

**Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church
Diocese of North America**



Sunday School Curriculum

for

Grades 1+2+3

**Compiled by the Educational Branch of the
Eritrean Orthodox Church Diocese of North
America.**

**Adopted from the Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of
Southern USA.**

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LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Week 1 - The Holy Bread

Week 2 - St. George the Princess of Martyrs

Week 3 - Using the Cross

Week 4 - God Calls Abraham

Week 1- The Holy Bread

Objective:

- ❖ To learn the value of Quarban

Memory Verse:

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life.” (John 6:54).

References:

- ❖ The Holy Bible, John 6:48-58

Introduction:

- ❖ Where do we find Quarban?
- ❖ Who passes it out?
- ❖ When and how do we eat the Quarban?

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ Making the Quarban

The Quarban is very special because we use it during the Divine Liturgy because Jesus Christ said: “whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life”. The person that makes the Quarban has to be a deacon, or priest not a regular person, because a deacon is considered a servant of the altar. And while the deacon makes the Quarban, he says a lot of psalms and prayers because this Quarban will be used during the Holy Communion.

- ❖ It is round

What shape is the Quarban? Is it square or triangle? No, it is round because there is no end for a circle. There is a beginning and end on the squares and triangles (a corner), but

on the circle, it keeps on going forever with no beginning and no end. This symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was raised from the dead and lives in Heaven forever. So He lives forever and there is no end to Him, like there is no end to eternity or the Kingdom of Heaven. And thus for us to live with Our Lord in His kingdom, we should listen to His words, “whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life.”

❖ 12 Crosses

How many crosses do we see on this drawing? There are 12 crosses and then 1 big cross in the middle. The one big cross symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ while the 12 smaller crosses symbolize the 12 disciples. They surround our Lord because they were His disciples and they served with Him. Can you name the 12 disciples?

NOTE: This would be a good time to review the 12 disciples with the children. (Reference St. Matthew 10:2-4 & Acts 1:26)

❖ 5 Holes

We see how many black circles on this drawing? We see 5 and these are holes. On the real

Quarban, we would actually see 5 holes and these holes symbolize the Passions of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He had five wounds, one was the crown of thorns, which was placed on His head, and the other wound was His side, which was pierced by a spear by one of the soldiers. How many wounds is that so far? Two...also there were two wounds on his hands so that makes how many? Four....And finally the last wound is..... on his feet. Through our Lord’s sufferings and “whoever eats [His] flesh and drinks [His] blood has eternal life.”

NOTE: While the servant is telling the children about the five wounds, it would be good if he demonstrates the five wounds by pointing to his own body and having the children follow him by pointing to their bodies. This way there will be some physical activity going on instead of the children sitting there and their attention may be lost. Also, using a picture of the crucifixion point to the students the wounds of our Lord.

❖ The Holy Communion

Also, the Quarban is not only used in the blessing of the bread but also used in the communion. What is communion? This is when we partake of the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and this is where the Quarban is most holy because our Lord said, “whoever eats My body and drinks My blood has eternal life.”

- ❖ Who makes the Quarban?
- ❖ What shape is it? Why?
- ❖ How many crosses are on it?
- ❖ What do the crosses symbolize?
- ❖ How many holes are there?
- ❖ What do the holes symbolize?
- ❖ Name Our Lord’s 5 wounds.

- ❖ What is written on the Quarban?
- ❖ What else do we learn from this lesson?
- ❖ What is the verse

Conclusion:

We have to eat the Quarban with respect especially during communion. We also have to be thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ who gave us the communion to live forever like Him in heaven.

Application:

- ❖ We said that the Quarban was used most during the communion. But before we take communion, there are a couple of things we should do:
 - We should be fasting meaning we should not have eaten breakfast. If this is hard for you and you get sick or you can not fast the whole morning, talk to the priest and he will give you the best advice.
 - While standing in the altar, we should not be talking to our friends. This is not the time to talk to our friends because at this time the only thing we should think about is Our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The girls should be wearing a veil on their heads and both boys and girls should be holding a napkin. We should also our shoes off before entering the church.
 - Before we take Communion, there are special prayers we should read. They are called “Prayer before Holy Communion.”
 - As we approach the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, we should make the cross and then partake of Him. Making the cross reminds us that we are about to take something really special and blessed. And we should make the cross also as we proceed to take the Holy Blood of Jesus Christ. We also have to open our mouth wide for the priest so, he will have no difficulty in placing the Holy Body in our mouth.
 - After we take the Holy Body and Holy Blood, there is also a prayer we should read called “Prayer After Communion.”
 - Of course this is all done in the altar, so as we leave the altar, we should drink a cup of Holy water.)
- ❖ God is inside us

After we take Communion, Jesus Christ is actually in us! And so if Jesus is inside us, we should not do anything that may upset or offend Him. For example, if the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ enters our mouth, how can we have our tongues say bad words? We should keep our mouths clean and pure and from saying bad things. Here is a small exercise, we should not say bad words AT ALL, but if you have a problem with this, tell priest and begin working on this sin. For example, say to yourself, on one day particularly Sundays I will never say a bad word, and then gradually increase it to two days, and so on until all the days of the week you won't say bad words. And it isn't only bad words, but also screaming at our parents and fighting with our brothers and sisters. We should try to stop all of this.

❖ Saving the Quarban for the sick/absentees

If we were privileged and blessed that God gave us an opportunity to come to church, we should not forget our brothers and sisters who were not able to attend. The priest should save Quarban for them. For example, if our friend is in the hospital and the priest would visit him after the Liturgy, take a piece of Quarban with him for the sick.

Homework: Give the children our father to memorize at home.

Week 2- St. George the Princess of Martyrs

Objective:

- ❖ Learn from his courage and how strong was St. George.

Memory Verse:

“Gather My Saints together to Me” (Psalm 50:5)

Introduction:

- ❖ Prepare the picture of St. George to show to the students
- ❖ Ask them if they know the name of the Saint on the white horse.
- ❖ Why is he riding a hoarse?

- ❖ Does he look weak or strong in the picture?
- ❖ Let them try to imitate the sound of the horse

Lesson Outline:

St. George was born of a Christian family that was wealthy, in the city of Cappadocia; his father's name was Anastasius, and his mother's name was Theobaste. When he was twenty years old, his father died, and he went to Emperor Diocletian to take over his father's position in the Roman army, with his ability and charm, he became an important and big soldier in the army.

One day the Emperor Diocletian gave orders to get rid of all the Christians. He said: "All the Christian books should be burned and all Christians should be like slaves". In great courage, the strong young man George, pushed his way through the market place to read the order of the emperor, and then he tore down the order and threw it away. They took him before the Emperor and he cried saying, "for how long you will be angry with the innocent Christians. The Emperor tried to make him change his mind and become non-Christian. He promised him that he would give him a higher position in the Empire if he said I am not Christian. St. George refused the emperor's offer. So, the Emperor Diocletian was very mad and he decided to make him suffer and go through much pain but the Lord Jesus Christ was with him and healed him. St. George made even more people become Christians.

The emperor became very angry; he brought his top magician, Athanasius, who gave St. George a cup full of poison to drink. St. George made the sign of the Cross over the cup then he drank it, and nothing happened to him, another cup was also given to the Saint, but this time with his hands tied behind his back. The Saint made the sign of the cross with his head and drank it (the teacher should act the way St. George made the sign of the cross). Nothing happened to St. George again after drinking the poison. This time the magician himself became a Christian and many more people.

When all methods failed, the Emperor invited him in his palace and promised to give him his daughter as a wife if he only prays to the Emperor's god, which was a statue. The Saint replied, "Tomorrow you will see the powers of your gods"

At the palace, St. George was praying the Psalms, Empress Alexandra heard him, and asked him to explain to her what he had said. Quickly, the Saint began to tell her about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world and she became Christian too.

On the following day many people went to the temple to see if St. George's praying to the statues of the Emperor. The Saint stretched his hands, raised his eyes to Heaven and prayed. In a moment, the earth opened its mouth and swallowed all the statues. The crowds shouted, "we believe in George's God". At this, the Emperor became very mad and ordered to cut off the head of St. George, and Empress Alexandra and put an end to the lives of the new Christians, thus they went to heaven and received beautiful crowns on their heads on 23 Barmouda, 303 A.D.

In Eritrea, the Orthodox Tewahdo call him, "The Prince of Martyrs", and built over 80 churches named after him. The Greeks call him "the Great Martyr".

- ❖ What was the job of St. George?
- ❖ How old was he when his parents died?
- ❖ Why was the Emperor angry with him?
- ❖ What did he do to the cup of poison?
- ❖ How many times he drank the poison?
- ❖ What we learned from St. George's story?
- ❖ How can we become like him?

Conclusion:

We have to be strong and say we are Christian whenever anybody asks us. When we are strong other people will like to be Christian like us.

Application:

- ❖ Ask St. George to pray with you in heaven when you pray
- ❖ Color the picture of St. George, distributed by the Sunday school teacher
- ❖ Memorize the Eritrean months at home and review with the teacher next week

Week 3- Using the Cross

Objective

- ❖ To teach the children to love the cross and to be proud of it

Memory Verse

“God forbid that I should glory except in the Cross of our Lord “ (Galatians 6:14).

References

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:17,18; 2:2
- ❖ Galatians 6:14

Introduction:

Prepare a cross made of colored paper to be stuck on cardboard paper, or made of reeds, or palm leaves, or of postage stamps, or of snails or the stones of fruit... according to the environment.

We start the lesson by making the sign of the cross (The servant checks the drawing made by every child).

- ❖ Where do you usually see the cross?
- ❖ Why do Christians make the sign of the cross?
- ❖ Why do they carry the cross?
- ❖ When do we make the sign of the cross?
- ❖ Who of you have ever visited a monastery?
- ❖ Who lives there?

Lesson Outline:

A new monk entered one of the monasteries. The custom was that he should be tested first so that the abbot might decide whether he would be fit as a monk or not. The new monk was very simple, sweet, clean and tidy. He went to church as soon as he heard the church bell. He received the Holy Communion once a week. He kept silent during the mass prayers. He neither looked right or left... He loved his brothers the monks and served them... He cleaned the Monastery courtyard and watered it... He was very active

and energetic but he could not study anything... They tried to make him study the psalms or any prayers but he could not... He could not study the Lord's prayer "Our Father who art in heaven". But he knew how to make the sign of the cross. He used to say: "The power of the cross protects me". The Abbot was perplexed. He said, "This brother is unfit". He decided to drive him out. He slept and had a dream. The room was filled with wonderful bright light. From the middle of the light came Jesus. The abbot bowed down to Jesus. Jesus said to him "Why do you think of driving the new monk out? Do not dismiss him. Come and see the devils how they are".

- ❖ Why did the abbot intend to drive the monk away?
- ❖ What did he see in a dream?
- ❖ What did he say to him?

The abbot saw a group of devils holding a meeting and they were all discussing a serious problem. What is the matter? They were plotting against the new monk. They wanted to make him fall but they could not do that... how? he heard the following conversation:

The chief devil said: who will go to cause this silly monk to fall?

Another devil answered: I shall go.

The chief devil said: If you make him commit sin I'll give you a wonderful crown.

The devil answered: Yes, your majesty

The devil ran quickly...He tried to enter the monk's cell but he could not... He came back ashamed with his face to the ground. He said, "I am sorry I cannot". The chief devil was furious and cried loudly, "Who will go?" Another devil said, "I shall go, your majesty".

Another devil ran...went up and tried to come down to him but he could not because he saw the sign of the cross in flames of fire... He could not stay, he ran away. "I cannot", he said. The chief devil cried more loudly, left a chain and sat on another, struck his hands together and asked them how they couldn't cause the fall of a silly monk...why...What does he do? ...He sent a big group of devils and they all came back ashamed of themselves and said, "We could not enter the monk's cell". He said to them, "What does he do? Does he pray?" and they said, "he does not know the Lord's Prayer even... Does he recite the psalm? No, neither can he read the Bible. He does not know how to read or how to write". The chief said, "Then this monk is an empty vessel. Why cannot you defeat him?" They said, "He is all the time making the sign of the cross over himself, his face, his heart...before he does anything, he says, "The power of the cross protects me and keeps me safe. Before he sleeps, he makes the sign of the cross up, down, on his right side, and on his left side and says the same words". The chief shook his head and said, "Ah, this is an empty vessel but it is sealed". The abbot woke up and knew the meaning of his dream. He kissed the new monk, accepted him, put the monk's robe on him and gave him the cross.

- ❖ Why couldn't the devils defeat the new monk?
- ❖ What did the abbot do when he woke up?

Let us repeat together: But God forbids that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can say it?

Conclusion:

The sign of the cross protects us from all bad things that can happen to us. We have to frequently use the sign of the cross before we eat, before we sleep and when we wake up in the morning. The sign of the cross also makes us strong.

Application:

- ❖ Color the picture of the cross at home and hang it on the wall or draw a picture of several crosses. This can be done according to the ability of the child.
- ❖ Sing the hymn “My cross...my cross” when you pray before you go to bed.
- ❖ Give the children some crosses of any kind.

Week 4 - God Calls Abraham

Objective:

- ❖ God's care for us when we go from one place to another

Memory Verse:

“Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 12

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Means of illustrations
 - Pictures of the sky and the stars
 - Pictures of animals and clothes
 - Who is the father of all believers?
 - What is the name of his wife?

Lesson Outline:

Abraham lived in the land of Chaldeans in Haram with his relatives and family. He owned a large property and had slaves, servants and cattle. The natives were wicked people who prayed to statues but Abraham prayed to God. Who do you pray to? Who do you love?

The Lord called him and said: “Abraham, leave your country, your relatives and your family and I will send you to a new land”.

This is difficult, isn't it? Will Abraham leave everything? Where will we go?

Abraham did not know even the name of the city? Will the Lord leave him alone?

No, the Lord will bless Abraham and will give him more than what he expects. The Lord said to him, “I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you and will make your name great”.

- ❖ Whom did the Lord call to leave his country?
- ❖ What is the name of the country?
- ❖ What did the inhabitants of the land worship?
- ❖ Who helps you when you are tired?

Abraham obeyed God. He gathered his slaves and savants and said to them, “Be ready to depart this land”. The men and women asked, “Where to?” Abraham said, “To a new land”. They asked him, “Where is this new land?” He said, “I do not know its name but the Lord is with us and He will show us the land”. The servants asked one another what happened to father Abraham. But Abraham **was** a believer. Abraham believed in God and said, “If we live, we live to the Lord”. Abraham took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew and left his country and family. Abraham arranged for the trip. The cattle, the slaves and the servants went ahead. They were praying on their way. The Lord protected them from fierce animals, hunger and disease. They thanked the Lord and praised him.

- ❖ Who of Abraham’s relatives went out with him?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse? “If we live, we live to the Lord”

Abraham arrived at the Land of Canaan. The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “I will give you this land .I am with you”. Abraham was happy because the Lord was with him. To express his thanks, he built an altar. He gathered big stones, put them in order one upon the other. He prepared a sacrifice and put it on the altar. The natives knew that Abraham worshipped God and did not worship idols.

- ❖ What is the name of the Land?
- ❖ What did he offer to the Lord?
- ❖ Let us repeat together; “If we live, we live to the Lord”.

Conclusion:

Emphasize God’s love for Father Abraham and his care for him in his trip. There is a great blessing when we obey God. We receive all God’s promises when we obey Him.

Application:

- ❖ He prayed and said, “Lord, I thank you because you care for me”. When you pray, we can repeat these same words.

- ❖ Draw a picture of a tent and an altar.
- ❖ The psalm “Blessed is the man who...” suits this lesson. Children begin to use it and the servant makes competitions.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Week 1- Abraham Separation from Lot

Week 2- Lot and His Wife

Week 3- God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Week 4- The Censer

Week 1 - Abraham Separation from Lot

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children not to be greedy

Memory Verse:

“Abraham said to Lot:for we are brethren” (Gen 13:8)

Reference:

- ❖ The Holy Bible- Genesis 13

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson.
- ❖ Prepare Audiovisual aids (pictures or slides) to explain the story
- ❖ Ask the students what is the meaning of greedy?
- ❖ Greedy is somebody who wants to take everything for himself or take more or better than others.

Lesson Outline:

Abraham was the uncle of Lot. When Abraham left his family and land as God told him, he took Lot with him. Abraham and Lot became very rich. Abraham had lots of gold, silver and cows. Lot his nephew also had lots of cows, sheep and tents. Then the guards of Abraham's cows and the guard of Lot's cows were unable to keep the cows belonging to each of them separated. There was not enough land and room for both of them. So, the guards started to fight on whose cow or sheep is this.

Abraham was a very good man and a very righteous man. He did not like the fights between the guards. So, he went and talked to his nephew Lot. He told Lot I do not want any more fight between your guards and my guards. So the best thing is to separate the land between you and me. So if you Lot, choose the land on the left I will go to the land

on the right and if you go to the right I will go left.

Lot wanted to get the best for himself, because he was greedy. So, he looked around throughout the land. Then, he chose the greener land with more water, which included Sodom and Gomorrah. So, Abraham took the part Lot did not want and stayed in the land of Canaan. Yet, The people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah were bad and wicked people and God was not happy with them.

God was patient with Sodom and Gomorrah hoping that He may find even few good people among them but He did not find any. So, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah after He sent an angel to get Lot and his family out of this land.

Conclusion:

Lot was greedy and he chose the greener land with more water for himself. Yet, the land he chose had many bad people and God destroyed it. So, Lot ended running out of this land before God destroyed it with nothing except his family.

Application:

- ❖ We have to share the good things with others
- ❖ Do not keep the good things for your self and give the bad things, which you do not like, to others.
- ❖ Review Psalm 1 with the students

Week 2 - Lot and His Wife

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the students the importance of obedience.

Memory Verse:

“Do not look behind you” (Genesis 19: 17)

Reference:

- ❖ Genesis 9:12-29

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and memory verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare audiovisual aids for the lesson.
- ❖ Ask them what happens if they do not listen to their parents at home.
- ❖ What will happen if we do not listen to God?

Lesson Outline:

God was very angry with the people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because they were bad people and did many bad things. So, God decided that He is going to destroy both Sodom and Gomorrah. But Lot and his family were living there and God wanted to save them. So, He sent two angels who looked like two men to go and get Lot and his family out of this land before He destroys the two cities.

In the very early morning the two angels came to Lot and rushed him to hurry out of the cities before God destroys them. Lot was slow in getting out of the city, so the angels took him from his hand, his wife's hand and his two daughters' hands and send them out of the cities quickly. They told Lot to escape to the mountains away from these cities. However, Lot was afraid to go the mountains so he asked them that he would escape to a small town, so the angels agreed. They told Lot “*escape for your life and do not look behind you*”.

The angels waited till Lot and his family reached the small town “Zoar”. Then God rained fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from heaven till the two cities were completely burning. Lot's wife looked back at the two cities while they are burning, although the

angels told them not to look back. She immediately turned into a statue of salt.

- ❖ How many angels did God send for Lot?
- ❖ How did the angels look like?
- ❖ What did the angels tell Lot and his family not to do?
- ❖ How many daughters did Lot have?

Conclusion:

We have to be obedient to what God asks us to do. He sends his angels to guide us and direct us to the right things to do. We should listen and do according to what they tell us to do.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of the two angels and Lot
- ❖ Memorize the first 7 verses from Psalm 50. The Sunday school teacher should type them for the students and give it to them for memorization at home.

Week 3- God Cares for Hagar and Ishmael

Objective:

- ❖ God cares for everyone even the unwanted people.

Memory Verse:

“ He cares for you” (I Peter 5:7)

References

- ❖ Genesis 16

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ What is the name of the father of believers?
- ❖ Was he rich or poor?
- ❖ What is the name of his wife?
- ❖ While introducing the lesson, give the children an idea about water, about our need for it, and about angels and their service to men.

Prepare the following:

- ❖ The wing of an angel and a large picture of the guardian angel

Lesson Outline:

Abraham believed in God. The Lord promised to give him children from Sarai. Many years passed and Sarai did not give birth to a baby. She was tired of waiting. The two became very old. Abraham was over eighty. Sarai said to Abraham “I have an idea. Take Hagar my maid and marry and the child she will give birth to will be mine”. This may be God’s purpose. But the Lord said, “The promised son will be Sarai’s son”. So Sarai’s plan will have a sad and bad result. Abraham obeyed Sarai and married Hagar... and

Hagar became pregnant with a child. When she knew she would give birth to a child, Hagar treated Sarai her mistress badly and was teasing her. Sarai became furious so she complained to Abraham. He said to her, “Hagar is your maid... and she is under your control: do whatever you want with her”. There were many quarrels between Hagar and Sarai. Sarai treated Hagar cruelly. She deprived her of food. Abraham was not pleased. Abraham realized that he had made a mistake because he did not wait for God’s promise.

- ❖ What is the name of Sarai’s maid?
- ❖ What is the mistake made by Sarai and Abraham?

Hagar was afraid that Sarai might take her son. She ran away but the Lord loves all the people whether rich or poor. The Lord sent an angel to Hagar. Hagar was thirsty. She wept. The angel guided her to a well and she drank and sat under a tree to have rest and then the angel said to her “Hagar... The Lord sent me to you... go back and submit to your mistress and be her slave”. The Scripture says: Servants be obedient to those who are your masters”. Hagar said “I shall never go back. Sarai beats me”. The angel said, “Do not be sad... God will bless your descendants. God will give you so many descendants that no one will be able to count them. You are going to have a son and you will name him Ishmael... Come with me and be patient”.

- ❖ Why did Hagar run away?
- ❖ Who met her in the desert?
- ❖ Where did she sit?
- ❖ Where did she find water to drink?
- ❖ What did the angel say to her?
- ❖ What is the name of her baby?
- ❖ Let us repeat together, “Slaves be obedient...”

The words of the angel comforted Hagar... She went back to Sarai. She said to Sarai, “Forgive me”. She sat and told Sarai and Abraham what happened to her in the desert. All those who heard the story were amazed. They all realized that the Lord cares for all the people. He also cares for us.

- ❖ What did Hagar say to Sarai?
- ❖ Who shows kindness to the poor?
- ❖ Who gives us food and clothes?

Conclusion:

The Lord takes care of all of us everywhere we go. He sends His angels to guard us and comfort us and lead us in the way. If we remember that our Guardian angel is keeping our company all the time we will fear no evil.

Application:

- ❖ Study Psalm 2:2.
- ❖ In this lesson you can cure the children's deep fear of dark places or of being alone. Make them feel that their guardian angel is beside them all the time.
- ❖ Encourage the child to befriend his guardian angel and to address him in his prayer and ask his protection and love.
- ❖ The children are to act the conversation between Hagar and the angel.

Week 4 - The Censer

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children the meaning of the censer
- ❖ Teach the children the importance of the censer in worship

Memory verse:

“In every place incense shall be offered to My name” (Malachi 1:11)

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ When our Lord Jesus Christ was born, three kings from the East came and visited him. One of them gave him a gift of frankincense. This is what we use today in the church when the priest raises incense. This gift meant that our Lord is a high Priest.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ In the Old Testament we read how the Jews used to offer incense to God.
- ❖ In the New Testament, the angel came to Zachariah while he was raising incense

- ❖ in the Temple, to announce to him the birth of John the Baptist
- ❖ In our worship today the priest raises incense in the evening during Vespers, in the morning during Matins, and during the Liturgy
- ❖ The censor is usually made of brass or silver in the shape of a cup. This cup is suspended on three chains from which it can be swung during incensing
- ❖ These three chains remind us of the Holy Trinity. The Father sent His Son. The Son obeyed the Father, and the Holy Spirit came upon Virgin Mary for the incarnation of the Son
- ❖ Inside the censor, the deacons put a lit charcoal, and then the priest puts incense on the charcoal.
- ❖ The censor with the coal burning with fire represents St. Mary carrying our Lord Jesus Christ as the Incarnate Son of God.
- ❖ The smoke that rises from the burning of incense is like our prayers rising to God with our needs
- ❖ The bishops or the priests are the only ones who can raise incense. People like you and me are not allowed to put incense in the censor.
- ❖ How many chains are holding the cup of the censor?
- ❖ What do these chains represent?
- ❖ What does the burning charcoal represent?

Conclusion:

The censor is an important part of our worship in church. It has many meanings for us. The rising of the incense helps us to raise our hearts and prayers to God.

Applications:

- ❖ Show the children the censor and its different parts
- ❖ Get the children to draw the censor

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Week 1-The Lord Forgives St. Peter

Week 2- Daniel's Three Friends in the Furnace

Week 3- Jesus Calms a Storm

Week 4- Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People

Week 1- Moses at the Mountain Receiving the Ten Commandments

Objective:

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

References:

- ❖ Exodus 19:20 - 20:17

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

Egypt that the people had to go to Sinai to meet the Lord.

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

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

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

Moses told the people to be ready for meeting the Lord by washing their clothes and purifying themselves. They must not do any wrong and be ready by the third day. The people obeyed and confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness. Disputants reconciled with each other. Could you forgive a person who insulted you...or a person who struck you without intention... or a person who has trodden on your foot... or a person who plays tricks on you in playing?. Are you in dispute with anyone? (The servant must encourage those in dispute to reconcile and forgive one another).

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

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

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

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

Week 2 - Daniel's Three Friends in the Furnace

Objective:

- ❖ To learn that God is with us all the time

Memory Verse:

"I will fear no evil; for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4)

References

- ❖ Daniel 3

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare audiovisual material to describe the story.
- ❖ Let your introduction be about the fire and its effect so that the children may realize the power and greatness of the miracle in the blazing furnace.

Lesson Outlines:

King Nebuchadnezzar had a great big statue made of gold all over. He ordered all the people to bow down and worship the statue as soon as they heard the sound of the trumpet. Anyone who would not worship the statue would be thrown into the blazing furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not worship the statue because they worship and loved God. When the king knew that the three young men refused to worship the statue, he flew into a rage and threatened that he would throw them into a blazing furnace. But the three young men said that their God whom they worshipped was able to rescue them from the blazing furnace and save them from his power. Each one prayed: "I fear no evil for you are with me"

- ❖ What is the name of the king?
- ❖ What did he do? What was his religion?
- ❖ What are the names of the three young men?
- ❖ To whom did they pray? Let us say together: I fear no evil.

The king lost his temper and his face turned red with anger at the three young men because of their frankness and the way they answered him. He ordered his men to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual. And he commanded the strongest men in his army to tie the three men up and throw them into the blazing furnace. The flames burnt up the guards who took Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to the furnace. The three young men were not tied. But they were four men walking about in the fire instead of three. The fourth man was like a Son of God and their hair was not even burned. Who do you think was the fourth one? The king was amazed... the king and his men heard the three men

Singing a hymn of praise. And we sing with them, "Come O righteous people... Come..." The king ordered them to go out of the furnace. The three men came out without any harm and the king glorified the Lord.

- ❖ Why did the three young men refuse to worship the statue?
- ❖ What did they say to the king?
- ❖ How did the king punish them?
- ❖ Did the fire affect them?
- ❖ Who was walking with them in the furnace?

Conclusion:

The three young men were brave and were not afraid of fire they knew that God will be with them wherever they go. Because of their faith God turned the fire into coolness.

Applications:

- ❖ Do not imitate the bad people but stick to the Lord. When anyone annoys you say, “I will fear no evil; for you are with me”.
- ❖ Teach the student part of the midnight praises with the hymn of the three young men in the furnace.

Week 3 - Jesus Calms a Storm

Objective:

- ❖ God saves us from troubles if we depend on him.

Memory Verse:

“It is I, do not be afraid” (Mark 6:50)

References

- ❖ Matthew 8

Introduction

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Bring two pictures; a picture of a ship suffering from the waves and winds, and the other picture of the same ship when there is calm and the Lord stands pointing with His finger.
- ❖ Means of Illustration:
 - A sailing boat of wood or paper.

- A net.
- Plastic fish.

These things are needed for many lessons so they should be available.

- ❖ Talk about winds, boat and fishing
- ❖ Who of you have ever been in a ship? A sea journey (voyage) is enjoyable.

Lesson Outline:

Once upon a time, Jesus Christ went into a boat and his disciples followed Him. How many disciples did Jesus Christ have? . They gradually started sailing into the sea and going deeper and deeper far away from the land. Then a great wind started to blow from each side....FOOO FOOO. The waves were getting higher and higher and was hitting the boat very hard from every side. The boat was swinging and the water was started to enter the boat. The disciples were scared that they were going to drown in the sea. Surprisingly, Jesus Christ was asleep in the middle of all of that. The disciples ran and woke Him up and with great fear they told Him: we are going to drown in the water..can you save us? But Jesus said to them “ Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” With one firm word from Him, suddenly the sea and the wind became calm. The sea and the wind both obeyed His word in seconds. The disciples were very surprised and amazed that even the nature, the sea and the wind, obey Him.

- ❖ What did the Lord Jesus say to the sea...to the winds?
- ❖ What should you do if you walk in a dark place? What should you say?
- ❖ Mention the occasions on which the Lord cared about you... Mention the verse “It is I, have no fear”.

Conclusion:

God wants us to have faith that He is with us all the time, thus nothing can harm us. He will protect us and save us from every bad thing. We have to trust Him and depend on Him in every thing and not be afraid from anything.

Applications:

- ❖ The Servant should ask the children about what makes them afraid and comforts them with the fact that the Lord Jesus is with them and can drive their fear away.
- ❖ Color the picture if it is not colored.
- ❖ Review the hymn of the three young men from mid night praises with the students.

Week 4 – Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People

Objective:

- ❖ God cares about our needs.

Memory Verse:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 15
- ❖ Mark 8
- ❖ John 6

Introduction

- ❖ What is the miracle we spoke about last week?
- ❖ What must we do before we have our meal?
- ❖ Who gives us food?

Bring a model of few fish and seven small loaves... You can draw them on any piece of paper.

Lesson Outline:

A little boy went on a journey with Jesus... His mother gave him seven loaves and few fish. The boy took the loaves and the fish and went to listen to Jesus Christ. When he found Jesus Christ, Jesus was surrounded with thousands of people. They were all listening to His sweet words. They all stayed with Jesus for three days without food and Jesus felt that they must be very hungry by now. So, Jesus asked His disciples if they have any food. The disciples said that the people are too many and it is impossible to be able to feed all of them here in the wilderness. So, Jesus asked them how many loaves do you have? They said there is a boy here who has only seven loaves and few fish. So, Jesus asked the people to sit down on the ground. He took the 7 loaves and fish and

blessed them and started to break and gave them to His disciple to give to the people. So, everybody had enough to eat and was filled. Moreover, there were seven baskets of leftover extra. Everybody was amazed how Jesus Christ blessed the seven loaves and few fish to feed four thousand men with their wives and children.

When Jesus was comfortable that everybody is full and they are not hungry any more, he let them go back to their homes.

- ❖ Why were the people surrounding Jesus Christ?
- ❖ What did the disciples say?
- ❖ How many loaves and how many fish were there?
- ❖ How many baskets were filled with broken pieces?
- ❖ Mention the verse: It is more blessed to give....

Conclusion:

Christ gives us enough food to eat and be satisfied and have some food left. He also can bless the very little and make it a lot. This was a great miracle that shows how kind and caring Jesus Christ is to the people. He would not let them leave without feeding them

Applications:

- ❖ Make the sign of the cross before you eat and pray that Jesus may bless the food...
- ❖ Draw a fish on a piece of paper, trim the paper and color it
- ❖ Concentrate on the principle of order and let the children be trained on order and cleanliness. Draw their attention to the fact that every thing in the church should be done in order.
- ❖ The Lord Christ gave food to the disciples and the disciples gave the people. Draw the children' attention to the fact that we should respect and honor the priests and that the children should kiss the priest's hand.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Week 1- A memorable day – The sun stood still for Joshua

Week 2- The Angel brings good news to St. Mary

Week 3- The Angel and the Shepherds

Week 4- The star of the east and the wise men

Week 1- A Memorable Day - The Sun Stood Still For Joshua

Objective:

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

References:

- ❖ Joshua 10:12-14.

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

Gibeon was a great city and the people of Gibeon were Joshua’s friends. They were also the friends of the people of God. When Adoni-Zedek, the king of Jerusalem heard that

the people of Gibeon had made peace with Joshua, he was greatly alarmed and sent a message to five Amorite kings. He said to them, “Come and help me attack Gibeon because its people have made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.” The five Amorite kings, joined forces, surrounded Gibeon, and attacked it.

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

The servant draws the attention of the children to the fact that Joshua did not break his promise to Gibeon. The people of Gibeon sent to Joshua and said to him, “Do not relax your hand from your servants, come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the hill country are gathered against us”. So Joshua and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men went up and the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand”. The Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who smote them and while they were running down the ascent of Beth Horon, the Lord throw great stones from heaven upon them, and they died. “Fear not. Stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still” (Exodus 14:13).

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

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

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

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

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

Week 2 - The Angel Brings Good News to St. Mary

Objective:

- ❖ Rejoice with the church and cooperate with her in the preparations for Christmas

Memory Verse:

“Blessed are you among woman” (Luke 1:28)

References:

- ❖ Luke 1:26-38

Introductions:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 1. Bring two wings for a child to put on and play the part of an angel.
 2. Choose a little girl to play the part of the Virgin.
 3. The servant speaks about the angel while the children act.
 4. Prepare the clothes and the tools necessary for the virgin, Joseph, and the angel and distribute the parts (a wing, white shawl, cloths, a strong light, etc).

Lesson Outlines:

One day the virgin saw a bright light around her. Suddenly, a beautiful Angel called Gabriel appeared to her. He said to her “Hail to you, highly favored one, the Lord is with

you”. St. Mary was surprised and was wondering that she is looking at an angel. The angel Gabriel comforted her and told her that he is bringing a great message and good news. Then he told her that she is going to carry the baby Jesus Christ in her belly for nine months. He said that the Holy Spirit is going to fill her and she is going to be the Mother of God because of her simplicity and meekness. The Virgin believed the words of the angel and said:” I am the Lord’s handmaid”. This means I am the Lord’s servant. The Virgin rejoiced, knelt down in worship, and thanked the Lord. The angel also told her that her relative Elizabeth is also pregnant and has been carrying the baby John in her belly for six months. St. Mary was also very happy for her relative Elizabeth. After the angel Gabriel left St. Mary, she immediately went to her relative Elizabeth to help her during her pregnancy.

The story can be presented through acting at the end of the lesson. The virgin prays; a light in front of her, a Bible on the table, calm music, and if possible, the angel enters (accompanied by a bright light). The Virgin is wondering. She does not speak, and then she expresses joy and submission. The angel tells the good news then exits. The Virgin kneels down in worship then prays. While she sitting, Joseph the carpenter enters carrying his tools (a saw, an axe, etc.). The virgin exits and goes to Elizabeth.

Let the children feel the happy atmosphere because of the good news of the birth of Christ and the Virgin’s joy for the happy news.

Conclusion:

St. Mary was happy to hear the news of the baby Jesus and that she is going to be the mother of God. We also are happy that the baby Jesus came to earth and was like us.

Applications:

- ❖ Start making the Nativity cavern to be shown on Christmas, prepare all necessary things.
- ❖ Make sure that the students have memorized the following:

“Our Father who art in heaven” and Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd”. The child has to study them and the Servant makes competitions to make sure the children have studied them.

Week 3 – The Angel and the Shepherds

Objective:

- ❖ To feel the joy of nativity which fills the heaven and earth.

Memory Verse:

“I bring you good tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10).

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14)

Reference

- ❖ Luke 2:8-20

Introduction

- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 1. Wings -White clothes - a bright light.
 2. Pictures of sheep or models of sheep. The Shepherd’s staff, broken wood, a jug of water.
 3. A flute for singing hymns.
 4. Make the manger from a brown paper and a box. Put the beautiful picture of Nativity in the box.
 5. Prepare the procession of the feast (roses, candles, white shawls).
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Give an idea about the shepherds, their life and how they care for the sheep. They live in tents, they guard the sheep, and they light the broken pieces of wood for heat - the sheep’s love for the shepherd. They sleep in peace.

Lesson Outlines:

The shepherds go out every morning to the pastures (a place full of grass and water). They take the sheep with them. The sheep play and eat.

The shepherd with the sweet flute sang and said: to Mary came Gabriel. After all the sheep had slept. The shepherds said, "We cannot sleep and leave the sheep". Somebody may come and carry them away. Let's divide ourselves two of us sleep and two of us guard the sheep and they did so. During the night the shepherds thought when would Christ come? Where would He be born? Suddenly a bright light shone from the sky. The shepherds were afraid. They saw an angel. White like doves, bright like light. He said to them, "Do not be afraid, you sweet Shepherds. I am coming to tell you good news for all people. We rejoice in heaven for the birth of Christ and you too must rejoice. Go and see Him and rejoice with us". The shepherds were happy. They asked the angel: "Where has Christ been born?" The angel said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and you will find the baby in the manger. There you will see Christ with his mother the Virgin and Joseph the carpenter.

The shepherds wanted to bring a gift for the heavenly babe. They said; we have a white little sheep and lets give it to the baby. The shepherds arrived at the inn... gave the gifts. The shepherds sang together in the manger and were very happy and full of joy.

- ❖ Where were the shepherds?
- ❖ What did they guard?
- ❖ What did they see?
- ❖ What did the shepherd give to the Child Jesus?
- ❖ What would you give to Christ?
- ❖ Who were with the child Jesus?
- ❖ What does the verse say?

Conclusion:

The angels brought the good news to the shepherds and they rejoiced and rushed to see the Baby Jesus in the manger. We also are happy with the Nativity feast and are preparing our hearts for the baby Jesus to come and be born in them.

Applications:

- ❖ The servant encourages the children to give some gifts to the poor on the day of the feast.
- ❖ Let the children participate in making the manger in their class

Week 4 – The Star of the East and The Wise Men

Objective

- ❖ To feel the joy of receiving the baby Jesus
- ❖ To know the blessing of giving more than taken

Memory Verse

“For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:2)

References

- ❖ Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Prepare audiovisual aids for the lesson or even a video

Jesus Christ we pray to be guided with Your light, to live according to Your Word and rejoice always because we have You in our hearts.

Lesson Outlines:

The angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth and told her she would give birth to the Son of God Jesus Christ.

Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem the City of David. She wrapped him in clothes, and laid him in a manger.

That night, an angel appeared to shepherds who were taking care of their cheeps and goats. He told them the Savior, the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The Angel said they would find the baby Jesus in a manger. Other angels appeared, saying: “**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace towards men.**”

The Shepherds left immediately, and found baby Jesus in Bethlehem, they knelt down before Him and praised God for all they had heard and seen. They told

Joseph and Mary about the angels. Wise men from the east, called Magi, also came to Jerusalem looking for the baby Jesus to give him presents they brought with them. They were guided by an unusual star seeking to worship the newborn King. The wise men first visited Herod, who was the King at that time. They told Herod they are looking for the baby Jesus, the king of the Jews, whose star they had seen. Herod did not know where the baby Jesus is born but he was angry when he heard that there is another king beside him. Herod asked the Wise men to report back to him when they find Jesus because he wanted to worship the Child. Herod lied to the Wise men because he wanted to kill any other king.

The Wise men followed the bright big star, which led them to where the baby Jesus was. They found the child Jesus, St. Mary His mother and St. Joseph in Bethlehem. They worshipped Jesus, and offered gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

The angel appeared in great glory to them and guided them to another way and not to return to Herod.

- ❖ Where was the baby Jesus born?
- ❖ What was the name of the King?
- ❖ What did the king intend to do?
- ❖ Did the wise men go back to report to the king as he asked them to do?
- ❖ What did the wise men offer to the Baby Jesus?

Conclusion:

Every body was happy when they saw the baby and the king Jesus Christ, the shepherds and the wise men. We should also be happy with the memory of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Application:

- ❖ Start making A manger in the class for Nativity. Let the children help the servants
- ❖ Presenting a gift or help to others in need to make them happy as Jesus Christ gave Him Self to save all of us.
- ❖ Make a star at home like the star of the east and bring it to class next week.
- ❖ Memorize at home the verse: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace towards men.”

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Week 1- Epiphany: Baptizing children

Week 2- The Tower of Babel

Week 3- God appears to Jacob

Week 4- Young Joseph's Sweet Dreams

Week 1 - Epiphany: Baptizing children

Objective:

- ❖ Explain the Baptism rite in a simple way to children.

Memory Verse:

“Repent and let everyone of you be baptized” (Acts 2:38)

References

- ❖ Matthew 3:13-18

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Ask the kids if any of them saw a baby being baptized in church. Emphasize the fact that baptism should be through immersion.
- ❖ Means of Illustration:
 1. A visit to the Baptistery.
 2. A vessel containing water; a doll, a towel, white clothes, and a girdle.

Lesson Outline:

Azeb and Tedros used to rejoice on Sundays because on that day they go to church in the early morning and enjoy listening to the Liturgy prayers. But today, they are much happier as their father has told them that their youngest brother Tesfay will be baptized to become a Christian like them... Tedros's mother prepares new white clothes, which Tesfay will be dressed in after baptism.

- ❖ Why is the baptized dressed in white clothes? (as a sign of godliness and cleanliness).

In the early morning the family went to church, to the baptistery. The priest prayed to sanctify the water. He consecrated it with chrism (Myron). The Deacon looked to the west, held Tesfay in his left hand and said, "I renounce you O Satan, all your evil deeds and all your wicked powers."

This is a declaration of our enmity to the devil that wants us to do evil.

Then he looked towards the east and carried Tesfay on his right arm and said, "I acknowledge thee O Christ my Lord and all your sincere laws and all your commands, deeds and work that give life.

This is the manifestation of Christian faith.

- ❖ What did the Deacon say towards the west and towards the east?

The priest immersed Tesfay three times in the baptism font saying: "John, I baptize you in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit". Then he took the Chrism bottle (Myron) and anointed John 36 times: the head, the chest, the heart, the back, the hands, the top of the shoulders, and the palm of his hand and the back of his hand, then he anointed the lower half of the body saying: John, I anoint you with the Holy oil in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

After having anointed Tesfay, the priest prayed, "May you be blessed with the blessings of the heavenly creatures and the heavenly angels". Then he breathed into his face saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit and be a pure vessel through Jesus Christ our Lord".

- ❖ How many times did the priest immerse John?
- ❖ How many times did he anoint him?

Then the priest dressed Tesfay in white clothes and tied his chest with a red ribbon called a girdle which refers to the power and deep joy and that John has become a soldier in the army of salvation which belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ What is the girdle? What does it stand for?

Then the priest handed Tesfay to Aboy Negassi. Now Aboy Negassi is considered Tesfay's godfather who is responsible for handling Tesfay the teachings of the church and for teaching him to take part in the church sacraments. All the members of the family received communion with John then they went back home full of joy because Tefay was baptized.

- ❖ What does a godfather do?
- ❖ Why were all the members of the family happy?

Conclusion:

Jesus was baptized like us by immersion in the river of Jordan. John the Baptist was the one who baptized Him. Therefore, all of us get baptized when we are babies.

Applications:

- ❖ Always receive the Holy Communion.
- ❖ The Servant should direct the children or send a letter with them asking his family to read him the lesson from the Holy Bible.
- ❖ Divide the prayer of Thanksgiving into four sections and ask the children to study a quarter each week.

Week 2 - The Tower of Babel

Objective:

- ❖ Not to be proud of yourself

Memory Verse:

“ Let us build ourselves a city and a tower “ (Genesis 11: 4)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 11:1-9

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and memory verse with the students
- ❖ Ask them if they have seen a tower before? How long was it and where?
- ❖ Prepare audiovisual aids to help the students remember the lesson.

Lesson Outline:

Long time ago after the earth was filled with people, they all were speaking one language. They all could understand each other. We do not know which language was it but they all spoke the same language.

Ask the students what languages do they know of?

Then the people on the earth said let us make for ourselves a big..big city with a long ...long tower and let us all live in this city and speak this one language. So, what did the people of the earth want to do? They said we are going to make the tower so long that it would reach up to the heaven.

So, they found a nice large land to build their city and their tower “Babel”. They started making strong and big bricks to build the city and the tower. They built the city and the very very long tower “Babel”. But God was not happy that those people thought that they can protect themselves and stay in control if they build the city and the tower. We all know that God is the one who is in control and the one who protects us. But those people did not know that. So, God wanted to teach them a lesson that He is the one in control. So, He changed their languages. Thus instead of them speaking one language, they started to speak different languages and they could not understand each other. One was talking Tigrigna, the other was talking Chinese and the third was talking Arabic ...and so on. All the people were confused. Then, they were divided into different groups and every group lived alone in a different place on the earth and they did not live in the great city they built anymore. The different groups and languages were spread all over the earth.

- ❖ What was the name of the tower?
- ❖ Why did the people build a big city and a long tower?
- ❖ How long was the tower?
- ❖ Why did God change their languages?
- ❖ Where did they live after God changed their languages?

Conclusion:

Sometime we can be very proud of ourselves and think we are in control and we can protect ourselves. This is what the people in Babel thought, but God gave them a good lesson when He changed their languages. He taught them that He is the one in control.

Application:

- ❖ Make a tower at home and next Sunday we will find out who made the longest tower similar to the tower of Babel
- ❖ Review the first section of the thanksgiving prayer with the students.

Week 3 - God appears to Jacob

Objective:

- ❖ God's care for his children

Memory Verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Genesis 28

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare the following means of illustration
 1. The picture of the lesson.
 2. A small ladder, angels made of paper to be fixed at the two sides of the ladder (going up and down) and pictures of Christ are to be put at the top of the ladder.
 - ❖ Ask the kids if they ever have dreams and if they remember any of their dreams.

Lesson Outline:

Jacob left his father's house after he had taken the blessing of his father in a cunning way. He went to places that were unknown to him. He found himself alone in a barren land at night, so he prayed so that the Lord might send his angels to guard him and keep him safe in that wild place. He put a stone under his head and slept. He remembered his father, mother and brothers and prayed for them saying...(here the Servant asks the children to imagine Jacob's prayer).

- ❖ Where did Jacob go?
- ❖ Where did he sleep?
- ❖ What did he do before he slept?

Jacob saw a strange vision in a dream. He saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven with angels going up and coming down on it. And there was the Lord standing beside him. The Lord said to him, "I am with you and will keep you". Jacob got up. The dream he saw made him happy. He comforted him and gave him confidence. So anyone who loves God can sleep calmly and the angels guard him.

- ❖ What did Jacob see in a dream?
- ❖ What did the Lord say to him?

Jacob woke up and realized that the Lord was with him. He said, "This place is holy". Jacob took the stone that was under his head and set it up as a memorial. He poured oil on it to dedicate it to the

Lord. Then he made a vow to the Lord...and promised to give the Lord and tenth of everything the Lord gives him.

- ❖ What was Jacob's vow? Mention the verse.

Conclusion:

God is keeping His eye on us and is always taking care of us. He can show us His care for us in different ways. One of these ways is through a dream, other people or family. He can also send His angels to take care of us wherever we go.

Applications:

- ❖ Before you go to bed pray to the Lord that he may send you his angels to guard and keep you.
- ❖ Draw the picture of a ladder and angels going up and down.
- ❖ Follow up with the children to see whether they have studied the second section of the thanksgiving prayer.

Week 4 - Young Joseph's Sweet Dreams

Objective:

- ❖ Obey your parents.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man” (Genesis 39:2)

References

- ❖ Genesis 37

Introduction:

- ❖ Prepare the following means of illustration
 1. The illustrated story of Joseph: a piece of beautifully colored cloth, ears of corn, and spike.
 2. A picture of stars, sun and moon.
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
 1. Where was Jacob going to?
 2. What did he see in a dream?
 3. Who remembers the verse?

Lesson Outline:

Time passed quickly and Jacob married and brought forth ten children. They grew up and became men. There were two other younger children, Joseph and Benjamin who was a little child. Jacob's elder children kept their father's sheep. The members of the family did not live in peace because the older brothers did not love Joseph because Joseph sometimes told his father about the bad things they do. They also believed that Jacob their father loved Joseph more than all of them. He bought him a colored robe as a reward for his obedience. Joseph was not pleased, as his brothers would not speak to him in a friendly manner. But Joseph forgave them and prayed for them. He loved them,

served them and obeyed them. He studied the verse and kept it: You are obedient in all things.

- ❖ How many sons did Jacob have?
- ❖ What are the names of Jacob's two younger children?
- ❖ Why did Jacob love Joseph?
- ❖ What did he buy to him?
- ❖ Why was Joseph not happy?
- ❖ What does the verse say?
- ❖ What was Joseph's brother's work?

The Lord loved Joseph because he loved his brothers, obeyed them and prayed for them so he gave him sweet dreams. One day Joseph had a strange dream and he related it to his brothers in the early morning. He said: We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat, when my sheaf got up and stood up straight, yours formed a circle round mine and bowed down to it. Then Joseph had another dream. This time he related the dream to his brothers and to his father. He said, "I had a dream in which I saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to me". Joseph's brothers and his father never forgot those two dreams.

- ❖ What is the meaning of the first dream...the second dream?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?
- ❖ Emphasize Joseph's love and do not concentrate on his brothers' hatred and envy.
- ❖ Concentrate on the fact that although Joseph was the youngest, yet the Lord was with him and saved him. Draw the children's attention to the fact that they should forgive those who mistreat them.
- ❖ Use a colored picture of Joseph dressed in a colored robe and relating his dream to his brothers.
- ❖ Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers and gave him a colored robe. This robe played an important role in the story as his brothers envied him. Rewards should be given to those who deserve them. They should be used to encourage children to study and be creative and learn that the spirit of love should prevail.

Conclusion:

God and Jacob loved Joseph because he loved God and was obedient to his father Jacob. Therefore, Jacob gave him the robe of many colors and God gave him sweet dreams. If we are obedient to God and our parents God and our father and mother will all reward us and love us more.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw the picture of Joseph and his eleven brothers and contemplate Joseph's love.
- ❖ Imitate him and obey your parents and your brothers.
- ❖ Review the third section of the thanksgiving prayer with the students.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Week 1- God Sends Joseph to Egypt

Week 2- God Saves Joseph from the Prison

Week 3- God Makes Joseph Great Man

Week 4- God Saves Jacob and His Children from Famine

Week before Fast - God Sends Joseph to Egypt

Objective:

- ❖ Love my brothers and sisters

Memory Verse:

“ He who loves his brother abides in the light” (1John 2:10)

References

- ❖ Genesis 39

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Ask the children:
 1. Do I obey my parents at home?
 2. Do I obey the servants in the church?
 3. Do I obey my teacher in school?

Lesson Outline:

Joseph’s brothers were taking care of their flock at Shechem. Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers to see if they were safe. Joseph took some food for them and chose for each of them the sort of food he likes best. He faced a lot of difficulties and troubles on his way to them.

He was alone on a long way full of dangers. His brothers hated him and they might hurt him. Joseph obeyed his father and went after his brothers. He did not go back when he did not find them. He asked about them at Shechem. When he could not find them there, he went to Dothan, to see if they were safe. His brothers plotted against him. They threw him into a dry well. Reuben, their brother suggested that they should sell him to a

group of traders. They sold him to a group of traders who took him to Egypt. They lied to their father. They killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. Then they took the robe to their father and said, "We found this. Does it belong to your son? Some animal has killed him". But the Lord was with Joseph. Joseph came to Egypt and dwelt in Potiphar's house. Potiphar was one of the king's officers. Joseph was successful in Potiphar's house. He worked in the field, supervised the servants, appointed servants, and built houses. God blessed Joseph and made him successful.

- ❖ Where was Joseph taken?
- ❖ Why was he successful?

The Servant can refer to Joseph's brothers' enmity to him but in such a way that the children may not understand that was the result of Joseph's obedience to his father but they should understand that was the way to happiness.

The Servant should ask the children some questions to help them deduce the following:
Obedience is very important. Imagine a house where the children do not obey their father.

How to obey without murmuring or apologizing or finding excuses or argument when someone asks us to do something.

To what extent should we obey - to the end and never to go back in the middle of the way?

The result of obedience – People's love and God's blessing

Conclusion:

Joseph's brothers' hatred did not prevent him from showing kindness to them and checking for their safety and comfort.

Application:

- ❖ Rearrange the words of this verse: ...
With Joseph....The Lord.....a successful.....was.....man....andhe was
- ❖ Review the fourth section of the thanksgiving prayer with the students. The students should know all of the thanksgiving prayer by now.

Week 2- God Saves Joseph From the Prison

Objective:

- ❖ To learn honesty

Memory Verse:

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10)

References

- ❖ Genesis 39,40

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
 1. Who sold Joseph and to whom?
 2. What did Joseph’s brothers say to their father concerning Joseph?
 3. What did he do?
- ❖ Prepare the following means of illustration:

A big chain of keys

Lesson Outline:

The Verse says: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much”. The Lord blessed Potiphar’s household because of Joseph, but Joseph’s happiness did not last long. Potiphar’s wife was an evil woman. She asked Joseph to commit a sin, but he refused so she told her husband false tales about Joseph. Her husband believed her and put Joseph in prison.

- ❖ Why was the house of Potiphar blessed?
- ❖ Why did Potiphar put Joseph in prison?

Joseph was innocent but he was put in prison. This is something unusual but did the Lord leave Joseph or neglect him? No, the Lord was with Joseph in prison. The jailer

noticed that Joseph was not like the other prisoners. He prayed and sang hymns “The Lord always cares for us...” The jailer loved him and because he loved him, he put him in charge of all the other prisoners. The Scripture says: “He who is faithful in what is least...”. He made him responsible for everything that was done in the prison. Joseph interpreted the dreams of the wine steward and the chief baker and it all happened just as Joseph had said (Genesis 40). Joseph requested the wine steward to remember him when everything was going well for him and to mention his name to the king, as he didn’t do anything to deserve being put in prison. But the wine steward never gave Joseph another thought, but the Lord never forgot Joseph and after 2 years He arranged to get Joseph out of the prison.

- ❖ Whose dreams did Joseph interpret?
- ❖ Did what he said come true?
- ❖ What happened to the wine steward?
- ❖ What happened to the chief baker?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Let us repeat together: He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.

Conclusion:

Joseph was honest and did not do anything wrong so God cared for him and helped him out of the prison.

Applications:

- ❖ Be faithful and honest in your homework.
- ❖ When we visit relatives, friends or neighbors we must keep everything as it is, not break anything, and that he can help in doing anything.

Week 3 - God Makes Joseph a Great Man

Objective:

- ❖ God saves His honest children

Memory Verse:

“ Let your heart keep my commands” (Proverbs 3:1)

References

- ❖ Genesis 41

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse with the students

- ❖ To whom did Joseph interpret dreams?
- ❖ Where was Joseph?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Lesson Outline:

Joseph spent two years in prison. One day there was something unusual in Pharaoh’s palace. What happened?

Pharaoh had two dreams in one night. He sent for all the magicians and wise men in Egypt. He told them his dreams but no one could explain them to him.

The wine steward remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about him. The king sent for Joseph and he was immediately brought from the prison. He shaved and changed his cloths and came into Pharaoh’s presence. He stood bravely before the king and saluted him and they started talking:

Pharaoh: I heard you interpret dreams!

Joseph: It is God’s gift to me.

Pharaoh: Can you interpret my dreams?

Joseph: I myself know nothing but the Lord explains it to me.

Pharaoh: I dreamt that I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the river and began feeding on the grass. Then seven other cows came up which was thin and bony. Then the thin cows ate up the fat ones, but they

looked as bad as before. Then I woke up. I also dreamt that I saw seven ears of corn, which were full and ripe. The seven ears of corn sprouted, thin and scorched by the desert wind, and the thin ears of corn swallowed the full ones. I told the dreams to magicians, but none of them could explain them to me. Can you explain them?

Joseph prayed and said: The two dreams mean the same thing. The seven fat cows are seven years and the seven full ears of corn are also seven years; they have the same meaning. The seven thin cows which came up out of the river and the seven thin ears of corn scorched by the desert wind are seven years of famine. There will be seven years of plenty in all the land of Egypt followed by seven years of famine. Now you should choose a man with wisdom and insight and put him in charge of the country. This man should collect food during the years of plenty and store it so that people may find food to eat during famine. You must also take a fifth of the crops and store it in the first seven years of plenty to be used as food during the seven years of famine.

Pharaoh saw that the idea is great and said to Joseph “I will never find a better man than you to do this job. I will put you in charge of my country and all my people will obey your orders because you are faithful in the very little. The king removed from his finger the ring engraved with the royal seal and put it on Joseph’s finger. He put on him the robe of great men. He gave him the second royal chariot to ride in.

Joseph who was sold as a slave, and put in prison without reason, went out of prison and became a governor and at that time he was 30 years old... How wonderful is God’s care of Joseph!

- ❖ Why did Pharaoh appoint Joseph governor?
- ❖ What did he give him?
- ❖ What does the verse say? He who is faithful ...who can complete?

Conclusion:

God helped Joseph to come out of the prison and He arranged for Pharaoh’s dream. God also helped Joseph to explain the dream. Pharaoh’s made Joseph the second great man in Egypt because God was with Joseph and arranged for him to become a great man.

Applications:

- ❖ When you pray with your parents say the Prayer of Thanksgiving.
- ❖ Do your school homework and do not postpone doing it

Week 4 - God Saves Jacob and His Children from Famine

Objective:

- ❖ God cares about us. It is He that gives us our food.

Memory Verse:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul” (Psalm 103:1)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 42

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Who interpreted Pharaoh’s dream?
- ❖ What work was Joseph in charge of?
- ❖ Who can say the verse?
- ❖ Ask the children what is the meaning of famine? Then, explain it to them

Lesson Outline:

The famine was severe everywhere outside Egypt. People were ready to travel to Egypt to buy corn. People ate everything... leaves, plant roots so that they might not starve... Jacob and his sons lived in the Land of Canaan... (How many are they now?) and they needed food. Jacob learnt that there was corn in Egypt. He sent his sons to Egypt to buy corn but he did not send his youngest son. (Who remembers his name?)

Jacob did not send Benjamin with them because he was afraid that something might happen to him. The ten brothers arrived in Egypt. Joseph’s brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but they did not recognize him. He remembered his first dream. (Who remembers that dream?) His brothers bowed down to him. Joseph desired to know

something about his old father and younger brother. He acted as if he did not know them and spoke harshly to them but we know that he loved them. The following conversation ran between Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph: Where do you come from?

Brothers: We have come from Canaan to buy food.

Joseph: You are spies.

Brothers: No, sir. We have come to buy corn. We were twelve brothers in all, cons of the same man. One brother is dead and the youngest is now with our father.

Joseph: This is just as I said; you are spies. This is how you will be tested. One of you must go and get your youngest brother.

Joseph kept them for three days then he said to them: I will spare your lives on one condition. to prove that you are honest, one of you will stay in the prison where you have been kept; the rest of you may go. Then you must bring your youngest brother to me.

Jacob's sons were afraid. They said to one another, "now we are suffering the consequences of what we did to our brother Joseph; we saw the great trouble he was in when he begged for help, but we would not listen that is why we are in this trouble now.

Reuben said, "I told you not to harm the boy, but you wouldn't listen... Joseph understood what they said, but they did not know it. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him; they did not notice that he understood what they said and that he knew about whom they were talking.

- ❖ Where did Jacob live?
- ❖ How many children did he have at that time?
- ❖ How many of them left for Egypt?
- ❖ Why did Joseph treat them harshly?

Joseph wept. He picked out Simeon, and had him tied up in front of them... Joseph gave orders to fill his brothers' sacks with corn, to put each man's money back in his sack and this was done. The brothers loaded their donkeys with the corn they had bought, and then they left at the place where they spent the night, one of them opened his sack and found his money at the top of the sack. "My money has been returned to me"; he called to his brothers. The other brothers opened their sacks and they also found their money. When they came to their father Jacob in Canaan, they told them all that had happened to them. Jacob was sad. Simeon was in prison... and Benjamin must go to Egypt and Joseph is lost... No, Benjamin will not go to Egypt, said Jacob. Reuben said to his father, "Put him in my care and I will bring him back". When the family had eaten all the corn, Jacob said to his sons, "Go back and buy corn for us". Judah said, "We cannot go to Egypt without Benjamin". And Jacob said, "Why did you tell the man that you have a younger brother?" Judah said, "You can hold me responsible for Benjamin, my father I will bring him back to you safe and sound". Then Jacob said to them, "If that is how it has to be, then take a present of pistachio nuts, almonds, and take with you also twice as much money, because you must take back the money that was returned in the top of your sacks. May Almighty God cause the man to have pity on you, so that he will give Benjamin and

Simeon back to you. And I will bless the Lord and say: Bless the Lord, O my soul...”

- ❖ Whom did Joseph keep in Egypt?
- ❖ When did Jacob agree to let Benjamin go to Egypt?
- ❖ Let us say together ...Bless the Lord... Who can complete?
- ❖ Let us sing a hymn together: Bless...Bless...

Conclusion:

God cared for Jacob and his children when famine struck their land so that they would not die from hunger. God was also arranging to unit Joseph back to his family through this famine.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray for your family.
- ❖ Children study Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd” and start memorizing it.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Week 1- Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Week 2- Jacob Blesses His Grandsons

Week 3- Lord Christ Accepts Zacchaeus' Invitation

Week 4- The Good Samaritan

Week 1 - Joseph Forgives his Brothers

Objectives:

- ❖ Teach the children to forgive those who mistreat them
- ❖ Love their brothers and sisters

Memory Verse:

“Be kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32)

References

- ❖ Genesis 45

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Can you forgive someone if he hurts you?
- ❖ Can you forgive a boy if he strikes you without intending to do so?
- ❖ Can you forgive a boy who teases you when you play?

Lessons Outline:

- ❖ Joseph’s brothers went back to Egypt to buy corn...
- ❖ They took Benjamin with them...
- ❖ They bowed down to Joseph and gave him the gift...
- ❖ Joseph asked them about their old father...
- ❖ When he saw Benjamin...His heart was full of tender feeling for his brother so he wept...
- ❖ He said to them: “I am your brother”.
- ❖ They were terrified... but Joseph said, “Do not be upset... Come closer to me”.
- ❖ He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and cried.

- ❖ He kissed all his brothers. Simeon, and Reuben... even those who had tied his hands and he said, “Be kind to one another”. They learnt an important lesson; to love one another and their way of living changed.
- ❖ What was Joseph’s work in Egypt?
- ❖ How did Joseph treat his brothers when they came to Egypt?
- ❖ Let us say together: Be kind to one another... Who can say?
- ❖ Let us sing a hymn together: Our Lord, we are...

Conclusion:

Joseph forgave his brothers even after they sold him and threw him in the well because he loved his brothers. Forgiveness does not mean weakness so that the child may not keep away from people out of fear.

Application:

- ❖ We have to treat our brothers and sisters kindly even if they do anything bad.
- ❖ If anyone insults you, say to him, “May the Lord forgive you”.
- ❖ Review Psalm 23 with the students

Week 2 - Jacob Blesses His Grandsons

Objective:

- ❖ To know and learn the sign of the cross

Memory Verse:

“ Bless the lads “ (Genesis 48:16)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 48: 8-22

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Ask them how do they cross themselves with the sign of the cross and explain to them the meaning of the sign in a simple way.
- ❖ Also let three or four of them draw a cross on the board

Lesson Outline:

Jacob was getting very old; he could hardly walk or see. Have you seen an old man or woman before? How do they look and how do they walk? Yes, Jacob was getting like one of those old people. Jacob also felt that he might not live much longer, so he asked his beloved son Joseph to bring his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim to bless them. Manasseh was the elder brother and Ephraim was the younger.

So, Joseph brought his two sons to his father Jacob to bless them. The elder brother was expected to get the blessing with the grandfather's right hand. So, Joseph made Manasseh to stand on the right side of Jacob and Ephraim on the left side of Jacob (the teacher can use two of the students for demonstration).

- ❖ Do you know where is your right hand?
- ❖ Show me your right hand?

Joseph was expecting his father to place his right hand on Manasseh and his left hand on Ephraim. Instead Jacob crossed his arms and placed his right hand on Ephraim and his

left on Manasseh. Joseph thought that his father is confused because his is old and does not recognize whom is the elder and who is the younger in his sons. Joseph tried to correct his father and switch his hands to place his right hand on the head of Manasseh and his left on the head of Ephraim. However, his father refused to change his hands and told Joseph that he knows that Manasseh is the elder and that he was not confused. He meant to bless Ephraim the younger with his right hand because he knew that Ephraim is going to be greater than Mannaseh and that he will become many nations.

Remember what was the sign that Jacob made with his arms when he was trying to bless his sons? It was the sign of the cross. Show the children what Jacob did with his arms. This was a sign many many years ago about Jesus Christ dying on he cross for us.

Conclusion:

God has come and died on the cross for us because he loved us and wanted to make us live forever with him in heaven. He had this planned for a very long time. Jacob crossed his arms to tell us about God's plan to come and die on the cross

Applications:

- ❖ Review the meaning of the sign of the cross with the students.
- ❖ Ask the children to use the sign of the cross any time they are scared or afraid. It will protect them.
- ❖ Tell the children to make crosses at home and bring to class next week.
- ❖ Start memorizing the creed with the students by giving them few lines every week over the coming 4-5 weeks

Week 3 - Lord Christ Accepts Zacchaeus' Invitation

Objective:

- ❖ Lord Jesus Christ's love for sinners

Memory Verse:

“Seek and you will find” (Luke 11:9)

References:

- ❖ Luke 19

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare cups and dishes for the banquet
- ❖ Who remembers the name of a man who desired to see Jesus and he saw him and that man was short?

Lesson outline:

Zacchaeus was a rich short man. He wanted to see Jesus because he has heard a lot about Him. He was told that would enter a place called Jericho today. When Zacchaeus heard this, he ran quickly out of his office to go a see Jesus. He saw a big crowd of people coming from a distance... “What is the matter?” he asked. He was told that Jesus was coming. He thought for a while and said, “Now, I am very short, how can I see Jesus among the crowds”. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Who would be going that way? It was a difficult climb... he made a great effort to climb that tree. He made the attempt many times and at last he managed to climb the tree.

- ❖ What is the name of the man?

- ❖ Whom did he want to see?
- ❖ Where was Jesus?
- ❖ Why did the man climb the sycamore tree?

The crowds came near...children, women, men, young people, surrounded Jesus. They loved Jesus so much that they walked with Him. The crowd passes the sycamore tree. All the people stopped walking...why? Jesus looked up...Zacchaeus saw Him and recognized Him. He thought that Jesus was lifting up His eyes to pray but Jesus was looking at him...how wonderful! Jesus said to him “Hurry down Zacchaeus”. How did He know my name?” Zacchaeus happily wondered and hurried down. Then Jesus said “I will stay in your house today and supper with you”.

Zacchaeus welcomed Him with great joy. He made a banquet (describe it). Zacchaeus served Him (explain how he welcomed Jesus, his joy and happiness to receive Jesus at home, etc.).

- ❖ What is the name of the town?
- ❖ How did Zacchaeus see Jesus?
- ❖ What did Zacchaeus say to Jesus?
- ❖ Let us say the verse

Conclusion:

God cares about us more than we care about ourselves. It is He who passes under the Sycamore tree to invite Zacchaeus and to stay at his house.

Applications:

- ❖ If a guest or a stranger visits you, how will you treat him?
- ❖ Explain how the children can honor and respect guests and strangers when they visit them. They have to show love and kindness to them and make them happy. They have also to pray for them and for their safe arrival.
- ❖ Divide the Psalm 51 “ Have mercy on me...” into three sections for memorization at home. Start today with the first section.

Week 4 - The Good Samaritan

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to help others

Memory Verse:

“ Love your neighbor as yourself “ (Luke 10:27)

References:

- ❖ Luke 10:25-37.

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Prepare audiovisual aids for the lesson e.g. pictures
- ❖ Ask the students what would they do if they saw somebody with a cut or a wound? or somebody who fell and hurt himself?
- ❖ Then ask them what is the meaning of a neighbor? And who is their neighbor?

Lesson Outline:

One day a lawyer asked Jesus: who is my neighbor? And Jesus told him this story:

Once upon a time a man was traveling on the road. All of a sudden, a group of thieves stopped him, took all his money and clothing, beat him, wounded him and left him on the road in a very bad condition. Then a priest came down by the same road but when he saw the wounded man he passed by on the other side. Then a Levite was going in the same road but when he saw the wounded man he came and looked at him but again passed by and left him on the side of the street. Then a Samaritan man came by the same road and saw the wounded man. He had mercy for him and felt bad for him. So, he cleaned his wounds, poured oil on them, put him on his donkey and took him to a hotel. He took care of him all night and in the morning before he leaves he gave money to the

owner of the hotel and told him to use it in caring for the wounded man.

After the Lord Jesus finished the story He asked the lawyer which one of those people would be considered a neighbor for the wounded man: the priest, the Levite or the Samaritan man?

Let the children try to answer the question of the Lord Jesus....

The lawyer answered correctly and said that the Samaritan man would be considered a neighbor. The Lord told the lawyer to go and do like the Good Samaritan man who took care of the wounded man.

Conclusion:

We also have to do like the Samaritan man and have to be kind and helpful to everybody in trouble. We have to take care of others whenever they are in need.

Applications:

- ❖ If we know that somebody is sick we will go together to visit him.
- ❖ If someone fall and hurt himself we will stay by him, try to make him feel better and also help him to wash and clean his cut.
- ❖ Review what was memorized from the creed with the students and give prizes

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

Week 1- Crossing the Jordan

Week 2- The Parable of the Talents

Week 3- God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

Week 4- Ascension Day

Week 1 - Crossing the Jordan

Objective:

- ❖ God walks with us wherever we go

Memory Verse:

“Tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you” (Joshua 3:5)

Reference:

- ❖ Joshua 3:1-17

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare picture, slides or video if available for the story.
- ❖ Ask the children what is a river?
- ❖ Have you seen a river before? Where?
- ❖ What can happen if you go into a river?

Lesson Outlines:

God told his people that I want to take you to a very nice place to live in. I will take you to a land where there are lots of good fruits, milk, honey and many other goodies. But you have to cross a river called Jordan River to get to this land.

- ❖ What did God want to give His people?
- ❖ What did the people of God have to cross?
- ❖ What was the name of the river?

So, God told Joshua, who became the new leader after Moses, in the morning I will help you cross the river. I want you to ask the priests to carry the ark (show the children a

picture of the ark or a model of the ark) and walk in front of My people. Once they touch the water of the river with their feet the river will split open and they will cross on the land at the bottom of the river. The water will not touch them and none of them will even get wet.

So, Joshua did as God told him and asked the priests to carry the ark and walk in front of the people. Once their feet touched the Jordan River, the water was cut and moved far to the sides. In the middle of the water God made a dry road for them to cross over. The priests carrying the ark stood in the middle till all the people of God crossed over to the other side of the river to a dry land. Then, finally the priests with the ark came out to the other side of the river. Once they stepped out of the river the water came back and the road that God made for them disappeared. The people of God were happy that helped them to cross the river to come to the nice land with the many goodies that God chose for them.

Conclusion:

God always walks with His children and shows them the way they should walk in.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children a picture of the ark to color
- ❖ Review and continue memorizing an additional part from the Agpeya prayer

Week 2 – The Parable of the Talents

Objective:

- ❖ To encourage each child to look for his talent

Memory Verse:

“Well done good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23)

References:

- ❖ The book of St. Matthew 25: 14-30

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Bring coins with you to act the story of today’s lesson
- ❖ Ask the children if God gave someone lots of money what should he do with the money?

Lesson Outlines:

When Jesus Christ was teaching the people, he told them stories to help them understand the word of God. He told them a story of a master and three servants. The master gave 5 talents (type of money) to the first servant, 2 talents to the second servant, and 1 talent to the third. He then left on a long journey. The first servant (with the 5 talents) used his money wisely and was able to get 5 more talents in return. The second servant (2 talents) did the same and was also able to receive 2 more talents. The third servant hid his money in the ground so he did not gain anything. When the master came back, each servant showed him what they had done. So, the first servants gave the master the original five talents and five more he gained. This makes 10 talents. Let us count on our fingers five plus five. The second servant gave the master the original 2 talents and

the two he gained. This makes 4 talents. Let us count again on our fingers 2 plus 2 talents. The last lazy servant went back and dug his talent from the ground and gave it to the master. He did not gain any thing more than what the master gave him. The master was pleased with the first and second servants, but was very upset at the third servant and took the one talent he had and gave it to the first servant that he may profit (gain) from it.

God is our master when we meet Him again in heaven He will ask us what did we do with the nice things He gave us. For example, He will ask Mary (use names of the children in your class) what did you do with your beautiful voice? Did you sing hymns? Also, He will ask David (again use names of the children in your class) what did you do with your strong muscles? Did you help the weak boys and girls? And so on.....

Conclusion:

God gave everyone a gift (a talent) to use (e.g. singing, writing, reading, speaking...) and we have to use it to help others and show our love for God.

Application:

- ❖ Act the story again with the coins that the servant brought. Help the children count the talents with each servant.
- ❖ Give the children a picture of Jesus Christ to color as our Master who gives us the talents.
- ❖ Encourage the child to give alms and to save some of his pocket money and put it in the alms box devoted for the poor.

Week 3 - God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

Objective:

- ❖ Learn the commandments of God

Memory verse:

“I am the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:3)

References:

- ❖ Exodus 20

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ God took care of His people in the desert and wanted them always to obey Him and do what pleases Him. He set up a set of rules for them to follow and become worthy to be called His people.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ God helped Moses take the Israelites out of the land of Egypt. God led them in the desert to go to the Promised Land, Canaan.
- ❖ Now three months after they started their journey, Moses and the Israelites reached the foot of Mount Sinai and set camp there.
- ❖ There, the voice of God spoke to Moses saying “At this place, on this mountain will begin to make the Israelites into My People. I have brought them safely out of Egypt where they were Pharaoh’s slaves. Now I will give them, through you, laws and commandments that will rule them every day of their lives. They must obey Me from the day they are born until the day they die, If they do all that I tell them to do, I will make them into a holy nation, for they are the people I have chosen to be My special children. Go now, and tell this to your people”. Moses

went and told the Israelites all he heard from God.

- ❖ Then two days passed and on the morning of the third day thunder roared and lightning flashed at the top of the mountain. Suddenly a trumpet sounded, so loudly that it seemed to fill the air, and the people in the camp beneath the mountain trembled with fear.
- ❖ The trumpet grew louder and louder around them. Then God came down like a fire onto Sinai, and the whole top of the mountain was wrapped in dense clouds of smoke as if it were a volcano erupting
- ❖ Then Moses spoke to God. The Israelites standing around him heard God's answers as thunder. Moses heard God calling him to climb upwards, higher and higher, until he disappeared into the smoke that covered the mountaintop, and the people trembled.
- ❖ God gave Moses His commandments written by His own finger on two tablets of stone
- ❖ These are God's Ten Commandments
 1. Honor and serve Me alone for I am the only God
 2. Do not make or worship any idols
 3. Treat My name with respect
 4. Keep every Sabbath as a holy day of rest
 5. Honor your father and your mother
 6. Do not kill another human being (you shall not murder)
 7. Husbands and wives must be faithful to one another (you shall not commit adultery)
 8. Do not steal (you shall not steal)
 9. Do not tell lies (you shall not bear false witness)
 10. Do not be greedy about things that other people have (you shall not covet your neighbor's house)
- ❖ Because Moses was God's special prophet, God explained to him how the laws worked and Moses explained them to the people and everyone agreed to obey the laws of God
 1. Where were the Israelites before going to the desert?
 2. At which mountain did they set camp?
 3. What did God tell Moses He would give him?
 4. Recite at least three of the Ten Commandments

Conclusion:

God wants His children to be holy and obey Him so He loves them and they get closer to God. If we as the children of God follow and do His 10 commandments, we will

know God better and get closer to Him and He will be happy with us.

Applications:

- ❖ Encourage the children to memorize the Ten Commandments.
- ❖ Get the children to draw the two tablets and write in them the Ten commandments

Week 4 - Ascension Day

Objective:

- ❖ Christ went to heaven and if we are good we will go to heaven and be with Him

Memory Verse

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you” (John 14:27)

References

- ❖ Acts 1:9-14

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Prepare the following:
 1. A big colored picture of the Ascension...
 2. Cotton to represent the clouds...

3. Four wings for two angels...
- ❖ Ask the students:
 - ❖ Who rose from the dead?
 - ❖ What did he do after the Resurrection?

Lesson Outline:

After Christ had risen from among the dead he appeared to the disciples... He encouraged them during the period of forty days before He went up to heaven... He spoke to them about the kingdom of God and about how to arrange the church system. They said to him “Lord, what do you want us to do?” He commanded them to stay in Jerusalem till the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Finally, the disciples were together and Jesus was with them.. Christ blessed them. Suddenly they saw Jesus rising up... he went up...up...up...toward the cloud. He went up to heaven as you see in this picture. The disciples were looking and staring upwards to him, “Praise the Lord”. They saw two angels in white standing. The angels said to them, “Why are you standing there looking up at the sky? This Jesus who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go to heaven”. The apostles went back to Jerusalem. They were happy because of Christ’s ascension. They sang a hymn: He went up to j the highest heaven and sent to us the Paraclete.

- ❖ For how many days did Jesus Christ appear after the Resurrection?
- ❖ What did He say to his disciples?
- ❖ What did the two angels say to the disciples and apostles?
- ❖ Will Christ come a second time?
- ❖ Let us repeat the verse together.

Conclusion:

Always lift up your eyes to heaven and remember this where Jesus Christ ascended to. We hope that one day we be with Him in heaven.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray in the morning and in the evening.
- ❖ Draw the children's attention to the fact that we pray with our faces toward the east because the Lord Christ went up to heaven towards the east and will also come from the east.
- ❖ Review the ten commandments with the students

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Week 1- The Sheep and the Goats

Week 2- The Lord Christ Appears to St. Paul

Week 3- The pentecost

Week 4- Abraham Is Visited By God

Week 1 - The Sheep and the Goats

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children the meaning of the censer
- ❖ Teach the children the importance of the censer in worship

Memory verse:

“But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another” (Psalm 75:7)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 25:31

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare visual aids including:
 - Pictures of sheep and goats
 - Picture of Jesus Christ on the throne

Jesus tried to explain to his disciples and to the people what to expect at the end of the days. He wanted to teach them that there is a day called “Judgment Day” when we will all stand before the Lord and He will judge us according to what we did on earth.

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ Our Lord said that on Judgment Day He will come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, and He will sit on the throne.
- ❖ Now people from all the nations will be gathered in front of Him.
- ❖ He will be like the good shepherd who separates his sheep from the goats so he will separate His people one from another.
- ❖ He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

- ❖ Then He will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, go into the kingdom that God prepared for you from the beginning of the world for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’
- ❖ Then the good people on His right hand will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’
- ❖ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘I assure you that when you did it to anyone you did it to Me.’
- ❖ Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Go away from Me, you cursed, into the fire with the devil and his angels ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me’.
- ❖ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’”
- ❖ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘I assure you when you did not do it to anyone who needed this, you did not do it to Me.’
- ❖ So the good and helpful people will go to the Kingdom of God and have eternal life but the ones that did not do good when needed will be punished forever
 1. On which side of the Lord will the sheep be?
 2. What is our responsibility towards the sick?
 3. What should we do to the hungry?
 4. With who those who will go into the fire will be ?

Conclusion:

If we are good boys and girls of God and do good things to others then we will be like the sheep sitting on the right hand of the throne but if we are bad we will be like the goats on the left hand of the throne.

Applications:

- ❖ Take the children to visit one of the children's hospitals
- ❖ Organize a trip to the food bank and get the children to donate food cans.

Week 2- The Lord Christ Appears to St. Paul

Objective:

- ❖ Celebrating the Apostles' Day.

Memory Verse

“Lord what do you want me to do?” (Acts 9:6)

References

- ❖ Acts 9

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare a picture or a video about the lesson's story, particularly when Saul was on his horse and he saw the bright light of the Lord.
- ❖ Who defends and protects the Christians?

Lesson Outline:

There was a man called Saul. He hated the Christians and persecuted them. He searched for them everywhere to kill them. One day, he heard that there was a great number of Christians in Damascus. He quickly rose and took with him some horses and some strong men who hated Christians and said to them, “Let us go to Damascus to kill

all the Christians there”. They rode the horses and were on their way to Damascus. As they came near the city a light from the sky suddenly flashed all around them. The light was stronger than the light of the sun.

Saul and those with him could not look at the strong light. Saul fell to the ground and could not move. The men were afraid. They fell down from their horses and their faces were to the ground. Saul heard a voice coming from heaven saying: “Saul.. Saul.. Saul... Why do you persecute me?” (explain to the children the meaning of persecute me as against me). Saul could not lift himself up. He was trembling out of fear. He said, “Who are you, Lord”. “I am Jesus whom you persecute”, the voice said: “He who persecutes Christians persecutes me”. Saul’s wicked power weakened and faded and changed into a new man; meek and humble. He said, “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

- ❖ What is the name of this saint?
- ❖ Whom was he against?
- ❖ Where was he going?
- ❖ Who were with him?
- ❖ What did he see on his way to Damascus?
- ❖ What did the voice say?
- ❖ Let us say together: Lord, what wilt... Who can complete?

Jesus said to him: “Get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do. There is a man called Ananias, he is my disciple. He will pray for you and will tell you what to do”. The voice disappeared. Saul felt this way. He said to the men, “I see nothing... I cannot see a thing... “ They led him into the city taking him by the hand, and they asked about the house of Ananias. They found it...they entered... Ananias welcomed them. Ananias placed his hand on Saul and prayed. Saul was able to see once more. He preached him about Jesus. He baptized Saul and his men and Saul became a Christian. He loved the Christians and defended them. He made many people become christians from different countries.

Each year we remember Saul’s story whose name became St. Paul.

- ❖ What is the name of the man who preached Saul about Christ?
- ❖ When did he baptize him?
- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

Conclusion:

God prevented St. Paul from hurting the Christian and He made St. Paul himself a Christian. St. Paul became a very good and active Christian and he made many people to become Christian later on. St. Paul also wrote a big part of the Bible, New Testaments.

Applications:

- ❖ Invite your brothers and friends to come to Sunday School to know Jesus and love him.
- ❖ If anyone does not answer your invitation, pray for him.
- ❖ Pray also for the enemies of the church.

Week 3-The Pentecost

Objective:

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

Memory verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Luke 24:49-53, Acts 2

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

- ❖ After the Ascension, the disciples returned back to Jerusalem as the Lord told them. They went up into the house of St. Mark where they stayed. These all continued praying and fasting, with the women and St. Mary the mother of God.

- ❖ When the day of Pentecost had come, ten days after Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, they were all praying at St. Mark's house. Suddenly, there came a sound from heaven like very strong wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then, there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one settled upon each of them. These tongues of fire were different from the fire we know, because it did not burn any one or anything. It was coming from God to bring the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
- ❖ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different languages they never knew before. They praised God and started telling every one about the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ At that time there were living in Jerusalem Jews from different countries. And when they heard the sound of the blowing wind, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speak in his own language. They were all surprised, and they asked each others: Look, are not all these disciples who speak different languages now used to speak only one language before? Then how is it that we can hear the different languages of the different countries we came from.
- ❖ The people laughed at the disciples and said: "they are completely drunk." Hearing that, St. Peter stood up with the other disciples, and raised his voice and said to them, "These are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only three o'clock in the afternoon". St. Peter then started talking to the people about Jesus Christ and how He came to save them and that He rose from the dead.
- ❖ Now when they heard this, 3000 people believed and they asked the apostles "What shall we do?" The apostles answered "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall get the gift of the Holy Spirit and all your sins will be cleaned. Then those who gladly listened to these words were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
- ❖ The new believers continued to gather with the rest of the Christians and shared with them the communion and the prayers. Then many wonders and miracles were done through the apostles.
- ❖ All who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold all what they have and divided them among all, so every one would take what he needs only. They were glad when they shared food together and they were all simple in heart, praising God. And the Lord added many more people to the church daily and their number increased quickly.

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ The disciples spent the 10 days before the Pentecost in fasting and prayers. The Holy Spirit filled their heart at the end giving them power from heaven.
- ❖ Lord now we all have the Holy Spirit in us from Baptism so give us the same power as you gave to your disciples.
- ❖ Where did the disciples go after the Ascension?
- ❖ What did they do while waiting?
- ❖ Why did they select additional apostle?

- ❖ What are the names of the twelve apostles?
- ❖ Who else was with the apostles?
- ❖ What happened the day of Pentecost?
- ❖ At what hour the Holy Spirit filled the apostles?
- ❖ What did the people think about them?
- ❖ How many were saved by one sermon from Peter?
- ❖ What did they do to join the new church?
- ❖ How did they live after that? Did anybody have a need to a thing?
- ❖ Why do we name this day the birthday of the church?

Applications:

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

Week 4- Abraham Is Visited By God

Objective:

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

References:

- ❖ Genesis 18:1-16

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

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

After the three men ate and were happy with Abraham's hospitality and generosity, they asked him where is his wife Sarah. Abraham said: "Here, in the tent". The Lord said: "next time I come to visit you, your wife shall have a baby". Sarah was listening to what the visitors were saying to Abraham and she laughed. She laughed because she was old and Abraham her husband was very old and she did not believe that they could have a baby when they are very... very old like this. Then the Lord who was visiting Abraham asked him "why did Sarah laugh?" He told Abraham that God can do anything and He can give you a baby son even if you were both very old. Sarah was afraid, so she lied saying: "I did not laugh". The Lord said: "No, but you did laugh". God did actually give the old Sarah and Abraham a baby son as He said He would when He visited Abraham. Their child name was Isaac.

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

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

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

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

Week 1- Jesus Christ Appears to His Disciples

Week 2- Light Inside the Church

Week 3- Water From the Rock

Week 4- Four Men Carry the Paralytic

Week 1- Jesus Christ Appears To His Disciples

Objective:

- ❖ Lord Jesus Christ overcomes death.

References

- ❖ John 20:19-23
- ❖ Luke 24:36-43

Memory Verse

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

The Lord Jesus was buried in a tomb. He spent three days in the tomb. After three

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

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

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

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

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

Applications:

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

Week 2- Lights Inside The Church

Objective:

- ❖ Love of the church.

Memory Verse:

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

References:

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

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

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

- ❖ What do we notice when we enter the church?
- ❖ What do we see in front of the lecterns?
- ❖ What do we see on the Altar?
- ❖ What does the church look like when it is lit with lights?

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

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

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

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

Applications:

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

Week 3 - Water from the Rock

Objective:

- ❖ God gives us our food, drink, cloth and everything we have and need.

Memory Verse:

“You shall strike the rock and water will come out of it” (Exodus 17:6)

References:

- ❖ Exodus 17:1-7

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Use the same rock made of brown paper for the tomb from previous lesson about the resurrection as a visual aid for this lesson. Hide a container of water inside the rock and get a rod similar to the one Moses used.
- ❖ Ask the children who gives us food to eat and drink to drink?
- ❖ Who provides us with everything we have?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time the people of God were traveling in the desert. Their Leader was Moses. Who was their leader?... They got to a place where there was very little water for all of them. They started to thirst and were very unhappy. There was not enough water for their children or animals too. So, they started to be angry with Moses

because he brought them to a place where there is no water and because they were all very very thirsty. They asked him to give them water. But Moses did not know from where he can get water in this desert. So, Moses prayed and cried out to the Lord and asked Him what should I do Lord? God told Moses take your rod and some of the elders of the people and go to the rock in Horeb. You shall strike the rock with the rod and water will come out of it. This water is sweet and all the people may drink from it.

- ❖ Moses did exactly as God told him...
- ❖ What did God tell Moses to do?

When Moses hit the rock with his rod immediately water came out of it (the servant can act this part with the visual aid) and every body drank and was not thirsty anymore.

Conclusion:

God is the provider of everything we need.

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children act the story and give the children to drink from the water inside the rock
- ❖ Review and memorize an additional part of the Agpeya prayer “Have mercy on me...O Lord”

Week 4- Four Men Carry the Paralytic

Objectives:

- ❖ To love each other
- ❖ To learn the importance of cooperation

Memory Verse:

“Two are better than one” (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

Reference:

- ❖ St. Mark 2:1-12

Introduction

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare pictures for today's lesson
- ❖ Ask a child to lift a chair up. He cannot of course. Ask two children to cooperate in lifting it up.

Lesson Outlines:

One day Jesus was in a village called Capernaum. He was in a house teaching the people. When people heard that Jesus was in that house, they all began to come. The house was full of people because everybody was eager to listen to Jesus.

A sick man was paralyzed meaning that he could not walk and had to be carried on his bed. He had four friends who cared about him. The four men heard that Jesus was preaching in that house, and they knew if Jesus would only lay his hand on their paralytic friend, he would be healed. So, the four men decided to carry the man together to Jesus Christ.

They began to go on their way, but when they arrived to the house, they saw that the house was full. They could not go through the door because people were standing in the way. They began to think together "what should we do?" Finally, by putting their heads together because "two are better than one", they came up with an idea. They would send their paralytic friend through the roof. The roof was of straw, so this idea was going to work. In order for them to send the man through the roof, they had to be careful. They all had to carry the man carefully and steady because "two are better than one." So the men sent the man through the roof, two of them holding one end and the other two holding the other end. They had to cooperate together so the paralytic man would not fall off his bed.

Finally, the four men placed their paralytic friend in front of Jesus. And when Jesus saw that the four men had so much love for each other and so much faith. He also saw how they all co-operated together for Jesus knew that "two are better than one", He placed his hands on the paralytic and said: "Son, your sins are forgiven you. I say to you, arise and take up your bed and go to your house." And immediately the man arose and took his bed and walked home. All who saw this were amazed and said, "we never saw anything like this."

- ❖ Where was Jesus preaching?
- ❖ Did a lot of people come and listen to Him?
- ❖ The house was full or empty?
- ❖ How many men were there with the paralytic man?
- ❖ What did they think of?
- ❖ When they arrived to the house, what did they find?
- ❖ What did they decide to do?
- ❖ How did they carry the man to Jesus?
- ❖ Why did Jesus decide to heal the man?

❖ What did Jesus say to the paralytic?

We cooperate together at church so the service can be easier. For example, during the Divine Liturgy, there are 2 or 3 deacons taking turns saying the parts of the Liturgy and thus this is cooperation. And in Sunday school, we can cooperate by helping each other to clean and organize the classes. We can also encourage each other to come to church. At church we cooperate together by helping clean the church, if everyone does a small part in the church, then the church would become cleaner faster instead of one person cleaning the church. Also, we cooperate together by keeping the church clean and quiet by throwing away trash in the trash can and by not talking in church.

Cooperation is not only done at church, but also at home and school. We cooperate and help our parents clean the house when guests come over, and at school we cooperate with the teacher by doing our homework and turning it in on time.

- ❖ What do we learn from this story?
- ❖ What is the verse?

We should all cooperate together because we are all part of the body of Christ and Christ loves us more when we work together. He promised us saying, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20).

Conclusion:

Jesus healed the man because He had compassion on him and because He saw that his four friends had love for their paralytic friend. We are all Christians and we should have love for one another. We show this love through our cooperation and obedience.

Application

- ❖ Cooperate in tidying and arranging your class after you finish from the lesson every Sunday
- ❖ \Next Sunday we will check what did you cooperate in during the week at home and school.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Week 1 - The Apostles Feast

Week 2 - Elijah and the Raven

Week 3 - Elijah and the Widow

Week 4 - God Accepts Elijah's Sacrifice

Week 2- The Apostles Feast

Objective:

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

References:

- ❖ Matthew 9:9

Memory Verse:

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

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

- ❖ Who collected taxes from the people?

- ❖ What was Levi's job?
- ❖ Where did Levi sit?

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

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

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

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

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

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

Week 2 - Elijah and the Raven

Objective:

- ❖ God cares for us. It is He that gives us food.

Memory Verse:

“Bless the Lord O my Soul” (Psalm 103:1)

References

- ❖ 1 Kings 17-19,21
- ❖ 2 Kings 1-2

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare the following means of illustration
 1. A picture of a raven
 2. A loaf of bread

What is the meaning of a prophet? A prophet is someone that God sends a message through him to the people. The message is usually about something will happen in the future. Do you the name of any prophet?

Lesson Outline:

Elijah spent all his time in prayers, fasting and reading the word of God. So he became a great prophet.

One day, the Lord said to him, “Elijah, go to Ahab the wicked king and say to him: Repent and refrain from the worship of idols, or else I will hold back the rain”. Elijah said, “All right, I’ll go”. Then he began to think of the matter “The king is wicked. He may kill me. I am afraid. But the Lord ordered me to go and He is with me. I’ll go now”. He arrived at the palace. He made an attempt to enter but the guards prevented him from doing so. He said to them, “I have a message from the Lord and I have to deliver it to the king”.

They asked him, “Who is the Lord?” and he answered, “He is the Lord of heaven and earth”. They said to him, “We do not know the Lord. We worship idols”. “Idols are not gods”, he said. His words filled the guards’ hearts with fear. A guard entered the king’s room. He bowed to the ground “Your majesty, there is a man outside. His body is covered with hair and his clothes are very simple. He wants to meet you”, the guard said. “Let him in”, the king said. Elijah was brought to the king. He said, “O king, repent and refrain from your sins. Stop worshipping idols, or else there will be no rain until I say so”. The king was surprised “who are you?” he asked. “I am the prophet of God”, Elijah said. “Who is God?” asked the king. Elijah said, “God the Creator of heaven and earth”. But the king said, “There are no gods other than these idols”. Elijah went out of the palace. He prayed to the Lord... “O Lord, let there be no rain” and no rain came. Plants faded and dried. The leaves and the trees fell down. Men and animals became hungry. There was no food. The king realized that what happened was the desire of the Lord.

- ❖ What is the name of the king?
- ❖ Was he a good king?
- ❖ What was his sin?
- ❖ What were the words of God by the mouth of Elijah?

But the Lord cares about his children. He cared about Elijah. He said to him, “Go and hide yourself near the Brook of Cherith. I have commanded ravens to bring you food there”. “The Brook of Cherith? This is a small brook and it is often dry. Ravens? Can ravens support man or snatch what they see in man’s hands?” he thought this is very strange, However, Elijah obeyed the words of God. He went to the brook and there he sat at the edge. While he was praying, he saw a big black bird coming towards him “Oh! What is that?” he asked himself.

The raven threw bread and meat into Elijah’s lap. That was in the early morning. Elijah shouted, “Bless the Lord, O my soul”. He drank water from the brook and ate the meat and bread that the raven threw to him.

In the evening, the raven came back with food to Elijah. Elijah ate, drank and was satisfied, while severe hunger spread in all the cities. That state continued till rain came again and the natural way of living returned.

- ❖ How did the Lord care for Elijah during the famine?
- ❖ Where did Elijah stay?
- ❖ What did he drink?

Explain that the Lord can change the nature of men, birds, anything. He changed the nature of the raven that snatches things into the raven, which obeyed the words of God and carried the bread to Elijah.

Conclusion:

The Lord cared about Elijah when the land became dry and He cares for each one of us too. He provides us with all the things we need.

Applications:

- ❖ When you sit at the table to have your meal, thank God for the food that is put before you and do not desire the food that is put in front of others.
- ❖ Draw a picture of Elijah while he is praying and the raven carrying bread and meat for him.

Week 3 - Elijah and the Widow

Objective:

- ❖ God blesses the little things that we share with others and makes it plenty.

Memory Verse:

“ The pin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil” (1King 17:16)

References:

- ❖ 1 King 17:8-16

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Prepare a container filled with flour and a second one filled with oil to act the story with visual aids to the students
- ❖ Ask them what would they do if they are very hungry and someone asks them to share their food? What if they have one last chocolate and their friend asks a piece of it.

Lesson Outline:

Once upon a time God told Elijah to tell King Ahab that there will be no rain for a long long time until Elijah asks for rain again from God. Thus, it happened that there was no rain for a long time and there was no more food or water to drink in all the land. Elijah stayed by a water brook and the raven fed him (as we know from the previous lesson) but the brook gradually dried. So, God told Elijah to go to a widow to feed him.

- ❖ What does a widow mean?
- ❖ Why did God ask Elijah to go the widow?

So, Elijah went to the place God told him he found a widow gathering some sticks. Elijah asked her to bring him a little water in a cup. As she went to get him the water, he also asked her to bring him a piece of bread. The widow then told him that she has only a handful of flour and a little oil in a jar. She was actually collecting the sticks to make the last piece of bread for her and her son and then they would die from hunger because they had nothing else to eat. But Elijah told her do not worry, just make me first a small cake and then make the rest of the flour for you and your son because the Lord said that the little flour and oil that you have will never finish till the day God send rain again.

So she went and made Elijah a small cake first and made for her and her son the bread as Elijah asked her to do. The little flour and the small jar of oil never finished just as God told Elijah. So Elijah, the widow and her son ate from this flour and oil for many many days without going hungry.

- ❖ How many sons did the widow have?
- ❖ What did Elijah ask her to make for him? W
- ❖ What happened to the little flour and oil the widow had?

Conclusion:

God blesses the things that we share with others. The more we give the more he gives us back. So we should share with every body who asks us a part of what we have.

Applications:

- ❖ Share your toys with others
- ❖ Share your treats and food with other kids, especially the poor.

Week 4 - God Accepts Elijah's Sacrifice

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the students that our God is the true and strong God.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord, He is God” (1King 18:39)

References:

- ❖ King 18:20-40

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Ask the students if they think that God is strong or weak? Is he is kind or rough? Can he hear us when we pray or not?
- ❖ Try to simulate the story and what Elijah did to present his bull using audiovisual aids.

Lesson Outline:

Once upon a time there was a good and strong prophet by the name of Elijah? What was the name of the prophet? Elijah was the only prophet out of 450 prophet who was still following God. All the other prophets were following the false god “Baal”. What was the name of the false god? So, Elijah was warning the rest of the prophet and the people that they need to follow the true and strong God. He also wanted to prove to them that his God is the true God. Elijah told the prophets of Baal to choose a bull and place on wood. Then, he told them to pray for their god Baal and see if he would send a fire from heaven to eat the bull. The prophets of Baal prayed and prayed for a long time to Baal. They prayed all morning and afternoon but Baal did not listen to them and did not send a fire from heaven to eat the bull. They were disappointed but Elijah told them pray louder may be Baal is busy or sleeping. So, the prophets of Baal prayed louder and louder hoping that Baal would wake up and hear them. But nothing really happened. This is because Baal is not the true God.

Then, it was Elijah’s turn to present his bull and pray to his true and strong God. Elijah brought his bull and repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken before. Then, he put 12 stones around it and he put the wood on top of the altar and on top of it he placed the bull. He asked the people to pour 4 water pots on the bull and the wood? How many water pots he asked for? So the people did as he told them. Elijah asked them to pour water again and again on the bull and the wood. So, they poured water three times on the bull and wood. How many times did they pour water? Finally Elijah prayed to God and asked Him to prove to the people that He is the true and strong God. Immediately God send fire from heaven that fell and ate Elijah’s bull, the wood, the water and the stones. How many stones were they? When the people saw the fire from heaven they were scared and they fell on their faces and they said: “ the Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God “. They knew then that the God of Elijah is the true God who listened to his prayer and sent the fire to eat the bull.

Conclusion:

The God of Elijah is our God. He is strong. He also listens to our prayer just as he listened to Elijah’s prayer. We trust Him and depend on Him all the time.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of Elijah’s bull and the altar.
- ❖ Memorize the first half of “ Holy God...Holy Mighty.... Holy immortal ...” at home. The servants should follow on this homework the following week.
- ❖ Look for a story of a saint that used to pray a lot. The servant should prepare prizes for next week

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Week 1: Elijah and the Son of the Widow

Week 2: St. Mary the Child

Week 3: Elisha and the Jars of Oil

Week 4: The Prodigal Son

Week 1 - Elijah and the Son of the Widow

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that God listens to our prayer

Memory Verse:

“The Lord heard the voice of Elijah” (1Kings 18:22)

References:

- ❖ 1 Kings 18:17-24

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and memory verse with the students
- ❖ Ask the children do they think God listens to them when they pray? Does He answer back? How?
- ❖ Today’s lesson show how God answers our prayer back

Lesson Outline:

Elijah was staying with the widow and her son when there was no rain and they were eating from the never ending flour and oil that God blessed in the widow’s house. One day the son of the widow became very very sick. He was sick to the extent that he could not even breath. The mother of the widow was very worried and very sad. She though that Elijah was the reason behind her son’s sickness. Elijah also was wondering why did the kid become sick although the widow was doing good things and was keeping Elijah in her house, feeding him and serving him.

Elijah asked the widow to give him her sick son. He carried him to a room in the top floor of the house and put him on the bed. Then Elijah prayed and prayed to God very hard. He asked God to heal the child. Then he stretched himself out on the child three times. While he continued to ask God to make the child breath again and get well again. Then the Lord heard Elijah’s prayer and voice and the child became well immediately. So, Elijah was very happy, he took the child and ran to his mother and gave her the child after he became well and healthy again. The widow was very happy too and she told Elijah now I know that you are a man of God and that

God listens to your prayers.

- ❖ What happened to the widow's son?
- ❖ Where did Elijah take him?
- ❖ What did Elijah do?
- ❖ Did God Listen to Elijah's prayer?

Conclusion:

God listens to our prayers when we are asking for something good. He does not answer back by speaking to us, instead he make the things we ask for come true.

Application:

- ❖ Pray every day in the morning and before you sleep
- ❖ Memorize the second half of "Holy God...Holy Mighty.... Holy immortal ..." at home. The servants should follow on this homework the following week.

Week 2 - St. Mary the Child

Objective:

- ❖ To behave like St. Mary the child.

Memory Verse:

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

References

- ❖ Synexarium 3

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ How does the Lord honor those who love him?
- ❖ What is the name of the church book that contains the life history of the holy men?
- ❖ Who is the Mother of the Lord?

Lesson Outline:

There was a man called Joachim and his wife Anna. Joachim was a shepherd and he had no children. Joachim and Anna prayed to the Lord to give them a son or a daughter. “O Lord, if you give us a son or a daughter, we shall send the child to the temple to serve you”.

- ❖ What is the name of the Virgin’s father... Her mother?
- ❖ What was the vow they made?

The Lord answered their prayers and gave them a daughter and they called her Mary. When Mary was three years old, her father took her to the temple and left her there with the priest to serve the Lord. She stayed in the temple till she was 12 years old. During this time, her father and mother died. Mary was a gentle girl. She obeyed the priest and followed his advice. She served in the temple and cleaned it. She made beautiful napkins. She polished the censor and prepared everything when the priest prayed. She used to pray while working... at night... in the morning... at noon... The priest loved her because she was calm and meek... The angels fed her... Because of this the Lord chose her to give birth to Christ. When He sent her an angel to announce the birth of Christ She said: For behold, henceforth...

- ❖ Why did the Lord choose the virgin to be born of her?
- ❖ What did she do in the temple?

Let us say together: For behold, henceforth... Who can complete? Let us sing a hymn together: Through the Intercession of the Theotokos...

Conclusion:

God loves the calm and obedient children like St. Mary that is why He chose St. Mary to be his mother. We also like to be calm and good children so God would love us too.

Application:

- ❖ When we need anything, let us pray to God and ask the Virgin Mary to pray and ask

God with us.

- ❖ Memorize at home “We magnify you the mother of the true light.....”

Week 3 - Elisha and the Jars of Oil

Objective:

- ❖ God blesses the little that we have.

Memory Verse:

“Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits” (Psalm 103:2)

References

- ❖ 2 Kings 4

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse with the students

How did the Lord support Elijah during the famine?

Explain to the children in simple words the situation in any country when there is no rain and how famine affects people’s ways of living. In this way you can show how important and how powerful the miracle was in the life of the widow and her son.

- ❖ Review with the students the meaning of the word “Prophet”.
- ❖ Prepare the following means of illustration:
 1. A vessel containing little oil
 2. A nylon packet containing a little flour
 3. Empty vessels

4. A piece of yellow clay in the form of pastry

Lesson Outline:

Elijah had a disciple named Elisha who was also a prophet of God. The Lord performed miracles by the hands of Elijah and also by the hands of Elisha. One day a poor widow came to Elisha complaining and weeping. She said, “Sir, my husband has died. He was a God-fearing man. But he owed money to a man who came to take away my two sons as slaves in payment for my husband’s debt” (2 Kings 4:1).

- ❖ What is the name of the prophet?
- ❖ Why did the woman go to him?

Elisha prayed to God “O Lord, guide me. O Lord solve the problem of this widow. You support the orphan; and the widow”. Then Elisha said to the woman “What shall I do for you? Tell me what have you got at home?” “A jar of oil”, she said. “Thanks be to God. The problem can be solved. Do you believe that the Lord can do a miracle with that jar of oil?” Elisha said. “I believe, Sir”, the woman answered him. He said, “Go, quickly... to your neighbors and borrow as many empty jars as you can. Then go into the house... you and your son... close the door and start pouring oil into the jars. Set each one aside as soon as it is full. The woman did not doubt Elisha’s words. She obeyed him and did exactly what he told her to do. She did not ask him she could not find that oil to pour in the vessels... she was sure that the Lord would bless the oil... a great faith. The woman went to her house (closed the door, etc). When they had filled all the jars, the woman said to her son, “Are there any more?” But her son said, “No, there are no other vessels”. And at that moment the oil stopped flowing... The Lord blessed the jar of oil. The woman was glad. She took her son and went to Elisha. On their way to him they sang: Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits.

The woman told the man of God about what she did, and he said to her, “Sell the oil and pay all your debts, and there will be enough money left for you and your sons to live on”. The woman did so and the Lord blessed her family and she lived in peace.

The Servant chooses a child and asks him to relate the story and if he desires, the boys can act the story and repeat the verse: “Bless the Lord O my soul”.

Conclusion:

The Lord our God can bless the little things and everything we have if we believe in Him and behave like His children.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray before your meal.

- ❖ Pray for the poor people who do not have enough food that God may take care of them.
- ❖ Review “ We magnify you the mother of

Week 4 - The Prodigal Son

Objective:

- ❖ The children should realize how much our father in heaven loves us.
- ❖ They should learn about confession in a simple way.

Memory verse:

“He was lost and is found” (Luke 15:24).

References:

- ❖ Luke 15:11-24

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse

Jesus Likes to tell stories called “parables” to get people to understand the lesson He wanted to teach them. One day when a crowd gathered to hear Him teach, Jesus told them this parable

Lesson Outline:

There was a rich man with two sons. One day the youngest son said, “Father, I know I will get part of your money when you die but I don’t want to wait until then. Will you give me my portion now”. The father agreed, and the young son took what was given to him and traveled to a far country. He was wasting his money because he had lots of money to spend. He entertained his new friends in royal style. Suddenly, to the son’s surprise, the money was gone

and with his money went his friends. The son was left to beg for his food, but he could not find food or work. Eventually, a pig farmer hired him to watch over his pigs. The son was so hungry that even the pig food looked good to him. As the son sat and watched the pigs eat, he thought, “Why am I here, starving, with no money, when my father has servants who are better clothed and fed than I? I am going to go back to my father and beg him to forgive me. I will ask him if he will allow me to be one of his servants

So the son began the long journey back home. Soon he came into sight of his father’s land. The son didn’t know it but the father had been watching for his son to come back home since the day he left. “He’s here, my son who was lost is now found” the father called out. He ran to meet his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son told his confession: “Father, I have done a terrible thing to you and to God. I know I am not worthy to be called your son. I will be honored if you would just accept me as one of your hired servants”. But the father was not angry. With a heart overflowing with forgiveness he said to his servants, “Bring the best robe to put on my son and a ring on his finger. Prepare a feast tonight. My son has come home”.

- ❖ What did the youngest son ask of his father?
- ❖ What job did the son has to take after loosing all his money?
- ❖ What food looked good to him?
- ❖ What did he finally decide to do?
- ❖ What did the father do when he saw his son?

Conclusion:

As Jesus was telling this story, He hoped the people would understand the lesson. God is willing to forgive anybody, as long as they are sorry for what they have done. Everyone who prays a prayer of confession can become a child of God. God is waiting for each of us to come to Him and will rejoice when we turn from our sins

Applications:

- ❖ Teach the children to appreciate their parents’ gifts.
- ❖ Encourage the children to go for confession.

SEVEN FILLER LESSONS

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

1. Cornelius Receives Faith
2. Jesus Christ Loves the Children
8. Friends of Jesus Christ
9. House built on the rock
10. David and His Friend Jonathan
11. Communion
12. Simon the elder

1 - Cornelius Receives the Faith

Objective:

- ❖ The church loves all people.

Memory Verse:

“And be rejoiced having believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:34)

References

- ❖ Acts 10

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ When you grow up, what job do you like to hold?
- ❖ If you were a police officer, what would you like to do?

Lesson Outline:

Long time ago the Romans ruled the Holy Land where Jesus lived for many years. They worshipped idols (statues), which could neither feel nor speak. But a Roman officer named Cornelius heard of God and loved Him. He used to pray, fast and help the poor.

- ❖ What is the name of the officer?
- ❖ What did the Romans worship?
- ❖ Whom do you worship?
- ❖ Whom do you love?
- ❖ To whom do you pray?

One day while he was praying, the Lord’s angel appeared to him and said: “Cornelius, the Lord accepted your prayer and works of charity. Send for Peter the apostle to guide you to the way of Salvation. Peter was praying in another town when Cornelius messengers arrived. Peter went

with them and preached Cornelius and his household about Jesus Christ the only Savior. Cornelius said “I believe... baptize me”. Peter the apostle baptized Cornelius and his household and they all became Christians and he rejoiced with his entire household.

- ❖ What did the angel say to Cornelius?
- ❖ Where was Peter the apostle at that time?
- ❖ Who guided Cornelius to the way of Salvation?
- ❖ What was Cornelius?
- ❖ Who was St. Peter?
- ❖ Do you think that the life of Cornelius became better after he believed in Christ?
- ❖ Why?

Conclusion:

God accepts all people and He does not differentiate between them. He loves everybody and all people as His children. He also wants everyone to believe in Him and love Him too.

Application:

- ❖ Ask your brothers and friends to come to church.

2 - Jesus Christ Loves Children

Objective:

- ❖ The church’s love for children

Memory Verse:

“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God”
(Luke 18:16)

References:

❖ Mark 9:35-37

Introduction:

- ❖ review the previous lesson and vers
- ❖ Who is your friend?
- ❖ Who is the best friend to the children?

Lesson Outline:

One day, Christ was standing in a spacious place. There were crowds of people around Him. They came from different places to listen to His sweet words. He cured those who had need of healing. The twelve disciples were always with Jesus. They went with Him everywhere; they prayed with Him and served Him. While Jesus Christ was sitting teaching people, a young boy of your age ran to Jesus and said, "I want to see Christ". The boy saw Christ's bright face shine like the sun. Christ's voice was sweet and effective. Christ took hold of the boys hand and said, "Stay with me". Jesus asked His disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?" (How many disciples are there?) But they would not answer Him because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus paused for a while then He said to the child, "Come here". When the boy drew near Jesus, Jesus said: Assuredly I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom or God as a little child will by no means enter It". His disciples listened attentively. They desired to study every word He said. But the child asked Jesus to explain this to him and Jesus said, "My heart is filled with love for the children. Then he said to his disciples, "Let the children come".

How many disciples did Jesus have?

Describe Jesus' face.

Why didn't the disciples answer Jesus' question?

Let us say the verse: Let the children...

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ loves me and I should love Him too. In my prayers I tell Him that I love Him too and that He is my best friend. The church also love the children just like Jesus Christ.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of an angel and color the picture and trim.
- ❖ Bring other children with you to church.

3 - Friends of Jesus Christ

Objective:

- ❖ To make Jesus Christ a friend to each child

Memory Verse:

“Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42)

Reference

- ❖ Luke 10

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Ask the children who is their best friend?
- ❖ Do you know if Jesus Christ had friends? Who are they?
- ❖ Would you like Jesus Christ to be your friend?

Lesson Outlines:

There were two sisters and a brother called Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They lived together in one house and they loved Jesus Christ very much. Jesus also loved them very much and they were very close friends. Jesus Christ used to visit them frequently and he was always comfortable in their house. One day Jesus went to visit them and they made a big dinner for Him. Martha was very busy in the kitchen preparing the food, all kinds of tasty and delicious plates. But Mary her sister went and sat down at the feet of Jesus Christ to listen to what He said and His nice words. Martha became upset because Mary her sister was not helping her in the kitchen to prepare the food. So, Martha went to Jesus to complain about her sister. But Jesus wanted Martha to come and sit with them and listen to His words too. He really wanted Martha to spend time with them and chat with them. Jesus then told Martha, Martha...Martha, you are worried and busy with the food and the serving but you really need to come and sit with Me just like Mary did. Jesus wanted to spend time with His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus and He wanted them to listen to His sweet words.

- ❖ What did Martha do for Christ?
- ❖ What did Mary do?
- ❖ What did Martha complain about?
- ❖ What did Jesus tell Martha?

Let us recite the verse.

Conclusion:

Jesus also is my friend and He wants me to spend time and listen to His words in church, Sunday school and when we read the Holy Bible at home with our parents or brothers and sisters.

Applications:

- ❖ Discuss with the children how they should listen in the church during the Holy Mass and in Sunday school during the lesson. Children must not be distracted with playing and leave Christ.
- ❖ Explain to them that when they listen to the Bible is like when Jesus comes and visits them. Encourage the children to ask their parents to read the Bible for them.

4 - House Built on the Rock

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children the importance of obeying God's commandments

Memory verse:

"The LORD is my rock" (Psalm 18:2)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse.
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids: a small toy house, sand, rocks, and water.
- ❖ Many times when Jesus wanted to tell His disciples and the people a message He would put it in a story so they might understand it. These stories are called parables....what are they called?

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ Many people wanted to walk with Jesus because they liked to see the miracles He does.
- ❖ Jesus used to talk to the people about the things God wants us to do.
- ❖ He taught them the commandments of His Father.
- ❖ Jesus told the people they should follow the commandments of God if they want to enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ❖ He told them that there was a man who wanted to build a house. He went and searched and found a big rock and he built his house on this rock.

- ❖ Few days later a strong storm came and lots and lots of rain came down but his house did not fall because it was built on a strong and stable rock. Can you break a rock easily??
- ❖ Then a great flood came and many houses were swept away, but his house did not fall because it was built on the rock.
- ❖ Then a great wind blew and kept beating on the house but the house did not fall because it was built on the rock.
- ❖ And Jesus said that every man who hears the words He says and obey them is like this wise man that built his house on the rock nothing can make him fall.
- ❖ Now there was another man who built his house on the sand and when the rain came down, the flood came and the winds blew and beat that house. So, it fell a great fall because sand is not as strong as a rock.
- ❖ Every man who hears the words of Jesus and do not do them is like this fool man who build his house on the sand.

Where did the first man build his house?

What happen to his house when flood came?

Where did the second man build his house?

What happened to his house when flood came?

Conclusion:

If we have strong faith like the rock, we would be like the man who built his house on the rock. So, no one can shack our faith and love to Jesus Christ just like the rain could not destroy the house on the rock.

Application:

- ❖ Draw picture of the house on the rock with rain and flood around it

5 - David and His Friend Jonathan

Objective:

To learn to share things with friends and others

Memory Verse:

“Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David” (1Samuel 18:4)

Reference:

1 Samuel 17:22-18:5

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Ask the children if they share their things with their friends?
- ❖ What do you share with others?
- ❖ Prepare pictures for the lesson.

Lesson Outlines:

David was a young shepherd boy and son of a poor family. David loved God very much and trusted in Him. Once, there was a giant man called Goliath and he was cursing the people of God. He also asked that one of the people of God to come and fight with him. Everybody was scared of Goliath because he was big and strong. David was the only one who was courageous and came out to fight Goliath. David picked 5 stones and his stick and went to fight Goliath. Goliath laughed at him because he was small and did not have any weapons with him. But David did not care because he knew that God is with him. David took one of his stones, turned it around and threw it at Goliath. It struck Goliath's head and dropped him to the floor. Thus David won the fight.

When Jonathan the son of king Saul saw the courage of David he loved him very much and they became very close friends. Jonathan and king Saul brought David to stay with them in their house. Jonathan and David were spending a lot of time together and played together. Jonathan wanted to show his love to David so he gave him his robe, his armor, and even his sword. Jonathan the son of the king was sharing everything with David the shepherd, even all their secrets.

Conclusion:

Sharing is a good thing to do with all people especially with our friends. We should share every thing like our food, toys and goodies with our friends.

Applications:

- ❖ Let two boys act as Jonathan and David sharing a robe, armor and sword prepared by the servant.
- ❖ Ask the children to share their toys and food this week with their friends, brothers and sisters at home and school.

6 - Communion

Objective:

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

Memory verse:

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

References:

John 6:49-58

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

us the absolution. We also clean our bodies, by taking a shower and wear clean and respectable clothes, as if we are going to meet the president of the US. In reality we are going to meet someone much greater than any president in the world, the God who created all of us. Keep this in mind and do not get busy with anything or talk in the church. And, if you find that the child next to you wants to talk, remind him of the reverence of the church and the presence of God in His house.

- ❖ We must come early to the church. Tell your parents politely, and if they are still late, ask the priest to talk to them. Little by little they will do it and you will start following the Liturgy from the beginning. Take one of the prayers book and follow. If you can't find one, ask your Sunday school teacher or the priest to supply more books or share with others. Try to participate in the Liturgy hymns with a soft voice, not louder than others.
- ❖ When you take Communion don't rush, push and shove, wait for your turn politely. Everyone will take equally. Make sure that you do not talk with other children when you are waiting to take communion. Keep your mouth closed after you take the Body and Blood until you are finished and drink water. This way you are sure that nothing fell out of your mouth. Wait in the church, praising God with the deacons, singing Psalm 150, until the priest sprays the water and sends you in peace.

Conclusion/Questions:

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

Applications:

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

7 - Simeon the Elder

Objective:

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

Memory verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Luke 2:22-35

Introduction:

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

Lesson Outline:

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

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

This man went all the way to India and succeeded but he died young and after him came a man named Ptolemy who ruled Egypt. This new ruler was afraid of the things written in our Holy books and wanted them translated to Greek and put in the famous Alexandria library. He ordered 72 of the Elders to be taken to Alexandria. When we arrived there, we were put every two in a separate place from the rest, and given our Hebrew Holy Book to translate it to Greek. He did that, so we would not be able to cheat him.

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

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

I was hoping that I will see this happen soon, a Virgin with the baby Lord, but it didn't. I saw many wars, famines, and disasters and I grew older hundred years. My body became very weak

but nothing happened. My wife and children and grand children died and I was left alone. Then the worst happened, I lost my sight and all hope that I will see Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin. I told myself maybe I will hear about them, but after another hundred years, it didn't happen. I think I was punished by the Lord for trying to change His word." Today, I wake up and found myself here in the temple. The Spirit of the Lord carried me here. The Lord gave me strength to stand on my feet without a staff and I started asking the people where I was? And they told me that I am at the temple. Then I remembered the Lord's word to me 300 years ago. My eyes start seeing again. All the mothers and their children were like shadows to me except one very young mother and her child. They were clear to sight as I used to see when I was a young man. I took her child on my hands and start seeing everything and everyone clear. I knew that the

Lord fulfilled his promise to me 300 years ago to see with my two eyes Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin. He is our Salvation and all the nations too.

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

Conclusion/Questions:

- ❖ Where did Simeon meet Virgin Mary and the child Jesus?
- ❖ How old was Jesus? How old was Simeon?
- ❖ When did Simeon die?
- ❖ What was his work?
- ❖ What was the name of the king who built Alexandria? Who followed him after he died?
- ❖ Why Ptolemy was afraid of the Holy Book of the Jews?
- ❖ How many Elders he sent to Alexandria? And to do what? What is the name of this Translation?
- ❖ What book did Simeon translate? What verse did he want to change? Why?
- ❖ What happened during the night?
- ❖ How long did he live after that? What happened to his country? His family? His health?
- ❖ Did he lose all hope? Why?
- ❖ How did he come to the temple that day if he was weak and blind?
- ❖ When did he start seeing? Who did he see more clearly than anybody else?
- ❖ What happened after he finished his story? When do we celebrate his departure?

Applications:

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