

## Sunday School Program

Grade 6

Class of St. Mary



**In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.**

***Preface To The First Edition***

The sole aim of Christianity is that people should know the Redeemer and live with him as pure sons. The church education aims at helping people to live in purity. So the Servant has to make lesson and the child's activities an integrated part of the church life and the typical Christian life in society.

Any course, however perfect it may be, and however well prepared it is, needs a good Servant to teach it. Every Servant must prepare his lessons well.

This Guide, together with the Book, "How to serve the Elementary Stage is an attempt to help the Servants to prepare their lessons. The Servant has to make use of it as the need arises, but not to depend entirely on it.

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

***Preface To The Second Edition***

The Lord of Glory came down to earth to change the way people live: from submissions to sin to enjoyment of righteousness. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10: 10). So, Christianity aims at the new virtuous life. It is worthy of note that the church, through her various services, and the preachers, through their various preaching services have one aim; i.e. people must recognize this new life and enjoy its grace and grow in it through practicing virtues. The church education deems it its duty to serve children in the domains of education and preaching so that they may grow in Christian life and become faithful to the Lord and bear true witness to Him: "I have written to you, young men because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14).

Servants of Church Education are the deacons of the Church who are devoted to instructing young people in religion. Their service is part of the church pastoral work. So, the Servant's interest in both the child and the lesson and the spirit of his dedication constitute the basis of his service. That is why he has to prepare his lessons very well.

This Guide, together with another book, "How to serve the Stage of Childhood" is an attempt aiming at helping the Servant to prepare his lessons.

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

## **Preface To The Third Edition**

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

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

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

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

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

## **Sixth Elementary Grade Program**

The question that faces the child at the age of eleven -without recognizing it -is “Who am I?” That is why the programs set for that age are always designed to help the student to know himself and form his relationship with

The Lord Jesus. Every student unites with the Lord Christ in Baptism. But when he is eleven years old we expect that he has begun to recognize the meaning of that unity. So the Servant of such child must note that:

1. The personality of the child before him should be considered one of the most important sources of the lesson. Through discussion, the child can find out himself and react to the Lord Jesus.
2. The Servant must be concerned with establishing the habits of worship, spiritual activity such as prayers Bible study and the class notebook.
3. The Servant should give due care to the child’s talents by encouraging him/her to read more.

It is advisable that the Servant should give his children some other books and stories to read.

## **Instructions To The Servant**

Servants of Church Education are the deacons of the church who are devoted to instructing young people in religion. Their service is part of the church pastoral work. So, the Servant's interest in both the child and the lesson and the Spirit of his education constitute the basis of his service. That is why he has to prepare his lessons very well.

This handbook, together with another book, “How to serve the Stage of Childhood” is an attempt aiming at helping the Servant to prepare his lessons.

### **The Lesson**

Church Education Service is divided into:

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

### **This Book**

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

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

### **Home Assignment**

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

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

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

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## THE FIRST PERIOD

### (1a) The Coptic New Year's Day (Nyrouze): Kuzman And Dimyan

#### *References*

- + The Bible: Hebrews 2
- + “St. Kuzman and St. Dimyan and their brothers” Virgin Coptic Church, Alexandria
- + “Some wonderful stories of martyrs” Alexandria
- + “The Story of the Coptic New Year's Day” by Siliman Nesseem

#### *To The Servant*

1. “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).
2. “For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart, and be with Christ; which is far better” (Philippines 1:23).
3. Committing sins means that you deny your Christian Faith, So avoid sins and keep away from them so that your Redeemer may not deny you.
4. Standing firm in faith does not mean fanaticism but means strong faith in our creed and showing tolerance at the same time.
5. We ask you, our holy fathers, St. Kuzman and St. Dimyan, to pray for us and implore our Lord to forgive us our sins. Implore the Lord to support us in our struggle for the sake of His Holy Name till the last breath.

#### The Lesson

#### *Aim*

Standing firm in faith till death

#### *Verse*

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippines 1:21}

#### *Hymn*

- + O righteous martyrs our pure martyrs [Arabic Song]
- + Hasten O righteous hasten... [Praise me Lord Page 31]
- + Shine on us... Shine on us...

#### *Aids*

Candles -dates -pomegranates -guava -flowers.

#### *Notes*

- + Children go around carrying candles and flowers. The Servant uses the bell and they all chant, “Our righteous martyrs”.
- + An icon of one of the martyrs is to be put before the children and lighted candles are to be put before the icon.
- + The Servant sets the scene by giving some questions such as:

1. What is the name of today's feast? What does the word "Nyrouze" mean?
2. Why do we buy red dates?
3. Who can think of some names of saints and martyrs?
4. How does the church honor those martyrs?

There was martyrdom in Egypt. There was martyrdom in other countries as well. Today we are going to listen to a story about two foreign martyrs, "Kuzman and Dimyan". They were twins. They were born in Asia Minor in the third Century A.D. They came from a rich family and they had three brothers. They were ordained as monks. Their father died. Their mother brought them up. Their mother was pious. She taught them the fundamentals of Christianity. Kuzman and Dimyan excelled in their studies. They studied medicine and became two clever doctors.

1. What are the names of these two saints?
2. From what country are they?
3. What did they study?

Because of their deep love to Christ, they used medicine and medical treatment for the glory of Christ. The Lord supported them and healed many patients through them, not because of the effect of the medicine, but by the power of God.

When a patient stood in front of one of them, he crossed himself in the Name of the Father ...and raised a short prayer to the Lord, "O, Jesus... You are the real and true Physician... Heal him O Lord Jesus so that he may believe in you O Lord... Amen".

Then he made the sign of the cross, examined the patient and wrote the prescription. Then he continued steadfastly in prayer for him. In this way the two saints opened the eyes of the blind and drove out many demons. They healed many patients so a great number of pagans believed in Jesus Christ.

When the pagan ruler saw that the whole city might be converted to Christianity, he became angry with the two saints. He sent for them. When they were summoned, he threatened them and sent them away saying, Go away now, but watch out, do not talk to people about Christianity. If you preach the Gospel again, I'll punish and torment you".

The two saints went away saying, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain" and they gave their full time to the work of preaching with great eagerness in spite of the ruler's threats.

1. How did the two saints heal patients?
2. Did you once pray for a patient and the Lord healed them? Who are they? Give thanks to God.
3. Do you know any sick man? Pray for him.
4. Who can recite the verse "For to me to live".

The governor knew that they were still preaching and healing patients and that people believed in Christ. He arrested them and ordered that their hands and feet should be tied and that they should be tormented and thrown into the sea with their hands and feet tied. But the Lord preserved them



and brought them back safe to the land... they stood up and said “We are not afraid of torments because, for me to live is Christ and to die is gain”.

The governor was surprised and he gave orders to crucify the two elder brothers and to stone them. As for the other three brothers, the governor ordered his men to tie them between the two crosses and to throw arrows at them, but the stones and arrows went back to harm and injure those who stoned the saints so they were forced to withdraw. The governor flew into a rage. He threw them into the heart of a blazing fire, but they walked out in the fire. They were singing praises to the Lord. “Our righteous martyrs” and not a single hair were singed.

The mother encouraged her five sons to stand firm in their life in Christ... At last the governor ordered his men to cut off their heads. They were driven to the place of martyrdom and they were singing praises to the Lord “Our martyrs...” Many people believed in Jesus Christ... the five brothers were buried with their mother. The church celebrates two festivals to honor them on 22<sup>nd</sup> of Hatour and 22<sup>nd</sup> of Baouna every year. There is a monastery called the Monastery of Kuzman and Dimyan at Manyal Sheeha in Guiza. May their holy prayers be with us. Glory be to God at all Limes.

1. What are the names of the two saints who brought them up when they were children?
2. What was their profession?
3. Why was the governor angry with them?
4. Write about all the types of persecution that the two Saints had faced. Write the verse.

### ***Homework***

- + We pray for (so and so) who is sick. We visit him.
- + Write five sentences about “How to honor saints”.
- + Write the sentences down in your notebook.

### ***Instructions***

1. By the end of the lesson ask the children to go around again carrying candles and flowers while chanting, “Our righteous martyrs...” and give the thanksgiving prayer.
2. Distribute dates and pomegranates among the children.
3. Do not concentrate on the passive aspects of murder but clarify how the saints were happy and quiet. Draw the children’s attention to the light that surrounds the saints so that the children may recognize the symbols of happiness and delight.
4. Note that the lesson is divided into sections and stages preceded by the sign of the cross and followed by questions. If the Servant has time or wish to change the lesson of Kuzman and Dimyan, he can give the Lesson of St. Dimyana.

## **(1b) St. Dimyana the Martyr**

### ***References***

- + Synaxarium, 12<sup>th</sup> of Bashans

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

1. Satan causes the downfall of many people. Lord, have mercy upon me so that I may not fall.
2. Mark, the governor raises incense to the idols, but the Lord sent him his daughter who drew his attention to his wrong deed and he repented. O, Lord, accept my repentance... and help me to offer true repentance.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Standing firm in faith till death

#### ***Verse***

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippines 1:21}

#### ***Hymn***

- + O righteous martyrs our pure martyrs [Arabic Song]
- + Hasten O righteous hasten... [Praise me Lord Page 31]
- + Shine on us... Shine on us...

#### ***Aids***

A picture of St. Dimyana should be set in the class and the candles should be fixed before the picture. At the end of the lesson, the children carry the picture and make a small procession and say, “Axias, Axias, Axias, Ti Agia Dimyana” i.e., “Worthy, worthy, worthy St. Dimyana”.

#### ***Notes***

Whom should we obey? And who too? And if daddy says, “Do not go to church, what shall we do? We tell him that the church is very important because it is the House of God.

Mark, the governor of Al-zaafran Province, the North of the Delta, had only one daughter. Her name was Dimyana. She was 15 years old. She refused to marry because she had made a vow that she would devote her life to Christ. Her father built her a palace where she could worship the Lord together with 40 virgins. In that monastery, they spent their time in prayers, worship and contemplation.

- + Who is Dimyana?
- + Why did she refuse to marry?
- + How many virgins were with her?

The king sent for her father and ordered him to worship the idols. Her father was frightened so he raised incense to the idols. When his daughter, Dimyana heard about this, she hurried to him and rebuked him saying, “I would rather hear that you had died than hear that you had forsaken Christ. If you do not give up worshipping idols, I’ll not confess that you are my father. O Father, if you die here as a martyr you will live with Christ, but if you live as a pagan you will die with the devil”. She gave him a moment to think. Her father was deeply affected by her words... he wept bitterly. He went back to the king and confessed that he was Christian. He said, “For to me

to live” ...and he won the crown of martyrdom.

The king knew that Dimyana was the cause of her father’s return to Christianity. He sent an officer to tempt her to worship the idols but she said, “Aren’t you ashamed of yourselves? Do you call these stones gods? There is no god but Christ whom we worship”. He put her in prison, squeezed her. An angel healed her. He cut her flesh into pieces and put her in boiling oil. The officer tormented her but she kept saying, “For me to live...” At last he cut off her head and also cut off the heads of the 40 virgins.

The believers collected the bodies and put them in the monastery, which her father had built for her then the bodies were shrouded and buried. A church was built for them. This church can be seen now in Bilkas, North of the Delta. People go there each year to visit the church of St. Dimyana. The Day 12<sup>th</sup> of Bashans is still the day when people, on the way to the church, still repeat the words “O Dimyana... We have come back... many happy returns”. St. Dimyana Church is a famous church in Boulak.

- + Where did Dimyana live?
- + How many virgins were with her?
- + What did she do when she heard that her father had departed from the faith?
- + Where is her body?
- + Recite the verse.

## **(2) Elijah and Restoring the widow’s Son to life**

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 17
- + “The Life of Elijah” Translated by Fr. Markus Daoud
- + “Practical Contemplations on the Life of Elijah of Tishbet” Translated by Wagdi Girgis

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

Elijah teaches us the following:

1. Satisfaction: He lived on very small resources of a poor widow. Those resources were not enough for the daily needs.
2. Patience and self-control in time of danger: When the widow said to him, “Did you come here to remind God of my sins and so cause my son’s death?” all he said was, “Give the boy to me”.
3. Struggling in his solitary place: He took the boy from her arms, carried him upstairs to the room where he was staying, and laid him on the bed. Then he prayed aloud.
4. Modesty: He stretched himself out on the boy three times and he did not lose hope.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

God’s care for his children and people.

### *Verse*

“Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find” (Luke 11:9).

### *Hymn*

+ When I feel tired... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

### *Aids*

The picture: The Servant sets the scene by giving some questions about the previous lesson.

### *Notes*

1. What was the feast that we celebrated last week?
2. Why do we celebrate it?
3. What are the names of the two holy martyrs?
1. Who can recite the verse?
2. Did anyone of you pray for a sick man? Who visited him?

The Servant then checks the children’s notebooks to have a look at the previous week’s homework and to encourage the children.

This is an example of one of the men of God whose name is Elijah... a friend of God, he loves the Lord and if obeys Him... During the famine, the Lord sent him his food with the ravens, then the Lord said to him, “Now go to the town of Zarephath, near Sidon and stay there”. The Lord commanded him to live with a poor widow at Zarephath. Who, of you, prays for the poor?

Elijah stayed with the widow. He stayed at the upper chamber (a small room at the top of the house when Elijah used to rest and to pray). The Lord sent them flour and oil according to their needs... The Lord blessed her home... Elijah told them tales from the Bible.

One day the widow’s son was playing outside the house. When he came back he was very ill. The boy was crying because of pain. His mother ran to him... took him and laid him in bed. She hoped that the boy would get better but the days passed and the boy’s health did not improve... his illness was serious... his temperature rose up... the boy died... his mother wept bitterly... he was her only son... the verse came to her mind... “Ask and it shall be given you”. She stood up... carried the boy and took him to Elijah the prophet and said, “My son has died... I beg you to pray for him and I am sure that the Lord will answer your prayer and restore the boy to life”.

Elijah was sad because the boy died. He took the boy from his mother’s arms. He carried him to the upper room and laid him on the bed on which Elijah used to sleep. He bowed down to the earth...then he raised his eyes and hands to heaven and prayed “O Lord, you said: Ask and it shall be given you. I implore You to bring this boy back to life”. Elijah stretched himself out on the boy then bowed to the earth in prayer and repeated the same words three times... The child started breathing again and revived... the boy opened his eyes... stood up...wonderful! Who heard of a man who died and then came back to life? No one...God cares for us...and He said: “Ask and you shall be given, seek and you shall find”.

+ What is the name of God’s prophet?

- + Who fed Elijah during the Drought?
- + Who sent him food?
- + Who can recite the verse?

Elijah carried the boy to his mother and said to her, look your son is alive... the woman was very happy... she knelt down and worshipped God. She thanked God and said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God. I believe in God. The child chanted, "When I am ill..." Elijah took courage because the Lord performed this miraculous deed by his hands.

### ***Homework***

- + Draw a picture of Elijah in a situation that stimulates your admiration.
- + Read 2 Kings 19

## **(3) An Angel delivers Jerusalem from Sennaherib**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 19
- + The Angels, printed material issued by the young people's meeting.
- + Dictionary of the Bible

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

1. Contemplate any event in your life, from which God saved you. Be sure my dear servant that the Lord, because of His great love to you, sent you His angel to rescue you.
2. Contemplate the angel whom the Lord sent to Daniel when he was cast in the den of lions. They did not injure him and the horrible gloomy den became a place of peace and praises... and here we have one angel who destroyed Assyrian's army. He killed 185 thousand soldiers (2Kings 19:35).
3. St. Basil said, "Each believer is in company with an angel and the angel attends him, teaches him, guards him and guides him in his life. One of the saints said, "In every place you find yourself, and in every corner...respect your angel". St. Irenaeus also said, "How valuable the souls are; there is an angel appointed for each of them to guard each soul".

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The Angels guard and serve the Saints.

### ***Verse***

"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them" (Psalm 34:7).

### ***Hymn***

- + You and your angels... [Arabic Song]
- + The Lord is my Shepherd... [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

## *Aids*

A picture of the guardian angel in a large size or the picture of the Holy Family in her journey to Egypt in company with the angel who guards and guides them.

- + Who fed Elijah when he was staying at the river?
- + Who fed him when the river dried up?
- + Mention the miracles that took place at Zarephath, near Sidon.
- + Who can recite the verse?
- + Have you read 2 Kings 19?
- + What happened in the last part of it?
- + How many angels killed the soldiers of the Assyrian army?
- + How many soldiers were killed? One angel killed 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrian army.
- + The Servant reads the verses 35-37.
- + Who are the angels and what is their work?

King Sennacherib was king of Assyrian. This king was the enemy of Hezekiah, King of Judah. King Hezekiah was righteous and zealous. His concern was the glory of God and worshipping Him. He destroyed the pagan places of worship. The Lord was with him and he was successful in everything.

Sennacherib besieged Jerusalem and sent a letter to Hezekiah threatening him. He said, "If you do not surrender to me, I shall destroy the city. Who is that god that can rescue you?" He also warned the people of Jerusalem saying, "Do not rely on the Lord because He cannot save Jerusalem from me. So not listen to Hezekiah".

- + What is the name of the King of Assyrian?
- + What is the name of the city he wanted to besiege?

The Lord answered Hezekiah's prayer and sent him a message by Isaiah the prophet, the man of God. The message ran thus, "The Lord listened to your prayer concerning Sennacherib". King Hezekiah was comforted and waited for the work of the Lord. At that same night, while Sennacherib and his army were asleep in their tents, the Lord's angel came to the tents and killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. What a wonderful victory!

In the early morning, a small number of soldiers got up and found that all the other soldiers were dead... they were frightened... Sennacherib went back to Nineveh and stayed in his house. One day when he was worshipping in the temple of his god, two of his sons killed him. Thus the Lord revealed his power and granted victory to all that trust in Him.

- + What is the name of the king who loved God?
- + Why was he sad?
- + To whom did he go for protection?
- + Where did he pray?
- + How did the Lord answer Hezekiah's prayer?
- + Did you pray for something and the Lord answered your prayer? Thank the Lord for that.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you know about the guardian angel?
2. Does the Lord protect us although we are sinful?
3. Write one verse to prove that angels guard us.

### ***Instructions***

1. Draw a picture to show the effect of Hezekiah's prayer for Jerusalem. Show that the Lord sent an angel as a result of Hezekiah's prayers.
2. The angels shine, as they are the servants of the Lord.
3. Treat the children's fear, as children are afraid when they are alone. They are afraid of the darkness. They are afraid during the sleeping hours. If they feel the presence of their guardian angel, they will not be afraid. (You will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man).
4. Our guardian angel sees all what we do because he is always with us, that is why we must not do anything that may grieve the Lord.

### ***Recitation***

Psalm 19 suits this lesson "The heavens are telling the glory of God". Children begin to use it in their prayers up till lesson 8. It should be distributed among the children whether in the printed form or in handwriting.

## **(4) Jesus Heals A Paralytic**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 9:1-8
- + Mark 2:1-12
- + "Studies in the New Testament: Matthew" Pages 41,42, Fagala.
- + "Studies in the New Testament: Mark" Pages 18,19, Fagala.

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

Together with your brothers in the Service raise a prayer to the Lord for the names of some persons and pray the Lord to guide them to his way. Intercede with the saints. God guides those brothers in answer to the sincere prayers of the saints and your prayers.

Remember all your children specially the naughty ones. Always pray for them and never fall into despair as you now see the strong faith of those who offered the paralyzed man.

, Form a friendship between you and the saints so that they may help you with their prayers and intercessions and bring you to the Lord in times of affliction and suffering-

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The power of faith

### ***Verse***

"Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you" (Matthew 9:2)

### *Hymns*

- + Jesus in Capernaum in a crowded house... [Arabic Song]
- + When I feel tired... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

### *Aids*

The picture of the Story

### *Notes*

- + Who of you did something that pleased his guardian angel?
- + What did you do?
- + Who saddened the heart of his guardian angel?
- + If your guardian angel is displeased say: Lord forgive me... I have sinned.

After examining the children's notes, the Servant distributes the picture of the new lesson.

- + What do you see in this picture?
- + How many men are at the top of the picture?

They brought their friend to the Lord... they broke part of the ceiling and lowered their sick friend. He was paralyzed and could not walk... Do you see his bed? This man was paralyzed... What does "paralyzed" mean?

One day Jesus entered a house at Capernaum... Many people gathered around him... sick people and people who love him. The Lord received them and welcomed them all. The house became crowded with people... There was a man in Capernaum who had been ill for a long time... This man and his relatives heard that Christ was coming to the city and that he was in one of the houses. The paralyzed man said to his friends, "Have mercy upon me... take me to Jesus to heal me". Four of his friends put him on a mat because he was completely paralyzed and could move neither his hands nor his legs. All the way they were praying, "O Lord, heal our brother and friend because he is paralyzed".

- + What is the name of the city?
- + Where did Jesus go?
- + Who carried the paralyzed man?

The friends found that the house was very crowded both inside and outside... They climbed up a ladder to the top of the house where they put the man. They made a hole in the ceiling. They succeeded in making an opening to lower their friend through it. They tied their friend with ropes. They lowered him till he reached the ground. Jesus looked at him then he looked up... He smiled... he loved them. He looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Son, be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you".

The people who were present murmured and said to themselves, "God is the Only One who can forgive sins". The Lord Jesus knew what they were thinking and He said to them, "Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Get up, pick up your mat, and



walk?” They did not answer. They kept silent.

- + Why do the people murmur?
- + What did they say?
- + What did Jesus say to them?
- + Where did the paralyzed man descend from?
- + How did he come down?
- + Let us say together, “Son be of good cheer...”

Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, pick up your bed, and go home”. These words sent a wonderful power into the body of the paralyzed man... He stood up... thanked God... picked up his bed and went home happily and singing hymns, “When I am sick...” His friends went home happily... but the people who saw the miraculous deed wondered greatly and glorified God... One of them said, “The Lord says a word and healing occurs immediately”... complete healing... another said, “The man was carried before us and went out carrying his bed”. All the people said, “We have never seen such a thing”.

- + What did Lord Jesus say to the paralyzed man?
- + How did the man go home?
- + What did the people say?
- + Are there any sick people in our family?
- + What service can you offer them?

### ***Homework***

1. Complete the following sentences:
  - a. The priests baptize babies according to the faith of .....
  - b. The Lord Jesus showed mercy to the paralyzed man and said to him ... ..
  - c. The Lord Jesus performed many miraculous deeds in Capernaum such as .....
2. Complete this prayer: Pray for ..... those patients who suffer from .....

### ***Instructions***

1. Draw the children’s attentions that God gave us life and that He does not give us anything we ask for in our prayers as he appoints a certain time which is unknown to us and that he knows what is good for us more than we know.
2. Prayer with faith performs miracles, as “For with God all things are possible”.

## **(5) The Wedding at Cana in Galilee**

### ***References***

+ John 2:1-11

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

1. Christ’s life on earth was full of good deeds... From Peter’s house where He healed his mother in law, to the doors of Nain where He brought the widow’s only son back to life... to Bethany where He brought Lazarus out of the grave after four days... He went about

doing good.

2. Study the life of St. Mary and contemplate her virtues and pray the Lord to help you in your struggle so that you may be perfect in Jesus Christ and to take the example of the life of our intercessor.
3. Jesus performed his first miraculous deed to honor Virgin Mary. So resort to her... ask for her protection. Ask her to pray for you... and intercede with her son to give us what we need.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Sharing the people their joys and sorrows is a religious necessity.

#### ***Verse***

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15)

#### ***Hymns***

+ In the Wedding of Cana in Galilee... [Arabic Song]

+ Our Lord we are... [Arabic Song]

+ Through the intercession of the Mother of God St. Mary... [The Liturgy]

#### ***Notes***

+ What is the miraculous deed performed by Lord Christ last week?

+ In what country did He perform it?

+ Who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus?

+ Who remembers a miracle performed by Christ?

+ Where did He perform it?

There was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee near Nazareth. Mary, the mother of Jesus was one of those invited. St. Mary went to the wedding party to share them their joys as the verse says: “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”. Jesus also came with His disciples. The Lord Jesus always shared people their joys and grief.

They entered the house. There at the door were six big jars filled with water. People washed the feet of those who entered and offered them water to drink. In one of the rooms, some men were drinking wine. It seems that those people were poor. The wine was all drunk up and there was no more wine to drink. People began to whisper and the people celebrating the wedding felt ashamed, as they could not offer wine to the guests and to their neighbors. But Virgin Mary was sure that Jesus, her son could do everything, so she whispered in his ear saying, “There is no wine”. Jesus looked at her and knew that she wanted Him to perform a miraculous deed. But Jesus had not started making miraculous deeds yet...of course He had started teaching and preaching and He had disciples but the time for performing miracles had not come yet and the time for showing and declaring His power to the people had not come yet. . But St. Mary knew that Jesus loved her and that He would do something so she went immediately to the servants and said to them, “Do whatever He tells you”. And St. Mary waited for the miracle to happen.

- + What happened to the wine? Why?
- + Complete to verse: “Rejoice with those who...”

Lord Jesus Christ does not like drinking wine, neither does Virgin Mary ...He saw that the people were poor and ashamed so He wanted to give them something better than wine. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill those jars with water”. The servants obeyed Him and filled the jars up to the brim. Jesus said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast”. So they took it. The miracle took place... the water turned into wine. But the wine, which Jesus made, was good wine and it made the drunkards come back to their minds, as it was good different kind of wine. When the steward tasted the water that was turned into wine, not knowing what happened, he was astonished as the wine tasted very nice and he said, “Why did the bridegroom keep this good wine till the end of the wedding? This good wine should have been served first, then the poor wine should have followed.

- + Who performed the miraculous deed?
- + What sort of wine did Jesus offer?
- + Who told Jesus that the wine gave out?
- + Why did the Lord perform this miracle?
- + Let us say together: Through the Intercession of the Mother of God...

#### Homework

- + Write this prayer in your notebook and study it...
- + Recite it before you eat: O Lord bless us... Let your right hand bless this food, which we are having and give food to the hungry.
- + Recite the following prayer after you eat your meal: We thank You O Lord as you are merciful to us and you offer us all good things. We pray to you to give us a share in the heavenly meal, Amen.

#### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant must clarify that when Christ blessed the wine, He did not mean to encourage people to drink wine, as that wine was juice in taste and power.
2. The Lord Christ obeyed Virgin Mary and he performed this miracle although he had not yet begun the time of making miracles.
3. The Servant must emphasize Christ’s attitude on every occasion and the child must be responsive and cooperative in the society in which he lives. He must share other people in their joys and grief without fanaticism.
4. The Servant divides the class into groups and these groups should visit patients and pray for them. They also visit those in grief and pray for them.
5. The Servant asks the children to bring St. Mark Gospel with them and read chapter 10:46-52.

### **(6) Jesus Heals blind Bartimaeus**

#### ***References***

- + Matthew 20:29-35

- + Mark 10:46-52
- + Luke 18:35-43
- + “The Gospel According to St. Matthew” Fagala, Page 88
- + “The Gospel according to St. Mark” Page 81-82
- + “The Gospel according to St. Matthew” Guiza

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

1. Contemplate the system of the planets and the movement of the sun and remember the wisdom of God in his work. Contemplate the plant system and the power of life, the colors of roses and the smell of flowers and thank God for the grace of eyesight and the other graces the Lord has given you.
2. The dearest grace to us is that Christ is the light of the world. We follow him in everything and we have trust and faith in him.
3. “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (Corinthians 5:7).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Christ’s ability to heal.

#### ***Verse***

“Jesus, Son of David, Have mercy on me” (Mark 10:47)

#### ***Hymns***

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

#### ***Aids***

Picture of the lesson...

#### ***Notes***

The Servant checks the previous week’s homework, corrects it and gives good marks to the best answers. He makes sure that each one has a copy of St. Mark’s Gospel and he asks:

- + What do the last verses of chapter 10 speak about?
- + Who remembers the sign we heard of?
- + In what town was it done?
- + Who remembers the verse?
- + What can you see in the picture you hold in your hands?
- + Who was with Jesus?
- + This man is blind... he cannot see... shut your eyes so you know how a man is blind.
- + What can you see? Nothing but darkness... Is that true?
- + Let us open our eyes... What can you see now?

There was a poor man whose name was Bartimaeus. He lived in Jericho. He lived in the fields and rural districts where flowers grew and trees are numerous. But he could not enjoy looking at the beautiful flowers neither could he see his relatives or friends. He could not do so because he

was blind. He felt his way with his staff. He walked very slowly. Every day, he sat by the road under a tree and stretched his hand to the passers-by hoping that he would take something from them. People had pity on him and gave him alms to help him buy his food. What was the name of the blind man?

+ What did he hold in his hand? Why? Where did he sit?

Bartimaeus the Blind could recognize the sound of things. He could recognize the different steps of people near him. For example he knew whether the children were running, jumping, playing or quarrelling. He felt the rays of the sun on his back and the rain when it fell on his face. He heard the sound of the Wind and the songs of swallows, the steps of horses or camels that walked slowly before him. To him day and night were the same, as he saw nothing but darkness all his life.

One day, Bartimaeus sat under a tree as usual. He listened attentively. He said to himself, "I hear the sound of many feet. A crowd of people is passing in front of me. They are laughing and speaking. Who is coming?" A little child of your age heard him, so he drew near to him although he was running to join his friends. The child said to him, "Yes, Uncle Bartimaeus" and Bartimaeus said, "My child, I can see nothing, tell me what the matter is. Who is coming?" The child told him that it was Jesus who was coming. Jesus is coming! Jesus the Nazareth is here in our town?"

+ Who told Bartimaeus that Jesus was coming?

+ What was the name of the town?

Jesus was passing Jericho. The people of Jericho gave Him a warm welcome. They were shouting in a loud voice. The grown ups were crying, "O Jesus, the Son of David, have mercy on us". The children were shouting and singing hymn: You love us... You love us... You love us our Lord... That is why you came to us... You came to where we are...

People said: Welcome, welcome, welcome O Lord Jesus Welcome, welcome, welcome O Lord Jesus. The children said: All people love you and so do I my Lord... Give Him nice presents and I give you my heart. The people said: Welcome... the children said: The happiest day in the universe is the day of Your happy birth. Each day You are with us O Lord, is a feast for us. And all the people said: Welcome... Bartimaeus desired to see Jesus as he heard that Jesus healed many people so he cried loudly, "O Jesus, the Son of David, have mercy upon me". Then he said to himself, "O Lord... I hope that Jesus will help me... There is no doubt that He will help me, if I ask him to do so". Then he took hold of his staff and rose crying, "O Jesus, have mercy on me... O Jesus heal me..." But Jesus did not hear him because of the crowds that surrounded Him were loud. Bartimaeus cried more loudly than he did before, "Jesus, the Son of David, have mercy on me". The people were angry with him and asked him to keep silent and stop crying... You disturb us and you disturb Jesus. But the blind man did not care and continued crying, "O Jesus, have mercy upon me. Jesus heard his cries. He stopped and said to those around him: "Bring him to me". Some children ran to Bartimaeus and said to him, "How lucky you are uncle Bartimaeus, Jesus call you, come with us". They took hold of his hand and led him to Jesus. Because of his great happiness, he jumped, his cloak fell down but he left it on the ground and went to Jesus.

Jesus gently asked him, “What do you want?” Bartimaeus said, “Lord, I want to see”. Jesus put His hand on the eyes of the blind man and said to him, “GO your way, your faith has made you well” and immediately he received his sight. The blind man’s eyes opened and he saw the gentleness of Jesus. He saw the sky and the herb... he saw the people’s faces. He saw light. Bartimaeus loved Jesus and followed Him and became his disciple.

- + What is the name of the town where Bartimaeus lived?
- + Who led the blind man to Jesus?
- + What did Bartimaeus say?
- + How did Jesus heal him?
- + If you are ill, what will you do?
- + How can you help a blind man?

### ***Homework***

Study this passage from the Morning Prayer and write it in your notebook and use it in your morning prayers: The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. O Lord, you came to the world through Your love for men and when You came, all the creation rejoiced... When You came, you saved Adam, our father from the seduction of the Serpent. You saved Eve, our mother from the pains of death. You gave us the spirit of prophecy. We worship You, and bless You saying: Zoxapatri...

### ***Instructions***

1. The lesson helps you to tell the Story in a lively way so follow the steps of the lesson.
2. Pray before and after preparation. Pray before you give the lesson so that you may take of the Spirit of God who gives to all men generously and without reproaching.
3. Make sure that your aim is clear during the lesson: “The healing power of Jesus... Christ is God”.
4. Emphasize the conversation that ran between Bartimaeus and the children and between Bartimaeus and Christ through an interesting style. You can use another prayer “Be kind and merciful to them”.

## **(7) Jesus Heals A Deaf-Mute**

### ***References***

- + Mark 7:31-37
- + “Studies on the New Testament: St. Mark’s Gospel” Fagala, Page 45,56

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

1. Visit the absentees who do not attend the spiritual meetings. Some of them may be sick.
2. Visit your sick friends and those in grief.
3. Pray and contemplate the word of God.
4. When people saw the miraculous deeds of Jesus, they glorified God. Have you thanked God for his grace and the good things that Christ has given you? (The grace of existence and the grace of redemption...) Have you confessed that He is the Son of God and not a great prophet?

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

Christ power of healing

### *Verse*

“He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak” (Mark 7:31)

### *Hymns*

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

### *Notes*

- + Who has seen a man who is deaf?
- + Who saw a man who is dumb?
- + Did you notice that the dumb is always deaf?

People loved Jesus because He was always kind to them. Those whom He healed told their friends about what happened to them. In those days, there lived a boy of your age, who could not speak. He was deaf and dumb... His friends were sad because of his miserable state. His friends wanted to tell him about Jesus but they could not make him understand.

One day some of his friends came to him. He saw them speaking with one another. They said, “We must do something. We want to offer a service to our brother”. One of them said, “Let’s lead him to Jesus”. Another one asked, “And where is Jesus?” The first one said, “I heard that He is now on the eastern shore of Galilee Sea”. The third one said, “Jesus has healed a mad man there”. “Right you are, I also heard about this miraculous deed”. They all agreed to take their friend to Jesus. But the boy was in deep thought, “What are my friends talking about? O Lord, were I able to listen to what they say?” But they smiled to him. They led him by the hand to Jesus. On their way to Jesus, they sang the Hymn: “When I am sick...”

- + What as wrong with that boy?
- + What did he need?
- + Who led him to Jesus?

On their way, they saw a great crowd around Jesus. The boy’s friends took him to Jesus. One of them said to Jesus, “Please, heal our friend and make him well... He is dumb and deaf... We are sure that you will heal him”.

- + Where was Jesus?
- + Why didn’t the boy speak for himself?
- + What do you think of those friends?
- + What is your duty towards your brothers who do not attend Sunday School?
- + What is your duty towards a person who does not believe that it is necessary for him to attend Sunday School and to go to Church? Pray for him...
- + Who took that boy to Jesus?
- + Who led the paralyzed man to Jesus?

- + Who took the blind man to Jesus?
- + Who offered a service to the others this week?

Jesus gave the boy a loving and kind look and smiled to him sweetly and the boy said to himself, “O Jesus, how sweet you are”. Then he looked at the faces of his friends in an attempt to understand the conversation between them and Jesus. Jesus took the boy by the hand... he led him to a calm place. He took him off alone, away from the crowd, put His fingers in the boy’s ears and touched his tongue. Then Jesus looked up to heaven, gave a deep groan and said to the boy, “Ephatha” which means, “open up”. The boy was able to hear sounds... and then the crowds... then he heard the words of Jesus... He spoke as other people did. His heart was filled with joy... He said, “I thank You Lord. O Jesus, I thank You now for my ears that hear now and for my tongue that can speak now”. His friends glorified God saying, “He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak”.

- + How did Jesus heal that man?
- + Let’s repeat the verse together: He even makes .....

#### Homework

1. Mark ✓ (right) before the prayers that God answers:
  - a. O Lord give us our daily bread.
  - b. O Lord help one to be merciful to others.
  - c. O Lord give Emily a dress better than Bethany’s dress.
  - d. O Lord give me a lot of money and clothes.
  - e. O Lord heal (so and so) who is sick.
2. Write a short prayer for the church, food, and serving others.
3. Fill in the spaces with words chosen from the list:
  - a. Jesus is ..... with me when I ..... God and treat ..... kindly (love -people – pleased).
  - b. .... things are ..... with ..... (God -all -possible).
  - c. He put His ..... into his ears and touched his ..... And his ears were ..... his tongue was .....(fingers -tongue -opened -released).

#### **Instructions**

1. The Servant distributes the names of the absentees among the children and they should visit them and offer services to them. The servant chooses four or five children and asks them to visit the absentees. These children can be given the name of “The fishermen”.
2. The children should also help the poor by giving them money, food and clothes.

### ***God Helps The Diligent Workers And Hates Sin***

#### **8) The Great Flood: the Ark of Noah**

#### **References**

- + Genesis 6,7
- + The Bible Dictionary



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

1. The blessing of obedience is the heritage of glories... he who obeys the fathers and spiritual brothers can save a lot of his tears of repentance through obedience.
2. Noah's faith and sincerity with God caused the salvation of his wife, sons and his sons' wives, and because of the prayers of the saints whom the world is not worthy of, God saved the world from its evil doings so we advise you to intercede with saints' prayers.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Noah the Righteous is rewarded for his obedience

#### ***Verse***

"The Just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17).

#### ***Hymns***

- + The Lord told Noah... [Praise the Lord, Page 56]
- + Psalmody "Give joy to our souls" [Praise the Lord, Page 23]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of Lesson 2 or a picture of a dove, a crow and a branch of an olive tree

#### ***Notes***

- + Does God accept wrong doers and sinners?
- + How is a wicked man punished?
- + How are saints rewarded in the end?

Adam and Eve lived outside the Paradise of Eden and people increased in number. But sorry to say, evil spread and most people walked with the devil and after many years, there was only one house that worshipped God and God was not pleased with all the people as all what they did was wrong. The Lord said to Noah, "Noah... You are a good-hearted man and I am pleased with you because you are faithful and sincere. Make yourself an ark of three decks". Noah and his sons worked hard and made that big ship. Wicked people asked Noah about what he was doing and Noah told them that God would destroy the world with floodwaters if the people did not repent. The people laughed at him and mocked him saying that he was mad, "Noah is building an ark in the center of the town. Of course he is mad... he has deceived us and lied to us. Noah do not waste your time".

- + What did the Lord order Noah to do?
- + Why did God choose Noah in particular?

Noah went on in his work till he finished making the ark and the day appointed for the flood came (By the way, it took Noah and his sons 120 years to build the ark so imagine how big the ark was!) Then God said to Noah, "Go into the Ark, you and all your household... Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, males and females; and a pair of the animals that are not clean;

and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, to keep their kind alive upon the face of all the earth". And Noah said to the Lord, "How can I gather all these animals and birds?" And the Lord said to him, "Stand by the door of the Ark and I will send you all the animals and birds". When they all went into the Ark (The eight persons and all the animals and birds)... Noah requested and warned the people to repent but the people were indifferent and did not care. The Lord then shut the door of the Ark so no one could either enter or go out. Rain began to fall... All the outlets of the vast body of water beneath the earth burst open, all the floodgates of the sky were opened and rain fell on the earth. The water became deep enough for the ark to float. The water became deep and the ark drifted on the surface. People ran to the ark but the Lord had shut the door of the ark. People searched for a place to protect them but in vein, neither high buildings nor mountains... nor... nor... anything could shelter them. And the flood continued for forty days.

- + How did Noah gather all beasts, animals and birds?
- + How many persons went into the ark?
- + Who shut the door of the ark?

Noah sent out a raven after a long time, but the raven did not come back (why?). Then he sent out a dove and it returned to him as it could not find a place to alight. Then he sent out the dove once more and it returned to him with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then he sent out the dove again but this time it did not come back, so Noah understood that plants appeared. And the Ark came to rest on the mountain of Ararat.

- + Why didn't the raven go back to Noah?
- + What do you think of the two doves' behavior?

### ***Homework***

1. What is the relationship between the Ark and the church? What are the similarities?
2. What happened to those who followed the advice of the man of God and what happened to the others?

## **(9) The Talents: Rewarding the hardworking man**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 25:14
- + "St. Matthew's Gospel" Faga1a, Page 106,107

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

1. You have been entrusted with a precious property, i.e., the children whom you have to serve. They need your effort and care. This is the property of which you will hand in a complete account... Examine yourself... did you trade with them and win other children or did you leave them as they are or did you neglect what the Lord had given to you?
2. Remember each one of them when you pray... Be a good model for them. Woe to him by whom temptations come.
3. Consider the talents that God has given to you and see how you traded with them (Knowledge -health -time - the members of your body).

4. Contemplate the case of The Dishonest Steward who invested what would be taken from him in order to prepare a happy living for himself later on. Compare this with the matters pertaining to this world, which will be taken from us after death, and consider how we must trade with them in the hope that we may gain eternal life (Luke 16:1-13).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Encourage the children to use their talents in serving God and refer to the lazy man who is punished for hiding this talent in the dust.

#### ***Verse***

“Give an account of your steward ship” (Luke 16:2)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Give joy to our souls... [Praise the Lord, Page 23]

#### ***Notes***

The Servant reads the parable of Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 then he asks about the points of this parable. Of course you will feel ashamed if somebody calls you a servant, but what we mean by “servants” is people who are loyal to their masters. One day, the master of some servants had to travel. He called his servants and entrusted them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one (A talent of silver equals thirty Egyptian pounds).

The master wanted his servants to work and trade and when he came back, he would say to each one of them, “Give an account of your steward ship” (Luke 16:2).

+ What are the talents?

Talents are gifts like thinking, discrimination, will, arts, science (knowledge). It is also found in each member of our body. As for us, has the Lord given us talents? The Lord does not give us property all the time, but sometimes He gives us potentialities so what is your talent? (The Servant helps the children to discriminate their talents and potentialities, which God gave each one of them).

We all can pray and prayer is the most important talent, as through prayer, the gates of heaven open. Prayer is the means through which we get food for our life. Samir can deliver a speech; Malak can play the piano; Saeed is intelligent; Peter and Andrew are clever at playing basketball; all of us have the talent of reading as we joined schools and we can read.

+ How many talents did the first servant take?

+ How many talents did the second receive?

+ How many talents did the third receive?

+ Let us repeat together: Give an account of your steward ship.

+ What did the servant who took the five talents do? He worked hard and sincerely. He was honest...

The money increased. The servant who took the two talents struggled honestly and the money increased. But the servant who took one talent dug the land and hid it. He is a lazy servant. Although we do not approve of what that servant did, yet he is better than the one who does not return the talent and spoils it.

+ What do you think of a Sunday School child who takes the alms money from his father and spends it?

+ What do you think of a child who neglects his homework?

Many people began with a small simple business, but through honesty, hard work, and almsgiving, they became great traders. Many technicians began by establishing small workshops, but through good manners and honesty, they became rich and great technicians. Many children love reading books and read a lot and became scientists.

+ What is the good manner necessary to the simple worker? to the Christian trader? to the child? We are the servants who serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

We shall stand before Him one day to give account for what we did, and He will ask us about each talent He gave us. He will say to us, "Give an account of your steward ship". If we are honest, He will say to us, "well done".

+ How many servants are they?

+ How many talents did the first take? The second? The third?

+ Which one of the three traded and won?

+ How many talents did the first win? The second? The third?

+ Say the verse...

### ***Homework***

1. Place the mark X (wrong) before the talents or the gifts that lose or use it wrongly and the mark ✓ (right) before the talents you use to glorify God.

a. I befriend bad people ( ).

b. I read a story for my younger brother ( ).

c. I tease my friend ( ).

d. I sing hymns ( ).

e. I help the poor ( ).

f. I write neatly ( ).

g. I spend money foolishly ( ).

h. I am happy ( ).

2. Rearrange the following words:

a. -Steward ship -turn -your -of -in -account -the

b. -much -over -you -set -will -I -little -a -over -faithful -been -have -you.

### **(10) Abraham Entertains Three Angels**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 18
- + “The Life of Abraham” by F. B. Mayer

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

1. Abraham believed in God and knew the true power of God and his own weakness as man so he lived with Him and humbled himself before the Lord so he deserved to enter into the Divine fellowship.
2. Here are the signs of this fellowship:
  - a. He deserved to entertain the Lord Himself, and you can entertain the Lord when you help the needy that the Lord calls His brothers.
  - b. The Lord revealed Divine secrets to him, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing” (Genesis 18:17).
  - c. He deserved to take liberty when he spoke with God. He humbly talked to Him but he said to the Lord: Will You indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?
3. As for you, you have the liberty of the son in this age of grace. So be frank with the Lord, struggle in your prayers to Him and be faithful to Him.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The reward of obedience in the life of Abraham and God’s decision to destroy and burn Sodom and Gomorrah for their corruption

#### ***Verse***

“For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Abraham was standing... [Arabic Song]
- + This is the day that the Lord... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

#### ***Notes***

The Servant checks the answers to the questions of the previous lesson then asks the children if anyone of them remembers anything about Abraham.

One day, three guests visited Abraham. He entertained them without knowing who they were. Abraham was one hundred years old and his tents were very big. He had 318 slaves and many servants who worked for him. He was sitting at the door of his tent under a big tree one day and it was very hot at noon. He looked up and saw three men standing at the entrance of his tent. As soon as he saw them he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground (as that was the sign of honoring and saluting people those days), he invited them to dinner. He forgot that he was old and had a great status in society. He only thought of entertaining strangers. The three men accepted his invitation.

- + How many men did Abraham see?

- + Where was Abraham sitting?
- + How old was he?
- + What good quality characterized his character?
- + Why did he bow before them?
- + What did he say to them?

He brought some water for them to wash their feet. Then they sat under a tree to rest and they waited for dinner. Abraham hurried into the tent to prepare food. He said to Sarah: "Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread (This is the bread, which is baked on hot stones and is turned on both faces to be well cooked). Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf, he slaughtered it and gave it to a servant who hurried to get it ready. Abraham was generous. He prepared the food and put bread, the calf, butter and milk before the three guests. They ate their meal and Abraham stood to serve them, and greet them.

- + What are some of the gentle words that Abraham said to his three guests, do you think?
- + What do you say to a guest of yours to make him feel happy?

When they were sitting One of them said to Abraham, "Nine months from now, I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son and you will call him Isaac". Now Abraham was sure that his guests were angels from heaven and the Lord is one of them. The three men thanked Abraham and when they left the tent, Abraham walked with them. The Lord walked slowly and said to Abraham, "I will not hide from Abraham what I am going to do I'll tell you".

The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is very great... and I hate wickedness ...The wage of sin is death. I will destroy the two cities... Abraham was sad and he pleaded to the Lord... Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? If there are fifty innocent people in the city, will you destroy the whole city? The Lord answered, "If I find fifty innocent people in Sodom, I will spare the whole city for their sake". Abraham spoke again: "Please forgive my boldness in continuing to speak to you. Perhaps there will be only forty five, forgive me perhaps there will be forty... thirty... twenty..." and the Lord said, "I shall not destroy the city if I find twenty innocent men". Abraham said, "Perhaps there are ten". The Lord said, "If there are ten, I will not destroy the city".

Abraham said, "Oh! We cannot find ten innocent people in the city!" He shook his head and said, "Lord, you are just. The wage of sin is death". Abraham kept silence. Let us pray and ask anything? Let's pray for the salvation of the world. Let us pray for our relatives, brothers and acquaintances. Let us pray for our country and our church. Let us pray for the See of St. Mark and it is now in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Jerusalem, America, Europe and Kenya.

- + Describe Abraham. Mention one of his qualities.
- + Why didn't Abraham sleep at noon?
- + Why didn't he order a servant to serve the three strangers?
- + Why did he wash their feet?
- + Mention the verse: The wage of sin...

### ***Homework***

1. Study the following prayer from the Intercession for the winds and crops: Bless this year according to Your goodness, for the sake of Your poor people, the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the traveler.
2. Mention some of the sins that dominate the world today and say how we can overcome them.

## **(11) The Angel Saves Lot from Sodom: God's Care for His Children**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 19
- + "The Life of Abraham" by F.B. Mayer

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

1. Through faith, Abraham sojourned in the Land of Promise as if it were not his. He lived in tents but Lot was not in the same fix... We cannot say that Lot was sitting at the entrance of Sodom through faith. It is a pity that we do not find His name in the cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews.
2. Ask yourself this question to examine and test your heart when you want to do anything. "Do I do this through faith?" As what is not of faith is sin and without faith we cannot please Him.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The Lord saves Lot and his family from the fire, which will burn Sodom

### ***Verse***

"Escape for your life" (Genesis 19:17)

### ***Hymns***

- + Through your intercession O Angel Michael... [Arabic Song]
- + O God have mercy on us ...[Praise the Lord, Page 13]

### ***Notes***

The Servant sets the scene by asking questions on the previous lesson:

- + Who were Abraham's visitors?
- + How many men were they?
- + What did one of them say about Sodom?

This is what one of them said... but the two angels arrived at Sodom and the sun was setting... it was the last night in which the sun set on Sodom... The people of Sodom saw the sun in the morning but it would not set over them as the Lord would destroy the city with fire and the wage of sin is death.

- + How many angels were there?
- + What was the name of the city?
- + What is the wage of sin?
- + Do you know a man of Abraham's family who was living in Sodom?
- + What was his story with Abraham?

You know that Abraham was rich... He had many sheep and cows, which used to graze together in the green pastures... One day Lot's shepherds quarreled with Abraham's shepherds because there was not enough pastureland for them. So Abraham and Lot his nephew held a meeting and the following conversation ran between them:

- + Good morning Lot
- + Good morning Uncle Abraham
- + My son, I heard that quarrels broke out between your men and my men because of green grass and water... so why should we quarrel?
- + My Uncle, the men who take care of your sheep attacked my men and gave them a good beating and pushed them away from the green grass and water wells and my sheep spent a whole day without food and water.
- + My dear son, Lot, my companion in my journeys... I have no son and you are my son... We are one family and we worship God so why should we quarrel? God does not love people who quarrel. We are sojourners on this land... Take all the green pastures and all the wells that are full of water and do not be angry.
- + Thank you Uncle Abraham for your kindness and love (The children act the dialogue)

Lot dwelt in Sodom and it was like a paradise in his sight. Sodom was a fertile land but the people of Sodom were wicked and we know that God hates sin. So God sent two angels to destroy the city.

Lot was sitting by the gate of the city. When he saw the two men, he stood up and ran to meet them. He bowed to the ground before them and said to them, "Sirs I am here to serve you please come to my house. You can wash your feet and stay the night". He kept on urging them, and finally they went with him to his house. Lot ordered his servants to bake some bread and prepare a fine meal for the guests... Before the guests went to bed, the men of Sodom surrounded the house. They called out to Lot, "Bring your guests out to us". Lot refused to bring his guests out lest the people should do harm to them. Lot went outside... he tried to calm them but in vain. They said to him, "Out of our way, or we will treat you worse than them". They pushed Lot back and moved up to break down the door, but the two angels inside reached out, pulled Lot back into the house, and shut the door. Then they struck all the men outside with blindness, so that they could not find the door.

- + Who were Lot's guests?
- + Why did they come to Sodom?
- + Will the Lord save Lot?

The two angels said to Lot, "If you have anyone else here, sons, daughters, sons-in-law, or any other relatives living in the city get them out of here. You know that Sodom's evil is great and



that wage of sin is death... God has sent us to destroy the city with fire. As for you, run for your life and get out of this city, you and all whom you have... your sons-in-law, your sons, your daughters go and warn them. Lot went out at midnight... He was broken-hearted... He knocked at a door... A man looked out of a window and the following dialogue ran between them.

- Who is knocking at the door?

+ I am your father-in-law.

- Yes, what do you want? All people are asleep... It is late at night.

+ I have two visitors from heaven. They say that the Lord will destroy the city and they advise me to get out... Come and let us go out together.

- Ha... What a pity... you are very simple Lot... Sodom is good and full of people... There are no sign indicating that it will be destroyed (The children act the dialogue. They repeat after the Servant).

When Lot came back, he was very sad, as he could not convince them... Lot told the angels of what he did... At dawn the angels tried to make Lot hurry. They said, "Take your wife and your two daughters and get out so that you may not lose your lives". When Lot hesitated and lingered, they took him, his wife and his two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city "Run for your life... Do not look back and do not stop in the valley. Run to the hills so that you won't be killed. The two angels ordered Lot to go to a certain place where he would be safe. When he had reached the place, they destroyed the city with fire. The Lord ordered Lot and his household not to look back. Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Smoke arose from the city... like smoke from a huge furnace... The city was completely destroyed.

If there is a place full of evil, we should not go there... we should keep away from it and not to look back at it...we should keep away from sin.

+ Who were saved from Sodom?

+ Who turned into a pillar of salt?

+ How many persons were saved?

+ Repeat after me: Escape for your life...

### ***Homework***

1. Each one of us must think of a list of his/her sins or one sin and decide to keep away from them or it once. Let's pray to the Lord to strengthen us all this week.
2. In a few lines of your own write how those of old used to entertain guests. Write about what you can do now to make your guest happy.
3. Mark ✓ (right) before the correct statements:
  - a. Abraham drove Lot away and took his sheep ( ).
  - b. Lot was angry with his uncle Abraham and left him ( ).
  - c. Abraham treated Lot gently and kindly ( ).

## **(12) Jacob And Esau: Begging For Blessing**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 25
- + “The Life of Jacob” by F. B. Mayer

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

1. Do not allow material problem turn your eyes away from the spiritual blessings.
2. In times of troubles, do not neglect the spiritual blessings but stick to them “See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God, that no root of bitterness spring up and cause trouble, and by it the many became defiled; that no one be immoral or irreligious like Esau” (Hebrews 12:15,16).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Recognizing the value of the blessing.

#### ***Verse***

“Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God” (Hebrews 12:15)

#### ***Hymns***

- + We are Christ’s soldiers in Sunday School... [Arabic Song]
- + I have decided to follow Jesus... [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

#### ***Notes***

The Servant checks the homework and the verse and sets the scene for the new lesson as follows:

- + What is Abraham’s most important characteristic?
- + What is the name of Abraham’s wife?
- + Who is the son of both Abraham and Sarah?

We know that Abraham is Isaac’s father. Isaac married Rebecca. Rebecca became pregnant and then gave birth to twin sons. The second was weak and slim. He was born holding tightly to the heel of Esau, the red son. The first was given the name Esau and the second was given the name of Jacob.

- + What are the names of Isaac’s sons?
- + How were they like?

The two children grew up together but their ways of living were different. Esau became a hunter, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home and bred animals. Isaac preferred Esau because he enjoyed eating the animals Esau killed and because Esau was his first-born son. But Rebecca preferred Jacob because he was quiet and dwelt in tents (Concentrate on the concept of birthright and its importance).

- + The first born becomes a leader among his brothers.
- + He inherits the blessing.
- + The Spiritual heritage is his.

+ Christ is descended from the first born...

So the birthright is a very good heritage. Esau did not care for birthright and he did not care for the blessing... He came in from hunting... he was tired... he asked Jacob to give him a pottage of lentils and declared that he was ready to sell him his birthright. Thus Esau despised his birthright and deprived himself of the blessing.

+ What are the advantages of birthright?

+ Compare between Esau and Jacob.

### ***Homework***

Rearrange the words of the following verse and study it:

God -so -of -to -grace -it- the -that -no one -obtain -to -fail

### ***Recitation***

Save us and all Your people from every sin, from every curse, from every grudge, from every false oath, from every encountering of heretics and pagans...

## **(13) Isaac Blesses Jacob**

### ***References***

+ Genesis 27

+ "Stories of the Fathers and the Prophets: Jacob and Esau" by Fr. Louis Barsoum

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

1. You can be blessed like Jacob and you can get rid of Esau's defects when you lift your eyes sincerely and truthfully to the Lord Jesus, with your heart full of faith.
2. Jesus will give you the new nature and the spiritual blessing through the Holy Spirit.
3. Do not be in a hurry, be patient as the blessing is coming to you so long as you deserve it.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Jacob receives the blessing.

### ***Hymns***

"Love does not envy" (Corinthians 13:4)

### ***Hymns***

+ O tourist who wants to meet Jesus... [Arabic Song]

+ Give Joy to our Souls... [Praise the Lord, Page 23]

### ***Notes***

+ What did Jacob's mother do so that Jacob may receive the blessing?

+ Where did Esau go at that time?

Jacob's characteristics and the promise... Jacob deserved the blessing... The story of Jacob and his mother and how he deceived his father... The blessing is Jacob's... We know why Isaac was convinced that Jacob was the son who deserved the blessing. Isaac ate the food Jacob offered him and gave him all the blessings... and then Esau came but there was no blessing left... This is a punishment for his recklessness and carelessness.

- + Why was Jacob accepted and Esau rejected?
- + What will Esau do when he knows what Jacob has done?

### ***Homework***

In your notebook write the words of blessing with which Isaac blessed his son Jacob (Genesis 27,28,29)

### ***Instructions***

Children act this story.

## **(14) Jacob works with his uncle Laban**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 29
- + "Studies on the Book of Genesis" Sporting

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

1. In times of trouble, do not fall into despair but be sure that God is near.
2. How awesome is the church! Do not forget that it is the gate to heaven and the house of angels so always direct your heart to Christ, as the church is his.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Good work saves its doer.

### ***Verse***

"I am with you and will keep you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15)

### ***Hymns***

- + O church, you are strong... You are the city of prayer...[Arabic Song] or
- + Holy is our Church [Praise the Lord Page 124]

### ***Notes***

How did Jacob receive the blessing and how did he behave when he knew that Esau was angry with him?

On the way ...When Jacob left Beersheba for Haran so that Esau might be calm... and he went on in his way with the help of God and through the blessings of his parents... he went on walking till

dark fell and he raised his blessed prayer and promised the holy promise and slept between the hands of God and saw the wonderful dream... the ladder... a stairway from earth to heaven with angels going up and coming down in it.

- + Why did Jacob pray and what did he promise?
- + What was the dream that he saw?

*Beside the well at Haran:* Jacob arrived at the well and sat there... he watered his uncle's sheep... His uncle Laban knew him through his daughters. They invited him to stay with them.

- + Why couldn't the girls take water from the well?
- + What did Jacob do?
- + How did Laban know that he was his relative?

*Jacob the Shepherd:* Because of Jacob's wisdom and God's blessing Laban's sheep increased in numbers... Laban asked Jacob to stay with them at Haran. Jacob was a very clever shepherd.

- + How many years did Jacob stay with Laban?
- + Why did Laban love him?

### ***Homework***

The Servant gives the children questions to be answered in their notebooks.

### ***Recitation***

- + Studying vespers that suit this lesson: "We thank You, O our merciful king..."
- + Children use it in their prayers till the end of this term... Vespers should be distributed either in print or the children could copy it from books and the Servant can perform competitions.

## **(15) Jacob's marriage: Forgiving sinners**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 29
- + "Studies on the Book of Genesis" Sporting

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

Love makes rough roads smooth... Let us request the Holy Spirit to pour Christian love into our hearts and to teach us to love the Lord who loves us.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Forgiving the sinner.

### ***Verse***

"Be kind to one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32)

### ***Hymns***

+ May their holy blessings be with us all amen... [The Liturgy]

### ***Notes***

- + Why did Laban love Jacob?
- + Did Jacob live all his life with Laban?

This is what we are going to know now... Laban asked Jacob to live with him... They agreed that Jacob would marry Rachel after working seven years for him. Jacob was deceived as Laban gave him Leah as a wife... He served him another seven years for Rachel and another seven years for the sheep of his uncle.

- + How many years did Jacob serve Laban?
- + Why did the Lord bless Laban's sheep?

### ***Instructions***

This lesson should be given in stages as the case is in the previous lessons.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

1. Can you forgive:
  - a. A child who calls you names?
  - b. A child who beats you without meaning to do so?
  - c. A friend who makes a conspiracy against you?
  - d. A friend who has betrayed you?
2. Rearrange the following words: another -one -be -to -kind

## **(16) Jacob Loses His Son Joseph**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 37
- + "The Life of Joseph" by F. B. Mayer
- + "I'll see if my brothers are safe" by Fr. Youssef Asaad

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

1. God cares for every soul and for every person. He also cares for you. He cared for Abraham, Jacob and Joseph and He still cares for you.
2. He helps us in times of trouble. His angels guard us and He cares for our future "I am with you and I will keep you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15).

### ***Hymns***

- + The meditation of man's mind is acknowledged to You O Lord... [Arabic Song]
- + When I feel tired... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

### **Notes**

The Servant checks the homework and gives some questions to set the scene for the new lesson.

- + What is the name of Abraham's son?
- + What are the names of Isaac's two sons?
- + Who was the elder?
- + Who received the blessing?

Jacob's sons had gone to take care of his flock. They spent several days out so Jacob was anxious. He waited for his children to come back but they did not come. His anxiety grew more.

*Jacob sent Joseph:* Joseph was ready to go to his brothers. He carried food to his brothers. He searched for them. He was tired... at last he met them.

*The plot against Joseph:* Joseph's brothers took revenge. They decided to kill the dreamer... The well... the Ishmaelites... the wolf... the colored robe.

- + In what were Joseph and Christ similar? (Father's love -brothers hated him -both were sold - conspiracy - murder -forgiveness)
- + Mention the pains Joseph suffered from.

### **Homework**

The children write the aforementioned questions in their notebook and answer them.

### **Instructions**

In Joseph's life there are lessons about obedience, love, sacrifice, self-denial and many others. You and your children can benefit from them.

## **(17) Review**

### **Notes**

1. Review could be done in the form of competition that could be answered by the children at home, or in the form of an oral or written tests in the church according to circumstances and the potentialities of the Service.
2. The Servant should service the previously studied extracts (Recitation).

### **Questions for Review**

1. Complete the following:
  - a. The Nyrouze Day reminds us .....
  - b. In the wedding of Cana in Galilee, Christ offered wine that did not make people drunk as .....
  - c. Christ had authority to heal diseases, he healed ..... and .....
  - d. Jacob really deserved the blessing because of .....
  - e. Jacob spent ..... years with Laban his uncle.
  - f. Christ is our ideal in sympathizing with others as he ..... and .....

- g. The ten commandments ..... and ..... and .....
2. Write a verse indicating the following:
  - a. Jacob valued the place where he saw the dream.
  - b. Entertaining strangers and its blessing.
  - c. Nature speaks about God.
  - d. The jar of meal shall not be spent and the cruse of oil shall not fail.
3. What was the mistake made by each of the following: The man who took one talent – Lot’s wife –Esau –Joseph’s brothers.
4. Complete the following:
  - a. .... loved his brothers and treated them gently.
  - b. .... loved God so ravens brought him food.
  - c. .... the Lord to choose the land and the Lord blessed the land but the ..... that he chose was burnt with fire.
  - d. .... trusted the Lord so the Lord gave him ..... in Egypt.
5. Rearrange the following:
  - a. another -one -to -kind –be
  - b. them -delivers -and -him -fear -who -those -around -encamps -the Lord -of- the angel
  - c. steward ship -turn -the account -in -of –your
6. What is the ark a symbol of?
7. Complete the following prayer: Bless this year according to ..... for the sake of Thy ..... people, the ....., the ....., the ..... and the visitor.

***The verses reviewed for this period are:***

1. For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), Lesson 1.
2. Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find (Luke 11:9), Lesson 1.
3. Give an account of your stewardship (Luke 16:2), Lesson 9.
4. Love does not envy (I Corinthians 13:4), Lesson 13.
5. The just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17), Lesson 8.
6. Escape for your life (Genesis 19:17), Lesson 11.
7. Son be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you (Matthew 9:2), Lesson 4
8. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak (Isaiah 35:5) Lesson 7.
9. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15), Lesson 5.
10. Be kind to one another... just as God in Christ forgive you (Ephesians 4:32), Lesson 15.
11. For me to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippines 1:21), Lesson 1.
12. looking diligently lest anyone fall short or the grace of God (Hebrews 12:15), Lesson 12.
13. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear him, and delivers them (Psalm 34:7), Lesson 3.
14. I am with you and will keep you wherever you go (Genesis 28:15), Lesson 14,16.
15. Jesus, Son of David, Have mercy on me (Mark 10:47), Lesson 6.

***Recitation for this period:***

1. Psalm 19 “The heavens are telling the glory of God...”
2. Intercession for the Offertory.
3. The Absolution of the Vespers “We Thank You O Our Merciful King...”



4. The child should study them and the Servant should arrange competitions.

## **THE SECOND PERIOD**

### **(18) Christmas: Simon the Elder and Prophetess Anna**

#### ***References***

- + Matthew 1
- + Luke 1,2

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

1. The Lord Jesus Christ desired to correct the mistakes that prevailed among human beings, to He came to us and brought us a model to follow.
2. Jesus was born in a humble manger to comfort the poor “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

God’s humbleness

#### ***Verse***

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel”  
(Matthew 1:23)

#### ***Hymns***

- + O Believers accompany us... [Arabic Song]
- + A gentle Babe has visited us... [Arabic Song]
- + Silent Night... [Praise the Lord, Pages 91]
- + Away in a manger... [Praise the Lord, Pages 96]

#### ***Notes***

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem... as an order was sent out for all citizens to register themselves for the census. Everyone went to register himself, each of his own town... The time for Christ to be born drew near... They searched for a place to dwell in but they could not find any place... Mary gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger... There was no room for them to stay in the inn.

- + Where was Christ born?
- + Why hasn’t He born in a house?

Some shepherds were spending the night in the fields taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them. “Don’t be afraid for I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night, in David’s town your Savior was born. Christ the

Lord. Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. The Shepherds were happy to hear the good news of the Savior's birth and went to the inn to see the newborn baby. Let us repeat the angels' song of praise together: "Glory to God... "

Prophets of old prophesied of the coming of the Lord Jesus to the world. There were two sincere people waiting impatiently for him to come. Those people were Simon the Elder, who was pious and righteous and the old Prophetess Anna who never left the temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. Simon was a good priest who always went to the temple and read the Scriptures. One day Simon the Elder read the verse: "Behold a virgin shall be with child". He could not believe what he read and he doubted the truth of the words. The Lord said to him, "You will not die until you see the truth of this verse". Simon waited and waited a week after a week, and a year after a year till he became very old. He was about 250 years of age. That is why he was called the Elder. One day, when Simon was in the temple, he saw Joseph and Mary bringing the child Jesus into the temple. Jesus was forty days old at that time. According to the Law, the firstborn child was offered to the Lord and the child's mother was to offer a thanksgiving sacrifice to the Lord. Simon's heart was filled with joy as he knew that the child who would be born of a virgin as the scripture said, was Jesus. Simon took the child in his arms and said, "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise. And you may let your servant go in peace. For with my own eyes, I have seen your salvation". That same night, Simon the Elder died.

- + Who sent the good news of the Lord's Nativity to the shepherds?
- + Mention the Angels' song.
- + Why did Joseph and the Virgin go to the Temple?
- + When did they go to the temple?
- + What was Simon the Elder doing in the Temple?
- + What was the Lord's promise to him when he did not believe the scripture?
- + Why was Simon called the "Elder"?
- + What did Simon the Elder say when he took the child in his arms?

### ***Instructions***

1. The children write the previous questions in their notebooks and answer them.
2. Always bear in mind that your aim is to introduce Christ to the children clearly so that they may know Him and have a true knowledge of Him. The baby Christ here blesses the babies... The child Christ blesses the children. He is always with them and they must be always with him.
3. Act some scenes to show the joy in heaven (angels) and the pleasure on earth (Shepherd) when the Savior was born.
4. The children should make a Nativity Cavern under the Servant's supervision. This is a good idea and the children like it as it clarifies the notion of Nativity to them. Encourage them to bring the parts of the Nativity Cavern (of the Nativity Tree) small statues of sheep, shepherds, a babe, a manger, straw, candles, pieces of colored paper, etc. and give due concern to how the angels appear in the cavern.
5. The children could act a simple play about the virgins, the child Jesus and Joseph when they went into the Temple and when they met Simon the Elder.

## (19) Epiphany: Baptism

### *References*

- + Matthew 3
- + John 1
- + “The Sacrament of Baptism” Rodel Farag
- + “Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible” Part II, Beirut

### *To the Servant*

1. “Not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).
2. “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

Baptism is the new birth.

### *Verse*

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17)

### *Hymns*

- + Seven spiritual Sacraments...[Arabic Song]
- + There at the Shore of Jordan... [Arabic Song]
- + My Church ...my Church...

### *Aids*

- + Visiting the Font of the church (A picture of orthodox tradition)

### *Notes*

- + Where was Christ baptized?
- + Why was he baptized? How?
- + Is it necessary for us to be baptized?
- + Who of you attended the baptism of a child?
- + The Holy Spirit came on the water, did you see Him?
- + The priest anointed the child with the holy Myron (Chrism), did you see that?
- + Did you see the Spirit come on the child? This is a mystery. We called it a mystery because we cannot see the Holy Spirit when He sanctifies the heart, but he works.

### *Baptism and Chrism (Myron)*

1. What do you usually do when your body is not clean? You wash.
2. Then what will you put on... clean clothes or dirty clothes?
3. What would happen if I did not take a bath and put on clean clothes?
4. What would happen if I took a bath and put on dirty clothes? Baptism means washing the

heart and the nature of man, and Chrism is the coming of the Holy Spirit and this means that we receive a new nature inside us. For as many of you as were baptized in Christ have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

5. How can we make ourselves clean from every sin?
6. Can this be done by our deeds or the deeds of others? “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He save us, through the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5)
7. Is our baptism the same as the Baptism of John? (The Servant tells the children the story of John’s Baptism) (Acts 19:1-6)
8. Does the Holy Spirit come on children? (The Servant tells them the story of the Lady Virgin’s visit to Elizabeth and the coming of the Holy Spirit on John when he was in his mother’s womb).

***What is Baptism like? What can we compare it with?***

It is like Noah’s Ark. It is like the crossing of the Red Sea. Water surrounded the people and there was a cloud over them.. So it is performed by immersion.

***The Story of Chrism (Myron)***

The apostles practiced it first by laying hands as we read in the Book of Acts. Then they found a suitable material i.e. the ointments which were on Christ’s body and which were prepared by the women who went to the grave on Sunday morning. These ointments were used by the apostles in anointing the newly baptized persons “But you have an anointing from the Holy One” (1 John 2:20).

***Homework***

Answer the following question: How was Jesus baptized in the Jordan River?

***Instructions***

1. It is recommended that the children should attend a baptism celebration so that they see for themselves how this sacrament is practiced and to take part in the prayers.
2. Search for the un-baptized children and do your best to bring them to the church to get baptized or at least draw their parents’ attention to the fact that baptism is very important.
3. We recommend using means of illustration such as the picture of John the Baptist baptizing Christ if the children cannot get direct experience.
4. This lesson suits the child of this age and it also suits his dogmatic structure.

***The Church and Our Love for her***

**(20) Solomon and David and the Building of the Temple**

***References***

- + I Kings 6,7,14,15,8,30
- + “Interpretation of I Kings” Sporting

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

Read the description of the Temple in I Kings 6,7 and the dedication of the Temple in chapter 8 and you will see its greatness, splendor and magnificence. But Solomon was more concerned with the Temple as he believed that:

- a) The Temple was the place which bore the name of the Lord and which is a symbol of God's existence.
- b) It was the place where people go to, as it was the center of leadership, fellowship and brotherhood.
- c) It was the place where banished people and those who were chased found shelter.
- d) Do we respect the church and value her as those of old respected and valued the Temple?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To give the children an idea about people's love for God and how their love was so deep and strong that they build a great Temple to worship God in.

#### ***Verse***

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

#### ***Hymns***

- + There in our church...[Arabic Song]
- + The best place of course... [Arabic Song]
- + My church, my church...

#### ***Notes***

Ask the children to hold a discussion about the buildings in their village or town... What makes the building attractive? Mention some of the attractive buildings.

Today's lesson is about a building that was built in seven years and cost millions of dollars and the man who built it was the greatest king on earth at that time. "Solomon" means "Peace", Solomon ruled for forty years. He was David's son who ruled after him. He was the greatest king and he was very wise and very rich.

#### ***The Temple***

This is the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem. It looked like the Tent of Meetings in its structure and appearance. David had prepared the material for building the temple and Solomon started building it in the fourth year of his reign and the building was complete in the eleventh year. It was the pride of Jerusalem and the most beautiful building in the world at that time.

- + How long did it take Solomon to build the Temple?

#### ***How the idea of building the Temple came to Solomon's mind***

King David desired to build a temple for the Lord and the Lord was pleased but the Lord said,

“Your son Solomon will build the temple”. So David designed the building and chose its location. He prepared large amounts of gold, silver, copper, iron and cedar wood for building the temple. It is difficult to evaluate such materials nowadays as they are worth millions and millions of dollars.

### ***Solomon builds the Temple***

When Solomon sat on the throne, he ordered his men to collect and gather building materials. It took them three years to gather the materials and in the fourth year, they started building the Temple. Solomon employed a great number of workers. 70,000 workers carried stones. The building materials were prepared in a place far away from the building itself (1 Kings 6,7). The building of the Temple cost millions and millions of pounds. The vessels and instruments used in the temple were covered with gold.

### ***The Designs of the Temple*** [The Servant reads (2 Samuel 7; 14-17, I Kings 5, 6, 7)]

People gave their offerings and took part in building the temple. Think of the things people offered for building the temple and the work they did in order to help and participate in building the temple. The first book of Kings gives us a clear picture of the numerous deeds performed by the people, where did they come from and who offered them. We also recognize the great love of those people for the Temple as it is the House of God. All the classes of the people volunteered to do the job. The king, the laborers, the skilled workers, all volunteered to work. This spirit should prevail, as we should offer the church all that she needs.

- + Who of the kings, though first of building the temple?
- + Who built it?
- + Who took part in building it?
- + How did the people offer their gifts?
- + Where was the temple built?
- + How can you express your love for the church?
- + Do you offer your offerings (your gifts) in the church treasury?

### ***Instructions***

The Servant holds a discussion with the children as to how they should love others.

1. They should offer their gifts to the church so that she may be able to complete her projects.
2. They should give gifts to poor children on feast days especially Christmas and Easter.
3. The Servant encourages the children to save some money to be offered to the church as a sign of love for the House of God.

### ***Homework***

1. Study this verse by heart: “I have sanctified this house which you have built to put My name there for ever” (1 Kings 9:3).
2. Cross the wrong words between parenthesis:
  - a. The Temple of God was built in (Cairo -Baghdad -Jerusalem).
  - b. (Solomon -David -Saul) built the Temple.
  - c. The people gave their gifts (sadly -angrily -joyfully).
  - d. Write in your notebook I Kings 8:22-53.

### ***Recitation***

Children should study the Orthodox creed by heart. The Servant divides it into parts so that it can be easily studied.

## **(21) The Lord Appears In The Temple**

### ***References***

+ 1 Kings 9

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

Let us read and learn well Solomon's long prayer with which he dedicated the Temple (1 Kings 8:22-53).

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

To give the children an idea about people's love for God and how their love was so deep and strong that they build a great Temple to worship God in.

### ***Verse***

“That Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day” (1 Kings 8:29)

### ***Hymns***

- + There in our church...[Arabic Song]
- + The best place of course... [Arabic Song]
- + My church, my church...

### ***Notes***

When King Solomon finished building the Temple, he made a great feast that the world had not seen its like. He brought the Ark of the Lord God and put it together with all the vessels used in the service in its new place. Those vessels were in the Tent of Meetings. Then Solomon dedicated the House of God and God was pleased with Solomon for all what he did. The Glory of God came on the Temple in the form of a cloud all the days of the feast. That cloud used to appear over the Tent of Meetings in the wilderness, and it was a proof that the Lord filled the Temple, people felt that the Lord still desired to dwell among his people. The age of Solomon was an age of peace.

- + What did Solomon do after he had finished building the Temple?
- + What does the word “dedicate” mean?
- + How did the Lord show that he was pleased with Solomon?
- + Let us repeat together: “That Your eyes may be open...” This verse is a part of Solomon’s prayer when he dedicated the Temple.

When the Ark of the Lord was set in its place in the Temple, Solomon stood before all the people and blessed them in the Name of the Lord then he prayed and said... (The Servant reads a part of

Solomon's prayer). Sacrifices then were offered on the altar of the Temple. They offered oxen and sheep. The people were in complete joy and happiness for fourteen days. Then Solomon asked the people to leave, each to go to his house. They all went home and they were happy because of the blessing they received; that blessing which the Lord promised to give to David and Solomon achieved. Then the Lord appeared to Solomon once more and told him that he heard his prayers and answered them. The Lord said to Solomon, "If you will serve me in honesty and integrity... If you obey my laws and do everything I have commanded you I will keep the promise I made to your father David when I told him that Israel would always be ruled by his descendants".

- + Who attended the dedication of the temple?
- + How long did the feasts continue?
- + What did the Lord say to Solomon when he appeared to him the second time?
- + Who remembers the verse "That Your eyes may be open..."

### ***Homework***

1. Draw your church inside a rectangle. Color the door and the windows of the church, which you have drawn. Give them a brown color.
2. Read 2 Kings 22 at home.

### ***Instructions***

1. Draw the children's attention to the fact that the Lord dwells in the church so they must enter the church with reverence and awe. They must not speak inside the church because God dwells in it.

## **(22) King Josiah And The Repair Of The Temple**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 22:1-24:18
- + "Interpretation of the Second Book of Kings" Sporting

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

1. The House of God is the place where the believers meet "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).
2. It is the place where the superior Divine teaching is taught. It is also the place where we worship God and raise our heart to the Lord.
3. Read Psalm 84. How can we care for the House of the Lord spiritually and materially?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Let us help the children to understand that they can take part in caring for the House of the Lord.

### ***Verse***

"Blessed are those who dwell in Your House, they will be praising You" (Psalm 84:4)



### *Hymns*

+ Live within us... live within us...

### *Notes*

The Servant holds a discussion with the children about how a dirty place cannot help people to worship the Lord, and how people sometimes behave in the streets when they throw pieces of paper and other things here and there. Our lesson today is about Josiah, the good king who was about your age and he loved the House of the Lord and cared for it. The temple was ruined and not clean. The walls were dirty... the covering layer was removed... the stones were broken to pieces and the pieces of wood cracked. When Josiah the king saw the Temple in that sad state, he felt very sad.

- + What is the name of the king?
- + In what state was the House of the Lord?
- + What did Josiah do?

The king consulted the priest about what they should do. The priest brought a closed box with a hole in it (an opening) and he put the box beside the door of the Temple where people used to enter and there they put their gifts in the box till it was full of money. The king and the priest gathered a big sum of money from the people and then the workers and builders came to repair the House of God. They repaired the walls, the doors, and the windows and the Temple became splendid once more.

- + Who of you wants to be like Josiah and cares for the House of the Lord?
- + What can you do to make the House of God clean and beautiful.
- + Write this verse in your notebook: "Blessed are those who dwell..." and study it by heart.
- + Read the first chapter of the Book of Nehemiah.

### *Instructions*

1. Sometimes we find that the rooms of Sunday School are not clean and torn pieces are here and there, chairs are not well arranged. Ask the children to clean and beautify the place where we worship God.
2. Mention some of the things that need repair in the church and think out how you can help the children of this age in doing that.
3. Ask a group of children to do the following: cleaning and lighting the church -distributing hymn books -gathering hymn books at the end of the service -opening the windows -sweeping the floor -shutting the doors -lighting the lamps -bringing the priest a cup of water -cleaning the carpets and putting them in their place -turning fans on when it is hot -shutting the windows in winter -Let them do that with activity and pleasure.
4. Divide the class into groups -Some of the children perform these actions for one month then others do the same task next month and so on.

## **(23) Nehemiah and the Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem**

### ***References***

- + The Book of Nehemiah
- + “Interpretation of Ezra and Nehemiah” Sporting
- + “Nehemiah’s work and struggle” Edward Dennett
- + “Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible” Part 10, Beirut

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

1. Does your heart kindle with holy zeal for the state of the church as the case was with Nehemiah towards Jerusalem?
2. Shall we pray and weep before the Lord for her salvation. Shall we pray to the Lord to clean her from corruption and evil that befell her as Nehemiah did for the ancient people?
3. Before we pray for the church in general, shall we pray for our relatives specially our household so that they may become honest children of God, as they are part of the church?
4. Is it not your duty, if you love Christ, to offer your service with honesty and contribute to the salvation of the people of God who constitute the church?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Jealousy for the glory of God and his church

#### ***Verse***

“Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach” (Nehemiah 2: 17)

#### ***Hymns***

- + O Soldiers of the church... Let us rise... [Arabic Song]
- + Live within us... live within us...

#### ***Notes***

Nehemiah was a servant in the Court of the King of Persia... He was the King’s wine steward i.e. he offered him drinks. He was a pious man who loved God and God’s people who were in Jerusalem... He heard that the people in Jerusalem were in difficulty because of their enemies and that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and cannot protect the city. He was sad. He sat down and wept for the Holy City Jerusalem then he thought, “My tears for the city will not build her the walls... The best thing to do is to pray to the Lord”. So he prayed, “O Lord, we are sinners but we return to you... My Lord, listen to my prayers... and grant me mercy in the sight of the king”.

- + What is the name of the servant?
- + What is his job?
- + What news did he hear about Jerusalem?

He waited for a suitable chance to ask the king to allow him to go back to Jerusalem. One day when Nehemiah was pouring wine in a cup to give to the king, he felt that the king was watching

him:

- + Why are you looking so sad, seeing you are not sick.
- May your Majesty live forever. How can I help looking sad when the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire, and its walls need someone to build it?
- + What is it that you want?
- Nehemiah prayed to God and said to the king; “Let me go to Jerusalem the city of my ancestors to rebuild it”.
- + How long will you be gone?

Nehemiah felt secured and he thanked the Lord who granted him mercy in the eyes of the pagan king. Nehemiah told the king how long he would be gone. The king allowed him to travel and gave him letters to the governors of the provinces through which he would pass to help him in his mission. He also gave him a letter to deliver to the keeper of the royal forests instructing him to give Nehemiah timber needed for building and for the house he would live in. (The children can act out the dialogue between the king and Nehemiah).

Nehemiah happily went to Jerusalem. The king sent some army officers and a troop of horsemen with him... He arrived at the city... he took rest for three days. One moonlit night he went out to have a look at the walls of the city. They were completely ruined. Even the doors were burnt with fire. The remains of the walls were only heaps of broken stones, dust and ashes. It was clear that nothing could protect the city from the enemies. He went back to the city. He called the elders of the people and said to them, “Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem”. Some enemies stood against him but Nehemiah’s faith was deep and the Lord strengthened his heart. In a short time, all the people decided to build the wall. Although the enemies mocked him, the work continued and half the wall was built. When the enemies saw this, they decided to fight Nehemiah and his people. When Nehemiah knew their plots against him, he ordered his men to carry arms. He divided his men into two groups: The first group carried arms to guard them and the second group carried their swords and continued building the wall. Some men stood on the wall and others watched the enemies. Some of them blew trumpets when they saw the enemies drawing near. When the enemies knew that their plan was known, they retreated. The men worked for fifty-two days from sunrise to sunset. The Lord blessed them and helped them in answer to Nehemiah’s prayer. The wall was built at last and the city was well fortified and its inhabitants were secured and lived in peace inside it.

- + How many days did it take people to build the wall?
- + Who took part in building the wall?
- + Who tried to fail the plan?
- + How can you overcome the devil?
- + Let us repeat together: “Come, Let us build the wall...”
- + Let us sing a hymn together: O Soldiers of the church...

### ***Instructions***

1. Tell the story in a lively way and pay attention to situations of strong feelings, describe them in detail... indulge yourself completely in the situation.

2. Nehemiah's sadness, weeping, prayer, his fear when the king asked him, "Why is your face sad?" The king's astonishment- Nehemiah's happiness -his instructions to the people and his work -his persistence -the people's confidence.

### ***Homework***

1. When you meet anyone this week that troubles and annoys you, pray for him so that the Lord may turn him into a good man.
2. Fill in the spaces: Come, let us ..... the wall of ....., that we may no longer suffer .....
3. Read Chapter 1 from the Book of Ezra.

## **(24) Ezra the Priest**

### ***References***

- + The Book of Ezra
- + "Interpretation of Ezra and Nehemiah" Sporting

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

Ezra was a descendant of Aaron. He did not practice his lawful job because of the exile, but he kept the law of the Lord and prepared his heart to seek it and practice it. He became a skilful writer of the Law. He did not expect that one day he would be a leader of his people during their second return to Jerusalem. And, you, my dear friend, do not despise yourself being still young as it is the Lord who works in man.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Caring for the House of God.

### ***Verse***

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:1)

### ***Hymns***

- + O Soldiers of the church, arise... [Arabic Song]
- + Holy is our Church ...[Praise the Lord Page, 124]

### ***Notes***

Ezra was a man of knowledge and wisdom. He tells us about what happened during the reign of Cyrus, the king of Persia. That king sent a letter to the people of Babylon saying: "The Lord, the God of heaven ordered me to build a temple for him in Jerusalem in Judah. May God be with all of you who are his people. You are to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple of the Lord your God". All the believers were filled with joy and obeyed the king's command. Their pleasure grew greater when they knew that Cyrus had given orders that all the gold and silver vessels taken by Nebuchadnezzar from the Temple of Jerusalem.

- + Who was Ezra?

- + What was the name of the King of Persia?
- + What was the letter he sent to the people of Babylon?
- + Who obeyed the king's command?
- + What increased their happiness?

About 50,000 men of the people of God carried gifts and made for Jerusalem. They built an altar there and offered their sacrifices twice each day as their custom was before the exile. But the altar was small so it was necessary for them to build the House of God in Jerusalem. Thus, those men found themselves in Jerusalem after seventy years of exile. They hurried and quickly bought cedar wood from Lebanon, and after setting the foundation of the House of God, each one of them cried with joy because work began. They all sang hymns of praise "O Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures for ever". They cried, "Give thanks to God". The old men wept when they remembered the glory of the first house and how God's fire used to come down from heaven and burn the sacrifices. They remembered the manna and Aaron's staff which they could not bring back. Prophet Haggai came to the builders and told them that the glory of the house they were building would be greater than that of the first one, as the Messiah whom they were waiting for would come to that temple in heavenly glory. These words made the elders rejoice. No one thought of the glory that would come to Jerusalem when Lord Jesus came to Jerusalem, walked in its streets and taught in the Temple.

- + How many men went to Jerusalem?
- + What did they do when they arrived at Jerusalem?
- + How long did the ancient people stay in exile?
- + Mention the verse, "O Give thanks to the Lord..."
- + Why did the elders weep? Who comforted them?

While they were building the House of God (The Temple), the Samaritans came to Jerusalem and deceitfully offered to help the Jews in building the temple. They wanted to stop the great work. Those people had inhabited the land after the exile to Babylon. The Samaritans said, "Let's help you", but Zerubbabel, who knew them well, refused saying, "No, we build the Temple for the Lord our God as king Cyrus ordered us to do". The Samaritans became very angry and tried to keep the Jews from building the Temple. They kept on annoying them till they stopped working to avoid problems. The building of the Temple took 16 years.

During this period, the rich built houses for themselves but they neglected building the Temple. Prophet Haggai and prophet Zechariah came and encouraged people to go on building the Temple. They trusted the Lord and built the Temple. They trusted in the Lord and built the Temple in four years, and then they built the walls of their city.

- + Why did they stop building the Temple?
- + How many years did they stop work?
- + Who of the prophets encouraged the people to continue the work?
- + When did they finish building the Temple?
- + Let us repeat together: "O Give thanks to the Lord..."
- + Let us sing a hymn together: "O Soldiers of the church, arise..."

### ***Who is Ezra?***

He was a descendant of Aaron... He could not practice his lawful job because of the Exile, but his heart being filled with Divine love for his God, refused to keep away from the way of the Lord. He kept the Divine Law and became a skilful writer of Law.

The step that Ezra followed to correct the people's way of living:

1. Not to depend on men (Ezra 8:22).
2. Fasting -he called for fasting although the way was long and the journey was difficult (Ezra 8:22).
3. Being crushed with grief and being humble before the Lord (Ezra 9).
4. Keeping away from evil -confessing the sins and the sins of his people -people repented then Ezra could gather the people (Ezra 10: II).

Children write short notes about Ezra the priest and writer in their notebooks.

## **(25) Confession**

### ***References***

+ Let us go to church together -Repentance and confession -My Lord, I confess to You, Sporting

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

List all your sins precisely -Pray and remember what you should confess... Go to confession and receive communion.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Standing firm in Christ.

### ***Verse***

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all Unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

### ***Hymns***

- + Seven Spiritual Sacraments...[Arabic Song]
- + Step by step with Jesus... [Arabic Song]
- + I have decided to follow Jesus... [Praise the Lord, Page 124]

### ***Notes***

- + What is a sacrament?
- + What is the meaning of an ecclesiastical Sacrament?
- + It is a consecrated work through which a believer receives an invisible grace through visible material.
- + How many sacraments are there?
- + How is a sacrament fulfilled? A lawful priest utters some holy words, which are known, and uses a known material such as water in Baptism.

In Lesson 19 we know that we through Baptism we acquire a new nature, but we live in the world so we may make mistakes. How can we clean ourselves from these mistakes? Through new washing and clean clothes... Tell the children the story of the washing of the disciples' feet. (John 13).

During the Last Supper, on Maundy Thursday, the Lord Jesus Christ poured some water into a vessel and asked His disciples to draw near so that He might wash their feet. Peter said, "No, Lord..." but Jesus said to him, "If I do not wash your feet, you will no longer be my disciple". "Lord... then wash my hands and head too" Peter said. All of you are clean... whoever has taken a bath is completely clean, and does not have to wash himself, except for his feet, to clean himself from the dust of the world i.e. sin "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us". Sin is like pus in the wound... If we do not clean it, it will corrupt the wound and then you have to put a cleansing material on the wound. Thus you have to confess and then receive the Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

### ***What makes confession lawful?***

1. Confession should be to a priest (John 20:23).
2. You must examine your conscience and count your sins, which you made against the Lord and against your neighbors.
3. You should feel how ugly and horrible sin is. You should repent and have the intention of not returning to it through the grace of God.
4. You should come to the priest, bow before him, make the sign of the cross, say the Lord's Prayer, and confess your sins precisely without hiding any sin.
5. He must not mention any names in his confession lest he should reveal their mistakes.
6. He should obey the priest and follow his advice.

- + Why was the sacrament of penance and confession set?
- + Why did the Lord took flesh and become man?
- + When and how did our Lord lay the foundations of this Sacrament?
- + What are the conditions that make confession lawful?
- + Mention the verse: If we confess our sins...

### ***Homework***

1. The children should practice the following:
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Reading the Word of God
  - c. Attending the Holy Mass in the early morning
  - d. Not to swear
  - e. Not to call others names
  - f. Repent, confess and receive communion.
  - g. Read John 6 as a home assignment for next lesson.
  - h. Confess at least once a month.

### ***Instructions***

The servant should accompany the children to confession at least once a month.

## **(26) Receiving Holy Communion**

### ***References***

+ John 6

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

Holy for the Holy... Blessed is Jesus Christ the Son of God... Holy is the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Standing firm in Christ

### ***Verse***

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

### ***Hymns***

+ Let us eat the Holy Body... [Praise the Lord, Page 81]

### ***Notes***

- + What does “an ecclesiastical Sacrament” mean?
- + How many sacraments are there? Mention them...
- + What are the conditions for the fulfillment of the sacrament?
- + What are the conditions of the lawful confession?
- + When did the Lord establish the Sacrament of Communion?

The Lord Jesus established this Holy Sacrament for us in the night of His passions (on Maundy Thursday) when He held the Bread in His pure, spotless and undefiled hands, gave thanks and blessed it, and He broke It and gave It to His saintly Disciples saying: Take and eat of It you all for this is My Body... So too with the Chalice... He gave thanks and gave it also to them saying: Take and drink of it, you all for this is My Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you and for many others. It is given for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:26-28).

This Sacrament is necessary for Salvation. The Lord Himself said to us, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you” (John 6:53).

He said “He who eats...” Let us repeat together, “He who eats...”

In practicing this Sacrament and by His sayings to us, Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us that the Bread and wine after being sanctified turn into His Body and Blood. When we receive the Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine. That is why believers should be prepared before they receive communion:

1. They should purify their conscience through true repentance and confession to a priest.
2. They should start fasting in the middle of the night.
3. They should wash their body and put on clean clothes.



4. They should pray with faith before and after receiving Communion.

- + What are the bases of the Sacrament of Communion? When? How?
- + What are the conditions for receiving the Holy Communion?
- + What do Bread and Wine turn into after being consecrated?

### ***Instructions***

1. Let the children write the previous questions in their notebooks and answer them at home.
2. Read Genesis 22.

## **(27) Offering Of Isaac**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 22

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

1. Through Adam, all humanity became cursed and through Abraham all the peoples of the world were blessed.
2. Because of Abraham's obedience, although he was barren, a branch came out of him and from his seed the Lord Christ in whom all the tribes of the earth were blessed, came.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Obedience to God

### ***Verse***

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all you mind” (Luke 10:27)

### ***Hymns***

- + Lord, have mercy on us...
- + Your mercy My Lord...
- + One day God say to Abraham [Praise the Lord, Page 35]

### ***Notes***

- + What is the name of Abraham's only begotten son?
- + What is his wife's name?
- + When was Isaac born?

Abraham loved Isaac his son very much. The Lord tested Abraham by saying: “Abraham, Abraham, take your only begotten son whom you loved and offer him to me as a sacrifice”.

What did the Lord order Abraham to do? Why?

Abraham loves the Lord and knows the verse “You shall love the Lord your God...” He called to Isaac his son. The boy went to him quickly as he was obedient to his parents. He said to him, “Isaac, carry the wood for the sacrifice and walk with me to the mountain to offer a sacrifice to God”. That happened in the early morning. Abraham ordered the servants to cut the wood, put on his donkey and his son on walked with him. The journey was long... it took three days. On the third day, they reached the mountain. Abraham ordered his servants to wait. He said to them, “Stay here... the boy and I will go over there and worship and then we will come back to you”. Abraham made Isaac carry the wood for the sacrifice and he himself carried a knife and live coals for starting the fire. As they walked along together, Isaac said, “Father”. He answered, “Yes, my son?” Isaac asked, “I see that you have the coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?” Abraham answered, “God Himself will provide one”.

- + Who carried the wood?
- + Who would provide the lamb?
- + Who remembers the verse?

Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Isaac looked around but the lamb was not there, but he was sure that God would provide the lamb. Then Abraham declared, “You my son, are the sacrifice”. Isaac neither refused nor escaped. He was sure that the Lord is good and what He desires is good. Abraham tied up his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he picked up the knife to kill him. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham”. He answered, “Yes, here I am”. “Do not hurt the boy or do anything to him” he said. Now I know that you honor and obey God because you have not kept back your only son from me”. Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham and Isaac, his son went back happily. Isaac was a symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ who offered himself as a sacrifice on the cross to redeem people.

- + How did the Lord test Abraham? Why?
- + Whom did Isaac stand for?

### ***Homework***

Write the story of offering Isaac as a sacrifice and read it to your parents and brothers.

## **(28) Christ washes his Disciples’ Feet**

### ***References***

- + John 13

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

1. Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth, the Lord of hosts, washed the feet of His disciples to teach us how to be humble and how self-denial is a good quality.
2. So to what extent are we humble with those we live with following the example of the beloved Jesus?

## The Lesson

### *Aim*

Christ's modesty and self-denial.

### *Verse*

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another" (John 13:34)

### *Hymns*

- + Lord, have mercy on us...
- + Your mercy My Lord...
- + One day God say to Abraham [Praise the Lord, Page 35]

### *Notes*

- + Where did the Lord Jesus and His disciples meet the day before the Passover Festival?
- + Why is this Festival now called Maundy Thursday?

*The concept of Christ's washing His disciples' feet:* "Do you understand what I have just done to you?" He asked. You call me Master and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Master, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet". A new Commandment "All of you are clean... all except one". We know, for sure that he meant Judas, as it was Judas who betrayed his Master. Although the Lord knew this, he washed his feet...

- + Do we have this standard of love?
- + Do you want to be a disciple to Christ? Serve others... Remember what Jesus did...

### *Homework*

1. Rearrange the words of the verse: another -a -one -new -love -commandment. you -I -that -you -give.
2. Answer the following question: What are the deeds that you can perform to make all the members of your family happy?
3. Read Luke 22.

## (29) Judas Betrays Christ: The Arrest Of Jesus And The Healing The Slave's Ear

### *References*

- + Luke 22
- + Mathew 22:47-56
- + John 18:1-11

### *To the Servant*

The victory and spread of Christianity came through convincing and being convinced not through the sword or the foolish power as it is useless to force a person to have a certain belief

which he may receive out of fear... To what extent do you exert an effort to convince people to follow Jesus Christ?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Emphasizing Christ's great love.

#### ***Verse***

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Remember me O Lord... [Praise the Lord, Page 26]

#### ***Notes***

Suppose that one of your friends mistrusts you or caused harm to you... How will you feel towards him and how will you deal with him?

The Lord Jesus Christ loved both his enemies and friends and the betrayal of Judas could not minimize his love for people. He said to the traitor, "Friend, why have you come?" He did not say to him, "Enemy", or "Traitor", or "Criminal" but he said, "Friend". Is there love greater than that?

Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray and prepare Himself for crucifixion. Christ used to go to that place to have rest and to pray. In the evening he left eight disciples in a certain place and took with Him Peter, James and John. He walked slowly. Then He said to them, "Stay here and keep watch with me and pray. He went a little further on and disappeared in the dark. He was sad but they could not understand why He was sad. They were very tired because of the events of the previous night. The three disciples were sound asleep. Jesus threw himself face downwards on the ground and prayed. He knew what would happen to Him. He saw the sins of people, which He would carry with Him on the cross after a short time. An angel from heaven came to strengthen him. Jesus returned to the three disciples... who remembers their names? ...and found them asleep.. He shook them gently and they got up... He said to them, "Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation". He returned to His disciples twice more and found them asleep.

- + How many disciple went with Christ to Gethsemane?
- + Where did He leave the eight disciples?
- + What are the names of the three disciples he took with them?
- + Did they pray?
- + Why was Christ sad?

Suddenly the disciples were afraid they could not sleep... they heard noise outside the gates of the garden...the noise of a large crowd armed with swords... there were many flambeaus (torches), chief priests, and Roman soldiers, coming to take Jesus Peter, James, and John and the other disciples that were with Jesus. All the disciples were afraid but Jesus was not afraid, He

could have escaped if He wanted to, but He did not escape, He would not do that; He revealed Himself instead. The crowd drew near and Judas came to Jesus and said, “Good evening, Master”, then he kissed him and Jesus said, “Friend, why have you come?”

Judas came to guide them to the place where Jesus was, as the Roman soldiers did not know Jesus. The disciples knew that Judas brought the soldiers and the crowd to arrest Jesus. Peter drew his sword in anger and was ready to fight but he saw his Master asking the soldiers, “Who do you want?” They said, “Jesus of Nazareth”. He said, “I am He”. The soldiers went back... and fell down to the ground. Judas saw the soldiers fall down... Jesus asked them for the second time, “Who do you want?” and they answered, “Jesus of Nazareth” and once more He said “I am He. Let those disciples go home”. Then they arrested Jesus.

Peter could not stay still. He drew his sword and struck the nearest man to him. The man cried and touched his ear... It was Malchus the high priest’s servant. Jesus knew why Peter did that but he was not in need of his help so he looked at Peter and said, “Put your sword back in its place... Not by might, nor by power...” Peter was astonished when he saw Jesus stretch His hand to heal Malchus’ ear, which Peter had cut with his sword... Why did Jesus show kindness to enemies? This is Jesus’ nature... He always shows His deep love for people. The soldiers tied Jesus’ hands behind his back and Jesus did not resist. The soldiers led him out of the garden... At that time his disciples left him and fled. They ran away for their lives.

- + Why did Judas go to the garden?
- + When was Jesus arrested? On what day did that happen?
- + Why did the plotters fall down when Jesus asked them, “Who do you want?”
- + Complete the verse and write it neatly: .Not by might, nor by power...

### **(30) The Judgment: Peter’s Denial**

#### ***References***

- + Luke 22
- + “With Christ in His passions, Death and Resurrection”

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

1. For my Lord, you received disgrace and blasphemy. You received contempt, insults, threats and slaps on the face. The stubborn people showed injustice to you. They did not know that you are the Savior of the world.
2. They fabricated the case... They said that you deserve death. They shouted and cried demanding that You in particular should be crucified... The severe people made You carry the cross for me who deserve death. I am the bearer of the judgment of death by my own will (From the annual Fraction’s prayer for the Son).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Hold fast the name of Christ.

### *Verse*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27)

### *Hymns*

+ To you is the power, the glory, the blessing, and might forever, Amen.

### *Notes*

The Servant checks the homework questions and discusses them with the students to set the scene for the new lesson.

The dark night passed and in the early morning a large crowd gathered before the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest... the disciples ran away when Jesus was arrested. Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest. He sat among the servants. The court took its formal shape. The judges needed witnesses against Jesus. False witnesses were brought. Jesus listened to what they said without uttering a word. He kept silent. But the witnesses contradicted one another (Each one said words that did not agree with the others). The High Priest wanted to reach a resolution. He said to Jesus, “Have you no answer to give against this accusation against you?” But Jesus kept quiet. Again the High Priest spoke to him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?” All the audience was silent as the answer would be decisive. If He said, “I am not the Messiah”, they would set Him free and if He said, “I am the Messiah” they would kill him. Jesus answered calmly, “Yes I am the Messiah, the Son of God”. The crowds shouted, “He deserves death” and they sentenced Him to death.

+ Who was the High Priest? Where was Peter sitting?

+ How did Jesus answer the question: “Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Peter was watching to see how it would all come out. A fire had been lit in the center of the courtyard and Peter joined those who were sitting around it to warm themselves on that very cold morning. All spoke about Jesus and Peter sat among them to warm himself. He was rather perplexed and nervous. Peter listened to them. They were mocking his master and he kept silent (The Servant mentions the three stages of his denial: When the cock crowed, Peter remembered the words of the Lord). When the Lord looked straight at Peter? (At that moment Jesus looked straight at Peter and did not utter a word but He spoke to the heart of Peter, as if He were saying to him, “Whatever happens, Peter be sure that I love you and I forgive you... You have only to confess that you are weak. The soldiers took Jesus violently outside. But Peter went outside and there he wept bitterly.

+ What sentence was issued against Jesus?

+ Who was warming himself with the servants?

+ Why did Peter deny the Lord Jesus?

+ When a person asks you about your religion, what will you say to him?

+ Complete: You shall love the Lord...

### ***Homework***

1. If anyone asks you about your religion tell him bravely that you are a Christian.
2. Read Mathew 13,24

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

### ***References***

- + Luke 22
- + Mathew 23,24,25,26,27
- + “With Christ in His Passions, Death and Resurrection” Guiza
- + “Contemplation on the passions of Christ and His resolution” H. H. Pope Shenouda III

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

1. “In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
2. “The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsels together against the Lord and his anointed” (Psalm 2:2). Our victory will be achieved through Jesus who loves us.
3. Dear and beloved servant... Christ whispers into your ear all this week... “This is what I have done for you, what have you done for my sheep?”

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The passions of Christ purify us of diseases.

### ***Verse***

“Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:42)

### ***Hymn***

+ To You is the power, the glory (Thok te ti gom nem pi aw nem pi izmo nem pi amahi shai ineh... Amen)

### ***Notes***

The church contemplates the passions of Christ and all the events that took place till Resurrection during the Holy Week:

***Palm Sunday:*** The Lord spent the night in Bethany in the house of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Next morning, He entered Jerusalem and the people, carrying palm leaves and olive leaves, gave Him a warm welcome.

***Monday:*** The Lord left Jerusalem on Sunday evening and spent the night in Bethany. In the morning He went back to the Temple. On His way, He cursed the fig tree then He drove out the merchants and in the evening He went back to Bethany.

***Tuesday:*** The Lord went to the temple where He spoke about the parable of the tenants in the vineyard... the question about paying taxes, the widow’s offering ...the destruction of the

Temple. The parable of the ten virgins then in the evening He went back to Bethany.

**Wednesday:** The Lord spent the day in Bethany -Judas agreed to hand Jesus over to the Jews. Soon this day we neither greet nor kiss one another so that we may not be like Judas in his betrayal.

**Maundy Thursday:** The Lord came back to Jerusalem. He ate the Passover meal with His disciples then He washed their feet. He handed them the Sacrament of the Holy Communion and then went out to the Mount of Olive to pray. There he was arrested and taken to the house of Caiaphas, then to the Council.

**Good Friday:** The Crucifixion Icon is to be decorated with roses, flowers, candles and censers. At 6 O'clock (12 at noon) the time when the Lord our Savior was crucified. The honest thief's words are to be said, "Lord, remember me when you come to Your kingdom. Candles are to be put out between 6 and 9 O'clock to remind the people of the darkness that took place on the earth at that time. At 12 O'clock we bow in worship to God asking for his mercy one hundred times towards the east, then one hundred times towards the west, then one hundred times towards the north, then one hundred times towards the south to show that we worship Christ who is crucified for us, and through His crucifixion, He redeemed the believers in all parts of the earth. Then we make the procession of the Crucifixion Icon, and the burial Icon.

**Holy Saturday:** Prayers are raised in the church all the nightlong. This night is called Apocalypse, i.e. The Revelation as the whole Book of Revelation is read that night and sweet hymns like those of the angels are sung all over the night.

**The Eve of the Resurrection:** The Easter Mass continues till after midnight as the Lord Christ rose at Dawn on Sunday.

### ***Instruction***

1. The Servant holds a discussion with the children about the events of that week and the children write notes in their notebooks whenever possible.
2. The children sing the hymns of this week especially thok te ti gom... Remember me... so that they may be able to participate in the church prayers.
3. The children read Mathew 28.

## **(32) Easter Sunday: Resurrection, Its Power and Effects**

### ***References***

+ Mathew 28

+ Luke 24

+ "From Resurrection to Ascension"

+ "Memoir of Resurrection" Syrian Monastery

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

1. Christ rose at dawn... He rose during the sweetest and quietest hours of the night. The stars of the night were still shining... dew was falling on the flowers and roses... We are pleased because His body was put into a tomb... in garden... and because He was buried in the Spring season... and from that place, Jesus the Son of David rose from the dead.
2. The Lord's angels were around Him singing happily. Let us say with the singer: "This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it..." Have the joys of



Resurrection filled your heart?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

- + To rejoice and be glad in the Easter day
- + The power of God

#### ***Verse***

“The Lord has risen indeed” (Luke 24:34)

#### ***Hymns***

- + He has risen indeed, the Prince of peace has risen...
- + Children, Christ has risen...
- + I love all the world...
- + Ekhristos Anisty [Coptic Hymn -The Liturgy]

#### ***Notes***

- + Ask the children about Christian feasts.
- + What is the feast of today?
- + Why do we rejoice on the Easter Day?

The sealed tomb is surrounded with guards, and on Sunday at dawn an earthquake took place. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The women (the Maries: Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene) went to the tomb. They found it empty. The angel appeared to them. He is not here...He has risen. On their way to tell the disciples, Jesus appeared to them and they bowed down in worship to Him. They were very happy for His resurrection. They informed the disciples. In the evening Jesus appeared to His disciples in the upper room and the doors were shut.

- + When did Jesus die? On what day?
- + When did He rise?
- + Who rolled the stone that was at the door of the tomb?
- + What was the angel's message to the two women?
- + What did Christ say when He met them?
- + Let us say together: The Lord has risen indeed...
- + Say what good deeds you can perform today.

#### ***Homework***

Put the right word in its suitable place:

1. .... were glad when they heard of the Resurrection (The Jews -the Maries -the soldiers).
2. .... has risen from the dead (John -Joseph -Jesus)
3. We ..... because Jesus rose from the dead (rejoice -are sad -do not care).

#### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant can make a simple party in which the children carry the Resurrection Icon

and some lit candles and go around in a procession singing the hymn “He has risen indeed”. Then they listen to the lesson about Resurrection (or the opposite, the procession can be made at the end of the lesson and all the classes can take part). Presents are to be distributed among them. At the end of the party they exchange congratulations: Christ has risen... he has risen indeed.

2. In all the events of Resurrection, concentrate on the happiness that filled the hearts of the women and the disciples so that children may feel happy because of the Resurrection of their Redeemer and heavenly Father. And also His power to rise and the earthquake. All these should be mentioned to make the children stand firm in faith and to emphasize the fact that God Almighty can do anything.
3. Tell the children that the greeting during the following fifty days is: Christ has risen.. He has risen indeed.

### **(33) Prayer: Maximus and Domadius**

#### ***References***

+ “The precious gem” (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part I

+ “The Fifth Generation: Maximus and Domadius” Alexandria, the Garden of the Monks.

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

1. Do you feel that you are in need of prayer and that prayer for your soul is like food for your body?
2. Do you contemplate the prayer before reciting it?
3. Have you tested the power of prayer and its effect in your life and how the Lord answers your prayer? The Scripture says: “Knock and it will be opened to you”. Try to pray more earnestly.
4. Brethren, remember that prayers support a successful service and that without prayers the service would not succeed. Even if you can affect the children thoughts through your words, you cannot move their hearts without prayers. The Scripture says that those who heard Peter’s words on the day of Pentecost were cut to the heart.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Continuous prayers...prayer all the time

#### ***Verse***

“Always ought to pray and do not lose heart” (Luke 18:1)

#### ***Hymns***

+ I have opened my eyes...

+ In the morning we get up and pray... [Arabic Song]

+ Come let us all pray... [Praise the Lord, Page 125]

## *Notes*

- + Who of you has ever visited a monastery?
- + How many monks live there?

## *Their childhood*

This is the picture of two monks. They are two saints. Their names are Maximus and Domadius. Their father was King Phalintianus (Lauindius) King of Rome. Their father brought them up well and instructed them in Christian faith. They used to pray as the Scripture says: "Always pray". They used to fast all the year around breakfasting only on feast days. They used to celebrate the Saints' days. Maximus grew up. When he was 17 years old, he had a small beard. Domadius at that time was 25 years old. They loved the Lord and decided to become monks. The two brothers prayed: "Jesus, we love you. We desire to become monks. Guide us to the holy place. Amen". After they had prayed, they said to their father, "Allow us to visit the Monastery Church". Their father agreed...The two brothers thanked God. "Lord, we thank You because You have answered our prayer". The Lord guided them to a Monastery in Syria, to Father Aghabius.

- + What are the names of the two saints?
- + What is the name of their father?
- + What was their prayer for?
- + Did their father agree?
- + Where did they go?
- + What is the name of the Priest of the Monastery?

## *With Father Aghabius*

They reached the monastery in Syria and met Father Aghabius...They bowed to the ground... then they said to him, "We want to become monks". The priest said, "The monks' life is difficult. You cannot bear it as I see you are accustomed to the life of luxury". They said, "May God strengthen us and we are ready to work by our hands and pray as the Scripture says: Always pray...We are also ready to fast". Father Aghabius was glad to hear this and dressed them in the monk's clothes, which is a long black cloak. He taught them how to work with their hands and make sails for ships. The saints became famous. King Lauindius looked for them everywhere but in vain. He was in great grief. One day, one of his officers was traveling on a ship and he saw that there was a big cross on the sail and the two names Maximus and Domadius were written on the cross. The officer kept silent, as he was surprised. Then he said to the sailor, "What are these names?" The sailor said, "These are names of saints and they live in our town". The officer said, "What are they like?" and the sailor said, "The younger has a short beard and the elder has a long beard. The two are dressed in black but they seem to be princes". "Is this their ship?" said the officer. "No, it is mine" the sailor answered, "but I bought the sails from them and when I discovered that they are good hearted people, I wrote their names on the sail of my ship as a blessing". The officer asked, "Where do you come from?" "From Syria", the sailor answered. The officer said, "Could you guide me and lead me to their place because their father is a king and he has been searching for them for a long time?"

When the officer knew where they were, he informed King Lauindius, who together with the queen and their daughter visited the saints and tried to make them go back with them but they refused and preferred the life of a monk to that of a prince. Their father was pleased with them

and asked them to pray for him and for the palace. They promised to do so and he left the place.

+ Who led the king to the place where his sons were?

+ Let us say the verse: Always pray...

### ***With Father Macarius***

Father Aghabius advised them to go to Egypt to stay with St. Macarius as he himself would depart soon. They stayed with him till he died. They went to St. Macarius. They bowed to him and the following conversation ran between them:

- Peace be to you.

- Peace and grace be to you.

- Guide us because we want to be your disciples.

- The monks' life is difficult.

- Jesus will give us power. You advise us and we shall obey you.

- Go and dig a hole for you to live in and bring palm leaves from the forest and make a roof for your cell and stay there (He said this and he thought that they would leave).

- What shall we do for our living?

- Make baskets and give them to the night guard and he will sell them and buy you food (He showed them how to make baskets).

+ Who became their father in Egypt?

+ How did they earn their living in Syria?

+ How did they earn their living in Egypt?

+ What did they eat?

+ How did they prepare their cell?

### ***Their Life in Egypt***

They used an axe and made a hole in the rock and continued digging till they made a cell. They covered it with palm leaves and made an opening for light to enter. They spread two mats on the ground and made a wooden cross and raised it to the top of the door of their cell. They spent three years in that place. They spoke to no one. They left the cell only to go to church. St. Macarius was anxious so he went there to visit them to know how they lived. They welcomed him and were pleased to see him. They bowed to him and kissed his hands. They wove the palm leaves. At three O'clock, St. Macarius laid the table. He put three loaves and a jug of water on the table. St. Macarius prayed: "O Lord, bless this food. We pray you give the needy their food. Amen".

When night came, St. Macarius said, "I shall spend the night with you". They spread out a mat for him beside the wall. St. Macarius brought a brick of stone and put his cloak on it and made the sign of the cross, shut his eyes and pretended that he was asleep, but in fact he was praying: "O Lord, let me know everything about these two saints". The two saints also pretended to sleep, and when they saw that St. Macarius had closed his eyes, the two saints stood up and prayed. They made the sign of the cross and continued praying all the nightlong...what does the Scripture say? They bowed down and St. Macarius opened his eyes and saw the cell lit up as if it were daytime and he saw angels round the saints holding swords to drive demons away... The

two saints went on praying till the next morning. They threw themselves to the ground and slept and St. Macarius pretended that he was fast asleep and then he got up rubbing his eyes. The two saints also rubbed their eyes and stood up again to pray. After they had finished their prayer St. Macarius greeted them and said to them: "Remember me in your prayers". They said to him, "The Saints' prayers and your prayers father" and they bowed to him.

- + What did St. Macarius see at night?
- + Where did he sleep?
- + What were the angels holding in their hands?

### ***Their end***

A few days later, the elder brother fell ill...What is his name? The younger brother went to St. Macarius to call him...he came. He prayed for him but that was the sickness of death...H died. St. Macarius prayed for him and buried him. After three days the younger brother died and St. Macarius prayed over his body and buried the body. Their pure bodies are buried in an old church sanctuary in the Baramus Monastery. There is a cavern in the Monastery called the King's Sons' cavern...May the blessing of their prayers be with us...Amen.

- + What are the names of the saints?
- + Who was a father to them in Syria? and in Egypt?
- + Where were they buried?

### ***Homework***

- + Let us pray for our friend (name) who is sick.
- + Let us pray so that the Lord may keep us from evil.
- + Make a review of the texts of recitation as a preparation for the next lesson.

## **(34) Recitation**

Review of the texts assigned for the sixth grade in the Schools. The Servant should see that each student has studied them by heart and that they use them in their prayers and he has to encourage them to do so. The Servant should always advice those who have not studied them to study them.

### ***Notes***

Ask the children to bring with them St. Mark's Gospel and a picture of St. Mark for the next lesson.

### ***The verses chosen for this term are the following:***

1. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever" (Psalm 136:1), Lesson 24.
2. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (John 1:9), Lesson 25.
3. Lord, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom (Luke 23:42), Lesson 31.
4. The Lord has risen indeed (Luke 24:34), Lesson 32.
5. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all

- your strength and with all your mind (Luke 10:27), Lessons 27,30.
6. Always ought to pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1), Lesson 33.
  7. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house. They will still be praising You (Psalm 48:4), Lesson 22.
  8. I have sanctified this house, which you have built to put my name there forever (I kings 9:3), Lesson 20.
  9. Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord or hosts (Zechariah 4:6), Lesson 29.
  10. That Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day (I kings 8:29), Lesson 21.
  11. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in Me, and I in him (John 6:56), Lesson 26.
  12. This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17), Lesson 19.
  13. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach (Nehemiah 2:17), Lesson 23.
  14. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall be call His name Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23), Lesson 18.
  15. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another (John 13:34), Lesson 28.

## **THE THIRD PERIOD**

### **(35) St. Mark's Feast**

#### ***References***

- + Mark 14:13,51,52
- + "Biography of St Mark the Evangelist" Kamel Saleh
- + "The Precious Gem" (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa)
- + "The first generation: The Story of the Coptic Church" Iris El Massry

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

1. This saint through whom we knew Christ does not have the status he deserves in our life. Celebrations of his feasts are very few. The churches and institutions that bear his name are very few while there are many churches in Egypt bearing the name of St George. Very few churches bear the name of St. Mark.
2. Service is struggle, sweat and tears. It is not amusement and a chance for gain. This is what the apostles knew and achieved.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The love of St. Mark the apostle for Christ or prayer in all situations.

#### ***Verse***

"Always ought to pray and not lose heart" (Luke 18:1)

## ***Hymns***

- + St. Mark... St Mark...
- + St. Mark came to us...
- + O Pillar of Christianity...

## ***Notes***

You can follow one of the following methods.

### Method 1

***A party:*** If St. Mark is the name of the class family, so the day is the family saint's feast. If St. Mark is the name of the church so that day is the feast of the church patron. Any way you can bring the picture of St. Mark the apostle or a large picture showing St. Mark and the lion beside him. Two children place it in the middle. Put some roses before the picture. Each boy is asked to bring a candle to light it before the saint in honor of him. Each child can bring with him a small picture or a small copy of St. Mark's Gospel (the homework of the previous lesson). The children light candles and go around the Saint's picture. The Servant uses a bell and all sing the hymn: Khen evran.. Aksios pi theo-remos in-ev-angelestees markos pi apostolos... or in brief Ava marcos pi apostolos. The Servant leads the procession after giving the lesson and if the Servant likes, the children study the hymn refrain: St. Mark... St. Mark... or sing it and after the procession, each child kisses St. Mark's picture.

### Method 2

The Servant reads a part of the Holy Bible (Mark 14) and indicates that the person carrying the Jar of water "verse 13" is St. Mark. He is also the young man who followed Jesus, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body (Verse 51).

- + What is the name of the church? Who is St. Mark?
- + What do you know about him?
- + How did he come to our country?

The Servant concentrates on St Mark's Gospel. The children should use their notebooks, carry the Gospel and discuss the following points:

1. The number of chapters.
2. The chapters studied last week.
3. The miracles mentioned only in this Gospel and where we can find them:
  - a. Healing the dumb man (7).
  - b. Jesus heals a blind man at Bethsaida (8).
4. The parables mentioned only in this Gospel:
  - a. The seeds that grow in secret (4).
  - b. The owner of the house and his servants (13).
  - c. In the temptation on the mountain, he said, "He was with wild animals".
5. Equality between the genders (Mark 10).
6. Choosing His disciples (Mark 3) and sending them (6).

Thus, the Servant trains the children to pick quotations from the Holy Bible and read in a loud voice.

### ***Homework***

The children read a chapter from the Holy Bible every day. The Servant asks them to bring St. John's Gospel and read chapter 21:1-23.

### **(36) The Lord Appeared While They Were Catching Fish**

### ***Reference***

+ John 21:1-23

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

1. The Lord cares for our living affairs as well as our spiritual purity. The commandment of God leads us to perfect faith in God's steadfast love.
2. If we know that even the hairs of our heads are counted, so what about that which is more important than the hair of the head in value.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Joys of Resurrection

### ***Verse***

"YOU know that I love you" (John 21:15)

### ***Hymns***

+ Prince of peace is risen... [Praise the Lord, Page 27]

### ***Notes***

- + How long did the Lord stay in the tomb?
- + To whom did he appear after the resurrection?
- + How did He enter the room where the disciples were?

The last time, the disciples saw their Servant at the shore of Lake Galilee was after His resurrection. The disciples were waiting anxiously... long hours passed... but Jesus do not come... Peter said, "I am going fishing". "We will come with you" they told him. They went quickly to the shore. They got into a boat... threw their nets out... but all that night they did not catch a thing. As the sun was rising, Jesus stood at the water's edge... but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then, He said to them, "Young men, do you have anything to eat?" They answered sadly, "We toiled all night and took nothing". He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will find some". So they threw the net out, and could not pull it back in, because they had caught so many fish.

They knew He was Christ... John said to Peter, "It is the Lord". When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water. The rest of the disciples came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. When they stepped ashore they



saw charcoal fire there with fish and bread on it... breakfast was ready.

- + Where did the disciples go?
- + Did they catch anything at night?
- + Where was Jesus?
- + When did they know that He was Jesus?
- + What did John say?
- + What did Peter do?
- + What did they see on the shore?

They bowed to Jesus. He said to them: “Come and have your dinner. After they had eaten, Jesus said to Peter “Peter, Do you love me?” “Yes, Lord” he answered. “You know that I love you”. Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs". Jesus asked him the same question three times “Do you love me?” When Jesus asked him the same question three times, Peter became sad and ashamed... “I wonder why?” he thought (because he denied him three times)... He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you”. Jesus encouraged him and said, “Take care of my sheep”. Thus, on the shore of Lake Galilee, the disciples spent happy long hours with Jesus who showed them that he still trusted them and loved them. He was pleased to hand them over the responsibility of caring for His sheep.

- + Why did the Lord ask Peter, “Do you love me?” three times?
- + What does the statement, “Take care of my sheep”, mean?
- + Who evangelized Christianity in Egypt?
- + Who is the successor of St. Mark?
- + What is the Pope’s Title?
- + Who helps the Pope in the See?
- + Let us repeat together: You know that I love you...

### ***Homework***

Let us pray for the See of St. Mark. The See of St. Mark is now in Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Jerusalem, America, Europe and Kenya.

### ***Recitation***

The absolution of Compline Prayer (before you sleep): “O Lord, all our sins...” till lesson 39. The children should use that when they pray in the class and at home.

## ***The Virtuous Life***

### **(37) Treating others well: Abigail and David**

### ***References***

- + 1 Samuel 25
- + “The Life of David” Translated by Fr. Marcos Daoud

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

Treat others well, be gentle, love all, like your Lord the Savior whose heart loved all and considered all equal.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Loving my neighbors

### ***Verse***

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mathew 22:39)

### ***Hymns***

- + We are the Sons of the Shepherd... [Arabic Song]
- + Joy... Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

### ***Notes***

- + Do you know anything about David?
- + What do you know about him? He loved to pray...
- + Who remembers a verse about prayer? He used to recite psalms...
- + Who remembers one of David’s famous psalms?
- + Who can recite this psalm?

David was an honest gentle shepherd. 600 men accompanied him. David and his men used to guard the sheep of the shepherds near them and help them because the Scripture says: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There was a man called Nabal who was from the town of Maon. He was a very rich man, the owner of three thousand sheep and one thousand goats. David and his men helped Nabal’s shepherds... The day came for men to shear the sheep... The custom was that after shearing the sheep, the owner of the sheep used to make a party and a big feast. He used to invite all those who helped him in taking care of his sheep. Nabal made a big feast (Describe it). He should have invited David and his men and give them their wage but he didn’t. David was in need of money and hoped that Nabal would send him his share.

- + What do you know about David?
- + How many men were with him?
- + Where did Nabal live?
- + What was the custom that was followed during shearing the sheep?
- + Who can say the verse: You shall love...

David sent ten of his men to Nabal to ask him to send him even a small portion of his wage. Nabal grew angry and raised his voice. He mocked David and called him bad names and drove the men away. David was angry and said, “It is our right and Nabal must give us our wage. We have to go to him and take our wage. We can hurt him but we shall not go together. Some of us will go to him and the others must stay here”. David and some of his men went to him but he did not want men to quarrel with one another... One of Nabal’s men told Abigail, Nabal’s wife that Nabal ill-treated David and his men. Abigail was a wise and intelligent woman who knew how to

do well. She prayed... and requested the Lord to guide her. Abigail quickly prepared a present (I Samuel 25:18) (Read this part to the children). She ordered a servant to go on ahead. The servant met David. David had reached a group of men coming to him. Master David... this is Lady Abigail's present. Abigail came and bowed to David saying, "Forgive me I did not have the honor to see your men when they came. Nabal is mistaken". David said, "You are a blessed woman... Thank you". Abigail went back happily. She did not tell her husband anything the first day, as he was drunk. The next day, after he had sobered up, she told him every thing and how she saved him from death. Nabal was sad. He suffered a stroke and was completely paralyzed. Some ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died. She became a widow. Then David sent a proposal of marriage to Abigail because she was wise. She agreed and was comforted after the death of her husband... She helped David.

- + What did David want?
- + Why did he decide to go to Nabal on that day?
- + How did Nabal treat David's men?
- + Who told Abigail?
- + What did she send?
- + Whom did she marry after the death of her husband?

### ***Homework***

Complete the following:

1. You shall ..... your ..... as yourself.
2. There was a man from ..... whose name was ..... and his wife's name was .....
3. The number of David's men was .....

## **(38) Repentance: Moses the Black**

### ***References***

- + "The Precious Gem" (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part I
- + "The fifth generation: The Story of the Coptic Church" Iris El Massry
- + "St. Moses the Black" The Garden of the Monks, Pages 63-68

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

Contemplate the action of repentance and its effect as it changed the nature of a slave who was an unbeliever, adulterer and apostate and turned him into a father, a Servant and a priest who laid rules for monks, and whose name is mentioned on the altars and his body is buried in Baramus Monastery.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Repentance and returning to God

### ***Verse***

"Return to me, and I will return to you" (Malachi 3:7)

### *Hymns*

- + When I feel tired...
- + Lord have mercy on us...

### *Notes*

Last month, we studied the biography of the two saints Maximus and Domadius. Their life was splendid. Today we are going to hear about a saint whose reputation is not good but the strange thing is that he became a saint and his name is mentioned in the mass. This holy man is Moses the Black. He was an Ethiopian... he was tall... a mighty murderer... a street man. He used to beat men, call them bad names, eat the meat of a whole lamb each meal and drink a barrel of wine. He was a slave. His master dismissed him because of his bad conduct.

He gathered a band of about seventy men of robbers round him. He worshipped the Sun and used to say to it, "If you are god tell me... and O God whom I do not know, let me know you". The Lord heard his prayer. A voice from heaven said to him, "The monks in the wilderness will tell you about Me". He held his sword and quickly went into the wilderness...

- + Who can remember the names of the saints who lived in the wilderness? Maximus, Domadius, Macarius and Isothorus the priest.

When Priest Isothorus saw Moses, he was afraid. He made the sign of the cross. He had heard of Moses the Black and his gang. The monks used to pray for them. Moses greeted him and said, "I want you to tell me who God is". The priest was surprised. He laid the cross on Moses' head and said, "What made you come here?" Moses told him everything. The priest rested his head on his staff. He prayed for Moses... He lifted up his eyes and found Moses weeping... He knew that those were tears of repentance. He rejoiced and said, "Why do you weep?" Moses said, "Because of my sins and wicked deeds. I want the Lord to accept me". The priest said to him, "If your repentance is true, the Lord will accept you as the Lord says: Return to me and I will return to you".

- + What is the name of the priest of the wilderness?
- + Describe his stature and his clothes.
- + Why was Moses weeping?
- + Say the verse: Return to me...

Moses bowed to the ground before the priest and confessed his sins loudly. He wept bitterly. Abba Isothorus saw a plank in the sky full of black writing (the sins of Moses) and the angel of the Lord cleaned the plank till it became white and clean. The priest sent him to Abba Macarius after praying for him... Abba Macarius was very pleased with him. He taught him, guided him, baptized him and he became Christian. He sent him back to priest Isothorus and dressed him in the monk's clothes (What are these clothes like?). He advised him to stay in the wilderness to struggle, pray, worship and read the Bible... He quickly progressed in grace till he became a saint and he had disciples of monks and he guided them. The church commemorates his martyrdom on 24<sup>th</sup> of Baunah. His body is buried in Dair Al-Baramus. The blessings of his prayers be with us, Amen.

- + Tell the story of St. Moses' repentance.
- + How did he meet his end?
- + Where is his body now?
- + Let us repeat the verse: Return to me...

### ***Instructions***

1. Note that the voice did not come from heaven to Moses except after Moses' earnest prayer and deep desire to know the True God.
2. Show that the Lord accepts repentants whatever their sin is.

### ***Homework***

1. Read the Holy Bible regularly ...Pray all the time... Treat your parent, your brothers and your colleagues well.
2. Relate the Story to your parents.
3. Read the first chapter of the Book of Job.

## **(39) Endurance and Patience: Job**

### ***References***

- + The Book of Job
- + "Interpretation of the Book of Job" Sporting
- + "Stories and tales from the Holy Bible" Part 10, Beirut

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

1. How would you feel when you are ill trouble?
2. Would you murmur against the Lord? Would your heart turn away from Him? Or would you submit to him and endure your suffering?
3. When in trouble, do you feel that the hand that anointed you is the hand of God whose love for you is without end and so you will be comforted and secured or do you feel the opposite and in this case you will suffer from anxiety?
4. Do you feel that the Lord will deliver you from your pains and that His love for you will make your suffering bearable and endurable?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Patience and endurance

### ***Verse***

"Let patience have its perfect work" (James 1:4)

### ***Hymns***

- + When I feel tired...
- + Lord have mercy on us...

### *Notes*

- + Who guided and led Moses the Black to the Lord Jesus?
- + How did his life end?
- + How does the church honor him?

Job was an upright and straight man before the Lord. He had seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, one thousand head of cattle and five hundred donkeys. He also had a large number of servants. Job's sons used to take it in turns to give a feast, to which all the others would come.

The Lord praised Job and his faithfulness, but Satan said that Job was faithful to the Lord because he was rich. The Lord allowed Satan to take all what Job had. News came to him that his cattle had been taken away, his servants had been killed, and all his sheep and camels had been killed. News came to him later that the house was blown down and his sons and daughters were killed. Job said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord" In all this Job did not sin.

The Lord allowed Satan again to hurt his body but not to hurt his life. Then Satan made sores break out all over Job's body from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. Job sat among the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity... Curse God and die". But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?"

Job's three friends came to condole with him and comfort him. They talked to him. Then out of the storm, the Lord answered Job and spoke to him. The Lord said, "Who are you to question my wisdom with your ignorant, empty words?" Job said, "I am ashamed of all I have said and repent in dust and ashes". Job submitted himself completely to the Lord and acknowledged his sin and weakness. The Lord said to Job's friends, "Take seven bulls and seven rams to Job and offer them as a sacrifice for yourselves. Job will pray for you and I will answer his prayer and not disgrace you as you deserve. You did not speak the truth about me as he did". The Lord restored Job to his former condition with ever-greater prosperity than before. Job owned 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 3,000 head of cattle and 1,000 donkeys. He was the father of seven sons and three daughters. Job lived 140 years after this, long enough to see his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, four generations.

- + Why did the Lord allow Job to be tempted?
- + How did the Lord reward Job?
- + Let us repeat together: And let steadfastness have...

### *Instructions*

1. Servant draws the children's attention to the fact that steadfastness (patience) does not mean weakness or laziness, but it means submission to the Lord's will while we work and struggle.
2. The Servant and the children contemplate the following emotional situations, concentrating on the positive aspects: Job lives in peace with his family. Calamities

afflict him. Job is afflicted with loathsome sores from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. His wife deserts him. His friends annoy him with their words. In the end, he attains the crown of righteousness for his patience and steadfast love.

3. Use means of illustration such as films, a magic lantern, etc. to show scenes from the story of Job will have a great effect.
4. The Servant should explain that the Lord did not allow Job to be tested unless He knew that temptation for Job was like fire to incense or perfumes the smell of which will spread and the Lord's name will be glorified.

### ***Homework***

Read the story of the Good Samaritan at home (Luke 10:30-37) and bring the Gospel with you next week.

### ***Recitation***

- + The children begin to study the last part of the hourly prayers "Lord have mercy on us".
- + Children use this part in their prayers till lesson 43.

## **(40) Serving Others: The Good Samaritan**

### ***References***

- + Luke 10:30-37

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

1. Christian life does not know selfishness, nor self love.
2. Christian life always searches for others to help and assist them.
3. Let us ask ourselves, to what extent did we apply this motto in the past? What were the obstacles that we faced? Read Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 25:40.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Urge the children and encourage them to love people and help them.

### ***Verse***

"When He saw him, He had compassion on him" (Luke 10:33)

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31)

### ***Hymns***

- + A man was leaving for his town... [Arabic Song]
- + The Good Samaritan [Praise the Lord, Page 35]

### ***Notes***

#### ***The Story in Pictures:***

You can teach the parable of the Good Samaritan on a blackboard. Draw four square: In the first square draw the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. Let Jerusalem appear in the upper corner of

the road, and Jericho in the lower corner of the square. Draw some palm trees near Jerusalem and Jericho. On the road, draw a man walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. In the second square, draw a man falling down on the ground and five runaway robbers. In the third square, draw three men. Two of them are keeping away from the rich man and the third man stands by him. In the fourth square draw the inn and two dinariis (coins) (a line and a circle can stand for a man).

### ***Questions for discussion:***

Who needed help? one of your relatives...a citizen of your country? Your church only? Mention the different members of the people of God. Explain the different responsibilities of one family. If a person insults you and you see him in difficulty, how will your feeling be towards him? Which of them is better... someone you know but does not help you or a stranger who helps you? Which of them is nearer to you indeed?

### ***Items of the lesson:***

The man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. The robbers attacked him, stripped him and beat him up, leaving him half dead (Jerusalem is 830 meters above the sea level while Jericho is 276 meters below sea level so a man leaving Jerusalem for Jericho must go down). A priest and a Levite were going down that road but when they saw the man, they walked on by, on the other side. In spite of their religious mission they did not help the man. But the Samaritan cared for the wounded man although the Jews and the Samaritans were enemies. The Lord Christ advised the man who asked him to follow the example of the Good Samaritan.

### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant encourages the children to perform a spiritual exercise in serving others such as visiting some poor people.
2. The wounds could be spiritual wounds and the wounded man is that who keeps away from the church. Our service to him lies in guiding him and leading him to church and Sunday School.
3. Be careful. Do not emphasize the attitude of both the priest and the Levite lest the children should have little respect for priests.
4. Ask some children to act the part of robbers, the wounded man, the Priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan. Ask another child to read the story while the others act their parts.

### ***Homework***

1. Draw a circle before the words that show the following:
  - a. I can be a good neighbor if I am: angry -loving -kind -selfish -bold.
  - b. I can be a good neighbor to: a stranger -my friends -a citizen -a lady -a boy.
2. Who is my neighbor? Make use of the following words to give the answer: mercy -who -with me -make.

## **(41) Showing Hospitality to Strangers: Anba Bishoi**

### ***References***

- + Synaxarium 8<sup>th</sup> Abib
- + "The Biography of St. Bishoi the Great" Archpriest Ibrahim Anba Bishoi



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

1. The Lord chose that holy man in spite of his weak slim body. The Lord looks into the depths and does not care for appearance and the eloquent tongue.
2. Do you feel that the yoke of Christ is on your shoulder and the cross is heavy and difficult to carry? For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Showing Hospitality to strangers

#### ***Verse***

“Do not forget to entertain strangers” (Hebrews 13:2)

#### ***Hymns***

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

#### ***Notes***

Give the children an idea about the monks and monasteries as an introduction to the lesson.

St. Bishoi was born in Egypt. He had six brothers. His mother saw, in a vision, an angel saying to her, “The Lord says to you: Give me one of your sons to serve me”. “My Lord, take whom you want” she answered. The angel chose Bishoi who was weak and whose body was slim. The mother said, “Lord, take a strong one to serve God” but the angel said, “The Lord chose this one”. When he grew up, Anba Bishoi went to Sheheit Wilderness, where he was ordained a monk. He practiced his ascetic life and worshipped the Lord and he became famous. Some monks who had heard about St. Bishoi’ visited him and asked him to allow them to stay with him and to support them with his prayers so that they might deserve his holy blessings. He received them happily as he loved all people.

They stayed with him for some days. He taught and guided them. Some days later, St. Bishoi desired to stay alone to practice his service and ascetic life, so he said to them “Go to the wilderness of Upper Egypt and observe a solitary life there in the mountain. They obeyed him. He blessed them and they left for the place he had told them about and stayed there. It happened that some robbers entered a cell of one of the brothers and took his possessions. There was an old man in the monastery who pretended to divine what the future has in store. The old man said that he knew hidden things through revelation announced to him by the angel of the Lord. The monastery abbot went to him and said, “Tell us who robbed the brother’s cell”. The old man said, “The two brothers who came here a few days ago”. All the monks believed him and the abbot drove them out, suspecting that they were the robbers. But Anba Bishoi, being inspired by the Holy Spirit, knew that the two brothers were innocent. So, he quickly went to the mountain (Who remembers its name) and there he found the two brothers in prison. He said to the abbot of the monastery “I know these two brothers. They have never been accused of such a thing before. The abbot said that the old man (name) who knows the future said so and so. St. Bishoi said,

“Please, let all the brothers come here”. The abbot did so and the old man came with them. They all bowed before Anba Bishoi and received his blessing. He asked them “What evil deed have these two strangers done?” The old man said, “They took away the possessions of our brother (name). Anba Bishoi took a deep breath and said to the old man, “Dear brother... please say: The demons have led me astray” The old man said, “The demons cannot lead me astray. This is the truth”. Anba Bishoi said to him, “Then, please say: The demons have tempted me”. The old man forced himself and said, “The Demons have tempted me”. As soon as he said these words, a demon came out of him in the form of a pig opening his mouth to devour him but St. Bishoi ordered the demon to disappear and he disappeared. When the brothers saw what happened they bowed thankfully and said “Our holy father, forgive us”. The Lord was with St. Bishoi. St. Bishoi then said to the abbot, “Go to the place of...(name) and you will find the stolen things”. But he did not tell him who stole the things. He advised him not to tell anyone that he guided him to the place where the stolen things are. The abbot found the stolen things so he and his monks glorified God and his great saint Anba Bishoi.

### ***Instructions***

Explain that the demon dwelt in the body of the old man because he neglected his spiritual life as he did not repent nor did he receive communion.

- + Where was Anba Bishoi born?
- + What did his mother see in a vision?
- + Describe Anba Bishoi?
- + What did he do to the brothers who came to him?

### ***Homework***

The children should answer the previous questions in their notebooks.

## **(42) Fasting: Esther**

### ***References***

- + The Book of Esther
- + “The Interpretation of Esther” Sporting

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

1. David says, “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles” (Psalms 34:17). Can you repeat these words in your spiritual life?
2. By fasting and prayers demons go out, your worship becomes strong, your service becomes supported and you can attract many people to God.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Fasting strengthens our worship

### *Verse*

“Consecrate a fast call a sacred assembly” (Joel 1:14)

### *Hymns*

+ Whenever fast days come... [Arabic Song]

+ Morning Dioxology [Praise the Lord, Page 149]

### *Notes*

+ Where can you find the Book of Esther in the Holy Bible?

+ What did she do for her people?

Xerxes, king of India and Persia gave a banquet for all his officials. For 180 days he made a show of the riches of the imperial court with all its splendor and majesty. The king sent for his wife, as he wanted to show off her beauty to all the officials and all his guests. But the queen refused to come. This made the king furious. He issued a royal proclamation that Queen Vashti may never again appear before the king. The king made a search to find some beautiful young virgins to choose one of them to be queen instead of Vashti. Mordecai brought Esther his cousin to the king who admired her beauty and chose her to be queen instead of Vashti. Two of the palace eunuchs plotted to assassinate the king. Mordecai told the queen and the queen told the king. This good deed of Mordecai was written down in the official records of the empire. The king had appointed Haman a minister and ordered all his officials in his service to show their respect for Haman by kneeling and bowing to him. Mordecai refused to bow to Haman. Haman was furious when he realized Mordecai was not going to kneel and bow to him. He ordered all his servants to bow down to him they all bowed to him except Mordecai and Haman became very furious. Haman decided to kill all the Jews and took permission to do that.

A proclamation was sent to all rulers, governors and officials. It contained the instructions that on a single day all Jews were to be killed. When Mordecai learnt of all that had been done, he tore his clothes in anguish. Then he dressed in sackcloth, covered his head with ashes... wailed loudly and bitterly. There was loud mourning among the Jews. They fasted, wept and wailed. Mordecai explained the situation to Esther and asked her to go and plead with the king and beg him to have mercy on her people. Esther advised Mordecai and the Jews fast and pray for her, and not to eat or drink anything for three days and nights.

Esther entered the King's room and invited the king and Haman to a banquet she was preparing for him. The king and Haman accepted the invitation. Haman had the gallows built to have Mordecai hanged on it. The same night the king could not get to sleep, so he ordered the official records of the empire to be brought and read to him. The part they read included the account of how Mordecai had uncovered a plot to assassinate the king. The king ordered Haman to get the royal robes and a horse, the royal crown and provide these honors to Mordecai. So Haman got the robes and the horse, and he put the robes on Mordecai. Mordecai got on the horse, and Haman led him through the City Square, announcing to the people as they went, “See how the king rewards a man he wishes to honor”. Esther invited the king and Haman to another banquet. The king said to Esther, “Tell me and you shall have it. I'll even give you half the empire”. Esther told the king about what Haman wanted to do with her and her people.

The king was furious and ordered that Haman would be hanged on the gallows which he prepared for Mordecai. The king gave his ring with the seal on it to Mordecai who quickly wrote letters and sent them to all towns ordering rulers and governors to protect the Jews and not to destroy them. The Jews observed the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar as holidays every year. These were the days on which the Jews had rid themselves of their enemies: They called the feast the Festival of Purim.

### ***Homework***

What do you know about: Esther, Xerxes, Haman, and Mordecai (This question should be answered in the notebook).

### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant should draw the children's attention to the fact that Esther the orphan girl could not deliver her people except by fasting and prayer. The case is also true with us, no matter how young we are, we can deliver the church if we fast and pray with submission.
2. He who digs a hole for his brother falls in it. This is a fact, which is always true. The children must apply it this to their practical life.
3. The children learn from the events of the lesson that when the church is in trouble, the members of Sunday School must begin their work by fasting and praying. The church nowadays is in need of people who can bear responsibility...those people who devote their life for worship, those people who have zeal like Esther, zeal without worship is useless.
4. In your lesson use a picture of the cross on which Mordecai was going to be hanged on.
5. Let the children repeat the lesson's verse with you.
6. Read the details of the story in the Holy Bible. When you say that Esther advised her people to fast, encourage the children to fast Wednesday and Friday.

## **(43) Guard Yourself From Greed: Anba Arsanius And The Beans**

### ***References***

- + 1 Corinthians 5:10, 6:10
- + 2 Corinthians 7:2
- + Ephesians 5:5
- + "The Garden of Monks" page 44

### **To the Servant**

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

became a leper because of his sins.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Curing greed, satisfaction and content.

#### ***Verse***

“Take heed, and beware of covetousness” (Luke 12:15)

#### ***Hymns***

- + We are thankful to You Jesus...
- + O tourist who will meet Jesus...
- + Morning Dioxology [Praise the Lord, Page 149]

#### ***Notes***

Set the scene by asking some questions: Mention some of the Lord’s gifts to you...Where does our food come from? Our clothes? Do you thank God for all that he gives you? How do you look when you are at the table having your meal?

One day Anba Arsanius was eating boiled beans with his brothers the monks in the Monastery. Their custom was not to peel the beans or select special types of beans but he used to select the white beans to eat them. The abbot was not displeased as this might change the system followed in the monastery. The abbot said to one of the brothers “Endure what I shall do to you for the sake of the Lord”. The brother said, “All right, father”. The abbot said, “Sit beside Arsanius and select the white beans and eat them”. The brother did so but the abbot gave him a strong slap on his face saying, “How do you select the white beans for yourself and leave the black ones for your brothers?” St. Arsanius stood up, then bowed to the abbot and to the brother and said, “This slap is not for you but it is for me. Arsanius the Teacher of kings’ sons does not know how to eat beans with the monks of Egypt”.

Anba Arsanius was brought up in the court of the king so he was used to luxury. That is why he could not imitate the Egyptian monks in their ways of living in a short time. He trained himself to do so little by little. He was not in need of a direct way to learn, but he learned through observing what he saw around him and many times, a gesture was enough to teach him as what happened in this story.

+ Give the children some questions while telling them the story to see if they are following you up. You can give the children an idea about the life of Anba Arsanius before he became a monk.

#### ***Homework***

1. Thank God for all things put in front of you.
2. Read Acts 7 at home as a preparation for the following lesson.

#### ***Recitation***

1. Dogmatic texts from the Bible.

2. Incarnation. From the Morning Prayer (John 1:1-14): In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God. And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father full of grace and truth. This is to be used as apart of the children prayer at home and in class till lesson 46.

### *Heroism Unit*

#### **(44) St. Stephen**

#### *References*

+ Acts 7:54-60

#### *To the Servant*

1. Turn your toil and sacrifice for the Lord into earnest prayer and honesty in work. You can be assured that the Lord is with you. Stephen saw the glory of God when he was on earth.
2. Stephen was a deacon and you as a servant in the church and practice teaching, perform your service with honesty and go on worshipping and contemplating and be a good example.

### **The Lesson**

#### *Aim*

Honoring saints and praising their firm stand in faith.

#### *Verse*

“If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die we die to the Lord” (Romans 14:8)

#### *Hymns*

+ Hasten O righteous hasten... [Praise the Lord, Page 31]

#### *Notes*

- + Who was the first martyr in the church?
- + Who knows the meaning of the name “Stephen”.
- + Write it down in your notebook.

The Christian faith spread on the hands of the apostles whom Christ sent. The Christians continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They needed men to devote themselves for the service of widows, orphans and the poor. They chose seven deacons who were known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Stephen was among them. He served the poor and the needy and distributed gifts and alms among them. He also preached in the church and convinced the non-Christians...and the number of believers increased.

- + Who is Stephen?
- + What does the word “deacon” mean?

+ How do Christians live?

One day, a large crowd of Jews gathered and discussed religious matters with Stephen. He answered them quoting texts from the Scriptures. He explained that Christ was the only Savior through whom we can enter heaven. His words did not appeal to them. They took him to the synagogue and prosecuted him.

+ What is your name?

+ I am Christian.

+ Don't mention that name.

+ I love Christ.

+ We will kill you.

+ I do not fear death...if we live we live to the Lord...

+ We crucified Christ...

+ You crucified Him and He was buried. He stayed in the grave for three days but then He rose and ascended to heaven and I am going to Him.

Who answered him?

What will you say if anyone asks you about your Christian religion?

Let us repeat together: If we live we live to the Lord...

Who can repeat the verse?

The Jews were angry with him because he told the truth. They wanted to kill him so they accused him of blaspheming against God and Moses. They rushed at him, dragged him in the streets and when they were out of the city the men stopped, stripped him of his clothes, and stoned him. The witnesses left their cloaks in charge of a young man named Saul who approved of his murder. They dug a hole in the ground, threw him in it, picked big stones and threw them at Stephen's head, legs, back, chest and arms. His body was broken. He fell to the ground. The Lord strengthened him. He knelt down and prayed lifting his eyes up to heaven and saw the heavens open and saw Jesus surrounded by angels in great glory and a host of angels dressed in white and shining with bright light. They were coming down one by one saying "Holy, Holy, Holy". Stephen rejoiced on seeing the vision. One of the angels was holding a crown. The people stood in great surprise because Stephen was happy in spite of the stones thrown at his body. They asked one another: Why does Stephen look at heaven. What does he see? They threw the stones at his head. The stones were thrown at him but he was happy.

He said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God". They threw the stones at his mouth to prevent him from speaking. Stephen said, "Lord do not hold this sin against them". Stephen could see demons keeping away from him as they could not draw near him. The angels were driving them away. His face shone as the face of an angel, then he fell asleep.

+ Who taught Stephen to forgive those who stoned him?

+ Can you forgive a child who has called you bad names... beats without reason...or vexes you while you play?

+ Let us repeat the verse together: If we live we live to the Lord...

### ***Homework***

1. If a person asks you about your religion say: I am Christian
2. If anyone insults you say, "May the Lord forgive you".
3. Read Revelation 21 (New Testament).

### ***Instructions***

1. This lesson can be taught through acting.
2. Show the spirit of love and forgiveness that Stephen showed towards those who stoned him.
3. Advise the children not to be afraid of non-Christians when they ask them about their religion.
4. You can use the picture of angels or the wing of an angel to connect martyrdom with heaven.
5. You encourage the young deacons to perform their service in the best way and ask them to attend the hymn lesson and to participate in the service.

## **(45) The Apostles' Feast: The Revelation of John and the Heavenly Jerusalem**

### ***References***

+ Revelation 21

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

Paul the Apostle could not describe heaven. All he said is: "What no eye has seen, nor ear hear, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him".

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Encouraging the children to love the Kingdom of Heaven and to follow the example of the Saints.

### ***Verse***

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His Sanctuary" (Psalm 150:1)

### ***Hymns***

- + Peter and Paul the two apostles...
- + Paul the apostle evangelized...
- + The Cherubim Worship You...
- + Praise God in all his Saints... [Psalm 150, The Liturgy 141]

### ***Notes***

Use beautiful pictures to show the beauty of heaven. Artistic conditions should be observed so that a wrong picture may not be printed in the mind of a child about heaven. Angels' wings, candles, palm leaves.



- + What is the name of the first martyr in Christianity?
- + What did he request the Lord to do for those who stoned him?
- + When did the Lord's disciples begin their evangelism in the world?
- + Who evangelized in Egypt?

*A glimpse about some of the disciples and apostles of the Lord Jesus:* Peter the apostle was one of Christ's disciples. He evangelized the Lord Christ openly in public and his shadow healed patients. Paul the apostle is not one of the twelve disciples. The Lord chose him to preach His name before kings and the kingdoms of the world who were pagans at that time. Many people received faith and believed through him. He established many churches in the world. Paul and Peter were martyred in Rome. The Emperor sentenced them to death. Peter requested them to crucify him with his head down and he was crucified in the manner he desired but Paul was beheaded with the sword. They attained the crown of glory and went to the bosom of the saints.

- + How was Peter the apostle martyred... and Paul?
- + Where are they now?
- + Let us sing a hymn: Peter and Paul the two apostles...

Years went by and all the apostles died except John. The Roman Emperor arrested him and ordered that John should spend the rest of his life alone in Patmos far away from his friends and acquaintances. The Lord did not leave John alone, but he appeared to him and revealed to him what was about to happen to the church and the world in the future. John wrote; inspired by the Lord, all that he saw in a book called Revelation. It is the last Book in the Holy Bible. The Lord showed him the Holy City, New Jerusalem. He saw a beautifully colored door and two angels were guarding that door. The ground of Paradise was green and covered with bright colors. He saw the angels dressed in white and the sky was shining. He saw the place where Christ dwells and two rows of angels bowing in worship and shouting with praise saying "Holy, Holy...etc. He saw a very big chair of gold on which Christ sat and very bright light surrounded him. Twenty-four priests surrounded Him. He saw four saints Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. He saw many people rejoicing and glorifying God. All the people there bowed and worshipped the Lord saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy..." Angels flew around the Lord singing sweet songs saying, "The Cherubim worship You..." John longed to enjoy what he saw. He longed to see the Lord coming again: He said, "Come, O Lord Jesus". John heard the Lord say, "I'll come soon" and John said, "Amen, Come O Lord Jesus". As for you, are you longing for His second coming? Lead a good Christian life to show that you are really waiting for the second coming of our Lord from heaven.

- + Where was John when he saw this vision?
- + Who sent him into exile?
- + Why? What do you say to a man who asks you about your religion?
- + Let us repeat together: Praise the Lord...
- + Who can say the verse?

### ***Instructions***

Explain that the Lord Jesus Christ's sitting on the throne has been mentioned to be perceived by our minds but we know that the Lord fills all and is everywhere... in heaven, on earth...and also

the perpetual joys of the heavenly creatures and their hymns of praise is the share of the righteous and the holy.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

1. How was each of Peter, Paul and Stephen martyred?
2. Describe the angels as Beloved John saw them.

## **(46) St. George the Martyr**

### ***References***

+ Synaxarium Baramudah 23

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

1. Do you declare the truth to every person on every occasion?
2. Do not worry about the people's opinion of you, but do the things that please the Lord.
3. We must obey God rather than men...Note that there is a cross waiting for you. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).
4. Seek the intercession of the saint when you are in trouble and the Lord will show mercy to us through the prayers of the saint...Amen.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Be firm and acknowledge Christ

### ***Verse***

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct" (Hebrews 13:7)

### ***Hymns***

- + St. George... O St. George...
- + Come, O righteous people, come...
- + Song of praise to St. George... [Praise the Lord, Page 17]

### ***Notes***

This great saint was born in the city of Cappadocia in A.D. 280 and was soundly brought up. When he was 20 years old, his mother died. He joined the army in the reign of King Diocletian the Pagan...He was promoted and became a leader. When this king persecuted the Christians, this saint distributed his property among the needy and set all his slaves free. He met the king to defend the Christians and said to him "Why do you, your majesty, show anger to the Christians who are humble, modest and righteous? Why do you force them to follow a religion, you yourself doubt its truth as it believes in idols made of stones and they are not gods? Jesus Christ is the true God. He is the Lord of glory". The king became very furious because of these words

and the boldness of the saint George. The king said to him “Are you a Christian?” The saint said, “I am the servant of Christ Jesus and I trust in Him. That is why I have come to you to bear witness to truth”. The king said, “I have promoted you and raised your status so for the sake of your career and your high position, deny Christ by words only and raise incense to the idol and I will give you a big reward”. The saint said, “I pray my God to bring you to him so that you yourself may worship Him and desert worshipping idols. How can I deny My Lord Jesus Christ whom I love? The king was furious because of these words and he tormented him severely. He put him inside a machine full of swords to cut his flesh into pieces and force him to deny his faith. The saint prayed and begged the Lord to help him. The Lord healed him. Then the king put him in hot lime, but the Lord delivered him. The saint kept saying: “How can I deny my Lord Jesus Christ?” At last they cut his head with the sword and he attained the crown of martyrdom.

- + What was St. George’s job?
- + In whose reign did he live?
- + What did St. George say when the king asked him if he was a Christian?
- + Why was the king angry with him?
- + How was he tormented?

### ***Homework***

1. Note that there may be exaggeration in describing the torture of that saint so when you speak about his torture be reasonable and do not exaggerate.
2. This saint is drawn riding a horse and holding a spear in his hand with which he attacks a dragon to save a girl from it. This is symbolic not real. The dragon is a symbol of the worship of idols; the girl is a symbol of Christians whom the saint defended during the time of persecution.
3. The intercession of this saint is very powerful and he answers those who call him quickly. Many miracles took place because of his prayers not only in Egypt but also in Syria, England and Russia so the Russians made his picture their slogan and the English people put their picture on their coins. Every day we hear about the work of God through this saint.
4. Tell the children a story about a miracle you know as this saint performed many miracles.

### ***Recitation***

1. Dogmatic texts from the Bible.
2. Redemption. The children study the following text from John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

## **(47) Peter the last of Martyrs in Egypt under the Roman Rule**

### ***References***

- + “The Precious Gem” (Al khareeda Al Nafeessa)
- + “The Third Generation” Part I, Page 218
- + “The Story of the Coptic Church” Page 117

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

1. Martyrdom is a daily religious test in which believers live even if they have no enemy or anyone to persecute them.
2. Martyrdom is a kind of the fight of the cross and it derives its being from the cross. It is the victory we attain over the devil's resistance to the work of God.
3. Martyrdom is love; love for Christ, love for people, love to those who persecute us for the sake of Jesus who gave Himself as a sacrifice for us.
4. Do you desire to be a martyr? There are many crosses, which you have to carry: going without sleep, fasting, troubles, enduring temptations without murmur but with happiness, thanks and joy.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Being firm in faith till death.

#### ***Verse***

“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Hebrews 13:7)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Come, O righteous people, come...

#### ***Notes***

St. Peter's parents were righteous parents. The Lord gave them the child in an answer to their earnest prayers. His father was a priest and his mother was a pious lady. One day she went to the church to take part in celebrating the martyrdom of the two apostles Peter and Paul. She suffered a lot when she saw mothers surrounded by their children. She interceded with the two apostles and prayed the Lord to give her a son. At the end of the mass, she prayed with tears. Then she went back home. That same night she saw a dream, two old men in white. They said to her, “Do not be sad. The Lord will give you a son; he will be a father to a great people. When you get up go and tell His Holiness the Pope”.

She told her husband He believed. He said to her, “Go and tell His Holiness the Pope”. She went to the Pope. She told him what she saw in the vision. The Pope blessed her and said, “The Lord is true and honest and shows his wonders through the saints”.

- + Why was Peter's mother sad?
- + What was his father's job?
- + What did Peter's mother pray for?
- + What did she see?
- + To whom did she go?

In less than a year, she had a son and she called him Peter. The Pope baptized him. When he was 12, years old he was ordained a deacon. When he was 16 years old he was ordained a priest. The Lord granted him the grace of performing wonders and miracles. One day the believer gathered

to pray in the church. After the prayer they went out but at the church gate they saw a man with a demon in his body throwing stones at them. They went back quickly into the church to avoid any harm. They told the Pope. The Pope called Peter the priest. Peter brought a vessel filled with water then he asked the Pope to breathe on the water. He took the water and sprinkled it over the sick man's face and he was healed at once. The people loved him. When the Patriarch was on his deathbed, the people wept and said, "Will you leave us as orphans?" The Pope smiled and pointed at Priest Peter and said, "This will be your father who will care for you after I depart". The prophecy came true and Peter became the Pope, the 17<sup>th</sup> Successor to St. Mark the apostolic and Evangelist, in A.D. 285 and he became the father of the people of the See of St. Mark.

- + When was Peter ordained a deacon... a priest... a Patriarch?
- + What was the talent that the Lord granted him?
- + Relate the story of casting out the demon?
- + What is the name of the present Pope?
- + What is his title?

This saint is called the Last Martyr. At that time the persecution of Christians was severe. Torture and murder went on every day, every month, every year... hundreds were martyred daily. Even the murderers were tired. But the Christians were used to singing hymns of praise as if they were going to a wedding, "Come, O righteous, come". This saint encouraged Christians, fought heresies, and kept faith. He was imprisoned then led to the place of martyrdom. He asked them to allow him to visit the church where the relics of St. Mark were kept. They allowed him to do so. He knelt and bowed and prayed earnestly and ended his prayer saying: "O Lord, I ask You to put an end to this persecution which befell you people. May the shedding of my blood be the end of this persecution against you articulate flock". He heard a voice from heaven saying, "Amen". When he finished his prayer, he delivered himself to the guards.

He was brave and firm and his face was illuminating like an angel. When the guards saw that light, none of them who were to assassinate him dared to use his sword. The officer in charge showed them 25 pieces of gold and said, "This sum is for that who dares to cut the head of that old man". One of them dared to strike the neck of the Pope with his sword, thus he cut off his head. They left him where he was and went, each his own way.

The news of the Pope's martyrdom spread in the city. The believers gathered and wept. They lifted the body. They took the body to the church of St Mark. They dressed him the holy cloak and seated him on the throne of St. Mark on which he never sat during his life as a kind of humbleness. His blood was the last that was shed by Emperor Diocletian. That is why he is called the last of the martyrs. The blessing of his people be with us. Amen.

- + In whose reign was that persecution?
- + How did Christians meet death?
- + What did the Patriarch ask before his neck was cut?
- + Why didn't the guards dare to raise their hands against him?
- + Why did the officers show the pieces of gold?
- + Why was he called the Last Martyr?
- + Let us say the verse together: Considering the outcome or their conduct...

### ***Homework***

Write short notes on St. Peter the Lord of Martyrs.

### ***Recitation***

1. Dogmatic texts from the Bible.
2. The Coming of the Holy Spirit.
3. The children study the following text from Acts 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... as the spirit gave them utterance”.
4. The children have to study and the Servant is to make competitions.

### **(48) Athanasius and all the world against him**

### ***References***

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part I, Page 298
- + “The Story of the Coptic Church” Page 186
- + The Biography of Athanasius the Apostolic (Kamel Saleh Nakhla)

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

Be honest in serving the children of your class in your lessons, visits and prayer as from among them will come Athanasius and Cyril in the future.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Being firm in faith till death.

### ***Verse***

“Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Hebrews 13:7)

### ***Hymns***

- + Come, O righteous people, come...
- + Nicene Council [Praise the Lord, Page 32]

### ***Notes***

- + Who remembers the lesson of the last week? The verse?
- + Why was Pope Peter given the title the Last of Martyrs?
- + In whose reign was the persecution of Christians sever?
- + Who is the saint in the picture in your hands?

Athanasius is called “The defender of the Orthodox Faith”. He was a very great patriarch in the history of the church. He defended the Christian faith against unbelievers and proved the truth of Christianity to the whole world. His parents were pagan (What does the word “pagan” mean?). His father was rich. He died when Athanasius was a little child. His mother brought him up. She

sent him to a Christian School. He lived with the Christian children. He began to observe them when they play, speak, pray and showing their love for one another. They asked him about his religion. He said, "I worship idols". The children said to him, "Idols are not gods... Christ is God". Athanasius said, "Indeed I desire to become a Christian".

- + What is the name of the man in this picture?
- + What was his parents religion? Who died first?
- + Where did he receive his education?
- + What did his friends say to him?

He wanted to be baptized... but his mother refused. She brought a magician to convince him to desert Christianity. The magician said to her, "Do not be in trouble... he is Christian". They went to Alexandria and were baptized. The mother died... He was left with Pope Alexandria. Athanasius acted Baptism with the children. The Patriarch was pleased with him. He was ordained a priest. He served in the church, read the Bible and prayed. When he grew up he became a brave patriarch.. He always said the truth and feared nobody. That is why he is known all over the world as "Athanasius who is against the world". Because of his love for God, truth and his people, he was sent into exile five times but the Lord was always with him, gave him power and victory.

- + What is the name of the Patriarch?
- + What is the title of Athanasius? Why?

You can give the children an idea about the defense of Athanasius against Arius, and the laying of the Orthodox creed. See to it that the children study it and recite it daily.

### ***Homework***

Mark (✓) right or (X) wrong at the end of the following:

1. Athanasius' parents were Christian ( ).
2. The Lord is pleased with us whenever we mix with evil people ( ).
3. Athanasius is called the defender of the Orthodox Faith ( ).

## **(49) St. John Chrysostom**

### ***References***

- + "The Precious Gem" (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part 1, Page 265
- + "The Egyptian Church" Page 54

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Showing courage in announcing truth.

### ***Verse***

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12)

### ***Hymns***

- + How often were they beaten? How often were they put in prison... [Arabic Song]
- + My Coptic Church... [Praise the Lord Page 29]

### ***Notes***

- + What is the name of the Pope we heard of last week?
  - + What is his title?
  - + Who knows the name of the Patriarch of this picture?
- (The Servant distributes the pictures among the children as a means of illustration)

John Chrysostom was not Egyptian, but he was a foreign scholar whom the church loved and valued in the whole world. He was born in Antioch and was soundly brought up. Thanks to his mother who instructed him in the holy instructions and orthodox faith. He was famous for his virtue, piety, righteousness and boldness in telling truth and courage. He was called the Second John the Baptist. He was ordained deacon and then he was chosen to be Patriarch of Constantinople.

- + Where was St. John born?
- + Who brought him up?
- + Why was he called the Baptist?
- + Where was he ordained a Patriarch?

We know that the children of God who are honest and sincere always meet with temptations and persecution and the Scripture says: All who desire to live a godly life... the devil fights them making use of different means and persons. This is what happened to St. John Chrysostom. Empress Indoxia was furious with him because he reproached her for her recklessness and her actions that were not suitable. Let us give some examples.

Queen Indoxia passed by a widow's field and she admired it. She took it to herself. The widow complained to John Chrysostom and requested him to restore her field back to her from the queen. The saint wrote to the queen but she did not answer him. He sent some people to request her to give the field back to the widow but she refused. John intended to punish her by using the authority of the church. So when she came to the church on the Cross Day to attend the Holy Mass he stood by the door and prevented her from entering. One of her guards drew out his sword to kill him but his hand became paralyzed and the queen returned to her palace.

This saint suffered from many persecutions that caused his death. John was eloquent and fluent in preaching that is why he was called Chrysostom. He wrote many beautiful writings such as essays, preaching, interpretations of the Bible and several letters. The blessing of this saint be with us all, Amen.

- + Why was he given the title "Chrysostom"?
- + Why was the queen angry with him?
- + How did the Pope punish her?
- + What are the works of this saint?



- + Who remembers the verse?
- + Let us repeat together: All who desire to live...

### ***Homework***

Fill in the spaces with a suitable word:

1. Pope John Chrysostom was ordained Patriarch of .....
2. St. John was given the title Chrysostom because he was ..... and was called the Second John the Baptist because he was .....
3. All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be .....

## **(50) The Virgin's Feast: The Miracle of the Church of Atreeb**

### ***References***

- + "Forty miracles of the Virgin: The third miracle" Page 15

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

Ask the intercession of St. Mary, who are sincere to the human beings, to intercede for us before her Son Jesus Christ that He may have mercy on us and forgive us our sins, guard us, make us firm in faith till the last breath... Amen.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Honoring St. Mary the Mother of God.

### ***Verse***

"For behold henceforth all generations shall call me blessed" (Luke 1:48)

### ***Hymns***

- + St. Mary...
- + Peace, peace to the Virgin...
- + O Virgin the Mother of Light...
- + Through the intercession of the Theotokos St. Mary...
- + Sherene Maria... [Praise the Lord, Page 110]

### ***Notes***

During the reign of Haroun Al Rasheed, a severe ruler governed Egypt, he persecuted Christians and destroyed their churches. His assistants went on destroying the churches till they came to the City of Atreeb near Benha. There was a church in that city bearing the Name of the Virgin. It was a big splendid building. Its pillars were made of marble covered with gold. The priest felt that they had come to destroy the church. He went inside the church and prayed with tears. He interceded with the Mother of Light the owner of the church. He went out to meet the prince. He showed him the church and the precious things inside it... and the Icon of the Virgin. He said to the prince, "Give me three days and till I bring you a decree from the Caliph that this church should not be destroyed".

The prince laughed and said, “The Caliph is in Baghdad and there is a long distance between us that takes no less than two months. How do you say that the decree will come after three days? This is not logical”. The priest said, “I am sure and I’ll pay the cost of your stay and the costs of those with you”. He gave him 300 dinariis. The prince took the money and said, “This church must be destroyed”. And the priest said, “I am sure that the Virgin Mary can prevent you from destroying her church and she will defend her church”. The priest knelt before the Icon and prayed “Save us O Virgin... Forgive us... interceded with your Son for us... help us... Don’t allow those to destroy your church”. He did not taste food. The Lady Virgin spoke from her Icon “I am the Virgin. I’ll help you. Do not be afraid of the prince... his boss will order him not to destroy this church.

- + What is the name of the Caliph?
- + How were the Christians persecuted?
- + What did the priest do when the Caliph’s assistants drew near the church?
- + What do you usually do when you are in trouble?

While the priest was praying... It was night and the Caliph was asleep in Baghdad. The Caliph saw a bright Divine light. He got up in horror. He saw the Virgin the Mother of God. He was disturbed... he said, “Who are you? She said, I am Mary, the Mother of Jesus whose churches you destroy... How do you sleep in comfort and all the Christians are suffering. I am the Virgin the Mother of God... Repent otherwise you will suffer unbearable pains”.

The Caliph shook with horror and said, “I am ready to do what you want and do not hurt me, please”. She said to him, “Now write a decree in your own handwriting, stamp it with your seal and send it to your assistants in Atreeb. Give an order that your soldiers stop destroying the churches and attacking the Christians”. The Caliph said to her, “How can this letter arrive in Egypt today? It is impossible by land or by sea”. She said to him, “Just write the decree and with the help of God it will reach the prince before he gets up in the early morning”.

The Caliph was afraid. He wrote the letter, “I am the Caliph Haroun Al Rasheed. Come here soon. Do not destroy the churches of the Christian”. He stamped the letter and wondered what would happen. Behold, a bird with a big beak came and snatched the letter from his hand and flew quickly. The Virgin at that moment disappeared. After a short time the bird was in Atreeb. He came to where the prince was sitting and threw the letter to him and flew away.

The prince opened the letter... He was surprised... The letter was from Haroun At Rasheed... ordering him to go to him soon. He read it three times. He examined the stamp and the handwriting. It is from Haroun Al Rasheed no doubt. He wondered. He sent for the priest. He asked him, “Tell me, what have you done?” The priest said joyfully, “The Mother of Light facilitates everything for us”. He told him how he prayed before the Icon. The prince was surprised. He received faith and believed in the Lord Christ. He entered the church and kissed the Icon and requested the Virgin to guard him during his travel and listen to him. The prince gave the 300 dinariis back to the priest and gave him 100 dinariis as a souvenir. He left the churches and went to Baghdad. He met the Caliph. He found him perplexed. He saluted him and then said, “Your majesty, a letter came to us from you. Is this true?”

The Caliph said, “It is I who sent the letter. Tell me what happened”. The prince told the Caliph all that he saw and all that happened and the story of the priest, the letter and the bird. The Caliph said, “We will build a church to Christians after the name of the Lady Virgin the Mother of Light to help me in my life and deliver me”. They built a splendid church and put many precious things in it. They also put the Virgin Icon in it. The persecuted Christians gathered there and prayed and were happy. Thus, thanks to the intercession of the Virgin, Christianity won victory and the banner of the cross rose high and the counsel of the stubborn was corrupted. May her Intercession be with us and guard us all. Amen.

### ***Instructions***

1. If possible let the children act the dialogue that ran between the priest and the prince, the Lady Virgin and the Caliph, the Caliph and the prince.
2. You can put candles before the Icon of the Virgin and make a glorification.
3. The picture of Virgin Mary is suitable for this topic and pictures should be distributed.

### ***Homework***

Ask the children to relate this miracle to his parents and brothers. Ask him to intercede with her and put her picture in his sleeping room and put a lamp or a candle in front of the Icon.

## **(51) Recitation**

The Servant makes a review of the texts to be studied during the period to make sure that the children have studied them. He encourages those who have studied them. He follows up with those who haven't studied the text yet till they study the text.

## **(52) Review**

### ***Aim***

Emphasize the aims of the previous lessons.

### ***Notes***

The following are some review questions: Some of them should be answered in writing and collected to be corrected.

1. Complete the following:
  - a. Always pray and do not .....
  - b. Sanctify ..... call a solemn assembly.
  - c. Do not neglect to show ..... to strangers.
  - d. You shall love your ..... as yourself.
2. What is the title of each of the following:
  - a. St. Moses
  - b. Pope Peter
  - c. Pope John
  - d. St. Athanasius

3. Write the dogmatic texts you studied from the Bible concerning:
  - a. Intercession
  - b. Redemption
  - c. The coming of the Holy Spirit.

***The Verses that were studied in this period are:***

1. Return to me, and I will return to you (Malachai 3:7), Lesson 38.
2. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:4), Lesson 39.
3. If we live we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord (Romans 14:8), Lesson 44.
4. You know that I love you (John 21:15), Lesson 36.
5. Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct (Hebrews 13:7), Lesson 46,47,48.
6. You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Mathew 22:39), Lesson 37,40.
7. But let patience have its perfect work (James 1:4), Lesson 39.
8. Do not forget to entertain strangers (Hebrews 13:2), Lesson 41.
9. Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly (Joel 1:14), Lesson 42.
10. Take heed and beware of covetousness (Luke 12:15), Lesson 43.
11. Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary (Psalms 150), Lesson 45.
12. And all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12), Lesson 49.