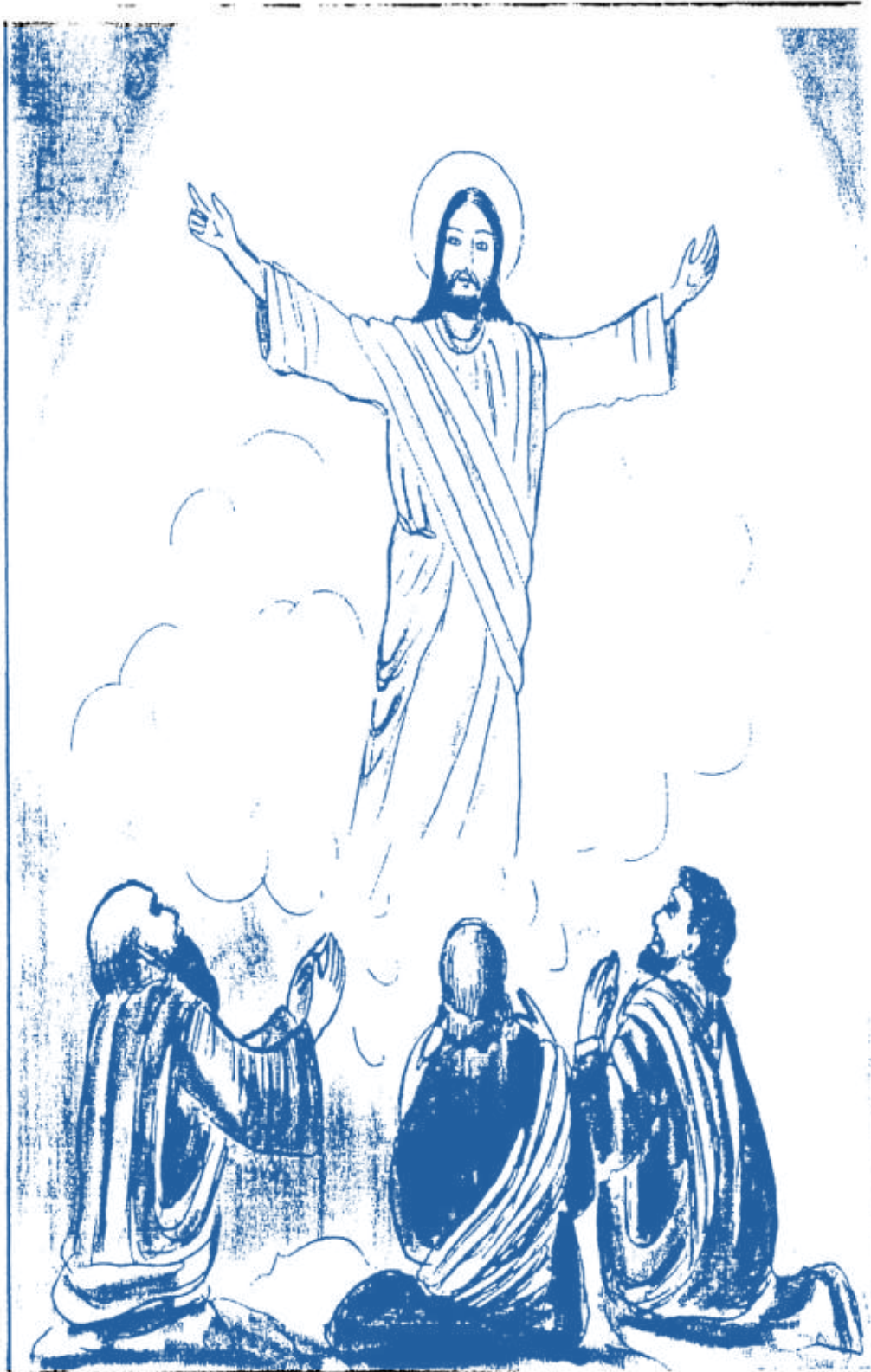
All the toil and sorrow done
Now, behind we leave the past

all the battle fought and won
forward be our glances cast

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

April

Third Sunday



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**APRIL
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE ARK OF COVENANT - GOD ALWAYS WANTS TO
TALK TO US**

Please read: Exodus 25:10-22, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn about the shape and the contents of the ark of covenant. We also like to understand the meaning of it. God always wants to communicate with us.

MEMORY VERSE:

"There I will meet with you" (Exodus 25:22)

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

✠INTRODUCTION

At the time of Moses the prophet (i.e. about fifteen hundred years before Christ) God wanted to talk to His people and listen to them. Therefore, He asked Moses to make a place called the ark of covenant from which He can talk to His people. The ark was made up of wood and covered with gold from inside and outside. The ark was in the shape of a big box and God gave the dimension of this box to Moses. He obeyed God and made everything as God requested.

✠THE MEANING OF THE WORD "COVENANT"

The word "covenant" means a mutual and solemn agreement. The meaning here is that God wants to be friend with us, close to us, talk to us and listen to us. When we read the Holy Bible we listen to the voice of God to us. When we pray to God He listens to us.

April

Fourth Sunday

†CONTENTS OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

There were three things inside the Ark of the Covenant:

1. The two tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God. These were a symbol of the word of God.
2. The “manna” as a symbol of the Lord Jesus the bread of life.
3. The rod of Aaron as a symbol of St. Mary the Virgin.

The Ark was covered with the mercy seat, made up of pure gold and on top of it two Cherubim with extended wings. The wings of each cherub touched the wings of the other one and they covered the mercy seat. This is where the voice of God was in the tabernacle of meeting.

†USE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The ark of covenant guided the Israelites in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. It was carried by the Levites on two wooden sticks covered with gold. No one else was allowed to touch the Ark of the Covenant.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) God wants us to be well organized. Therefore, He gave the exact size and material of the ark of covenant for Moses to do it accordingly. We have to keep our church well organized, and our homes too.
- (2) God loves us and He would like to be in a continuous friendly relationship with us. As He wanted to speak to His people at the time of Moses He is now speaking to us in the Holy Bible. So we must read the Holy Bible every day, at least one chapter a day.
- (3) When we pray we are talking to God. He is our father, and our friend. He wants to listen to us. Therefore, let us pray many times during the day.

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SONGS 🎵

JESUS, JESUS

“we love Him because He first loved us” (1Jn 4:19)

Jesus , Jesus
You have given me Your blessings

can I tell You how I feel?
I love You so

Love, love, love, love
Love your neighbor as your brother

the Gospel in a word is love
love, love, love

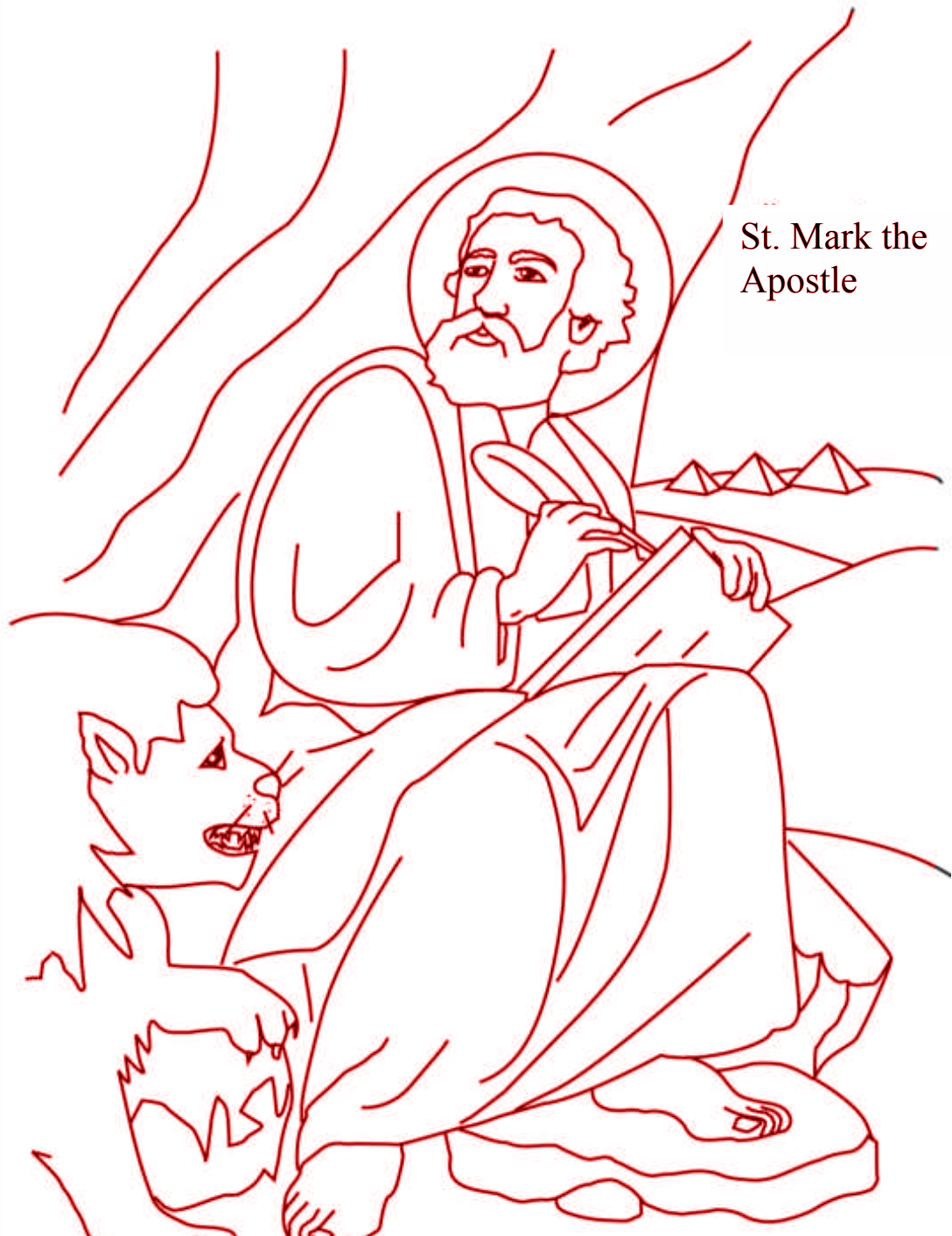
Holy God
Holy and Immortal One

Holy and Mighty
have mercy on us

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:
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April

Fourth Sunday



St. Mark the
Apostle

St. George and St. Rueiss

Coptic Orthodox Church



MAY FIRST SUNDAY

ST. MARK'S LIFE "I" - "HOW WAS CHRISTIANITY PLANTED IN EGYPT?"

Please read the attached material in the next lesson entitled "Saint Mark in Africa", and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn about St. Mark's life. In this lesson we learn how Christianity was planted in Egypt.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Blessed is Egypt my people" Isaiah 19:25

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Who preached Christianity in Egypt? What do you know about St. Mark?
Whenever the Coptic Orthodox church starts a new mission in a town, city or country, the first church that gets built in that place is usually named after St. Mark. What is the reason for that?

The Holy Family in Egypt

- + Egypt was singled out for a particular blessing. The Holy Family took shelter in it. The Holy Family's visit was a preparation of the groundwork for St. Mark who was to begin his mission in Egypt about 40 years later.
- + As the Holy Child entered Egypt through the city of Heliopolis the noise of a rushing mighty wind was heard and the earth trembled. The idols that were worshiped by the Egyptians crashed.

May

First Sunday

The Planting of Christianity in Egypt:

- + Some Egyptians were in Jerusalem attending the Pentecost and carried the news to Egypt shortly after the Pentecost.

Early Childhood of St. Mark:

- + His original name was John, his surname was Mark. He was born 3 years after the birth of Christ by two Jewish parents at Cyrene, a city on the western borders of Egypt. He was from Libya. His parents migrated to Palestine and settled in Cana of Galilee. He was St. Peter's relative. St. Mark was a well-educated man; He studied the Greek and Latin languages.

The first Church in the world:

- + St. Mark was one of the seventy Apostles that followed Jesus. His home was the place of gathering for Jesus and the Disciples during the Last Supper. It was also the place where the Disciples stayed after Jesus' resurrection and where the Pentecost took place. Hence, St. Mark's home is well known as the first Church in the World.

St. Mark's First Visit to Egypt:

- + St. Mark's first visit to Alexandria was in the year 43 AD, There were three races in Egypt at his time the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Jews, in addition to a few Romans. All were non-Christians. In Alexandria, St. Mark healed the hands of Anianus the shoemaker. Anianus and his family were baptized by St. Mark and became the first Christian family in Egypt. Many people in Alexandria became Christians and met with St. Mark in Anianus's house as it was the first church in the city. So the Lord supported the missionary work of St. Mark by performing miracles.
- + In the year 49 AD, St. Mark ordained Anianus as the First Bishop of the Egyptian Church and went to Jerusalem to attend the first Apostolic Council.
- + Our Church makes a celebration for St. Mark twice a year, once in May and once in November.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We learn how God planted Christianity in Egypt. We belong to the oldest church in the world. We must always be thankful for being Christians, Orthodox and Coptic.
- (2) Not only is our church the oldest in the world, but our church also has maintained the faith throughout the years without any change.

May

First Sunday

SONGS 🎵

SAINT MARK DOXOLOGY

In this day there will be an Altar to the Lord in the midst of the Land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border." (Isa 19:19)

Hail to you Saint mark
Who preached the name of Isos

You were born in Cyrene
The land of the Divine

You followed Jesus Christ
While He was in your midst

When the lions attacked
So immediately they died

Our Lord sent Peter
In the house of your father

You were carrying a pitcher
They followed till you entered

And the Lord said
For you it is shed

To the garden you followed
You fled from naked

In your house the Comforter
God answered your prayer

With tongues you spoke to men
About the resurrection

You brought us the good news
And ordained Anianos

the son of Arostopolos
Markos piapostolos.

and fled to Palestine
Markos

from the east to the west
Markos

you and your father prayed
Markos

to prepare the Passover
Markos

that was full of water
Markos

this is My body and blood
Markos

the men of you laid hold
Markos

descended like fire
Markos

from every nation
Markos

about Piekhrestos
Markos

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Coptic Orthodox Church



You wrote the first witness
Describing His Holiness

In Alexandria you built
Many popes graduated from it

And when you were martyred
God ordered and it rained

You and God's beholder
Remember us in your prayer

about Jesus' greatness
Markos

a school that was the first
Markos

your body was not burned
Markos

and our intercessor
Markos

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May

First Sunday



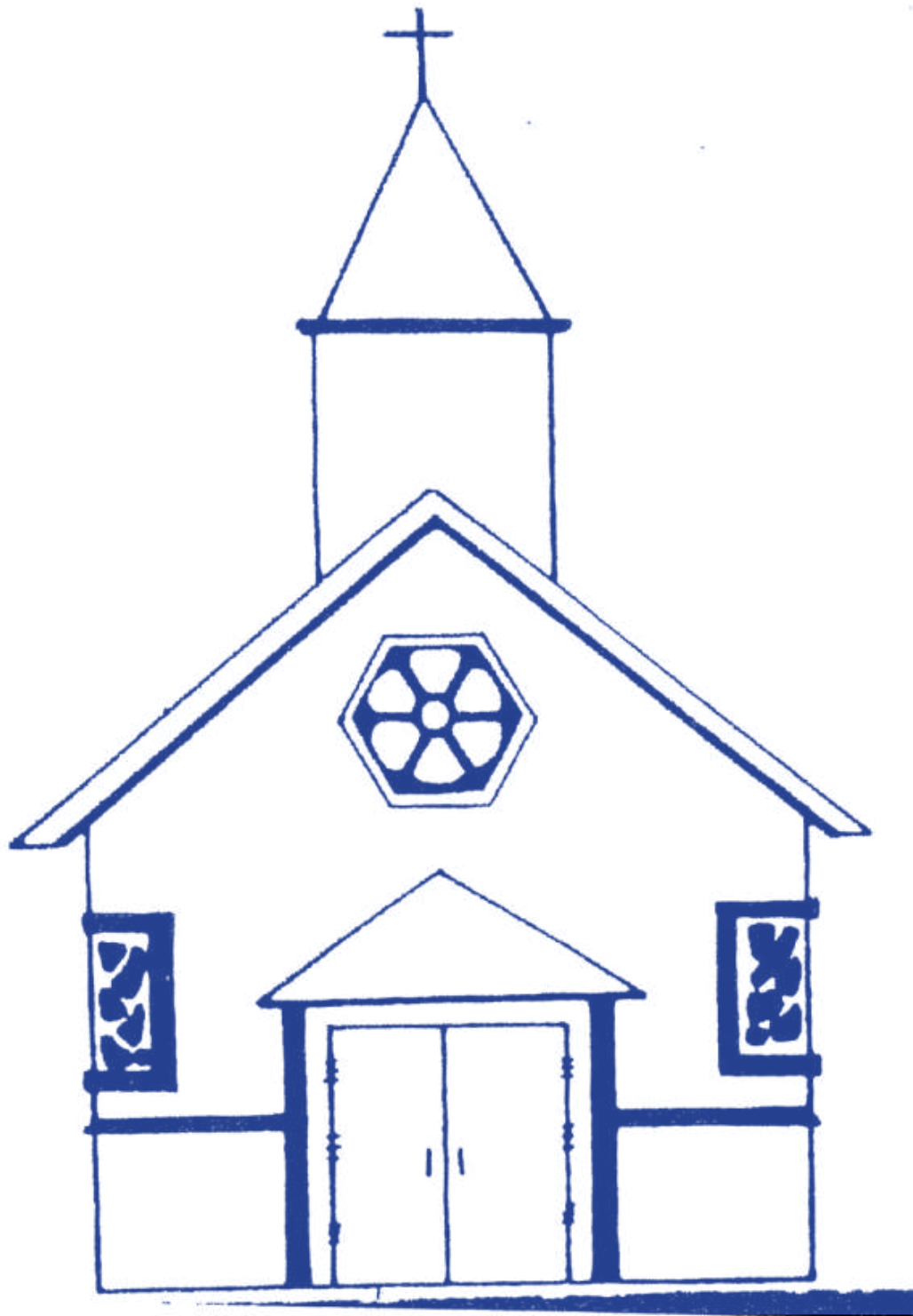
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May

Second Sunday



MAY SECOND SUNDAY

ST. MARK'S LIFE "II"- MARK THE MARTYR AND SAINT

Please read the attached article entitled "Saint Mark in Africa, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn about St. Mark's life. In this lesson, we learn about St. Mark's love for God which enabled him to travel all over the world to preach the word of God. He suffered many times for the sake of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the
land of Egypt" Isaiah 19:19***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + You are Christians, Orthodox and Coptic. What do these words mean? It was written in the Old Testament that there shall be a good altar for the Lord in the land of Egypt. Do you think that it was easy for St. Mark and the priests he ordained to preach Christianity there?

St. Mark went to Rome again:

- + St. Paul and St. Barnabas were going to preach in Rome. St. Mark wanted to join them but St. Paul preferred not to take St. Mark. At that time St. Mark went with his cousin St. Barnabas to preach in Cyprus. St. Mark stayed there until St. Barnabas passed away, then joined St. Paul and St. Peter in Rome and stayed there until the martyrdom of St. Paul in 55 A.D. Then he went to Libya.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



The Church in Libya

- + He stayed from 56 to 60 AD in Libya and established two churches.

St. Mark then preached Christianity in Egypt

(please review the previous lesson).

- + St. Mark returned from Libya to Alexandria, Egypt.

He was pleased to see that the number of believers had increased a lot. He ordained Bishop Anianus, three priests and seven deacons. Christianity spread among the Egyptians very rapidly with the help of God and because of large parallels between the ancient Egyptian religion and Christianity.

Christianity	Ancient Egyptian Religions
1) God is One	1) The Pharaoh Aknaton lived 1500 years before Christ and all Egyptians believed God is One.
2) The Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit	2) Egyptians had Osiris, Isis and Horus, as their triads.
3) Baptism given to them by St. Mark.	3) Egyptians had washing by Holy water in the ancient Egyptian Religion.
4) The concept of the Cross as a sign of eternity.	4) The “Ankh” sign was a sign of eternity.
5) Resurrection: life after death.	5) Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death

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St. Mark the Martyr and Saint

- + Both the Romans and pagan Egyptians were the enemies of the Christians who had 5 churches in Egypt and Libya. At this time on April 26, 68 A.D., all of the people from the five churches gathered in the great church of Alexandria to attend the Easter Mass with St. Mark himself. On the same day the pagans rushed into the church, attacked it and captured St. Mark. A rope was tied around him as they dragged him to prison. An angel came to St. Mark and told him that he would be a martyr and Saint. The next day they dragged him in the street until he was martyred.
- + Since that time, the Alexandrian See, which is an Apostolic one, has been called “Cathedra Marci” and Alexandrian Patriarchs followed St. Mark, Pope Tawadros the II is number 118.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) St. Mark’s love was stronger than the sufferings that the pagans brought upon him. Can we stick to our Christianity and never fear anyone? We must.
- (2) St. Mark was rewarded from the Lord very generously. He lived a very peaceful life. He was filled with joy. He gained many crowns in the eternal kingdom.

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SONGS 🎵

SAINT MARK DOXOLOGY

In this day there will be an Altar to the Lord in the midst of the Land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border." (Isa 19:19)

Hail to you Saint mark	the son of Arostopolos
Who preached the name of Isos	Markos piapostolos.
You were born in Cyrene	and fled to Palestine
The land of the Divine	Markos
You followed Jesus Christ	from the east to the west
While He was in your midst	Markos
When the lions attacked	you and your father prayed
So immediately they died	Markos
Our Lord sent Peter	to prepare the Passover
In the house of your father	Markos
You were carrying a pitcher	that was full of water
They followed till you entered	Markos
And the Lord said	this is My body and blood
For you it is shed	Markos
To the garden you followed	the men of you laid hold
You fled from naked	Markos
In your house the Comforter	descended like fire
God answered your prayer	Markos
With tongues you spoke to men	from every nation
About the resurrection	Markos

May

Second Sunday

You brought us the good news
And ordained Anianos

You wrote the first witness
Describing His Holiness

In Alexandria you built
Many popes graduated from it

And when you were martyred
God ordered and it rained

You and God's beholder
Remember us in your prayer

about Piekhrestos
Markos

about Jesus' greatness
Markos

a school that was the first
Markos

your body was not burned
Markos

and our intercessor
Markos

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

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Saint Mark in Africa

It is universally admitted that the founder of the Church of Egypt and of the centre of evangelism in all Africa, was St. Mark the Apostle and Evangelist. However forty years before St. Mark's arrival in Egypt, the country seemed to have been singled out for a particular blessing when the Holy Family took shelter in it. The Holy Family kept moving from one place to another as if spreading Christianity in Egypt and in the northern parts of the so-called "Dark Continent."

Why God chose Egypt as the refuge of the Holy Family, is a point which deserves our deep contemplation. Morton quotes the inscription on one of the frescoes, which depicts the Holy Family entering Heliopolis, as saying "This illustrates an ancient Coptic legend which says, that as the Holy Child entered Heliopolis, the noise of a rushing mighty wind was heard, the earth trembled, and the idols crashed from their pedestals." The visit is considered to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. "Behold the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud and shall come into Egypt: and idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it." In the same chapter, there is a clear reference about the beginning of the conversion in Egypt concerning Christianity. "In that day shall there be an Altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof of the Lord. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the Land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppression and he shall send them a Saviour, and a great one (defender) and he shall deliver them whom the Lord of hosts shall bless saying: Blessed by Egypt my people....."

The Planting of Christianity in Egypt:

The Christian faith was carried to Egypt shortly after the days of Pentecost. Both the closeness of Egypt to Palestine and the large population of Jews settling there makes it probable that Christian activity began quite early, for we know that the pioneer Christian missionaries went first to the synagogue. In Acts we read that on the day of Pentecost, there were dwellers in Jerusalem "out of every nation under Heaven, in Egypt, and in the parts of parts of Libya about Cyrene..." They were present at the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this day. They might have preached the tidings in Egypt when they returned. There is also good grounds for believing that St. Luke had written his gospel to the most excellent Theophilus, who was previously a governor in Alexandria and had later converted to Christianity. This took place nearly a year before St. Mark's second visit to Egypt.

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It is probable that St. Mark went to the Jewish quarter of Alexandria first, which was in the north east of the city, where his first convert and successor was a Jewish shoemaker Annianus or Hananieh. It is said that St. Mark performed a miracle on Annianus, (probably cured him of some disease which has been considered incurable). Annianus invited St. Mark to his house and finally his family embraced Christianity and was baptized. Others followed his example in Alexandria, and the believers began to meet in Annianus' house, the first church in this city.

Early Childhood of St. Mark:

His original name was John, and his surname was Mark. The surname supplanted the Hebrew name in his later life, as Peter supplanted Simon, and Paul supplanted Saul. The change marked the transition from the Jews to the Gentiles. He was born three years after the birth of Christ, of two Jewish parents at Cyrene, a city on the western borders of Egypt, on the north coast of Africa. This was a part of Pentapolis or the modern western part of Libya. When his parents, Aristipolus, and Mary, lost a great part of their wealth there, they migrated to Palestine. They settled at Cana of Galilee near Jerusalem. During his early childhood Mark lost his father. Simon Peter, who was married to Strapola, a relative of Aristipolus cooperated with his mother in taking care of Mark's education. This accounts for the close intimacy between Mark and Peter, who later called him his spiritual "son". Also, there are good grounds for believing that Mark was the first cousin of Barnabas. Mark was a well-educated man as he had studied Greek, Latin and law.

The First Church in the World:

Most of the famous Coptic chroniclers state that the Apostles used to meet with Jesus Christ for prayers in Mark's home. Therefore, Mark was instructed early in the Christian faith. He also followed Jesus Christ wherever He went to listen to His Heavenly teachings. Mark was serving on the occasion of the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee at which Jesus turned the water into wine. He was, the man whom the two Apostles met, carrying a pitcher of water before the Last Supper. It was also in his house that Jesus celebrated the Passover. Mark was the young man who followed Jesus before the crucifixion and ran away naked when the Jews seized him by his linen clothes. Yet, it seemed that despite all these activities, St. Mark did not mention his own name in his Gospel, due to his humble spirit.

St. Mark became one of the seventy Disciples, and even after the day of Resurrection, the Disciples continued to meet and pray in his home. They also

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received the Holy Spirit there. According to tradition, in all Apostolic churches, St. Mark's home is well known as the first church in the world.

St. Mark's First Visit to Egypt:

Anba Severus Ibn El Mokaffa in his "History of Patriarchs" states that an Angel, through a dream urged St. Mark and St. Peter to go to Alexandria after their first missionary visit to Rome where the emerging persecutions led them to hurry on board the first ship sailing for Alexandria, According to Eusebius, St. Mark's first visit to Alexandria was in the second year of the reign of the emperor Claudius i.e. about 43 AD. In Alexandria, the two apostles separated.

During those days in Egypt, there were three main races: the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Jews, in addition to a few Romans, who were the conquerors. Serapis was the god of the Greeks in Egypt rather than of the Egyptians, he was certainly the god of Alexandria but its worship was popular both at home and abroad.

It is not improbable that St. Mark made a journey to visit the Jewish quarter at Babylon of Egypt where a great number of Jews were living. St. Mark converted many of them and a church was founded in the Crypt where Jesus had taken refuge.

This was in 49 AD, when St. Mark decided to return to Palestine to attend the Council of Jerusalem that discussed the problems that the church faced (especially the problem of the circumcision of the Gentiles). Before leaving Egypt, he ordained Annianus as first Bishop of the Egyptian Church, St. Mark thus spent about seven years on his first mission in Egypt. This culminated in the founding of the Egyptian Church.

St. Mark in Rome Again:

Shortly after the Council of Jerusalem a new journey, to visit every city where they had preached the Word of the Lord, was projected by St. Paul and Barnabas, and they later wished St. Mark to accompany them. But Paul did not want to take him with them on this journey... and the contention was sharp between them. The two Apostles separated and St. Barnabas took his cousin Mark with him to Cyprus. St. Mark is said to have stayed there until St. Barnabas died. After burying him St. Mark went to meet Timothy. This is clear in the last Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy when he charged him to bring St. Mark with him to Rome on the ground that he would be useful to him for ministering. This clarifies the fact that he was summoned to participate with St. Peter and St. Paul in their second missionary journey to Rome.

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However when St. Paul speaks of St. Mark at Rome, he mentions him as one of his few “fellow workers unto the Kingdom of God” who later became “a comfort” to him in his imprisonment. St. Mark stayed there preaching until St. Paul’s martyrdom, about 55 AD then he sailed to Pentapolis.

The Church of Libya:

St. Mark was noted for his activity because he traveled from Asia to Europe then to Africa twice. In a manuscript Ibu El Raheb, the chronicler, states that St. Mark began to evangelize Pentapolis, his native country, after his return from Rome the second time. He baptized many of his converts at Cyrene. During his stay in Libya, between 56 and 60 AD, two churches, were founded He began his second visit to Egypt in 61 AD entering Alexandria from its western side. Though the history of his successors in Libya during the first two centuries is obscure, the fact that there was an Egyptian Metropolitan called Basilides in Pentapolis, in the days of Pope Dionysius of Alexandria (241-261 AD) shows that church life had been organized there, with a number of bishoprics by the middle of the third century.

Building the Synod of the Coptic Church:

The Holy Spirit urged St. Mark to go back to Alexandria. Incidental allusions in the New Testament favor this view and the Egyptians traditions states that when St. Mark in 61 AD returned through Pentapolis to Egypt he found that the number of believers had increased as to call for the establishment of a college of Bishops. He also found that they had three churches including a main church in Baucalia, a place near the seaside. He ordained along with Bishop Armianus three presbyter Melius, Kordonus and Primus with seven deacons as assistance. This organization may well have been spoken of as a body of presbyter, in accordance with the custom that prevailed in the early church, by which the terms Bishop and Presbyter were used interchangeably. We see this exemplified in the case of the elders of Miletus whom St. Paul called together warning them to take heed unto the flock over which the Holy Spirit made them overseers (Bishops).

The teachings of St. Mark in Egypt were like selected seeds that are sown in fertile land, The Egyptians found that Christianity had many features, which they had been practicing, in their ancient religion. Many factors contributed to making Christianity prevail and become successful among the Egyptians. The Egyptians are and have always been religiously minded; The ancient Egyptians inquiring minds were always searching within the domain of religion and ultimately reached certain tenets and concepts which were later identified with the theory and sublime teachings of

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the Christian religion. In the first place the idea of the oneness of God, on which they enunciated the Christian faith stand, during the time of Pharaoh Akhnation, who lived about 150 years before Christ. The idea of the Holy Trinity has its parallel in the ancient Egyptian triads, of which the most famous was that of Osiris, Isis, and Horus. It was this triad, which helped the Egyptians understand the Christian Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The practice of Baptism, either by St. Mark or by the Coptic presbyter who was ordained was not unusual as it was equivalent to the washing by holy water in the ancient Egyptian religion. The concept of the Cross as the representation of the celestial and eternal life had also existed in ancient Egypt in the form of the “Ankh” sign. The Cross became the symbol of eternal life, both in the ancient Egyptian religion and in Christianity. Even more striking still is the idea of resurrection, so Christian and yet so Egyptian.

Indeed, life after death may be considered as one of the basic ideas at the very root of ancient Egyptian civilization. Groves adds that “this centered faith and practice in the hope of a future life and preparation for securing it through Osiris who though slain by evil, had triumphed in the resurrection; that Christianity, with its proclamation of a Saviour who had conquered death should therefore find a sympathetic hearing was to be expected”. Bearing in mind all these factors and circumstances, there is no wonder that the Egyptians or Copts accepted Christianity through St. Mark’s teachings so very rapidly that the Roman Emperors had to embark on a series of persecutions in an attempt to suppress the growth of a religion which openly defied the divinity of the Emperor.

Mark the Martyr and Saint:

The great success and rapid spread of the new religion throughout Egypt aroused feelings of deep hatred and of insecurity in the hearts of both the Roman conquerors and the pagan Egyptians towards the Christians. This hatred marked the despotism of a Gaius or a Nero. The teachings and miracles were responsible for raising the number of Christians to such an extent that the new religion began to threaten the existence of both the ancient religion and of the Roman authority. After the burning of Rome in 64 AD by the Emperor Nero, the Christians began to see the antichrist in the apotheosis of evil, glorification of self, disdain for humanity, hatred directed against all mankind shameless blasphemy, and unlimited self-indulgence, which marked the despotism of a Gaius or a Nero. Though there was a strong feeling among the Christians of Egypt that all the worst elements of life seemed to have combined to frustrate and oppose them all at once, they were not discouraged. All the Christians of that epoch regarded these Emperors as the greatest incarnation of wickedness and evil engaged as they were in an impious struggle against the Lord

May

Second Sunday

and against His saints.

St. Mark had been preaching for his last seven years against the local pagan gods with such vigor that the feeling of hatred against him became intense. His converts in Egypt and Libya founded five churches; and it was on April 26th 68 AD that all of them filled the great Church of Baucalia to attend the Easter mass with St. Mark himself. On the same day the heathens were celebrating the feast of Serapis in the great temple of Serapium. Encouraged by the Roman Prefect of Alexandria, the heathens rushed out of the Serapium and attacked the church of Baucalia. They wanted to capture St. Mark; in this they succeeded as he was celebrating the mass in person on that very afternoon. A rope was tied around him and the rioters rushed out of the church dragging him through the streets of the city. At nightfall, he was thrown into prison where he was cheered up by the vision of an angel promising him that he would be a martyr and saint.

On the following day he was dragged again through the streets till his body was severely wounded. The streets were stained with his blood. Finally, he was martyred. When the rioters were about to burn his body, a violent wind overthrew them with such force that some were killed while others rushed back to their homes, severely injured, leaving the body of the saint on the site; The believers came to the place and respectively carried the body to the Church of Baucalia where he was buried after a sad ceremony.

Since that time, the Alexandrian See, which is an Apostolic one, has been called "Cathedra Marci". Annianus succeeded him as Patriarch for the See and for centuries afterwards a part of the ceremonial prayers celebrated the election of an Alexandrian Patriarch took place at St. Mark's tomb.

Based upon the tradition that connected Mark and Peter with Rome, the church of the important city of Aquileia in north Italy traced its origin back to Mark.

After the destruction of Aquileia by Attila in 452 AD, its refugees founded Venice, of which Mark became the Patron Saint. This explains why some Venetian merchants in 827 AD who were in Alexandria, stole the remains of St. Mark's body leaving his head in his tomb. But in the year 1968 and through the Fraternal relationship between Pope Kyrillos VI of Alexandria and Pope Paul VI of Rome, some of these relics were restored to the Copts to be reburied in their newly built cathedral, dedicated to St. Mark at Anba Rueiss, in Cairo.

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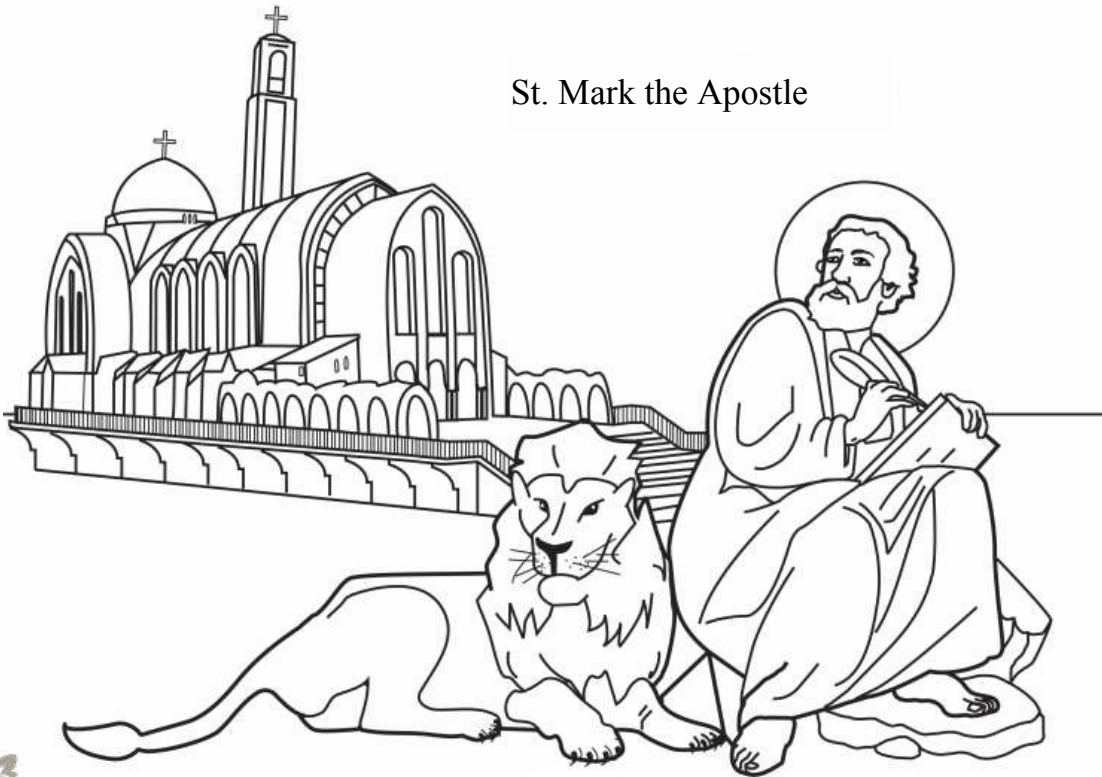


The Liturgy of St. Mark:

St. John Chrysostom states that St. Mark was the first Apostle who inscribed the liturgy, which is in the form of a service or a regular church ritual, which strictly followed in the celebration of the Eucharist. St. Mark constructed his liturgy in Greek and his successors and presbyters memorized it until Pope Athanasius inscribed it in 330 AD in copy delivered to Forumentius the first Bishop ordained for Ethiopia. Pope Cyril the Great made another inscription with some addendum; this anaphora is now called the anaphora of St. Cyril and is used with other anaphorae in the Coptic and Ethiopian Churches.

The church of Egypt, thus founded by St. Mark, does not differ from the church of Egypt today, her constitution and ceremonies. In her the due succession of the three orders; Bishops, Priests, and Deacons has continued without any change unto the present day. Only the Patriarch and Bishops are celibates, but the priests and deacons can marry before their ordination. The Coptic Church has always acknowledged the seven Sacraments and many fasts as well. It is also famous for the Coptic hymnology, which has its musical roots from the very beginning of its foundation.

St. Mark the Apostle



May

Third Sunday



MAY THIRD SUNDAY

ASCENSION: "HE BLESSED THEM"

Please read: Luke 24:50-53, Act 1:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/PLx2q1fjbSA>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson we would like to review with the children the events leading to the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. As He blessed His Disciples, He will bless us now if we ask for it.

MEMORY VERSE

"... And He lifted up His hands and blessed them." (Luke 24:50)

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

✚ **RESURRECTION**: After our Lord died on the Cross, His body was placed in a new tomb. Because the Lord Jesus is God He rose from the dead after three days. He showed up alive again to His Disciples and to His followers at many places in various times over a period of forty days. During these forty days He strengthened them, restored their faith and spoke with them about His kingdom in heaven. He also taught them how to preach and how to tell people about their salvation.

✚ **ASCENSION**: At the end of the forty days, as He was speaking to them, He started to rise up gradually to heaven, spreading His hands to bless them when He started to ascend. He finally disappeared in the clouds very very high in the sky. His

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Disciples continued to stare at the clouds when the Lord Christ disappeared. They were amazed with what they saw. But He filled their hearts with joy and they continued to look up to the clouds for a long time.

✙ **TWO ANGELS** Appeared to them in a beautiful white garment and told them “Why do you stand gazing up into heaven?” This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will soon come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)

✙ **THE DISCIPLES** went back to the upper room (in the house of St. Mark the apostle). They stayed there with our holy mother St. Mary the Virgin and some women and were praying in one accord. They obeyed when the Lord Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit.

✙ As the Lord Christ raised His hands and blessed His Disciples He is ready and willing to bless us now. But we have to ask Him to bless us. We also have to obey Him as the Disciples obeyed Him and returned to Jerusalem after they saw the ascension. Remember what happened when the Lord blessed the five loaves and the two fish? For how many people were the five loaves and the two fish enough to feed? And how many baskets of remaining food did they collect? We all need the blessings of God. We must ask Him to:

Bless our parents
Bless our minds
Bless our health
Bless our spiritual life
Bless our food
Bless the sick people
Bless the poor people
Bless everyone

✙ In our divine liturgy we pray and say to God “As you blessed at that time now bless.” But remember: for God to bless us we have to be obedient like the Disciples were; we must thank Him for everything and ask Him to give us His heavenly blessings.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

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WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The Lord Jesus is God. He is the only one who resurrected by Himself and ascended by Himself to heaven.
- (2) The Lord showed a lot of love to His Disciples while He was ascending to heaven. He raised up His hands and blessed them. The Lord Jesus is so kind and He is very generous in His giving to us.
- (3) Let us all be obedient to the commandment of the Lord Jesus and the outcome will be great blessings for us.

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SONGS 🎵

GOSPEL RESPONSE FOR THE FEAST OF ASCENSION

Alleluia. (4) Pekrestos
aftonf evol khi ni-ethmo-
ut: owoh afshenaf e-
epshoy e-enifiowi:

Alleluia. (4) Christ has risen
from the dead, and
ascended into the
heavens

Vay ere pi-o-u...

This is He...

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

May

Third Sunday



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**MAY
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE SEVEN MAJOR AND MINOR FEASTS OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Please read Matthew 2:13-23, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To learn about the seven Major and the seven Minor feasts of the Master Jesus Christ as celebrated in our church and know them by heart. Also, to learn about the feast of Christ's coming to Egypt.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"Behold, The Lord rides on a swift cloud and will come into
Egypt" Isaiah 19:1***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Our Church celebrates 7 major feasts and 7 minor feasts for which the most important events are attached to our Saviour Jesus Christ. In these feasts all the prayers in the church are done in a joyful tune. In each feast the Lord Christ granted us a special gift in our lives.
- + The 7 major feasts of our Master Jesus Christ are:
 1. The feast of the Annunciation.
 2. Christmas or the feast of Incarnation of the Word of God.
 3. Epiphany.
 4. Palm Sunday.
 5. Easter or the feast of the Resurrection,

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Fourth Sunday

6. The Ascension feast.
7. The Pentecost.

Please say a few statements about each feast and discuss it with the children. If possible give each one a picture about each feast.

+ The 7 minor feasts of our Master Jesus Christ:

1. The Circumcision feast.
2. The feast of the presentation of Our Lord Jesus to the temple.
3. The feast of Christ's coming to Egypt.
4. The feast of the wedding at Cana of Galilee.
5. The Transfiguration feast.
6. The Maundy Thursday.
7. The Renewal of Thomas.

Please say a few statements about each of the feasts:

- + Please let the children know these feasts by heart,
- + On June 1st of each year, we celebrate one of the minor feasts: The Lord Jesus coming to Egypt.
- + The feast of Christ's coming to Egypt.
- + The first seed of Christianity that paved the way for St. Mark to preach about Christianity was the visit of the Holy Family to Egypt. They were escaping from King Herod who wanted to kill Baby Jesus. The historians say that as the Holy Family entered Egypt (the city of Heliopolis) the noise of a rushing mighty wind was heard and the earth trembled, the idols crashed from the pedestals. See the memory verse.
- + Our Lord Jesus blessed our homeland Egypt. When we celebrate this feast we remember that our roots go back to Egypt, the Holy fathers and the consistent faith of the oldest church in the world.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

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WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We should know our church's feasts by heart. These are happy occasions that we celebrate and live through. In these feasts our Lord Christ granted us many heavenly gifts.
- (2) What can please a Christian is his or her salvation. This is the reason for celebrating our Master's feasts in a joyful tune. We also review and enjoy those gifts that Our Lord Christ has given us in those feasts.

May

Fourth Sunday

SONGS 🎵

THE HOLY FAMILY ENTERING EGYPT

**“Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud, and will come into Egypt.”
(Isa 19:25)**

O fortunate and blessed Egypt with the Child Jesus in your midst
With the Child Jesus in your midst He gave you great heavenly blessings.

Your idols then were frightened and quickly fell down to the ground
and quickly fell down to the ground and paganism was ended.

In you the Lord has an altar with Christians praying and praising
with Christians praying and praising in the Divine Liturgy.

Thousands of martyrs gave their lives in love for the Lord Jesus Christ
In love for the Lord Jesus Christ and raised banners of Christianity

Monasteries in the wilderness are filled with many of your saints
are filled with many of your saints they are the light of the desert.

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

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June

First Sunday



JUNE FIRST SUNDAY

PENTECOST - THE HOLY SPIRIT THE SPIRIT OF MIGHT

Please read Luke 24:44-53, Acts 2, Isaiah 11:1-2 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To focus on the heavenly power of the Holy Spirit in two fronts (a) spreading Christianity all over the world and (b) on the personal life.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"... The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord"
(Isaiah 11:2)*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE

INTRODUCTION

Before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, He asked His Disciples not to depart from Jerusalem "until you are endowed with the power from on high" (Luke 24:49). What was this power? He said to them "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." (Act 1:8). The Disciples took this power on the Pentecost and through this power was the spread of faith. The book of Acts talks about their preaching saying "assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the Kingdom of God present with power." (Mark 9:1).

(A) The power of the Holy Spirit in spreading Christianity all over the world

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Over a period of thirty years only, preaching about the kingdom of God had filled all the countries of the earth: Judea, Samaria, Antioch, Cyprus, Asia Minor, Egypt, Libya, Greece, Italy, and many countries with great might.

We read about the preaching of St. Stephen the first deacon who stood up in front of three counsels “and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke” (Acts 6:10). So it is very difficult to resist the words that are coming from the Holy Spirit. The same thing is seen in the preaching of St. Paul. He said “and my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1Cor. 2:4). Therefore St. Paul was able to preach very strongly and to spread the faith in many nations. Similarly the same thing could be said about St. Peter and the rest of the apostles.

Therefore, to be filled with the Holy Spirit was an important condition for all the people who served in the church of the apostles. The Holy Spirit was the one who was acting in the church of the apostles. Therefore, the church of the apostles was very strong.

Even now the strength in the church is manifested not in terms of how much money the church has or how many people the church has but it is manifested in the work of the Holy Spirit in the believers. This work of the Holy Spirit in the believers is manifested in their spiritual life, their dedication to God and their love for one another.

(B) The power of the Holy Spirit on the personal life

The power of the Holy Spirit is not only manifested in preaching and the services in the church, but also on the personal life.

One of the key characteristics of the children of God is that they are always strong. At least because they are the image of God and God by His nature is Almighty. Secondly, because the children of God are the ones in whom the Holy Spirit works and He is the Spirit of might (Isaiah 11:2). This power in the children of God is not materialistic power, but rather it is power in the Spirit, in the intellectual ability, in wisdom and in actual work. It is power in righteous life and in victory over Satan. This power does not leave the person in fear or in anxiety. All these are given by the Holy Spirit to man.

So many people have the power of the Holy Spirit abandoned and not manifested in their life. Why? The power of the Holy Spirit does not work in them and they are making the Spirit of God grieved in them (Eph 4:30) or quenching the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).

June

First Sunday

This individual who becomes weak against sin and falls, what is the work of the Holy Spirit in him or her? Is he or she utilizing the power of the Spirit whom they took in the sacrament of the holy Mayroun? Or the power of the Spirit is an abandoned power?

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

What do we learn from this lesson?

- (1) If you lost the power of the Spirit in you, you can renew His work in you again. Ask the Spirit of God to give you power of repentance, to give you power in work and you shall participate with the Holy Spirit in work. You will be given this power, “He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.” (Isaiah 40:29).
- (2) It is further emphasized during the Holy Week and Good Friday as we sing to God saying, “the Lord is my strength and song, and has become my salvation.” (Psalm 118:14)

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SONGS 🎵

LET US ALL PRAISE THE LORD

Let us all praise the
Lord for He is in glory
Glorified

Maren hos e-epchoise: Je
Khen ou –o –oo ghar afetchi o-oo

REFRAIN

He ascended into heaven
And send us the Paraclete

Afshenaf e-epshoi enifio –wee
wee af oo- orpe nan empi

The Spirit of truth, the
Comforter Amen. Alleluia

parakliton piepnevma ente
timethemi: Amen . Alleluia

He made the two into one
Which is heaven and earth

pentaf er piesnav en owai
ete fai pe etfe nem epkahi

O come all ye nations, let
Us worship Jesus Christ

Amoini nilaos tiro: entenoo-
osht en Isos piekhrastos

This is God our Saviour
And Lord of every one

Fai pe efnooti pensotir : owoh
epchoise ensarex niven

Three in one and one in
Three; the Father the
Son and the Holy Spirit
The spirit of truth the
Comforter. Amen Alleluia

Oo-etrias esjik evol: esoi
enshomt esoi enowai: ete fai
pe efiot nem epshiri nem pi
epnevma ethoo-wab; piepnevma
ente timethmiL amin Alleluia

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:
PLEASE LOOK AT THE RECITATION CURRICULUM
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June

First Sunday

NOTES

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June

Second Sunday



**JUNE
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF EZRA: (I)
BACK TO JERUSALEM IS A SYMBOL OF BACK TO
GOD**

Please read Chapter 1-3 of the book of Ezra, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: [https://youtu.be/ EyhTOVIqd0](https://youtu.be/EyhTOVIqd0)

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson one in a series of 3 lessons from the book of Ezra. In this lesson, we will learn about the happiness of going back to God after being away from Him, because of sin.

MEMORY VERSE:

***"And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem
which is in Judah." Ezra 1:2***

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + When we live with God and follow His commandments, we enjoy a heavenly peace. But if we follow the devil and do bad things we become miserable. What is the solution to this? Go back to God.
- + The book of Ezra mentions the events of 80 years, from the time King Cyrus who ordered the people of Israel to go back to Jerusalem (from the captivity in

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Babylon, in the year 536 B.C., until their second coming to Jerusalem with Ezra in the year 456 B.C.)

- + The writer of this book is Ezra who is a descendant of Aaron and who was a priest himself. He was a good writer, and studied the laws of Moses very well.
- + Ezra was well known for his love to God and people.

God's People:

1. God's people were taken in captivity in Babylon and were under the Chaldeans who treated them very badly. After the Chaldeans, they were under the rule of the Persians who were more moderate. When Cyrus King of Persia took over, he allowed the people to go back to Jerusalem and build the house of the Lord. "The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus" so that he not only let them go but also, helped them to build the house of God.
2. In chapter 2, we know that the people who returned to Jerusalem were back with all their belongings. The Lord gave them one heart (Chapter 3:1). Let us pray that God may also unite us as Christians, giving us one heart and help us eliminate any division. Remember, the Apostles were meeting in the upper room with one opinion and one heart. In our families, we must do our best to be united and never lose our love for one another.

The return to Jerusalem is a symbol of the return to God:

1. The people who were leaving Babylon, the land of captivity, and coming back to Jerusalem represented the people who are leaving sins to live in the freedom and glory of God.
2. The second step after building the altar was to build the Sanctuary. We note that while some people were singing praises to thank the Lord, older people were crying in remembrance of the glory of the old house; this teaches us that when we come back to God, our feelings will be a mix of happiness for our salvation, and tears of repentance, because of the time we lost away from God.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?



June

Second Sunday

- (1) Sin is a separation from God; repentance is coming back to Him with joy and tears. Daily repentance is very necessary in order for us to stay in an intimate relationship with God.
- (2) We must pray for the unity of the churches the unity in the society that we live in and the unity within the families.
- (3) The Angels in heaven rejoice when we repent and go back to God

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SONGS 🎵

O OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

O our Lord Jesus Christ
Count us with Thy sheep

who carries the sin of the word
who shall stand upon Thy right

And in Thy second coming
May never hear Thee say

awesome and full of glory
I know ye not

Rather may we be worthy
Which is full of joy

to hear Thy tender voice
proclaiming and saying:

Come ye unto Me
And inherit the life

O blessed of My Father
that endures forever

All the martyrs shall come
And the righteous shall come

bearing their afflictions
bearing all their virtues.

The Son of God shall also come
To reward everyone

in His Father's glory
according to his works

O Christ, Logos of the Father
Grant us Thy peace

the Only-Begotten God
which is full of joy.

As Thou has said unto
Likewise say unto us

Thine holy Apostles
My peace I give to you.

My peace, which I have taken
I leave unto you

from My Good Father
now and forever

O angel of the day/evening
Remember us before the Lord

flying up high with this hymn
that He may forgive us our sins

The sick, O Lord, heal them
And all our brethren in distress

those who slept, repose them
help us, O Lord, and all of them

May God bless us
And may His praise be

and let us bless His Holy name
always on our lips



June

Second Sunday

Blessed be the Father and Son
The perfect Trinity

and the Holy spirit
we worship Him and glorify Him.

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NOTES

[illegible]

June

Second Sunday



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**JUNE
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF EZRA (II)
LET US MOVE FORWARD TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS**

Please read chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the book of Ezra, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/gTAsvVK6JCc?t=70>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson 2 in a series of 3 lessons from the book of Ezra. In this lesson we learn that when we try to be with God, the devil tries to come in our way. But we can and must move forward in order to defeat the devil and achieve our goals.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And they offered sacrifices at the dedication of this house of God" Ezra 6:17

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- ✝ Many temptations and negative thoughts may come to us from the devil through various sources in the world (for example, TV and internet).
- ✝ As the enemies heard of the rebuilding of the temple, they resisted it in various ways:
 1. First, they tried to deceive the people by showing them that they were trying to help and that they were in support of their work (Ezra 4:2). The people of

June

Third Sunday

- + Therefore, let us review the evil ways that the devil uses against us when we do God's work.

The role of the two prophets Haggai and Zechariah:

- + When the enemy stood in the way of God's people, they thought that it was not yet time to build the house of the Lord and so they started to build their own homes. Two prophets named: Haggai and Zechariah, came and urged the people to start building the house of God. Even though it wasn't an order, the people obeyed the two prophets and worked on the house of God. When they asked them how they did this? They told them, "We are the servants of God of Heaven and earth." Then King Darius issued a decree allowing them to work and asked others to help them. He asked them to pray for him in return.
- + This shows us that we must have no fear, have faith in God and resist the devil so that we can defeat him. Let us move forward to achieve our goals and not get distracted or discouraged by the actions of the devil.
- + When they constructed the Altar, they offered their sacrifices with great joy. They offered 12 male goats on behalf of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- + This shows the sense of love and unity of the Israelites when they overcame the devil.
- + Now after the people made their offerings they felt happiness and joy instead of the suffering that they felt in captivity.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

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WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) When the devil fills our minds with bad thoughts, we must resist him and push all these evil thoughts away. We must realize that the devil will always fight us when we try to pray, go to church, help the needy, etc. But we must continue in our spiritual life, move forward, and defeat the devil.
- (2) In life we must have goals to achieve. Hopefully these goals are good, such as growing deeper in our spiritual life and getting excellent marks at school. The devil is going to fight us through many temptations. We must resist him and we will win.

June

Third Sunday

SONGS 🎵

O OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

O our Lord Jesus Christ
Count us with Thy sheep

who carries the sin of the world
who shall stand upon Thy right

And in Thy second coming
May never hear Thee say

awesome and full of glory
I know ye not

Rather may we be worthy
Which is full of joy

to hear Thy tender voice
proclaiming and saying:

Come ye unto Me
And inherit the life

O blessed of My Father
that endures forever

All the martyrs shall come
And the righteous shall come

bearing their afflictions
bearing all their virtues.

The Son of God shall also come
To reward everyone

in His Father's glory
according to his works

O Christ, Logos of the Father
Grant us Thy peace

the Only-Begotten God
which is full of joy.

As Thou has said unto
Likewise say unto us

Thine holy Apostles
My peace I give to you.

My peace, which I have taken
I leave unto you

from My Good Father
now and forever

O angel of the day/evening
Remember us before the Lord

flying up high with this hymn
that He may forgive us our sins

The sick, O Lord, heal them
And all our brethren in distress

those who slept, repose them
help us, O Lord, and all of them

May God bless us
And may His praise be

and let us bless His Holy name
always on our lips

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Blessed be the Father and Son
The perfect Trinity

and the Holy spirit
we worship Him and glorify Him.

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June

Third Sunday



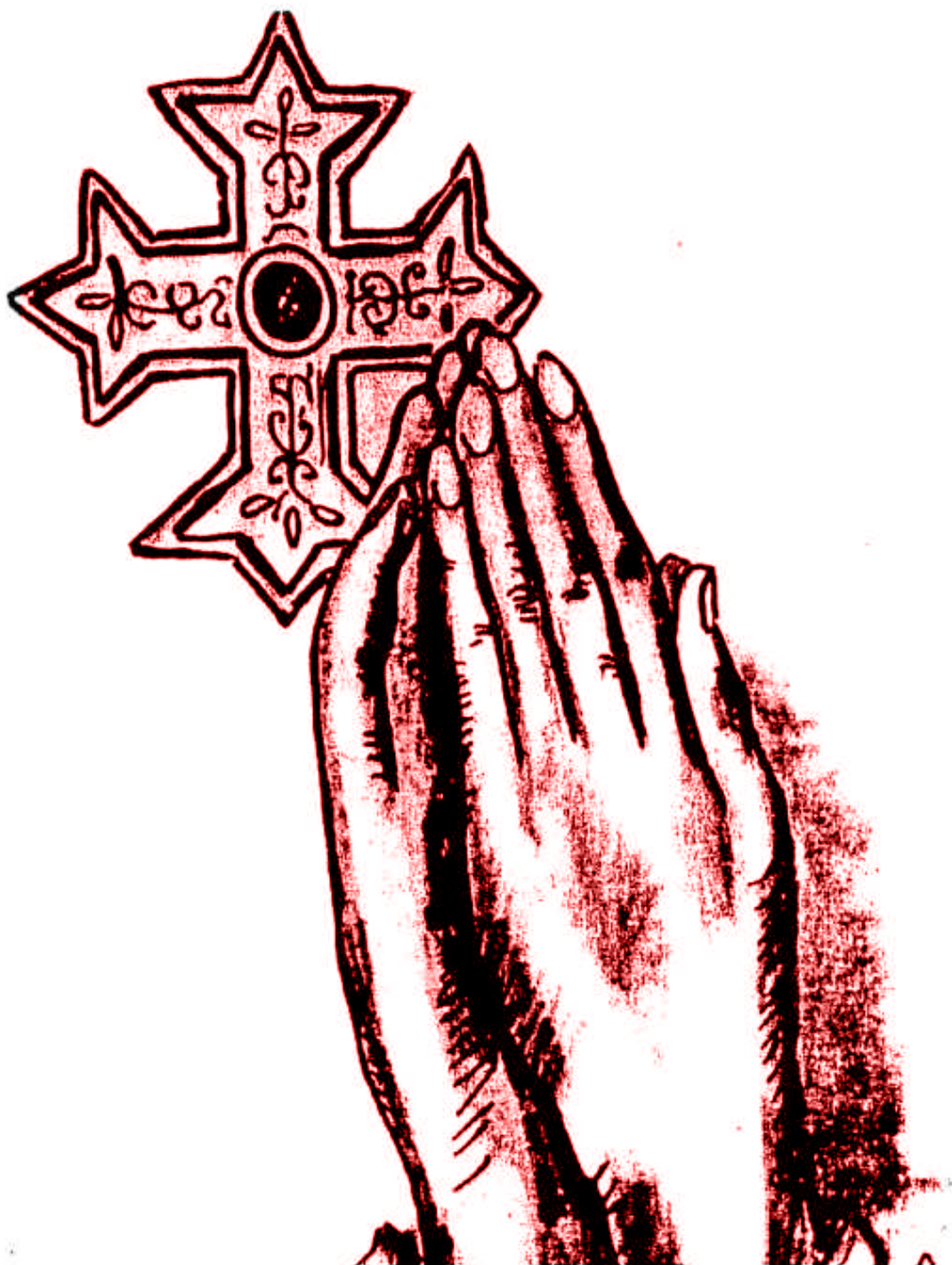
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June

Fourth Sunday



JUNE FOURTH SUNDAY

THE BOOK OF EZRA (III) THE SECOND COMING UNDER EZRA

Please read Chapters 7 and 8 of the book of Ezra, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson 3 in a series of 3 lessons from the book of Ezra. In this lesson, we learn that God protects us when we seek His help through fasting and prayers.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, Who Has put such a thing as this in the King's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem," Ezra 7:27

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + As we proceed in our daily lives there are various dangers e.g. when we travel, when we get sick, etc. We must have faith and complete reliance on God to protect us. Yes we have to use our minds, but first we must ask for God's guidance.
- + Ezra is a descendant of Aaron. He was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses. King Artaxerxes granted him all his requests, according to the word of the Lord. The king gave him a letter and issued a decree allowing the people to go back to Jerusalem. The king gave him gold and silver to decorate the temple of God. See the memory verse.

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- + In chapter 8, we read about the heads of the families who returned with Ezra.

Ezra Depends on the hands of God:

- + Ezra did not ask the king to provide him with guards to protect him on his way to Jerusalem. While he was carrying all this gold and silver, Ezra depended on the hands of God, (Please read Ezra 8:23.). We learn from this, that whenever we need protection, we look towards God to protect us. We must pray and ask God the creator of Heaven and earth to guide us, guard us, and send His angels to protect us.
- + Ezra used fasting and prayers to receive protection from God, (Ezra 8:21). He and the people travelling with him fasted although they had a long way to travel and they needed to eat in order to get strength for their long journey. But Ezra had faith that the protection of God was more important than food.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Let us use spiritual methods in our lives to satisfy our needs e.g. fasting and prayers. Through fasting and prayers we can solve our problems when someone is sick, or when we need extra help from God at school.
- (2) We must keep our church beautiful and clean.
- (3) Fasting and prayers are excellent tools to defeat the devil and to have mercy from God upon us.

May

Third Sunday

SONGS 🎵

O OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

O our Lord Jesus Christ
Count us with Thy sheep

who carries the sin of the world
who shall stand upon Thy right

And in Thy second coming
May never hear Thee say

awesome and full of glory
I know ye not

Rather may we be worthy
Which is full of joy

to hear Thy tender voice
proclaiming and saying:

Come ye unto Me
And inherit the life

O blessed of My Father
that endures forever

All the martyrs shall come
And the righteous shall come

bearing their afflictions
bearing all their virtues.

The Son of God shall also come
To reward everyone

in His Father's glory
according to his works

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O Christ, Logos of the Father
Grant us Thy peace

As Thou has said unto
Likewise say unto us

My peace, which I have taken
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O angel of the day/evening
Remember us before the Lord

The sick, O Lord, heal them
And all our brethren in distress

May God bless us
And may His praise be

Blessed be the Father and Son
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the Only-Begotten God
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Thine holy Apostles
My peace I give to you.

from My Good Father
now and forever

flying up high with this hymn
that He may forgive us our sins

those who slept, repose them
help us, O Lord, and all of them

and let us bless His Holy name
always on our lips

and the Holy spirit
we worship Him and glorify Him.

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May

Third Sunday



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**JULY
FIRST SUNDAY**

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE "I": HIS LIFE BEFORE BEING AN APOSTLE

Please read acts 9:1-18 and give the story with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/wixt2viNEwU?start=0&end=45&version=3>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

As we celebrate the Apostle's fast, we will have a series of three lessons about the life of Saint Paul. In this lesson we learn that Saul was a persecutor of Christians, but God changed his heart.

MEMORY VERSE:

"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia" Acts 22:3

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + Start by reviewing what the children know about St. Paul the Apostle. He was not one of the 12 Disciples or one of the 70 Apostles.
- + We must never lose hope, because as God worked with Saul; He can also work with us.
- + The word "Apostles" is limited to certain men of the first generation of the church and missionaries of the gospel.

July

First Sunday

- + The first 12 apostles sent by Jesus are named in Mark 3:14-19. Note that Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot.
- + Others are also considered apostles; including Paul, James, Barnabas, Matthias and Luke.
- + The church desired to limit the word “Apostles” to those who had seen the Lord Jesus and had firsthand information about Him.
- + The birth of Saint Paul and his life in Jerusalem
 - Acts 22:5
 - Acts 26: 4
 - Acts 21: 39
- + Saint Paul was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin He was a Hebrew, his name was Saul and he also had a Roman citizenship.
 - Acts 16
 - Philippians 3:5
 - Romans 11:1
 - 2 Cor. 11:2
- + He was a Pharisee:
 - Galatians 1:13-14 Acts 22:3
- + He was against the church
 - 1 Cor. 25:9
 - Galatians 1: 13-23
- + **What did the Lord Jesus do to convert him?**
 - Acts 9:1-18 (Note: Please Elaborate Here)
- 1) The Lord Jesus led him to Ananias to teach him and baptize him with water and the Holy Spirit.
- 2) St. Paul was in the wilderness for three years. After he was baptized, He was led by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 1:17
- 3) St. Paul was given the Apostolic status in Jerusalem with the laying of hands of the other Apostles on him. Galatians 2:1-10 and Acts 15:1

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- + Nothing is impossible for God. Saul was converted to St. Paul, We should never lose hope.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Jesus said: "Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me?" We learn that whoever is against the church is against God and cannot win.
We can see that when a non-Christian becomes Christian, he or she can have a very strong faith and love for God. We must remember the non-Christians in our prayers and ask God to help them have faith in Him and believe in Christ the Saviour.
- (2) We must never lose hope. As long as we pray and do our best, everything will go smoothly.



July

First Sunday

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SONGS 🎵

O APOSTLES OF CHRIST

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15)

With happiness and joy
Now many crowns enjoy

in heaven with our Lord
O Apostles of Christ

Through sufferings and tears
You taught for many years

and yet without any fears
O Apostles of Christ

In pain you never complained
The paradise obtained

even when you were jailed
O Apostles of Christ

Remember to ask for us
Blessings may He grant us

before our Lord Jesus
O Apostles of Christ

With happiness and joy
Now many crowns enjoy

in Heaven with our Lord
O Apostles of Christ

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July

First Sunday



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**JULY
SECOND SUNDAY**

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE “II”: HIS
PERSONALITY-STRONG YET KIND**

Please read I Corinthians 4: 9-12 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/wixt2viNEwU?t=45>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson 2 in a series of 3 lessons about St. Paul the Apostle. In this lesson we learn that a true Christian must be strong yet kind.

MEMORY VERSE:

“And we labour, working with our hands” 1 Cor. 4:12

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- + St. Paul was exposed to a tremendous physical sickness. Yet he preached with great intensity and spent great efforts with the help of God. He was physically weak but spiritually strong.
2 Cor. 10:1, 10
Acts 14:12
Galatians 4:13, 14
2 Cor. 12: 7

July

Second Sunday

- + Although St. Paul said “whoever serves the Altar eats from the Altar”, he used his skill as a tent-maker to feed himself and others who served with him.
1 Cor. 4: 9-12
1 Cor. 9: 24-27
2 Cor, 4: 7-12
2 Thessalonians 3: 8-9
- + St. Paul was an excellent speaker inspired by the Holy Spirit. He was well aware of all the questions raised by the Jews and had clear answers about the Lord Jesus as Christ, whom the whole human race has been waiting for.
Acts 14:12
Acts 20: 7-11
Acts 24: 26 and 26: 24
- + Though St. Paul was a very tough person, yet he was very kind, i.e. he was hard on the issues but soft on people.
1 Cor. 4:19-21
2 Tess. 2:14, 15
Gal. 1:8,9

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Although he was physically sick St. Paul loved God and God loved him. God allowed this ailment to protect St. Paul from being conceited. We, too, must also thank God if we are sick, because He has a reason for everything.
- (2) St. Paul worked hard to feed himself and the people who served with him while preaching the word of God.
- (3) Just as the Lord Jesus Christ was tough at times and kind at other times, we too as Christians must have the same personality.

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SONGS 🎵

O APOSTLES OF CHRIST

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15)

With happiness and joy
Now many crowns enjoy

in heaven with our Lord
O Apostles of Christ

Through sufferings and tears
You taught for many years

and yet without any fears
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In pain you never complained
The paradise obtained

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July

Second Sunday



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**JULY
THIRD SUNDAY**

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE “III”
HIS MINISTRY AND THE ACTION OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT IN HIM**

Please read Acts 20:7-12 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: https://youtu.be/R0p0W_Zbt1s?t=107

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is the third and final lesson about St. Paul the Apostle. In this lesson we will learn about St. Paul’s ministry. The Holy Spirit can support us as He supported St. Paul.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all” 1 Cor.
14:18*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ St. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. His spiritual talents increased as follows:

1. Speaking with various tongues

This helped St. Paul preach the word of God and Christianity in several nations. See the memory verse.

St. Paul talked about the talents given by the Holy Spirit to the believers

July

Third Sunday

“But the manifestation of the spirit is given to each other for the profit of all, for no one is given the word of wisdom through the spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretations of tongues.” 1Cor. 12:7-10

2. **Performing Miracles during his ministry:** “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power” 1Cor, 2:4 Please also see “Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his hands to the sick and the diseases left them and the evil spirit went out of them” Acts 19:11-12
For some of the miracles: (Please mention in detail).

A: The man of Lystra was healed. Acts 14: 8-11

B: The Young man brought back to life Acts 20: 7-12

3. **He was very humble despite all the powers** given to him. He considered himself to be the least amongst the Apostles.
Please see 1Cor. 15: 8-10 and 2Cor. 2:14-16

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) The Holy Spirit inside us can give us spiritual strength, talents and heavenly powers. But we must also ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have to be humble and reject the feeling of pride.
- (2) Everything that is good in us is from God. Remember that St. Paul was Saul. Saul was a lost being; God changed him and gave him several heavenly gifts.

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Coptic Orthodox Church



SONGS 🎵

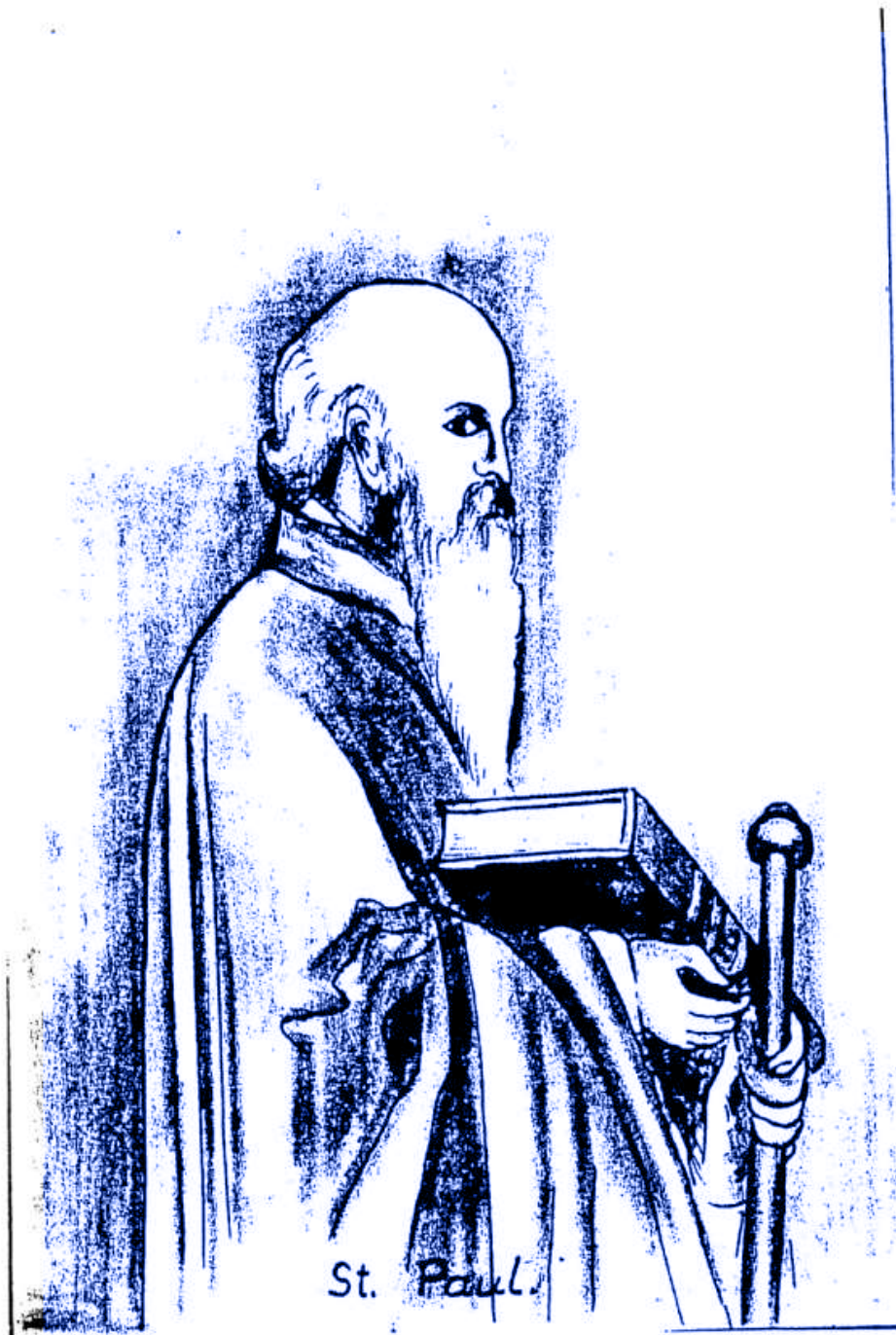
THE PRIME DOXOLOGY

We worship the Father, the Son Hail to the Church	and the Holy Spirit the house of the angels
Hail to the Virgin Hail to Gabriel	who brought forth our Saviour who brought her good news.
Hail to Cherubim Hail to all	Hail to Seraphim the heavenly orders
Hail to John Hail to the	the great fore-runner twelve Apostles.
Hail to our father The destroyer	Mark the Evangelist of the idols.
Hail to Stephen Hail to George	the first martyr. the morning star.
Hail to all the choirs Hail to Abba Anthony	of the martyrs. and the three Macarii.
Hail to all the choirs Hail to all the saints	of the Cross-bearers who have pleased the Lord
Through their prayers Accord to us mercy	O Christ our king in thy kingdom.

**RECITATION CURRICULUM:
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**JULY
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH “I”
GENERAL INTRODUCTION AND SUCCESS FACTORS
FROM NEHEMIAH’S LIFE**

Please read Nehemiah Chapters 1 & 2 (a general reading of the 13 chapters of the book of Nehemiah is recommended for the teacher at the start.) Give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

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

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson one in a series of 4 lessons to learn about Nehemiah. Here we learn not to blame others for prevailing problems, rather, start by improving ourselves.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach” Nehemiah 2:17

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Introduction:

- + The Book of Nehemiah tells the events of the years (446 to 443 B.C.) when Nehemiah came from the country of Persia to Jerusalem, and back to Persia and then back to Jerusalem.
- + This book is sometimes called the “Second book of Ezra” because of its

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Fourth Sunday

similarity to the book of Ezra. The book of Ezra focuses on the house of God whereas the book of Nehemiah focuses on the Holy City of God, Jerusalem.

- + The summary of the 13 chapters of the book of Nehemiah is as follows:
- + Nehemiah loved Jerusalem (the city of his fathers). He took permission from the king of Persia to go and build Jerusalem's fence, which was demolished. He went to Jerusalem 13 years after Ezra was last seen there.
- + He was able to build the walls of Jerusalem despite the resistance of the enemies. Remember that there will always be resistance to anything good we like to do. We have to be persistent.
- + He gave the highest priorities to worshiping, prayers, and reading the Bible.
- + When he returned to Persia, he found the people of Jerusalem going back to their old habits and not praying or keeping the Sabbath.
- + He went to Jerusalem and rid the wickedness from the people.
- + In this 4 lesson series we will not concentrate on the details of the events. We will only concentrate on the main events. However, we will highlight the personality and the behaviour of Nehemiah.

Success factors in Nehemiah's Life:

1. He looked after his people:
Nehemiah lived in the palace of the king of Persia. However, he often thought about the people back home in Jerusalem. Nehemiah 1:1-4. This teaches us not to think only about our own lives and interests, but to also think about other people. He knew of his people's sad affairs and was saddened. Neh. 2:1-3
2. He sat down alone to think and pray:
When he heard the bad news about his people, he sat in solitude to think of what to do. He started by fasting and prayer. Neh. 1: 4 -11
This teaches us that when we have a problem, we have to think about it and pray for God's help. Nehemiah used prayers again when he talked to the king. Neh. 2:4. He knew that God would do everything for him. Neh. 2:8
3. He blamed himself not others:

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It is very easy for anyone to blame others when problems arise. Nehemiah did not do that, he blamed himself. Nehemiah 1:6

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) Let us be practical. If we want to improve something we should start by improving ourselves. We also have to do our share and God will do the rest.
- (2) We have to be more patient and take time to do things. Obstacles may arise, but we must move forward.

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THE PRIME DOXOLOGY

We worship the Father, the Son
Hail to the Church

and the Holy Spirit
the house of the angels

Hail to the Virgin
Hail to Gabriel

who brought forth our Saviour
who brought her good news.

Hail to Cherubim
Hail to all

Hail to Seraphim
the heavenly orders

Hail to John
Hail to the

the great fore-runner
twelve Apostles.

Hail to our father
The destroyer

Mark the Evangelist
of the idols.

Hail to Stephen
Hail to George

the first martyr.
the morning star.

Hail to all the choirs
Hail to Abba Anthony

of the martyrs.
and the three Macarii.

Hail to all the choirs
Hail to all the saints

of the Cross-bearers
who have pleased the Lord

Through their prayers
Accord to us mercy

O Christ our king
in thy kingdom.

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NOTES

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**AUGUST
FIRST SUNDAY**

**LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (II)
SUCCESS FACTORS FROM NEHEMIAH' S LIFE**

Please read Nehemiah chapters 3, 4, and 5 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/HdDvqWtVkro?start=0&end=35&version=3>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson 2 in a series of 4 lessons to study the success factors in Nehemiah's life,

MEMORY VERSE:

"Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall" Nehemiah, 5:16

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Start by reviewing the previous lesson.

In this lesson we will continue with factors of success in Nehemiah's life. (We wrapped up #3 in the previous lesson).

+ His participation in the work on the wall:

He came with authority from the King of Persia to rule over the people, yet he participated in the work on the wall. See the memory verse.

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Also, he did not take money or anything else from people as the previous governors did. Nehemiah 5:15.

+ **He used all the abilities around him:**

Though he worked, he used everything around him (Nehemiah 4:23). He utilized the efforts of Ezra to teach the laws and the word of God to the people. He organized all the tasks so that everyone had a part of the wall to build (Nehemiah 3: 4,21,30). This teaches us to be well organized in everything we do: in our bedrooms, homes, school and church.

+ **Nehemiah's goal was clear:** to live with God and serve His people:

The luxurious life in the house of the King of Persia did not prevent him from helping his people. Many enemies failed to stop him from accomplishing his goal; to worship God in peace with his people. He focused on the heavenly reward in everything he did. "Remember me, my God for good, according to all that I have done to these people" (Nehemiah 5:19).

This teaches us that everything we do: praying, fasting, reading the Bible, etc is focused on one goal: to gain a place in the Kingdom of God.

+ **His courage and efforts:**

He made a lot of effort in his prayer.

He relied on God's help in his request to the King. He worked tirelessly to encourage people and never blamed them or discouraged them; this teaches us that we must never discourage others.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We must be well organized in everything we do. We must also look forward to the heavenly reward that we will receive for our deeds.
- (2) We must help in doing house work with the rest of the members of the family.

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- (3) We also must encourage others to do better. If there are problems, we must not blame others and just start doing our share of actions.

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HAIL TO MARY

“For behold, henceforth generations will call me blessed.” (Lk 1:48)

Hail to Mary Mother of God
Magnify her, glorify her

Before God even the heavens
Higher than heaven is St. Mary

She is above the angels
Over the saints and Apostles

David said in his Psalm
God chose her, queen of us all

As we call her to help us
On the rocky road of living

As we gaze up to the heavens
In trials and tribulations

whenever you see the sun
she was chosen to bear the Son

are not pure in His holy sight
who became Mother of the true Light

in the heaven her light does shine
is the Mother of the true vine

Mary is seen as a golden dove
to her we give our deepest love.

we will find her by our side
she will hold our hands to guide

and raise our eyes to the sky
on her always we can rely.

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Virgin Mary as we stand here
Of the Lord we ask through you

Chanting of her endless virtues
With adoration and love to Mary

Hail to Mary, queen of heaven
All the nations and forever

You are the Mother of us all
We shall always praise your majesty

seeking thy presence this hour
to fill us with holy power

give her always unceasing praise
our voices to her praise

on the right side of the King
praise to her we always sing

your protection on us impart
and keep you in our heart

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**AUGUST
SECOND SUNDAY**

**LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (III)
NEHEMIAH'S REFORMS**

Please read Nehemiah chapters 6-13 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://v637g.app.goo.gl/mUcJUdcGeDXNLscbA>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is lesson 3 in a series of 4 lessons to understand what Nehemiah did and learn from it. We must not be afraid of improving and changing things as needed.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Should you not walk in the fear of our God" Nehemiah 5:9

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous two lessons. In this lesson we learn about the reforms of Nehemiah.

The Reforms of Nehemiah:

1. First reform of Nehemiah:

- a) Rebuilding of the walls of the city. Review as mentioned before.
- b) He sympathized with the people, whose belongings were stolen (chapter 5).
- c) He did not impose taxes as previous governors did.

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Second Sunday

- d) He taught the people the laws of God. He left the teaching to Ezra.
- e) He made an agreement between God and the people (Chapter 9 & 10). The people fasted, prayed and confessed their sins. They then decided to write an agreement between God and themselves. Nehemiah started sealing this agreement himself, followed by all people: 22 Priests, 17 Levites, and 44 of the heads of the people.

In this agreement:

- I) Leave the sinful life, keep the Sabbath and do not get married to the non-believers of God.
 - ii) Do good, collect money and help finish the Altar, by paying 1/10 of what you have.
2. **Second reform of Nehemiah**(Chapter 13): After he completed his task, he went back to the king of Persia. Then it came to his attention that the people started sinning once again. So he returned to Jerusalem, This time he did the following:
- a) He cleaned the house of God from all the bad things that came in it. Nehemiah 13:4-5
 - b) He restored honoring the day of God “The Sabbath”.
 - c) He rejected those who got married to non-believers. Chapter 13:23-25.
 - d) He asked the people to pay their tithes (i.e. 1/10 of their money) to the house of God. Chapter 13:10

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We have to be patient as we take time to improve things. Sunday is the day of the Lord. It is a very special day in which we focus on prayers, hymns and rest.

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- (2) If changes are necessary, then we must take initiative. But we must be careful before we make those changes.

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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.

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**AUGUST
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH (IV)
NEHEMIAH RESISTS THE EVIL PEOPLE**

VIDEO: <https://v637g.app.goo.gl/CifqmacUdq9eHdfr9>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This is the final lesson in this series, studying Nehemiah's work. In this lesson we learn to say "NO" to the devil and his followers.

MEMORY VERSE:

*One of the enemies said" if even a fox goes up on it, he will
break down their stone wall" Nehemiah 4:3*

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

Please review the previous 3 lessons.

- + Whenever there is work and prayer, evil people oppose this. The same happens in our spiritual life. When we try to become good and repent, the devil tries to stop us through various thoughts, senses and temptation.
- + When we look at what the bad people did and how Nehemiah defeated them, we can learn how to defeat the devil.

Resistance of the bad people (Nehemiah's enemies):

1. Discourage the people from building the walls:

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This is the same way the devil tries to discourage us from growing and building our spiritual life by making us watch too much TV or waste time playing.

2. Open the door for discussions:
As the devil was unable to discourage the people, he attempted to open discussion with them (Chapter 6:2).
This was the same method the serpent used to tempt Adam and Eve. (Please tell the story). We must not give the devil a chance at all. When we get any bad thoughts we must reject them right away. Say “No” to the devil. Nehemiah refused any discussion. Chapter 6.
3. Threatening to get others against us:
Nehemiah took permission from the king before he started building the wall, but the bad people said that what he was doing was against the king. Chapter 2:19. The devil threatens us to bring others against us. But we must not care and should not be afraid of anyone.
4. Resistance in the form of religious advice:
The enemy hired a false prophet to convince Nehemiah that if he did not leave his work and go to the Altar, he would be killed (Chapter 6:10-19). Sometimes the devil tries to give us advice that appears religious, when in fact he wants to harm us, just as the bad people were trying to hurt Nehemiah.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

- (1) We must resist the devil so that he leaves us. As long as we are walking in the path of God we must never fear anybody or anything.
- (2) We have to be careful and think before we act.

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Third Sunday

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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
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the pleadings of a great Pope
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In the church she comes and shares

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

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**AUGUST
FOURTH SUNDAY**

WE MAGNIFY YOU O MOTHER OF THE TRUE LIGHT

Please read Matthew 17:1-9, Luke 1:39-56 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/V1jsD3xkNRg>

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

To study the examples of transfiguration in the Holy Bible and understand the spiritual meaning of the apparition of St. Mary.

MEMORY VERSE:

"We magnify you O Mother of the True Light" (Introduction to the Creed.)

PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

+ **The Lord Jesus, the True Light:**

Our Lord Jesus said "I am the Light of the World," Light is a symbol of purity, clarity and happiness. Darkness is a symbol of sin, evil and sadness. Therefore, Jesus is the true light. In our morning prayers we pray saying "You are the true light that enlightens every man that comes onto the world," This means that the light of Jesus (who is the true light) enlightens us when we follow Him. Hence, we say that St. Mary is "The mother of the True Light." She is the Mother of God.

+ **The meanings of Transfiguration:**

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Our beloved Lord Jesus was transfigured, in front of His Disciples on the mountain; "His face shone like the sun, and His cloth became as white as the light. (Matthew 17:2)." Hence, transfiguration is the appearance of the light, the brightness and glory. (Please describe in details the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain). Jesus hid his Divinity inside His body. In the transfiguration, Jesus showed the light inside Him (i.e. a glimpse of His Divinity). Therefore the light was not something external to Jesus but was from within Him. In the church we do not light a candle under an icon of the Lord Jesus because He is the true light. We only do this for the saints because everything good in them is from God represented by the candle.

+ **Types of Transfiguration:**

1. Transfiguration of the Lord in the Old Testament:
 - + In the Old Testament the Lord was transfigured at the Burning Bush. Please tell in detail Exodus 3:1-5
 - + The transfiguration of the Lord at the Mountain to Moses, Moses' face was enlightened. Please see Exodus 24:15-18
2. Transfiguration of the Lord in the New Testament:
 - + The transfiguration of Christ on the mountain to His Disciples Peter, John, and James, Please read Matthew 17:1-9
 - + The, transfiguration of Christ to Saul on his way to Damascus to kill the Christians. Acts 9:1-9. Saul was converted and became St. Paul,
 - + Transfiguration of Christ to His Disciples after His resurrection from the dead.
3. Transfiguration (appearances) of the Angels:
 - + Transfiguration of the Angel Gabriel to St. Mary to give her the good news about the birth of Christ.
 - + Transfiguration of the Angel Michael to St. Mary Magdalene to tell her the good news of Resurrection.
4. Transfiguration (appearance) of the Saints, especially St. Mary:
 - + So many times St. Mary has transfigured in special situations to specific people and sometimes in general appearances to many people. We will concentrate here on the transfiguration of the Virgin Mary.
 - + St. Mary was transfigured to Pope Abraham and told him that the mountain called El-Mokatam (in Egypt) can be moved. She led him to

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Fourth Sunday

Simon the shoemaker who had faith and through his prayers was able to move the mountain with the Pope. Please tell the story.

Transfiguration of St. Mary in Phatima, Portugal:

From May 13, 1917 to Dec. 13, 1917. On the thirteen of every month she appeared and many people repented. Many miracles and healings occurred.

Transfiguration of St. Mary at her church in Zeiton, Egypt:

On Monday April 2, 1968. St. Mary was transfigured at her church in Zeiton and continued to appear in this glorious fashion on and off until 1971. Many miracles and healings occurred to people.

Note:

Please ask the children to summarize what was talked about and give prizes.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

Spiritual meanings of the appearance of St. Mary:

- (1) It is a form of honour from God to St. Mary.
- (2) It is a message for us to repent and live an enlightened life.
- (3) To strengthen the faith of believers.
- (4) It is an excellent proof that people in Paradise are there and they feel for us. They can pray for us, they can intercede on our behalf and in the case of St. Mary she can appear to us.

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SONGS 🎵

O VIRGIN MARY

O Virgin Mary , you are
And brighter than the sun

Above the stars and the moon
that shines at noon

O morning star, shine upon
Enlighten my mind, and the eyes

this temple of my soul
and the senses all

O Mother of Jesus – O
Forsake me not whenever

my mother and my hope
with sin I cannot cope

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Recitation

RECITATION CURRICULUM

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In addition to all the memory verses and SONGS in the lessons, please teach the following recitation items throughout the year:

Recitation

Recitation 1

Holy Holy Holy:

Holy Holy Holy, O Lord of sabaoth, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory and Thy dignity. Have mercy O God the Father Almighty. O Holy Trinity have mercy on us. O Lord God of powers be with us, for we have no other helper in our tribulations and adversities but Thee. O God, release, remit, and forgive us our transgressions which we have committed willingly and which we have committed unwillingly, which we have committed knowingly and which we have committed unknowingly, the hidden and the manifest. O Lord, remit them for us, for the sake of Thy Holy Name, which is called upon us according to Thy mercy, O Lord, and not according to our sins.

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Recitation 2

Intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God:

Hail to thee! We ask thee, O saint, full of glory, the ever-virgin, the Mother of God the Christ; to lift up our prayers unto thy beloved son that He may forgive us our sins. Hail to he, the saint, the Virgin, who gave birth to the True Light, Christ our Lord; ask the Lord to have mercy on us and forgive us our sins. O Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the faithful intercessor of all mankind, intercede for us before Christ to whom thou gave birth, that He may forgive us our sins. Hail to thee, O Virgin, the true queen. Hail to her who is the pride of our race, who gave birth to Emmanuel. We ask thee to remember us, O faithful intercessor, before our Lord, Jesus Christ, that He may forgive us our sins.

Recitation

Recitation 3

Psalm 1:

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
The ungodly are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish. Alleluia.

*Note: It will be beneficial if the teacher can include the recitation items of the previous years as well.

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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 students
in the class

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.



THE FOLLOWING TABLES
OF CONTENTS REFLECT
THE CHANGES IN THE
TIMING OF EASTER AND
THE ASSOCIATED,
BEFORE AND AFTER,
CELEBRATIONS IN
VARIOUS YEARS

Extra Table

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)

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- 1st week of Sept., *The First Lie And The Forbidden Fruit*, page 12
- 2nd week of Sept., *El Nayrouz Feast*, page 17
- 3rd week of Sept., *Jacob's Trip to His Uncle*, page 22
- 4th week of Sept., *The Cross At the highest point.....*, page 27
- 5th week of Sept., *Parables of Our Lord Jesus Christ...I*, page 34

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- 1st week of Oct., *Parables of Our Lord Jesus Christ ..II*, page 38
- 2nd week of Oct., *Parables of Our Lord Jesus Christ ...III*, page 42
- 3rd week of Oct., *The Life of St. Matthew*, page 48
- 4th week of Oct., *RUTH*, page 54

NOVEMBER

- 1st week of Nov., *The Book of Exodus "I"*, page 58
- 2nd week of Nov., *The Book of Exodus "II".....*, page 63
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- 4th week of Nov., *The Book of Exodus "IV".....*, page 71

DECEMBER

- 1st week of Dec., *When It Comes To God.....*, page 75
- 2nd week of Dec., *The Birth Of The Lord Jesus*, page 79
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JANUARY

- 1st week of Jan., *Christmas Celebrations*, page 91
- 2nd week of Jan., *God Does Not Leave Himself.....*, page 93
- 3rd week of Jan., *God is Fair*, page 97
- 4th week of Jan., *Lessons Benefited From The Epiphany.....*, page 101

FEBRUARY

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