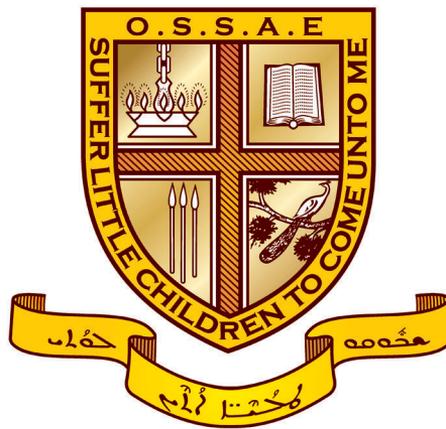


ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAYSCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST



Nazareth Division Class II (English)

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Preface

Education is a continuing and refreshing endeavour which attempts to train and equip kids and the young people for a spiritual, active and successful life; and hence it is an 'investment' for today and tomorrow. The myriad possibilities of education have encouraged religion, countries and ideologies to adapt it for furthering their objectives and long term aims. In the Christian tradition "Christian education' is a ministry of the Church.

Secular education programme in every situation and country has undergone enormous transformation through the years. More and more study and research is going into the philosophical base, content, techniques of teaching and learning, learners' participation, technique of evaluation etc. So it is only natural School that 'revisions' happen from time to time.

"Christian Education", for which the Sunday lays the foundation and prods nurture, is never intended to be a carbon copy of what happens in the world of secular education. Christian education has its unique aim and objectives, philosophy, ethics and vision. However, it is not irrelevant to learn from the relevant and succesful 'techniques' available and adopted in the secular front. But we must be constantly careful, never to slip away from our firm Orthodox foundations!

It is highly commendable that the Orthodox Syrian Sundayschool Association has taken the bold step to completely revise the whole curriculum, trusting in God, who loves children. Every lesson and every detail is prepared after a pretty long stretch of study, discussion, correction and revisits by a team of people who have the interest and expertise to engage in this exacting and time-consuming exercise. Provisions are made to give proper guidelines and direction to teachers. All this study materials are being prepared in Malayalam and English simultaneously. The regional schools, especially, those outside India, shall adapt these basic materials to suit local situations, linguistic and cultural variances; and aptitudes of children but keeping the broad structure and basics intact.

These revised study materials are dedicated to the Church, with the fervent expectation that all those who love the Church, and our children who are dear our Lord Jesus Christ, shall certainly welcome this venture.

Devalokom
20-10-2012

Yakob Mar Irenious Metrapolitan
President, OSSAE

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Introduction

We are living through a period of rapid changes. The educational sector reflects these changes to a great extent. Secular education is undergoing a lot of revisions and children are greatly influenced by secular education. Therefore Sunday School Curriculam also requires to be revised according to the new learning methods. The comprehensive revision of the curriculum is undertaken in the light of this reality.

We have no notion that just by implementing the secular methodology of learning, we can reform the character of our children. The fundamental principle there should be the teacher-student relationship modelled on the love between Christ and his disciples. The method of presentation followed in this book would help teachers and students alike in the transaction of the topics discussed.

This textbook comes as a product of the strenuous efforts of the Curriculum Revision Committee headed by H.G. Dr. Yakob Mar Irenius, President, OSSAE. The contributions of those who wrote various units are invaluable. This textbook, on its completion, owes much to all members of the curriculum Committee, especially H.G. Mar Irenius, President OSSAE and executive editor Sam V. Daniel. Suggestions to improve this book are welcome.

Let me pray for this New Curriculum to inaugurate a new age of Spiritual Enlightenment in Sunday School education. Let me also place on record the gratitude to all those who worked for it.

Devalokam
20-12-2012

Fr. Dr. O. Thomas
Director General

Dear students, teachers and parents

We are undertaking a comprehensive revision of the Sunday School Curriculum. Relevant changes have been brought about in the content and structure of the lessons. We are preparing a Teachers' Handbook along with the textbook for students. We expect that this arrangement will be helpful to teachers and students alike.

The period of learning from Pre-School to Class XII is divided into 5 stages

1. Bethlahem	Preschool class	Upto Age 5
2. Nazareth	Class I to III	Age 5-7
3. Galilee	Class IV to VII	Age 8-11
4. Jerusalem	Class VIII to X	Age 12-14
5. Tabor	Class XI and XII	Age 15-16

This is the textbook for Class II in the Nazareth category. Let us look into the structure of the lessons given in the textbook.

1. Theme (What is this lesson about): The central idea that should be sensitised through each lesson is given here. We should give special emphasis to this idea while transacting a lesson.

2. Verse to be memorized: A biblical verse related to the central theme of the lesson is given for memorizing. The teacher should read out this verse from the Holy Bible at the end of the class and the students should say it aloud several times. Students may be encouraged to learn the verse, including its reference, by heart.

3. Learning Aids: Take care to provide pictures and books, connected to the central theme as well as the Holy Bible in the classroom.

4. Introduction: This section helps in making the lesson attractive and enjoyable. Simple questions, anecdotes connected with the life-experience of children and the things we see around are given here.

A simple and enjoyable introduction alone ensures easy learning further. Therefore the ideas given here are to be presented with diligence.

5. Reading Passage or text: This is the content of the lesson. We have tried our best to make it student-centred. The ideas should be presented in a participatory manner. There should be good amount of student involvement. The teacher should take the Holy Bible to class. He should read out the Biblical passages. The descriptions made should have the quality of a narration. The students should be encouraged through interaction questions. Certain significant passages could be recited by them in Chorus. Questions given in the 'Pause and reflect' section must be presented before the students. Song or hymns, picture stories, short plays etc. are given in the lesson.

Students shall be made to sing songs and enact small plays. Stories should be read out to them. There are separate units of Prayer, Hymns of Worship, My Church, Good habits etc. The unit 'Prayer' aims at making the students say prayers in the evening and in the morning regularly. Students should be encouraged to do that. Directions for this are given in each lesson.

6. Let us think: These are evaluation questions given to examine how far the students have grasped the ideas in the text. The teacher should ask these questions to the class. Space for writing the answers are also provided. Either teacher or parent can write answers for the students.

7. Activities: Most of the tasks given in this section are for enacting, drawing, physical action or narration. Children shall be encouraged to do these tasks. The number of lessons have been reduced. Hence we believe that there will be ample time for these activities as well.

8. Sing along: A song or hymn connected with the lesson is given here. The teacher should sing it for the class and the students should recite it in chorus. Most of the songs are quite simple and familiar. So the students can sing them easily. Songs of OVBS classes are also included. The teacher may seek the help of others who have musical aptitude. It will be better if the teacher can supplement the song with suitable actions while reciting the songs.

9. Let us Pray: A simple prayer connected with the thme of the lesson is given here. The teacher and the students shall together say this prayer in the class. All should stand up and make the sign of the cross before the prayer. The teacher can recite it aloud and the student can repeat the prayer.

10. Resolution: An idea that can touch the students' mind like a decision and that can be implemented in their lives is given at the end of each lesson. Students can read it aloud.

11. Further Rreading: Various biblical passages connected with the lesson are given for reading in the evening and in the morning of all days of a week. If the students are unable to read them on their own, elders should read it aloud for them. The Biblical passages are arranged in such a manner that a student can read it form one Sunday evening till the next Sunday morning. Parents should encourage their wards to read the prescribed passages along with the prayers at home. We hope that this practice will prompt regular family prayers and meditation of Biblical verses.

The mode of evaluation for Nazareth category is oral examination. Hence students should be encouraged to say the answers clearly in the class. Teachers shall attempt to create a student friendly atmosphere in the class.

The service rendered by our Sunday School teachers in imparting spiritual training to the growing generation and confirming them in right faith and right worship is invaluable. Full co-operation of all students parents and teachers is essential for the successful imple-mentation of the New Curriculum. Since the new system is different to a great extend from the old, teachers should handle the new curriculum and methods of learning carefully and diligently. Be kind enough to let your valuable suggestions and encouragement known to us. Let there be abundant blessings of the benevolent God on this righteous endeavour of Sunday School teachers and other authorities for the sake of the Holy Church.

Dr. Sam V. Daniel

Executive Editor

Contents

Unit 1: Bible Stories

<i>Chapter 1: Garden of Eden</i>	11
<i>Chapter 2: Noah's Ark</i>	18
<i>Chapter 3: Abraham and God's Messengers</i>	23
<i>Chapter 4: The Prophet Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath</i>	28
<i>Chapter 5: A shepherd boy becomes King</i>	32
<i>Chapter 6: The Visit of the Wisemen (Magi) from the East</i>	39
<i>Chapter 7: The wedding at Cana</i>	45
<i>Chapter 8: Jesus and Little Children</i>	49
<i>Chapter 9: Jesus Heals a Paralytic</i>	52
<i>Chapter 10: Jesus' Dearest Family</i>	56

Unit 2: Prayer

<i>Chapter 11: Let us Pray Regularly</i>	62
<i>Chapter 12: Let us pray: The Kauma</i>	67
<i>Chapter 13: Let us observe Lent (fasting seasons) and pray</i>	71

Unit 3: Liturgical Hymns

<i>Chapter: 14: Let us Sing and Pray</i>	75
<i>Chapter 15: Let us Sing Songs of Intercession</i>	79

Unit 4: My Church

<i>Chapter 16: The Importance of Church Worship</i>	82
<i>Chapter 17: How to conduct ourselves in the Church?</i>	86

Unit 5: Introducing Great Personalities

Chapter 18: Holy Innocents 90
Chapter 19: St. Kuriakose, the Martyr 94

Unit 6: Good Habits

Chapter 20: Cleanliness 98
Chapter 21: Be a Good Friend 101

Unit 1

Bible Stories



Chapter 1

Garden of Eden

(Genesis Chapters 1, 2)

Central Message: The whole universe is created by God. We shall feel the glory of God by observing all these.

Verse to be memorised: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Learning Aids: 1. Picture of Garden of Eden
2. Picture of Birds, Animals, Fruits etc.

What is this lesson about?

The whole universe is created by God. The sky, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, birds, animals, reptiles, fish and human beings - all these are creations of God. On the Sixth day God created man and he was put in the beautiful garden of Eden. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by the temptation of Satan and God drove them out of the Garden. This is the story related in the lesson.

Introduction

We have on the planet earth, right? What all things are here on earth besides we human beings? We see a lot of living beings like birds, animals, plants etc. on this earth. How beautiful they are! Flowering plants, Fruit bearing trees, domestic animals, wild animals - all these were created by God. God didn't create all of them in one day. He took six days to complete the creation Let us read the story today.

The Lesson

Don't you know that whatever we see around us were created by God? The sky and the earth. The details of creation is given in the first two chapters of the book of Genesis, the first book in the Holy Bible. The teacher reads Genesis 1:1 ie. The first verse in the Holy Bible. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. "Please say after me this verse three times".

At that time, the earth was empty and void with no plants, trees or living beings. Then, on each day God created light, seas, trees, animals, birds, fish etc. one after another. God the creator found everything He created as good.

When He finished creating all these He said. "Let us make man in our own image". When you play, you make different shapes of mud. Much in the same way, God made the shape of human being and breathed life breath in to its nostrils. What a wonderful thing! That human form immediately became a living man. He was given the name 'Adam. God created a beautiful garden called Eden and Adam was put in this Garden of Eden.

Pause... Think

1. What did God create in the beginning?
2. Who did God create in His own image?
3. What was the name of the first man?
4. Which was the garden where the first man was made to live?

At that A time. Adam was the only human being on this earth. He was all alone. He didn't like to be alone as he had no friends. Do you like to sit alone in your home? Adam also was not happy then. For this God found a solution. God decided to create a human being as a friend to Adam.

One day while Adam was asleep in the garden of Eden, God took a rib from Adam's side and created a women and the new creation was called 'Eve'. She is the mother of all human beigns. Adam was very happy when he saw her. God put

them in the garden of Eden which was full of trees, plants, fruits and flowers, rivers with pure water. Everyday God came to see them, they spent their time with God, walked with God and they were very happy.

Do you know how many days God took to create all these? Six days only! God took rest on the seventh day. God blessed the day and sanctified it. This day is called the 'Sabbath' day. We observe 'Sunday' of every week as sabbath day. On that day we keep away from other duties and go to church for attending the Holy Qurbana to praise God and to study in the Sunday School. Don't you know God likes this very much?

Pause... Think

1. Whom did God create as a friend to Adam?
2. How many days did God take to create all things?
3. God sanctified the seventh day what is that day called?

God asked them not to eat the fruits of the tree at the centre of the Garden of Eden-the tree bearing the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil or else they would die. They lived there obeying God. One afternoon, Satan put on the shape of a serpent and approached Eve and tempted to eat the forbidden fruit.

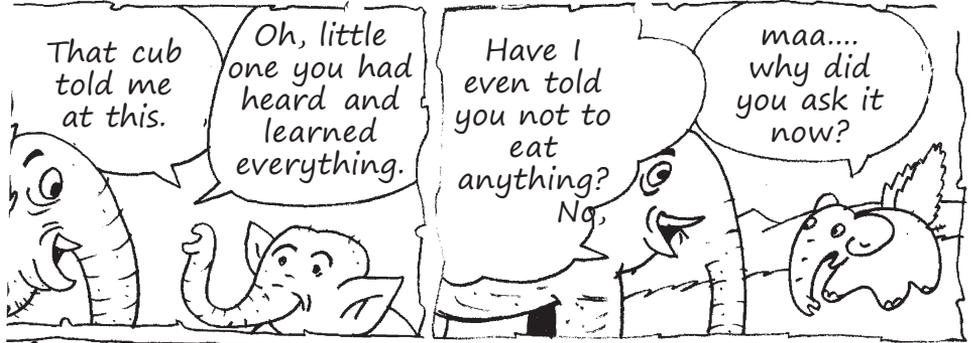
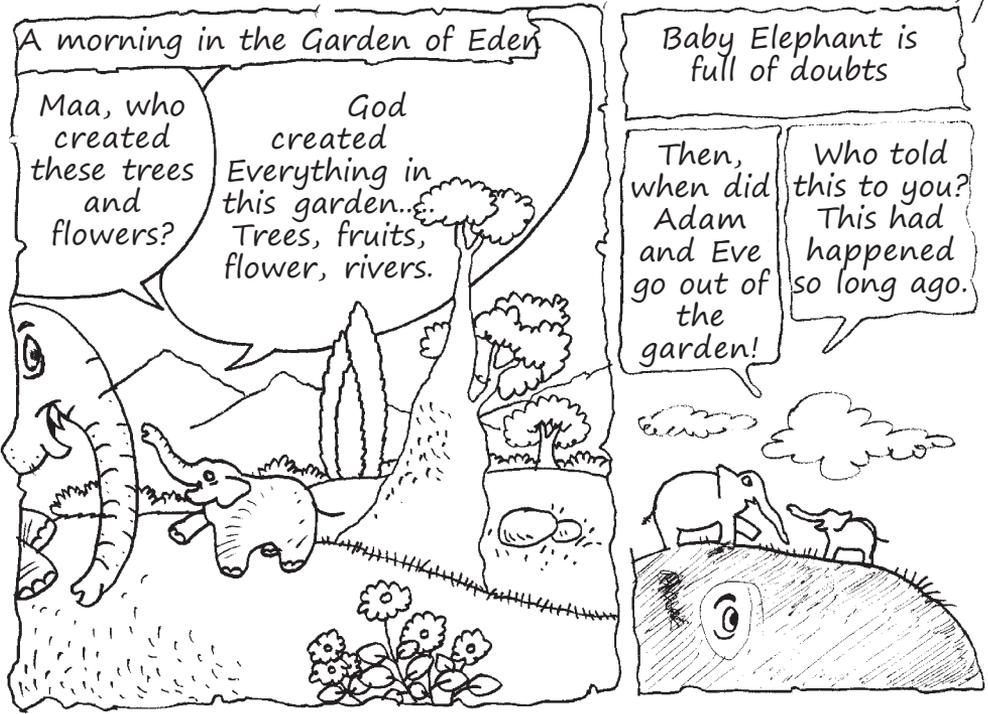
Will you do obey when your Pappa, Mummy or teacher if they ask you not to do a particular thing? Will you do them just to please your friends? You will never do that. But in this story, Eve ate the fruit and gave it to Adam. Both of them thus disobeyed God. God didn't like this. Hence He drove them out of the garden and placed cherubim (angels) with swords at the entrance to the garden.

If we are disobedient, Pappa and Mummy would become angry and unhappy. They do it not because they hate us but to make us good children.

God also does not hate us. But He always loves us. But God doesn't like us to do evil things. God likes us to grow as good children.

All of you like the story, don't you? Now we shall read the following picture story. Teacher will read it and all of you look at the pictures and listen carefully.

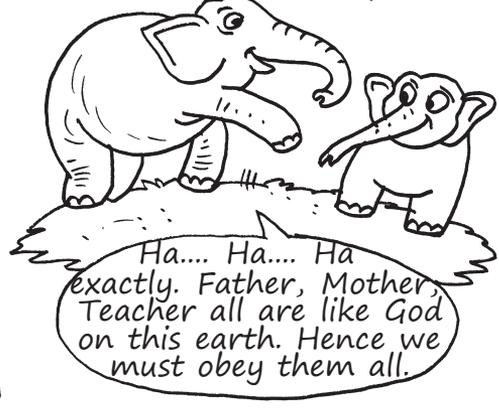
Picture Story





We must obey if God tells us to do something.

Like me..... I always obey you, don't I?



Let us think

1. What did God create in the beginning?
.....
2. Who were the first human beings?
.....
3. Where were Adam and Eve placed to live?
.....
4. Who deceived the first human beings?
.....
5. What wrong did they do?
.....
6. What punishment did God give them?
.....

Activities

- 1) Can you name some animals and birds on earth which were created by God?
.....

- 2) Try to present this story to class through a role play.
.....

Vocabulary

- 1) Combine the letters inside the circles and read.

1. ⒸI**VE** Ⓘ**UT** ⒹE**N**

2. Ⓐ**P**PLE ⒹA**R**K Ⓐ**R**M ⓂA**N**

3. Ⓔ**N**D ⒱A**N** Ⓔ**G**G

4. Ⓒ**S**NG S**A**NG T**A**NG R**A**NG B**A**NG

5. S**O**N B**U**N P**E**N D**E**N T**I**N T**E**N M**E**N C**A**N**E**

6. Ⓔ**N**D S**E**N**D** B**E**N**D** T**E**N**D**

Let us Sing

OVBS Song (2006)

Only once Only once
Our life is this world
Live in peace love in peace
Enjoy life in Christ
 Got with us God Loves us
 Make life wonderful
Sing for God dance for God
Ensure peace in World.

Let us pray

Oh God, you have created the Heaven and the earth and all on this earth things. Help us to love and help other with out causing grief to them. Let us be obeying your will. Amen.

Resolution

We will love and protect all living things, plants and trees.
We will never be disobedient. We will obey parents teachers and elders.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Genesis 1:1-13
Monday	Psalm 24:1-5	Genesis 1:14-23
Tuesday	1 John 3:1-12	Genesis 1:24-31
Wednesday	Genesis 2:1-3	Genesis 2:4-17
Thursday	Psalm 11:4-7	Genesis 2:18-25
Friday	Genesis 3:1-8	Genesis 3:9-14
Saturday	St.John 1:1-12	Genesis 3:16-24
Sunday	Acts 17:24-28	*

Chapter 2

Noah's Ark

(Genesis Chapters 6-9)

Central Message: God saved Noah and his family because they, obeyed His commandments. God punished those who did wrong, but never repented.

Verse to be memorised: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:2)

Learning Aids: 1. Model of a boat
2. Picture of Noah's Ark
3. Picture of Rainbow.

What is this lesson about?

In the beginning God created the earth and everything in it and also human beings. Human population steadily increased. Along with their numbers, the sins of humans also increased. This made the good God very unhappy, because God cannot allow evil to exist. So God made big flood to destroy evil human beings. But God made arrangements to save Noah, who was just and righteous, from the flood. Let us learn more about Noah.

Introduction

When does winter season start in our country? Rain brings a lot of water to the earth. Do you like the rainy season? If there are torrential rains continuously for a few days, there will be flood all around. Big floods may result in a lot of damage to life and property - trees will get uprooted, traffic will be obstructed, flights will be delayed and infectious diseases might spread. We are going to read about a huge flood that happened as punishment from God.

The Lesson

We have already learnt that God created Adam and Eve. Their descendants - were so many and they filled the land. They never obeyed God, instead they led

evil lives. This made God very sad and angry. He decided to destroy all evil doing people from the earth.

Qu: Why did God decide to destroy many human beings?

.....
.....

On what will happen if evil is allowed to increase?

However, Noah who was a good and righteous man who lived there with his family received the grace of God. He had three sons. They were Shom, Ham, Jophel say something about Noah's message to the people allow flood. They loved and obeyed God and always did good to others. So God loved them and was not willing to destroy them.

Qn: Why did God decide not to destroy Noah and his family?

.....
.....

God revealed this to Noah and said "I am going to bring a big flood which will destroy all the bad people of the earth. "But you and family would remain safe from the flood. You must make a big boat (Ark) with three floors. You and your family and one male and female each from all animals and birds should enter the Ark!"

You know what Noah did? Noah completely obeyed God and made a big boat (Ark) with three floors, using Cypress wood. Noah did everything as commanded by God. He and his family, animals and birds, in two's entered the Ark. God closed the door of the Ark.

Qn: What wood was used by Noah to construct the Ark?

.....
.....

Qn: Who was the first human being to build a big boat?

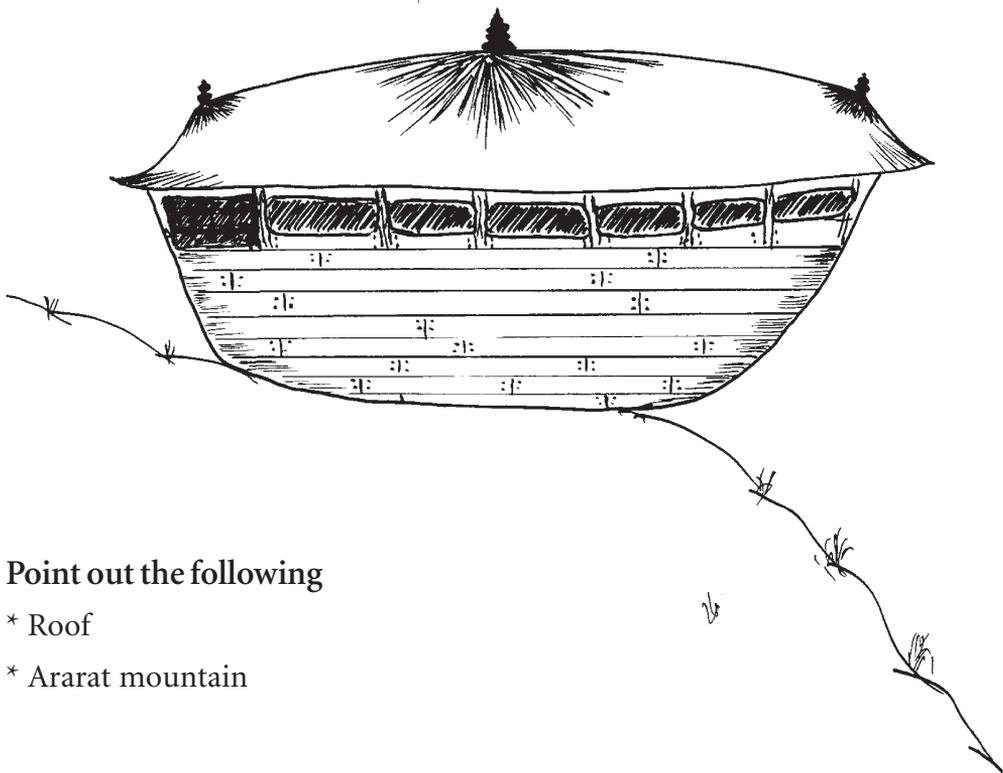
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Then there was continuous heavy rain for forty days and nights. The water rose even above the highest mountains on earth. Then what would have happened to the Ark? Yes, the Ark started floating and moving in the water. In the Ark, Noah and his family sang praises to God. Do you know how many of them were there? Noah and his wife along with his three sons and their wives. They were eight in

number. “What would have happened to all living beings during the great flood?

Yes, they all perished - human beings, birds, animals, every thing See the sad end of evil people. But God saved Noah and his family who were inside the Ark. After the flood Noah and his family built an altar for God. He sacrificed some animals and birds there. God was satisfied with this sacrifice and pitied mankind. God gave word to Naoh that from then on the creations would not be destroyed by flood. As a symbol, God made a rainbow on the sky. Have you seen a rainbow? How beautiful it! How many colors are there in it? Yes, seven colours. When you see this rainbow, you must think of the covenant God made with Noah.

Hope you all like the story of Noah. God will care for those who obey Him. We must obey God and do His will and live as God’s children. Then God will save us from all dangers.



Point out the following

- * Roof
- * Ararat mountain

Let us think

1. Why did God make a flood on earth?
.....
2. Whose family obeyed God?
.....
3. How did God save that family?
.....
4. How many people were there in Noah's Ark?
.....
5. How many sons did Noah have?
.....
6. Name the sons of Noah
.....
7. What is the symbol that showed the Covenant of God with Noah not to destroy earth by flood in future?
.....

Activities

1. Draw the picture of a boat similar to Noah's Ark.

2. Answer the puzzle.

First letter of this name is in net but not in 'pet'. The second letter is in 'on' but not in 'in'. Third letter is the first of the alphabet. Last letter is in 'hot', but not in 'got'.

Answer.

.....

Let us pray

Lord, give us the wisdom and humility to obey your commandments.

Resolution

We shall do God's will by obeying His commandments.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Genesis 6:11-22
Monday	Psalm 142:6,7	Genesis 7:1-5
Tuesday	Psalm 117	Genesis 7:6-15
Wednesday	Psalm 42:1-11	Genesis 7:16-23
Thursday	Proverb 7:1-3	Genesis 8:1-11
Friday	Psalm 143:6-11	Genesis 8:12-22
Saturday	Psalm 44:1-8	Genesis 9: 1-28
Sunday	Psalm 119:1-8	*

Chapter 3

Abraham and God's Messengers

(Genesis 18:1-15)

Central Message: Treating our guests nicely is a graceful thing. God knows what his dear ones need; and help them in their times of need.

Verse to be memorised: "Keep on loving one another as Christian brothers. Remember to welcome strangers in your homes." (Hebrews 13:1)

Learning Aids:

1. Picture of a guest being received pleasantly at home
2. Picture of Abraham greeting three angels (God's messengers)
3. Holy Bible

What is this lesson about?

This lesson deals with Abraham who was blessed when he got a chance to receive God's messengers without knowing that they are God's messengers.

Introduction

Children, many guests come to our houses at various times, don't they? How do we treat them? We provide them with food, drink etc. We give alms to the needy ones. We respect them by doing all these and we must do this with happiness. Treating guests is the same as treating God. We must honour not only the important guests but also the simple and poor ones who come to our house. Abraham, a strong devotee of God was a highly hospitable man. One day three people, who were messengers of God, appeared near his house. Abraham treated them in the most befitting manner and we are going to read that story today.

The Lesson

There lived a good man, named Abraham. He was truly devoted to God and obeyed God in everything. So he was called, "The father of the faithful". God loved Abraham very much. Both Abraham and his wife Sarah were strong believers. Sarah, Abraham's wife was barren – they had no children. Naturally, this made them unhappy; but still they obeyed and worshipped God.



One day, Abraham was sitting at the door of his house, when he saw three people coming to his house. He did not know who they were. They were strangers.

Qn: In such a situation, what would you do, if you were in Abraham's position?

.....
.....

Abraham was a good host. He ran out of his house to receive them. He bowed down and greeted them; then he brought water and washed their feet. He requested them to come into the house. He prepared a sumptuous feast. The three guests were very happy. Before leaving the place, they gave Abraham a blessing.

Qn: Can you guess what the blessing was?

.....

They blessed him, saying that, when they visit the place after a year, Sarah would give birth to a son!

Qn: Who do you think these three people were?

.....

Yes, they were angels or God's messengers. Abraham and Sarah got a son as a blessing, because they were hospitable to the three strangers (who were angels).

Now, you are curious to know the boy's name, aren't you? His name was Issac.

In this way we must be kind and hospitable to those who come to us hungry and thirsty.

This is a happy moral for us! right? Then God will be pleased with us and give us His blessings.

Let us Think

1. Who received and treated God's messengers?

.....

2. What is the name of Abraham's wife?

.....

3. How many people did appear before Abraham?

.....

4. What was their blessing to Abraham as a reward of his hospitality?
.....
5. What are the advantages of receiving guests?
.....
6. Who is the 'Father of the Faithful'?
.....
7. How did Abraham treat the guests?
.....
8. What all food items did Abraham prepare for the guests?
.....
9. What is the name of the son who was given to Abraham and Sarah in their old age?
.....
10. Suppose God comes to your house as a guest. How will you treat Him?
Give your view points
.....
.....
.....
.....

Activities

1. Enact a skit in the class based on the following hints.

A family.....in a dream Jesus comes to him says Jesus will visit their house the next day the whole family awaits Jesus visit makes arrangements for receiving Jesus..... In the morning a beggar comes rejects him another beggar comes at noon time he is hungry gives nothing to him After sometime comes a woman with a babyshe asks something to eat for the crying baby gives nothing to them

..... still waits for Jesus to come evening time
 Jesus does not come the whole family becomes sad waits
 for some more time can't/ see Jesus goes for sleep
 again the head of the family sees a dream Jesus appears
 says..... I came to your house thrice on this day you
 didn't consider me you did not give anything to me he
 remembers the three visitors of the day feels ashamed
 understands the real situation we must treat the guests as Jesus
 himself.

2. Tell the story of Abraham treating. God's angles.

Let us sing

A small hymn suited to the lesson

Let us pray

God, our loving father teach us to help others, who are in difficulties, like father Abraham.

Resolution

We will be hospitable our guests and show kindness to those who need our help.

Follow up Reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Genesis 18:1-15
Monday	St.Luke 10: 30-42	St.Luke 11:5-13
Tuesday	St.Matthew 25:31-45	St.Luke 11:37-41
Wednesday	St.Luke 12:35-40	St.Luke 12:42-48
Thursday	St.Luke 14:1-6	St.Luke 14:7-14
Friday	St.Luke 12: 28-34	St.Luke 101-11
Saturday	2 Kings 4:8-17	St.Luke 10:12-29
Sunday	St.Luke 25:1-13	*

Chapter 4

The Prophet Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

(1 kings 17: 7-16)

Central Message: If we surrender everything that we have to God Almighty for the benefit of others, God will multiply it however small it is.

Verse to be memorised: “Those who obey God lack nothing good” (Psalms 34:10)

Learning Aids: 1. Picture showing food items, clothes etc.
2. Picture of prophet Elijah and the widow

What is this lesson about?

Prophct Elijah went to a widow at Zarephath and asked for loaf of bread. She gave him bread with out any hesitation and suddenly a miracle happened. We shall read it from the story.

Introduction

Children, if a man comes to your house so tired of thirst and hunger and asks something to eat, what will you do?

Children: We will receive him and ask mother to give him something to eat. Oh! Good children!

Once a prophet came to a poor widow. He was so tired and asked her a loaf of bread and a little water. She didn't think of her poverty and gave the prophet bread and water. Today we are going to read the miracle that happened then.

The Lesson

Widow is a woman whose husband died. Long ago the condition of the widows was so pathetic. There was nobody to help them. In old Testament, the widows and the orphans are the two categories which need special consideration.

In the town of Zarephath, there lived a poor widow and her son. There happened a great famine in Zarephath. Prophet Elijah came to Zarephath as per

God's will. He was so tired. At the gate of the town, he saw a widow gathering firewood. He asked for a drink of water and a loaf of bread.

The widow answered humbly, "By the living LORD your God, I swear that I haven't got any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a drop of olive oil in a Jar. I came here to gather some firewood to take back home and prepare what little I have for my son and me. That will be our last meal and then we will starve to death."

"Don't worry" Elijah said to her "Go ahead and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, and then prepare the rest for you and your son. The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day the Lord sends rain."

The widow went and did as Elijah had told her. What a miracle! The flour in the bowl increased whenever it was taken and the amount of oil in the jar also increased. She became so happy. Her son, family members and herself lived without scarcity of food for many days. They all glorified the Lord.



Hope you all understood the miracle which happened through prophet Elijah. When we surrender our limitations and difficulties to the Lord, He will solve all those.

Let us Think

1. Name the place of the widow in this story
.....
2. Which prophet came to the widow?
.....
3. What all things were there with the widow?
.....
4. What did the prophet ask the widow?
.....
5. What blessing did the widow get when she obeyed the prophet?
.....

Activities

1. Say how we can give the following substances as charity.
 - a) Food
.....
 - b) Pen
.....
 - c) Pencil
.....
2. Tell this story in your class
3. Play this as a skit in your class

Moral

- *Charity is God's service.*
- *The more we give, the more we get.*
- *Helping others is a virtue and harming others is a sin.*

Let us sing

(Sing a simple hymn like)

“Enikkayi Karuthamennurachavane

.....

..... Enna kavinjohukeedume..”

Let us pray

Oh Merciful God, as the widow of Zarephath helped the prophet even in her poverty, give us your blessing to help others Amen.

Resolution

We will make use of our abilities for the benefit of others.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	1 Kings 17:7-16
Monday	1 Deuteranom 29:13-14	St.Matthew 25:34-40
Tuesday	Proverbs 19:16-17	St.Matthew 25:45-46
Wednesday	Psalm 15:1-5	2 Corinthians 8:1-4
Thursday	Psalm 41:1-4	1 John 3:17-19
Friday	Psalm 72:12-15	2 Corinthians 8:7-9
Saturday	Psalm 106:1-5	1Cori 6:19-20

Chapter 5

A shepherd boy becomes King

(1 Samuel 16: 1-13)

Central Message: God lifts the humble and the lowly.

Verse to be memorised: “God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble: (Psalms 46:1).

Learning aids: 1. Pictures of King and Shepherd
2. Picture of some sheep.

What is this lesson about?

Saul was the first king of Israel. Since Saul disobeyed God, God rejected him. According to God’s will, prophet Samuel went to Bethlehem and anointed Jesse’s Son David as the king of Israel.

Introduction

Have you seen shepherds? What is their occupation? See the picture of sheep (Tr shows the picture). Who were the first ones to go to Bethlehem to bow baby Jesus? Yes. Shepherds.

David was the son of Jesse, a native of Bethlehem in Israel. Haven’t you heard reading Psalms? Teacher shows the portion of “Psalms’ in the Holy Bible. The majority of chapters in Psalms were written by David. We are going to read the lesson which tells us about David who was anointed as the king of Israel by Prophet Samuel.

The Lesson

Saul was the first king of Israel. But Saul disobeyed the lord’s command. Samuel, the prophet of God knew this and went to Saul. He told Saul, “You rejected the Lord’s command, and He has rejected you as king of Israel.” Then they left each other.

Pause

1. Who was the first king of Israel?

.....

2. What was the sin committed by Saul?

.....

.....

3. Who was the prophet of Israel at the time of King Saul?

.....

After their separation, prophet Samuel grieved a lot. One day the Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you go on grieving over Saul? Go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, Because I have chosen one of his sons to be king.' As the Lord had directed, Samuel made preparation to go to Bethlehem.

If is early morning... the atmosphere is cool..... Samuel, the prophet of the Lord is going towards Bethlehem. What is the importance of Bethlehem? Don't you know? Jesus Christ was born here. Samuel carries the jar of olive oil to anoint the king. Prophet Samuel and his servant enjoyed the natural beauty of the place while they were walking to Bethlehem. He reached the house of Jesse to find out the king of Israel.

Let us think

1. Where was Jesse's house?

.....

2. Why did prophet Samuel go to Jesses house?

.....

.....

Talents

David was extremely talented in playing the warp. (-- possible show a picture)

Have you got any talents?

Do you encourage your friend's talents?



First of all the prophet purified Jesse and his sons. He called the sons one by one, first. Eliah..... then Abinadab..... then Shammah..... ‘No the Lord hasn’t chosen him either’ Samuel said. In this ways. Jesse brought seven of his sons to Samuel. And Samuel said to him, “No the Lord hasn’t chosen any of them.’ Then he asked him, “Have you any more sons?”

Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep.” “Tell him to come here” Samuel said. So Jesse sent for him. His name was David. He was the handsome healthy young man, and his eyes sparkled. The Lord said to Samuel, “This is the one anoint him!” Samuel took the olive oil and anointed David as the second King of Israel. David was a talented (haspic) player. The spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on. Later David became the king of Israel. Children, eventhough David was very small and the youngest of the brothers, he was selected by the Lord to become the king. Eventhough his talents were not identified by his brothers or parents, the Lord identified them. Likewise we also must believe in God firmly and live according to God’s will, God will dwell in us. He will raise us to great heights.

Let us think

- ✚ In what all ways can we practise God’s will?
- ✚ Participate in worship regularly
- ✚ Pray regularly
- ✚ Observe the lents
- ✚ Help others
- ✚ Read the bible regularly
- ✚ Attend Sunday School classes
- ✚ Obey our elders and parents
- ✚ Study well

.....

.....

.....

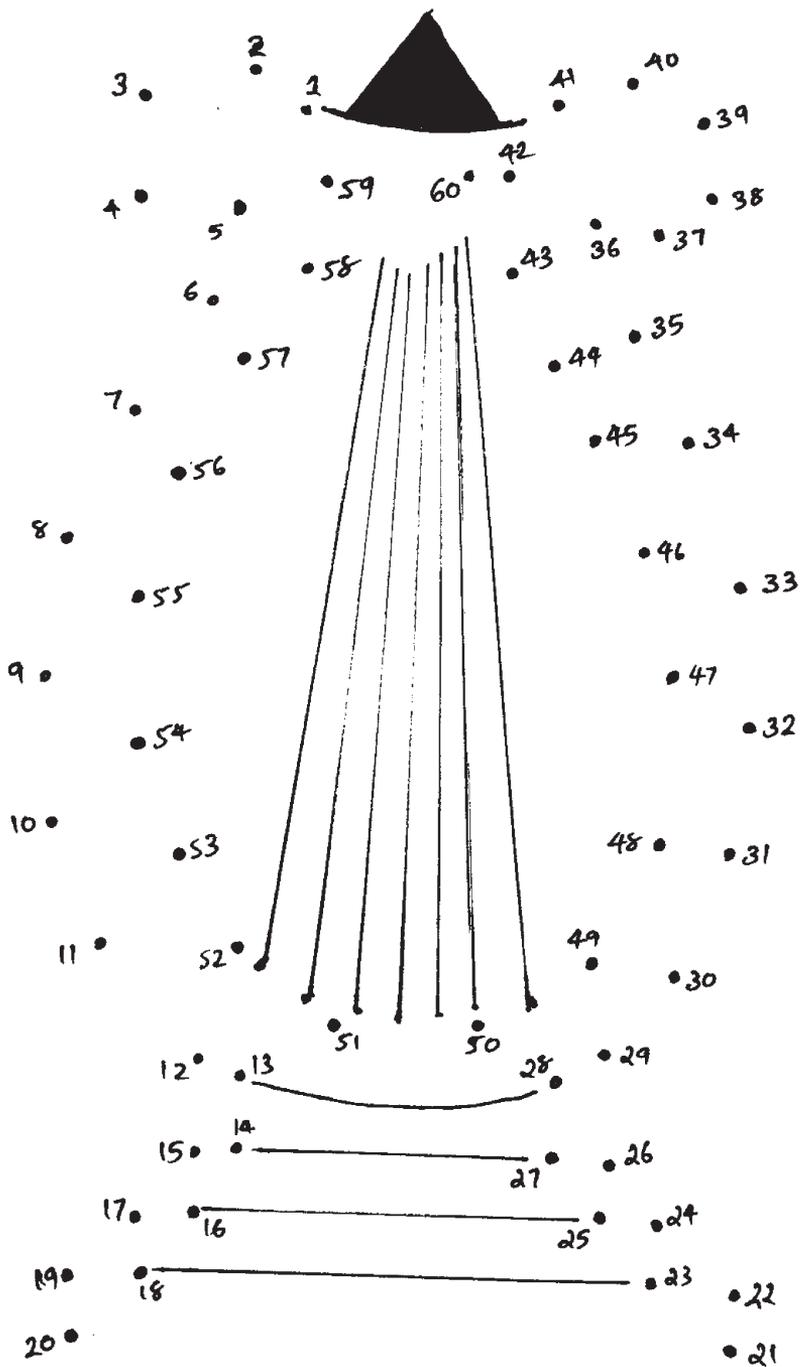
Let us think

1. Who was the shepherd boy who became the king of Israel?
.....
2. Name of David's father
.....
3. Native place of Jesse
.....
4. How many children did Jesse have?
.....
5. Who was the prophet of Israel at the time of David?
.....
6. Whom did Samuel anoint as the king?
.....
7. What were the peculiarities of the boy, David?
.....
8. What were the talents of David?
.....
.....
.....

Activities

1. Play a skit based on the story.
2. Make a dialogue between Jesse and Prophet David.
3. Identify the talents given to you.

4. See the musical instrument of David by joining the dots 1 to 60.



Let us sing

A small hymn

Let us pray

Oh Lord lift us in our lives as your dear children in the same way as you had lifted the shepherd boy David to become the king of Israel.

Resolution

We will depend on God for solving the problems that we face in whatever tasks we do.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	1 Samuel 16:1-3
Monday	Psalm 23:1-3	1 Samuel 16:4-6
Tuesday	Psalm 23:4-6	1 Samuel 16:7-13
Wednesday	Psalm 25:1-3	1 Samuel 16:18-23
Thursday	Psalm 25:4-7	St.John 10:1-6
Friday	Psalm 25:8-13	St.John 10:7-10
Saturday	Psalm 25:14-18	St.John 10:11-18
Sunday	Psalm 25:19-22	*

Chapter 6

The Visit of the Wisemen (Magi) from the East

(St. Matthew (2:1-12))

Central Message: All our learning and knowledge must lead us to God.

Verse to be Memorised: Happy are the pure in heart: they will see God.
(St. Matthew 5:8)

Learning aids: 1. A picture depicting the journey of the wisemen.
2. Pictures related to Christmas
3. Some frankincense.

What is this lesson about?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a manger, as the child of Virgin Mary. Three wisemen in the East who were scientists and astronomers saw an unusual star in the sky. They concluded that the wonderful star signified the birth of a wonderful baby. So they went all the way to Jerusalem to see the new born king.

Introduction

Three astronomers who saw the unusual and wonderful star in the East, followed the star in search of the wonderful king. They saw baby Jesus in Jerusalem, worshipped him and placed gifts before him. We will learn more about this incident.

The Lesson

You have heard about Christmas, haven't you? Yes. What do we celebrate at Christmas? It is the day Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a manger. We celebrate Christmas on 25th December every year.

Most of us were born in the hospital. But do you know, where Jesus was born; not in a house, not in a hospital, but in a manger, where the fodder for cattle is stored!

Mary, his mother wrapped him in swaddling clothes to save him from the cold. Did mother and baby Jesus receive any medical attention?

No, not at all.

At this time, some astronomers in the East were studying the stars in the sky. They were amazed to see an unusually bright star in the sky, different from all others. They discussed on the matter and came to the conclusion that a wonderful king was born somewhere.

Immediately, they started on a journey, seeking the 'baby king'. They were traveling on camels. They saw the unusual star moving above them, They followed it.

When we go to see a new born babe, What are the things that we would take with us?

Usually playthings, clothes, gifts and the like.

Similarly, three wise men brought gifts for the new born king – gold, myrrh and frankincense.

But how could they locate Bethlehem? The star which they saw moving above them, stopped moving at one point and stood still. It was exactly above Bethlehem where Jesus was born!

They knelt down before Jesus, placed gifts before him and worshipped him.

What were the gifts brought by the wisemen? Ans:

They were really fortunate. They could see and worship Jesus- the new born king.

It was their 'enquiring' nature that took them to Bethlehem. They used their scientific knowledge to seek God!

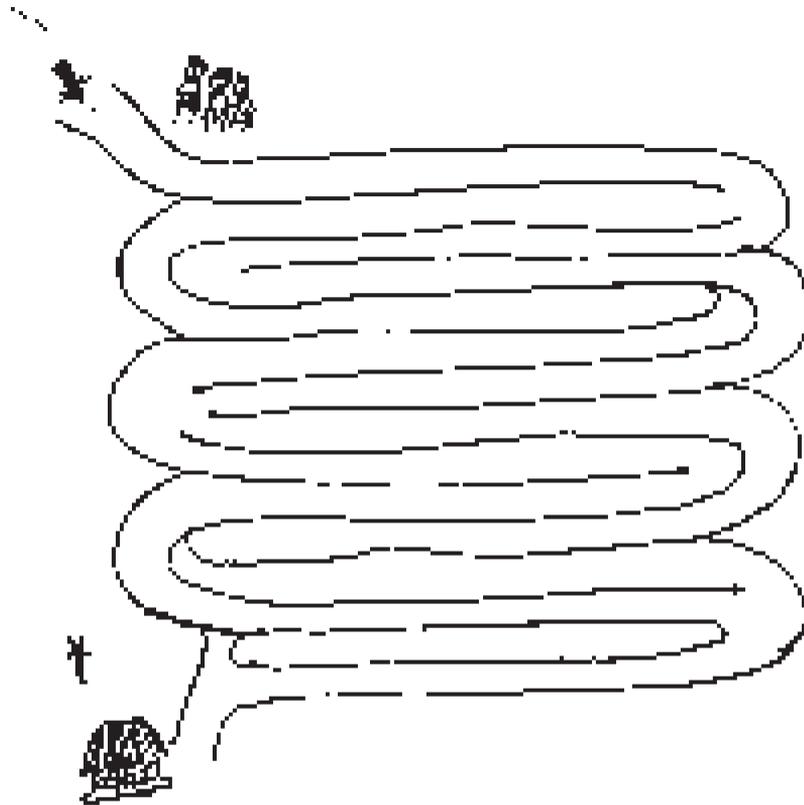
If you were the three astronomers, What would have you done?

Let us think

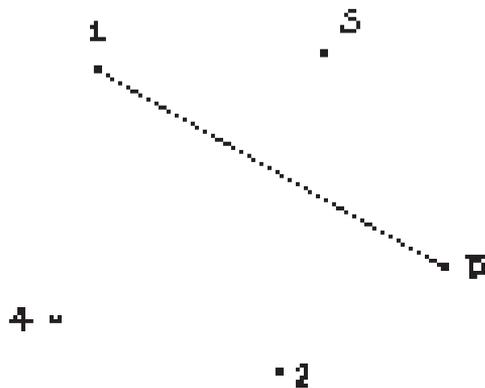
1. How many wise men made their journey to see baby Jesus?
.....
2. What did the wisemen understand when they saw the wonderful star?
.....
3. What gift did they bring for the baby?
.....
4. If you were with the wisemen, what all things would have you brought for baby Jesus?
.....
.....

Activities

1. Play skit based on the visit of the magi.
2. Help a poor man as you give a gift to Jesus.
3. Observe the 25 day lent for Christmas and celebrate Christmas.
4. Show the way to the manger

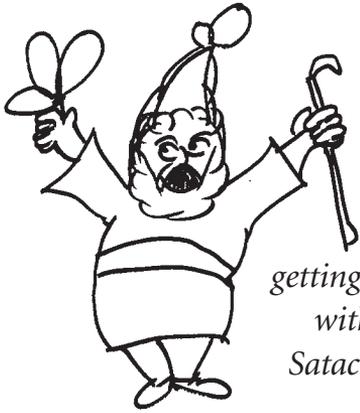


5. Join the dots



6. How do we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Christmas time?

(Write suitable sentences under the picture)

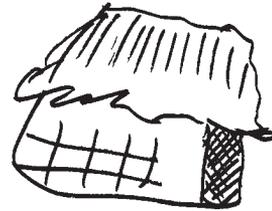


*getting ready
with a
Sataclause*

*good
Christmas
messages*



*arranging
christmas tree*



*beautiful
making crib*

*by going to
church with
devotion*



Moral story



Christmas Gift

A Christmas time.
Rony couldn't celebrate Christmas.
No star... No crib...
No decorations...
no colour bulbs.
How can it be ...
his family is so poor.
He becomes sad.

Christmas morning.
He hears a knock at the door ...
opens the door ...
sees his close friend Tom.
Tom has a packet in his hand.
Tom wished happy Christmas to Rony and
hands over the gift. Hai,
Rony today is Christmas ...
this is the gift for you.
Tears rolled down from Rony's eye
out of happiness and gratitude.

Let us sing

A small Christmas Song

Let us pray

Baby Jesus, as the three wisemen could see you and worship you, enable us to feel your presence and worship you here and now.

Resolution

We will make use of our learning and knowledge to search for God and please him by serving Him.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	St Matthew 2:1-6
Monday	Isaiah 57:15	St.Matthew 2:7-12
Tuesday	Psalm 138:1-5	St. Matthew 2: 13-15
Wednesday	St.Matthew 5:3-5	Isaiah 11:1-4
Thursday	Psalm 138:6-8	Exodus 4: 29-31
Friday	Job 22:29	Genesis 18:1-5
Saturday	St.Matthew 11:29	1 Deuteronomy 29:12
Sunday	1 Peter 5:5-7	*

Chapter 7

The wedding at Cana

(St. John 2:1-11)

Central Message: God plentifully supply our needs, even when we find ourselves helpless. Through the intercession of St. Mary, mother of God, God hear our prayers and show us mercy.

Verse to be Memorised: “Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!” St. Luke 1:28

Learning Aids: 1. A wedding invitation card
2. A picture of a marriage feast.
3. A picture of servants standing near water jars and Jesus beside them. (to be cloured)

What the lesson is about

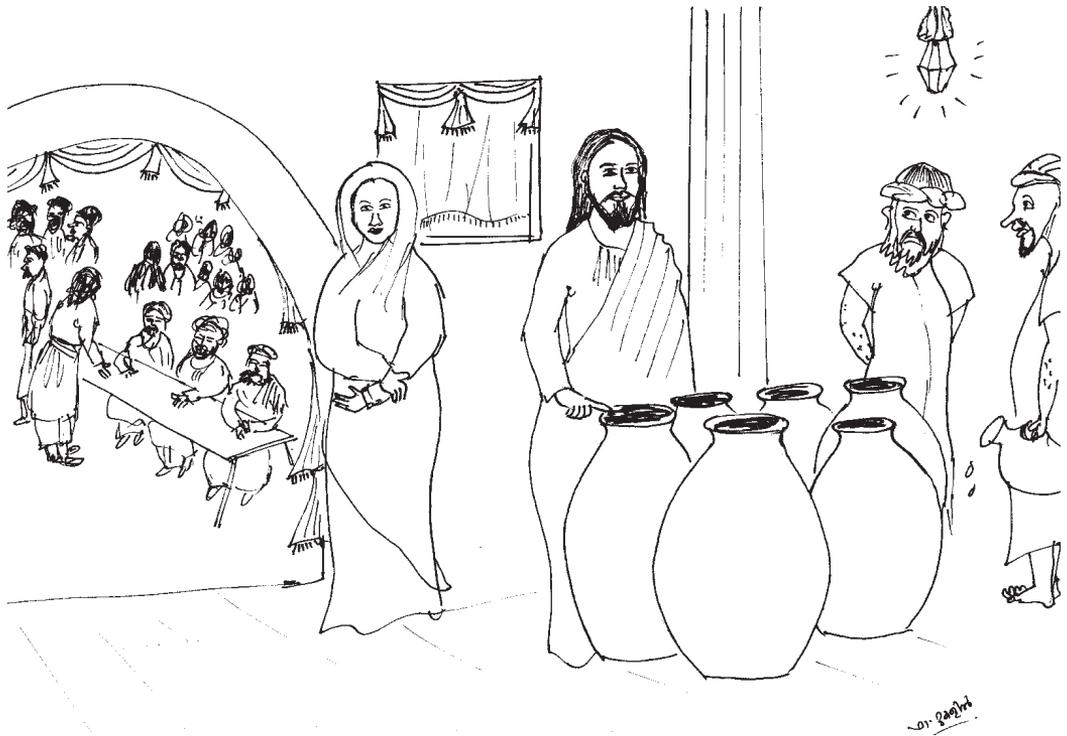
Usually our parents provide us with food, clothes, books, play things and the like. That shows they love us. Our parents make sure that we have everything we need.

More than this our Lord provides us with what we need, because He knows what we really need. Today we have before us an example of this. How Lord Jesus comes to the help of a family in need.

Introduction

Haven't you attended marriage ceremonies and marriage feasts and receptions? Yes, so many times. After church service everybody goes to the Reception Hall. Meals will be served for everyone.

St. John, in his Gospel, describes a marriage feast that took place at 'Cana' in Galilee. Many people attended the marriage feast. Jesus, Mary – His mother and His disciples were all there as guests. It was at this place that Jesus performed His first miracle. Let's read the story today.



The Lesson

A Jewish marriage feast was going on in 'Cana' of Galilee. A large number of guests were present there. Lord Jesus His mother and disciples were also invited for the feast. So they also attended the feast. All the guests were being served dinner, but unfortunately the stock of wine, which was essential item for the feast ran out. The hosts became worried and panick. What could they do at that time?

Qn: what would you do in such a difficult situation?

Mary, Mother of Jesus came to know of this difficulty of the host. Silently she approached Jesus and said to Him. "Wine has run out".

Qn: Can you guess why St. Mary told Jesus about it?

Very true. The mother knew that He was the son of God and He could do something to solve the problem and help the family.

So she told the servants: "Do as Jesus Commands you to do."

Jesus immediately understood His Mother's anxiety and what she wished.

Qn: What may be the thing that she wished?

That He could do something to help the family.

Jesus asked the servants to fill the six big water jars. Then he asked the master of the feast to serve it for the guests. The water had turned in to good wine. The entire household was amazed; and they thanked Him. His disciples believed in Him and His glory.

Qn: Who was responsible for turning water into wine?

Do you think it is a miracle.

What, do you think of Jesus Christ in the context of this miracle.

We have one more important thing to note, It was St. Mary's words that made Jesus perform this miracle. We call it intercession- so we can request St. Mary (and other saints too) to pray for us.

Let us think

1. Name the place where the famous marriage took place.
.....
2. Is it good to rush to the reception hall after marriage?
.....
3. Is it good to stay outside the church and talk and enjoy. While the sacrament of marriage is going on, in the church?
.....
4. What was the first miracle by Jesus?
.....
5. Which item of the feast ran out?
.....
6. What did Jesus ask the servant to fill in the jars?
.....
7. Who did ask Jesus to perform this miracle?
.....
8. Which feast do we observe in connection with St. Mary's assumption?
.....
9. Know from your teacher about the various specialties of our marriage.
.....

Activities

1. Like Jesus, you must obey your parents.
2. Tell this story in your class
3. What all things do you plead to St.Mary?
4. Observe the 15 day lent in August.

Let us sing

A simple Hymn from OVBS

Let us pray

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you helped a family in Cana in their hour of need. In the same way, listen to our prayers with sympathy and answer them. Mary the intercession on St. Mary be our stronghold everyday.

Resolution

**We will obey our parents. We will bring our problems tensions and needs before our Lord Jesus.
We will seek the intercession of St. Mary.**

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	St.John 2:1-4
Monday	Psalm 27:1-9	St.John 2:5-8
Tuesday	Psalm 47:1-5	St.John 2:9-11
Wednesday	Psalm 47:6-7	St.Luke2:5-20
Thursday	Psalm 46:1-3	St.Luke 1:49-53
Friday	Psalm 34:1-4	St.Luke 1:27-28
Saturday	Psalm 26:1-3	St.Luke 8:19-21
Sunday	Psalm 20:1-9	*

Chapter 8

Jesus and Little Children

(St.Mark 10:13-16)

Central Message: God loves little children. He is the true friend of all kids and also those who have the innocence and mind of children.

Verse to be memorised: “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” St. Mark 10:14.

Learning Aids: 1. A picture of Jesus with a small child in his bap and other children standing around.

2. A picture of ‘Ignatus Noorono.’

3. Picture of a garden.

What is this lesson about?

Jesus loved little children a lot. So many children were brought to Him and He blessed them all. This lesson illustrates the love of Jesus to children.

Introduction

Have you seen the picture of Jesus with children (Teacher shows a picture). Can't you guess the love of Jesus to children from this picture. Jesus loved the little children so much. Children are the rose flowers in the garden of God. Today we are going to learn a story which tells about the love of Jesus to children.

The Lesson

What all things do you find in a beautiful garden? Different kinds of flowers, different butterflies, honeybees etc. How beautiful!

Children the rose flowers in the garden of God. Innocent children are like the flowers which spread fragrance. Each child is a plant in the garden of God.

You have seen the picture of Jesus with children. This reveals the love of Jesus to children. During his life in the world, when children were brought to Him for blessing, Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

A child whom Jesus held close to him was Ignatius Noorono, a holy father. The meaning of 'Noorono' is 'close to fire.'

The meaning of Jesus words goes on like this: If we are not innocent and having full faith in God like children, we cannot enter the kingdom of God.

"A person who obeys God in everything and always does what is right, whose words are true and sincere." Psalm 15:2

Those who are innocent will be worthy of entering God's temple.

A child believes firmly in his parents. He is innocent. In the same way we must believe in God firmly. Children are innocent and pure at heart. Hence they can receive blessing from God. So we are given baptism when we are children. We have to keep this innocence and sincerely throughout life in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Have you ever tried to talk to Jesus? Prayer, meditation, worship are the different ways to talking to God.

We must throw away idleness and laziness and keep innocence and sincerity to impress God.



Let us think

1. Who were asked to brought to Jesus?
.....
2. Who are worth of entering God’s Temple? (Psalm 15th Ch.)
.....
3. Which are the ways of talking to God?
.....
4. Who was the child whom Jesus held close to him and blessed?
.....

Activities

1. Jesus is your friend. How will you play with Jesus as a friend?
2. Name your best frinds. What are their qualities?
3. Learn to make more good friends. Avoid bad friends.

Let us sing

A small simple Hymn

Let us pray

Oh! Lord Jesus, we love you. Give us your love, be with us always and lead us to your Kingdom.

Resolution

“We will love Jesus and live as His friends, throughout our life.”

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	St.Mark 10:13-16
Monday	Psalm. 15:1-3	1 Peter 1:16
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3:19	1 Peter 2:1-3
Wednesday	Jonah 6:40	St.Matthew 18:1-5
Thursday	1 Peter 5:3-7	Hebrews 12:5-9
Friday	Psalm 128:1-4	Ephesians 6:1-3
Saturday	Proverbs 29:15-17	St.Luke 2:41-52
Sunday	Psalm 127:3-5	*

Chapter 9

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

(St. Luke 5: 17-26)

Central Message: It is our duty to nurse the sick and to pray for them.

Verse to be memorised: “This prayer made in faith will heal the sick person; the Lord will restore him to health.”

Learning Aids:

1. A picture showing some people opening up the roof of a house and descending a paralytic to Jesus (to be coloured)
2. Picture of person standing beside a patient and praying.

What is this lesson about?

Are we willing to nurse the sick and suffering? We should be... When we nurse and serve the sick and suffering, actually we are serving God. This is pleasing to God. The lesson teaches us about the need to console and nurse the sick and suffering among us.

Introduction

Today we are going to read a real incident in which four people carried a paralysed man to Jesus, descended him from the roof of the house and placed him before Jesus. When Jesus saw their deep faith, he healed the paralysed man.

The Lesson

Have you heard about paralysis?

If any part of the body is affected by paralysis, then it would be impossible to move that part. A paralysed man usually cannot move about like other people. Such people always need assistance of others.

We will find it very painful if there is a small injury on our hand or leg. Paralysis is much more serious. They cannot eat or move about or to anything on their own.

One day Jesus was teaching people in a house. There were a large number of people that even the doorway was almost choked with people. At that time, a

paralysed man was brought there, by being carried by four people. The sick man could not walk, talk or move about. They could not take him to Jesus because of the big crowd.

Qn. What would you do in such a situation.

So they thought of what to do? Finally they decided to make an opening on the roof. Then slowly they brought the sickman down and placed him in front of Jesus.

Qn. Can you guess why they took so much pains to take the sickman to Jesus.

They cared for the sick, they loved him very much and they had the faith that Jesus could heal him completely.

When Jesus saw this, he appreciated their faith of the four friends of the man and healed him.

Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven, my friend." When the pharisees murmured against this. Jesus said, "I tell you, get up, pick up your bed and go home." At once the man got up and did as Jesus told.

Thus he was forgiven his sins and healed. This clearly shows that God answers our sincere prayer and help the sick and suffering.

Here we learn.

- * Nursing the sick is our duty as Christians.
- * We must pray to God on their behalf.
- * God would heal the sick if we have true faith.

Let us think

1. What was the sickness of the man in this story?

.....
.....

2. How was the love of the four men towards the man whom they carried?

.....

3. Why couldn't they come to Jesus by walking!

.....

4. How did they bring him near Jesus?

.....
.....

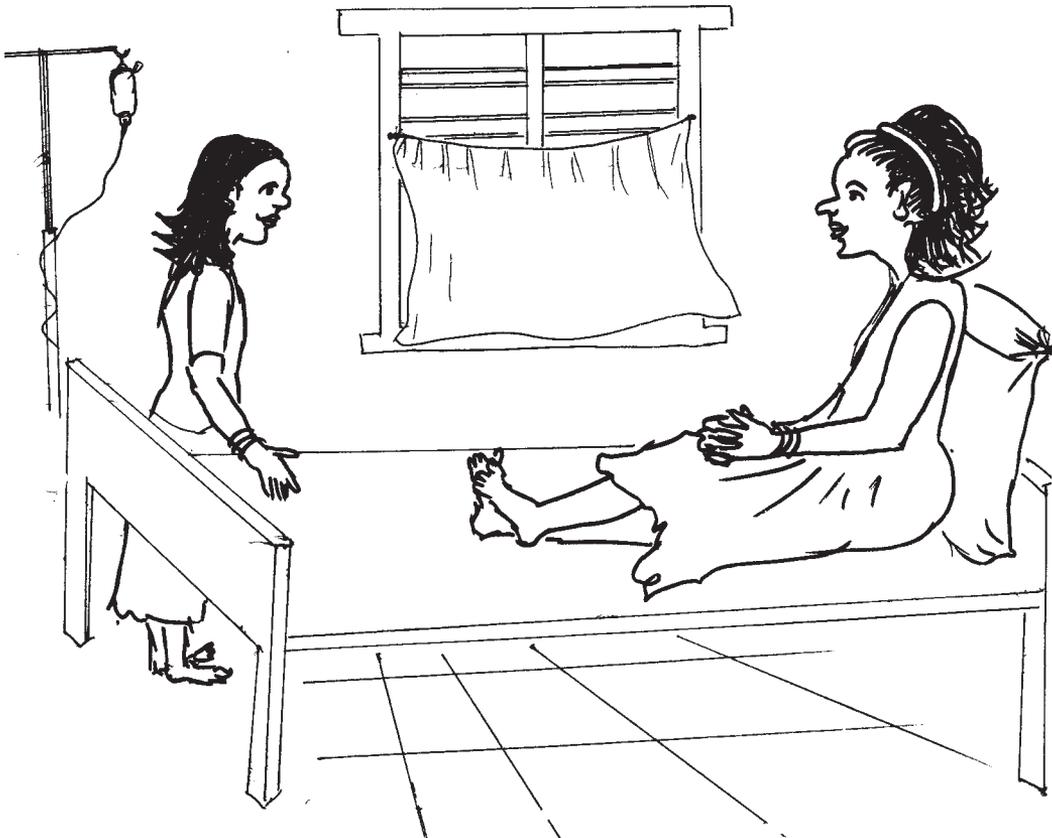
5. What did Jesus say to paralysed man. When he understood the faith of his friends?
.....

6. What were the two blessings to him by Jesus?
.....

7. Mention the different ways by which you can help the poor and the sick?
.....
.....

Activities

1. Enact the roles of the four persons carrying the paralysed man to Jesus.
2. Role play the happiness and the words of the healed man.
3. Make a story from the picture.



Alen and Abraham are good friends... One becomes sick... other nurses her with love, care... prays... heals... become happy... good friends for ever.

4. Visit the sick people along with parents and elders. pray for them.

Let us sing

A simple hymn

Let us pray

Dear Jesus, give us the good will to nurse the sick and suffering. Please grant them healing.

Resolution

We will always be willing and ready to help and nurse the sick and pray for them.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Exodus 15:22-26
Monday	Exodus 4:5-7	Job 42:7-10
Tuesday	Psalm 103:1-4	Psalm 103:5-8
Wednesday	Psalm 103:9-13	Psalm 103:14-19
Thursday	Psalm 103:20-22	St.Luke 5:12-16
Friday	St.Mark 1:40-45	St.Mark 2:1-12
Saturday	St.Matthew 15:21-28	St.Luke 7:2-10

Chapter 10

Jesus' Dearest Family

(St. John 11: 1-45)

Central Message: Jesus defeated death and resurrected. He could bring back the dead of life. Hence we should not be afraid of death.

Verse to be memorised: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies." (St. John 11:25)

Learning Aids:

1. Picture of Lazarus being resurrected.
2. Picture of a family
3. Picture of a tomb.

What is this lesson about?

Jesus loved the family of Lazarus at Bethany very much. When Lazarus died, Jesus was so sad and went to the tomb, prayed to God almighty and Lazarus was brought back to life.

Introduction

Have you ever gone to houses where someone died? Are the family members sad or happy? Yes, they are so sad. Suppose a man from God comes and brings back the dead to life. They will be very happy, won't they? Today we are going to read the story about the resurrection of Lazarus.

The Lesson

Annu and Chinnu are twins. They are fond of hearing stories. They went to their grandmother. She knows a lot of stories and she has a good talent of telling stories.

Annu asked, "Grandma, has Jesus Christ resurrected any dead person?"

Grandma: "Yes, of course. Lazarus was dead and he was buried in a tomb. Jesus brought him back to life."

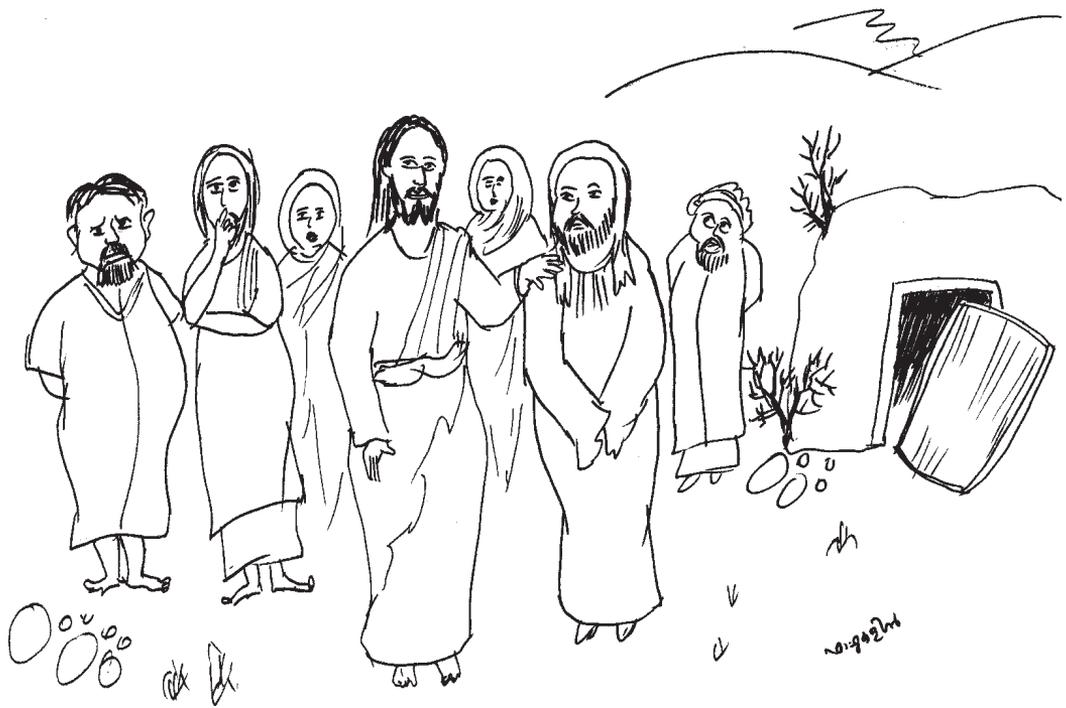
Chinnu: Grandma, please tell us the story.

Grandma: Listen, I shall tell you the story 'Martha and Mary' were sisters. They lived in Bethany, near Jerusalem. Lazarus was their only brother. This family was so dear to Jesus. Lazarus became ill. At that time Jesus was not there. The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is ill." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. After that he went to Bethany with his disciples. When they reached Bethany, Lazarus was dead and had been buried in the tomb. He could hear the weeping of his sisters as He approached the house. Many folks came there to console his sisters. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him and said, If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died." Jesus told her, "I am resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies." Martha went back and called her sister and they all went to the tomb with Jesus. Jesus was so moved and He wept at the tomb of Lazarus. There was a stone placed at the entrance of the cave, the tomb of Lazarus Jesus said, "Take the stone away." Martha, the dead man's sister answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days." Jesus said to her, "If you believe, you will see God's glory." They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out! He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. "Untie him." Jesus told them, "and let him go."

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did and they believed in him.

Children, how is the story? Jesus defeated death and he resurrected from the tomb on the third day. he can bring back the dead to life. Those who receive the Holy communion, which is the body and the blood of Jesus Christ will resurrect, even when they are dead at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Hence we sing in the worship like this.

"Lord, grant good remembrance to—all the faithful dead;
Thy holy body they took— and Thy right side
On that day Thy grace shall dawn.



We shall stand and sing this hymn with folded hands for remembering our departed ones.

Let us think

1. Where did the family of Lazarus live?
.....
2. How many sisters did Lazarus have?
.....
3. What were their names?
.....
4. Who is the one who was dead and buried two times?
.....
5. Whose family was so dear to Jesus?
.....
6. Where did Jesus weep?
.....

7. What shall we do to see the glory of God?

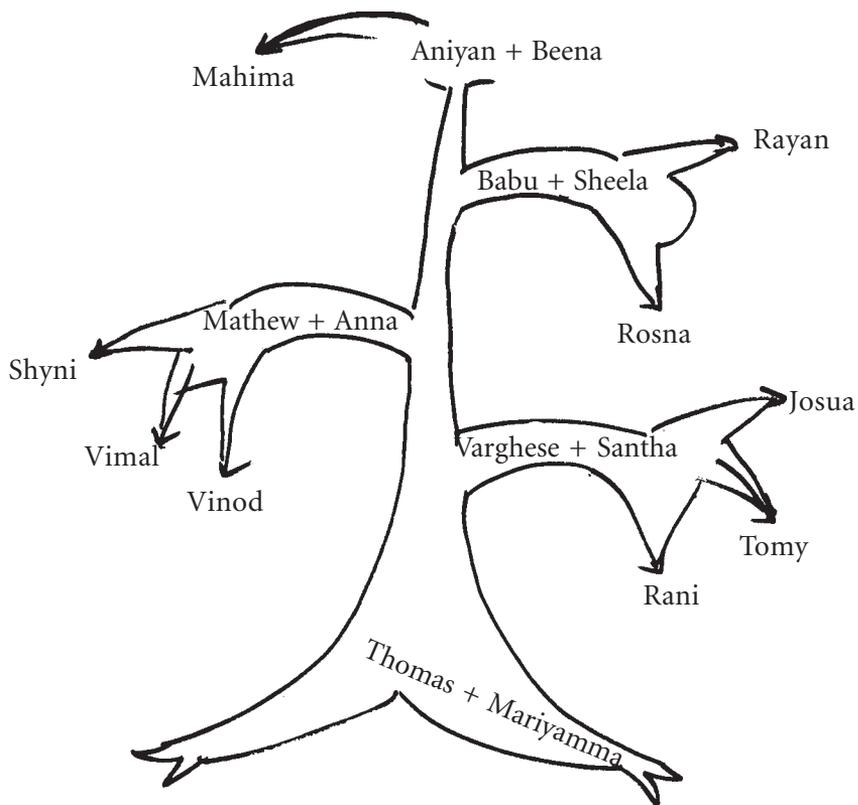
.....

8. What did Jesus do at the tomb before doing the miracle?

.....

Activities

1. Go to the house where some one is dead along with elders and participate in the prayers.
2. Draw a family tree of your family
eg.



3. Say what all things you will do if Jesus comes to your house



We will

- * behave politely
- * Use polished language
- * pray everyday
- *
- *

4. Write the following in bold letters and hang it on the wall

**Christ is a silent listener in our home,
He is an unseen guest in our dine.**

Let us sing

(A small & simple hymn)

Let us pray

Oh loving Jesus, you brought back Lazarus to life. Please come to our house and make us clean from our sins. Help us to lead a pure life... Amen.

Resolution

We will try to lead a life with out sins.
We will receive the Holy Communion regularly

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	St.John 11:1-15
Monday	1 John 3:13-16	St.John 11:17-30
Tuesday	Romans 5:6-12	St.John 11:31-45
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	St.Matthew 9:18-26
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	St. John 12:1-8
Friday	Philippians 1:20-25	St.John 12:9-11
Saturday	1 John 5:13-29	St.Luke 7:11-17
Sunday	1 Kings 17:17-24	*

Unit 2

Prayer

Chapter 11

Let us Pray Regularly

Central Message: We must pray regularly in the morning and evening.

Verse to be memorised: Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous ordinances. (Pslm 119:164)

Learning Aids: 1. A hand book of orthodox prayers
2. Prayer books for special occasions
3. The Holy Bible
4. Picture of a child in prayer

What is the lesson about?

We must pray regularly in the morning and evening. Jesus prayed, everyday regularly. The Public says Daniel knelt down in prayer facing Jerusalem. This lesson tells us not to be lazy in saying our prayers.

Introduction

Don't we all pray? How often do you pray? Do you pray everyday?

For whom do you pray? Are you enthusiastic for prayer? King David was so eager to pray. Prophet Daniel was also a man of prayers. In this lesson we try to understand. Why do we pray and when do we pray.

The Lesson

Here is a story:

'Joel... Joel..... get up... get up..... don't we have to pray in the morning?' When Joel's grand father said this, he again huddled under the blanket.

His Grandfather slowly made him get up from bed and he went to bathroom. When he came back after brushing his teeth and washing the face, his grandfather had already started song. All the members of the house sang with Appachan. Everybody read the Bible and Joel listened to them. Then they prayed together. After prayer, they went for the morning walk. As usual 'Joel started asking doubts.'

'Grandpa, why do we get up early in the morning? Don't we pray only when we get up?'

"Son, this is like a song that we learned at OVBS."

They sing the song together. Let us all sing that song together."

"....."
....."

Are we like the children in the song? No..... we should get up at the same time everyday. After washing our face and other morning routine, we must pray, do exercise, and study. We should develop the habit of doing all these. It is clear from the Bible that Jesus prayed regularly. In the same way, we must pray regularly.

Grandpa, will you please tell me a story which reveals the blessings received for prayer.

Sure.... I shall tell you the story of Prophet Daniel.

It is the story of Daniel who was put in the lion's den, isn't it?

Oh! you, Very good...

Daniel lived in the period of King Darius. Daniel was very brilliant and efficient in his work. Hence the advisors of the King became jealous of Daniel. They planned to apply a trick for finding fault with Daniel. They went to the king to issue an order so that for the next thirty days nobody in the kingdom should worship any god other than the king himself. The order was proclaimed through out the country. Every one in the country worshipped the king. But what did Daniel do?"

By that time Joel and Grandpa reached home. Then Joel's Grandfather read the verse Daniel 6:10: "When Daniel learn that the order had been signed, he went home. In an upper room of his house there was a window that faced Jerusalem. There, just as he had always done, he knelt down at the open window and prayed to God three times a day." The King came to know about this and he ordered that Daniel be thrown in the lions den. Then Daniel was thrown in to the lion's den. The lion did not attack Daniel! Since Daniel had the habit of praying regularly, God saved Daniel from the Lion's den.

Do you like this story? In the same way we must pray regularly.

How often shall we pray, grandpa? Son.... our church wants us to pray seven times a day. These are evening, soothoro, midnight, morning, third hour, Sixth hour and ninth hour

‘This is clear in Psalm 119:164.’ All of you read it two times.

The seven times of prayer are evening prayer, soothoro (prayer before going to bed) mid night prayer, morning prayer, third hour (nine O’clock in the morning) Sixth hour (noon prayer) and ninth hour (3’ clock in the after noon)

Then why do we pray only in the morning and evening?

We combine the prayers for the seven canonical hours and make them in the morning and in the evening for convenience. But in monasteries these prayers are done in the seven canonical hours themselves.

Joel: Grandpa, we must pray at the right times. Even if I sleep, please wake me up for prayer.

Ok..... Joel.....

Tr: Haven’t you heard the story of Joel and his grandpa. Like them, we must pray at the right times everyday.

You may practise the following simple prayers in the night when going to bed and in the morning when you wake up from bed.

Simple Prayers

1. Prayer before going to bed

On God! We praise you for all the blessings we received today. Please forgive us the sins. Give us the protection of your angels and give us sound sleep. Amen (Make the sign of the cross)

2. Prayer when you got up in the morning

Oh God! We praise you for waking up safe. Guard us from all the harms that might come in our way today. Please help us to help others. Amen. (Make the sign of cross)

Let us think

1. Which king ordered to put Daniel in to the lion's pit?
.....
2. Why was Daniel thrown into the lion's pit?
.....
3. What was the King's order?
.....
4. Why didn't Daniel obey the King's order?
.....
5. What did the king do when Daniel disobeyed the King's order?
.....
6. How many times a day did Daniel pray?
.....
7. In which direction did Daniel turn when he prayed?
.....
8. How many times should we pray a day as per Church teachings?
Can you name the Canonical hours?
.....
.....

Activities

1. Present the incident of Daniel being thrown in to the lion's denx as a skit in the class.
2. Pray regularly in the morning and evening at home.
3. Match the following.

Darius	Prophet
Prayer	Betrayers
Advisers	Seven times
Daniel	King

4. In the morning when you wake up and in the evening when you go to bed, say the prayers we learn in this lesson.

Let us sing

A small hymn

Let us pray

Loving God..... teach us pray always to you. Guard us from satins temptations which may keep us away from prayer. Help us to pray regularly as King David and prophet Daniel. Amen.

Resolution

**We will pray regularly. Everyday we will pray
in the morning and the evening.**

Follow up Reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Daniel 6:1-10
Monday	St.Luke 6:12, Psalm 16:4	Daniel 6:11-14
Tuesday	St.Mark 6:46, 47 Psalm 42:8	Daniel 6:15-22
Wednesday	St.Mark 1:35, Psalm 119:140, 148	Daniel 6:23-27
Thursday	Genesis 24:63, Psalm 119:63	1 Kings 8:22-25
Friday	Daniel 9:20, 21, Psalm 55:17	1 Kings 8:26-30
Saturday	Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 61:1-4	1 Kings 8: 31-34
Sunday	1 Samuel 1:19-26, Acts 16:25	*

Chapter 12

Let us pray: The Kauma

Central Message: Enable Children to learn to recite the Kauma and understand its meaning.

Verse to be memorised: Praise the Lord O Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 106:1)

Learning Aids: 1. A hand book of Orthodox Prayers
2. The Holy Bible
3. A picture of a family in prayer
4. A picture of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethseemon.

What is the Lesson about?

Our prayers and sacraments begin with the Kauma. This prayer includes praise to God, the Lord's prayer and the intercession of the Mother of God. In this lesson, the Kauma is explained.

Introduction

Hope you all remember the Lord's prayer which begins with "Our Father who art in heaven..." Let us together say the prayer. All stand up, make the sign of the cross spread the hands and say the prayer along with the teacher.

Tr: All sit down. Do you remember how we started this prayer in the beginning of the Sunday school classes?

Reshma jumped up and answered: "In the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one true God.

Tr: Good, this is how our headmaster started the prayer. How did we continue? Merin said: 'Glory be to Him, and may His grace and mercy be upon us forever, Amen'.

Tr: Very Good..... We started our prayer like this. Then we said The Lord's Prayer and Intercession of Saint Mary, "Hail Mary, full of grace our Lord is with thee..." Don't we?

All together: Yes.... Teacher.....

All these prayer together are called' Kauma prayer: Let us learn it today.

The Lesson

The word 'Kauma' means a sequence of prayer. We say this prayer standing. Do you always stand, when you pray this? The glory of this prayer is that it includes the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples i.e. the Lord's prayer.

Let us analyse the different parts of this prayer.

This prayer begins with praising God as 'trinity'. i.e. Gives praise to the Holy father and the son and the Holy Spirit. The next part says, Glory be to Him now and always for ever, Amen.

The next section reveals the glory and nobility of God. Here we praise God along with angels. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, by whose glory, the heaven and the earth are filled, Hosanna in the Highest. The sky, the earth and the whole universe is filled with praises of God, from the angels, human beings and all living things. They are all praising the Lord with out any interval. When we pray, our prayer also gets joined to their praise.

Then we continue like this: "Blessed is He, who has come, and is to come (Jesus Christ), in the name of the Lord; Glory be to Him in the Highest.

The next part is the praise given to Jesus by angels at the time of his burial.

"Holy art Thou, O God

Holy art Thou, Almighty

Holy art Thou, Immortal.' This explains that Jesus is the Holy, Almighty, Immortal God. On hearing this Joseph of Arimatya and Nicodimos prayed. "Crucified for us have mercy on us'. We remember sinless Christ who was crucified for us sinners We say this three times and make the sign of cross; and prostrate when we say 'Crucified for us, Have mercy on us.

Then comes 'Kurielision' which we learned in Class I, We pray

"Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, be kind and have mercy

Lord accept Thou our offices

And our entreaties, Have mercy on us."

We can't live with out the mercy of the Lord. Hence we pray for the mercy of the Lord.

Then we offer praise to God. We say ‘Glory be to Thee, O God
Glory be to Thee, O Creator
Glory be to Thee, O King
Christ who dost pity on sinners,
Thy servants.
We end this by saying ‘Barekmor’ which means” God, bless us”

Let us think

Say the Kauma prayer from the beginning to
‘Barekmor after the teacher.
(Do it two times)

Then we say the Lord’s prayer. That is the prayer which we said in the beginning of this class and that you have learned in detail in Class I.

At last we say the prayer starting with. “Hail Mary, full of grace....” the intercession St. Mary. This prayer includes the words of angel Gabriel to St. Mary and the words told by Elizabeth, mother of St. John, the Baptist when she was filled with Holy Spirit. (We get the content of the prayer in verses Luke 1:28-33 and 1:39-45). The last part of the prayer is our request to Mother Mary. We request her to pray for us continuously, at the time of our death. We call her Mother of God from Elizabeth’s words who called her ‘My Lord’s mother”. Since Jesus Christ is God, we call his Mother as Mother of God.

Hope you appreciate and enjoyed the meaning and beauty of this prayer. Whenever you say this prayer, do it in utmost devotion and proper understanding.

Let us think and do

1. In ‘Kauma’ prayer, God’s four adjectives are given. Put ‘✓’ mark against the correct ones.

1. God is Holy
2. God is Almighty
3. God is Glorified
4. God is Immorfal
5. God is Nameless

2. Fill in the blanks
 1. Glory be to the Father, the son and.....
 2. Holy,, Lord God..... by whose glory, the and the are filled; Hosanna in the Highest.
 3. Crucified for us, on us.
3. Say each part of the Kauma Prayer.
4. Say he Lord's prayer
5. Say 'Hail Mary'.....
6. At the time of family prayer, say the Kauma prayer carefully and learn it by heart.

Let us sing

Glory be to the Father, son and Holy Ghost unto the ages of ages and for ever more. Amen

Let us pray

Oh loving God help us to praise you always along with the angels through our daily prayers. Let our prayer be as incense before you... Amen

Resolution

We will praise God everyday with much devotion and enthusiasm.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	St.James 5:13-16
Monday	St.Mathew 21:21-22	St.John 4:20-24
Tuesday	St.Mathew 7:7-11	St.John 11:40-42
Wednesday	St.Mathew 18:19-20	St.Luke 23:44-47
Thursday	St.Mark 11:22-26	Psalm 34:1-6
Friday	Psalm 68:16-20	Pslam 138: 1-6, St.Luke 1:39-45
Saturday	Psalm 130:1-6, St.Luke 1:28-33	St.Mathew 6:5-15, St.Luke 11:1-4
Sunday	St.Luke 22:39-46	*

Chapter 13

Let us observe Lent (fasting seasons) and pray

Central Message: We must observe the Lents of the Church

Verse to be memorised: But only prayers and fasting can drive this kind out, nothing else can. (St. Matthew 17:21)

Learning Aide: 1. A prayer containing prayers of Lents.
2. A table of Lents

What is the lesson about?

All the members of the church are obliged to observe the lents of the church. During lent, we must not only discard food but also engage ourselves in prayer, Bible reading and meditation. Through this lesson we came to know the various lents and lenton seasons of the Church.

Introduction

What are your favorite food items? Each one says the names of his favorite items. Oh, many of you like fish, meat egg, ice cream etc. the most Do you know when we discard these food items especially, fish, meat, egg, milk and milk products? Yes, during the time of lents, we never eat these food items.

Do you observe lent? Do all your family members observe lent? Let us see how we shall observe the lent in the way they should be.

The Lesson

Teacher encourages the pupils to ask questions on lents.

Pupil: Tr, why is it said that during lents we should not eat the food that we like?

Teacher: The lent help us to give priority to the likings of God by setting aside our worldly desires.

Hannah: Why do we observe lents?

Tr: Our Lord Jesus Christ observed lent He defeated satan. In the same way observe lent to defeat satan and the evil power.

Ppl: Tr, Only Jesus Christ has observed lents?

Tr. See, do you remember the story of infant Moses?

Ppl: Yes, the one who was saved from water.

Tr: Quite right. This Moses when he grew up, observed fasting for forty days.
Have you heard of prophet Elijah?

Ppl: Yes, the one for whom Raven gave bread.

Tr: Good. This prophet Elijah also observed forty days fast and got strengthened with God's power.

Let us sing a song which we sing in the evening prayer of great Lent.

Tr: sings a song which we sing with the teacher.

Meenu: Tr, how do we observe lent?

Tr: All of you listen carefully. Do good, Hear good, see good, spend more time for prayer, prostrate while praying and fast 'as long as you can'. When we are fasting, we are with Jesus Christ Hence we don't feel hunger.

Joe: Is this enough for observing lent?

Tr: Not only this, but we have to discard some food items like, fish, meat, egg, milk, milk products etc.

Chris: Tr, why is it said to discard only some food items?

Tr: Chris, the food we eat is capable of influencing our behaviour Don't you know that carnivores and herbivores have difference in their behavior? Think of the tiger and the deer. Hence our body and mind, words and deeds will be purified with fasting.

Shiju: What are the fasting days?

We must observe fasting on all Wednesday and Fridays. We remember Holy Mary on Wednesday and the crucifixion of Christ on Friday. The church has fixed five more lenten seasons. Let us learn the names and brief detail of those seasons now. We shall learn the descriptions in higher classes.

The lents prescribed by the Church

1. Nativity lent (25 day's lent) December 1-25. Twenty five days before Christ's Birth
2. There day lent meditating on the three days of Jonah in the belly of the whaler.
3. Great Lent (50 day's lent) 50 days lent before Easter.
4. Apostles lent (13 days lent) In memory of the Apostles (June 16-29)
5. Dormition on lent (15 day's lent) 15 days before Dormition (death) the Mother of God (August 1-15)

Good Children observe lents. Aren't you good children?

'Yes..... teacher.'

By observing lents we will develop the ability control ourselves, escape from sin and evil please God and get strengthened spiritually

Our ancestors observed lents, prayed, stayed with God and became right noon people and defeated satan.

In the Great lent and Nineveh lent, we prostrate 40 times after norn prayer. Each of the following prayers are said 10 times, as we prostrate.

1. Kurielaison
2. Oh Lord, have mercy upon us.
3. Oh Lord, be kind and have mercy upon me
4. Oh Lord, answer our prayers and have mercy upon us.

Let us think

1. What do you mean by the term 'fasting'?
.....
.....
2. Give the names of three persons from the Bible who observed lents.
.....
3. How long did Jesus fast?
.....
- 4) Which are the fasting days and fasting seasons of our Church?
.....
.....
- 5) Which are the two days in the week that we observe fasting?
.....
- 6) How many times do we prostrate after noon prayer in Great lent and the Three days lent?
.....
- 7) What do we pray then?
.....
.....

Activities

1. Observe all the lents of the Church including Wednesdays and Friday.
2. Share your experience at the time of lent.
3. The names of some food items are given below. Put a '✓' mark against those which, we can eat during lent. Put 'x' mark against other.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Chicken roast | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Egg curry | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Rice | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Milk | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Fish curry | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Chappathi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Peas | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Ice Cream | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Banana | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Appam | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Give the number of days for which the following lents are observed

1. Great Lent days
2. Apostle's lent days
3. Natively lent days

Let us pray

Our Lord, you have observed fasting and lents for us. We praise you for your love toward us. Help us to observe the lents of the church and pray earnestly. Amen.

Resolution

**We will observe all the lents.
We will encourage others to observe lents.**

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Jonah 3:1-10
Monday	St.John 4:24	Exodus 34:27-28
Tuesday	1 John 3:22	1 Kings 19:7-9
Wednesday	St.Matthew 17:21	St.Matthew 4:1-3
Thursday	Proverbs 15:5-9	St.Mark 9:28-29
Friday	Psalms 145:18	Acts 14:23
Saturday	Psalms 34:4	St.Matthew 6:16-28
Sunday	Isaiah 58:4-9	

Unit 3

Liturgical Hymns

Chapter 14

Let us Sing and Pray

Central Message: Sing the hymns in the Holy Qurbana with proper understanding and attention.

Verse to be memorised: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love (Psalm 51:1)

Learning Aids: 1. The Holy Qurbanakramam
2. The Holy Bible

What is this lesson about?

This lesson deals with the importance and meaning of the hymn, ‘Hearken, gracious Lord, we pray..’ which is used in the second part of the Holy Qurbana.

Introduction

You have learned the hymn ‘Hearken, gracious lord, we pray..’ in Class I. Can you sing it?

(All of them together sings the hymn) When do we sing this hymn? When the chancel is veiled. At this time we remember the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord. Hope you all remember the lesson you studied in Class I. Let us study the next part.

The Lesson

Teacher shall sing the hymn. You please repeat after the teacher.

“When chastising us, O God,
Spare us from thy wrathful rod,

Open to us mercy's door,
Kindly hear as we implore,
Let us sing together the hymn two times.
Now let us look for the meaning.

When you do simple mistakes, your parents and teachers will try to correct you, won't they? How do they do it? They may advise you or sometimes admonish or punish you. Which are the other ways of punishment.? Oh, they wont give you severe punishments, will they?

We do so many mistakes before God? Through this hymn, we request God to be merciful while punishing/chastising us.

When chastising us, O God,
Spare us from Thy wrathful rod.

We entreat God to give us only simple punishments even though we continue to make mistakes, and avoid His anger.

“Open to us mercy's door,
Kindly hear as we implore.”

Here we request to God to open this merciful door to hear our prayers.

God loves us more than our parents. Hence God forgives our mistakes more than our parents do. If we do any mistake, God will forgive us if. We repent confess our sins before God. We must try to live with out committing mistakes and we must pray God, to help us not to make mistakes.

Let us go through the next lines.

“Hearken as we call to Thee
In ourselves so frail are we.
Hear our prayer, for good art thou
Grant our needs though great e'now.”

Here we acknowledge that we are so frail and we call to God for His help. We tell Him: ‘Good Lord, Grant our prayers because you are a merciful God.

When you sing these hymns, try to sing attending to its meaning. This hymn can be used meaningfully on other occasions also.

Let us think

1. When do we sing this hymn” Hearken gracious ford, we pray”?
.....
2. What do we meditate on, at this time?
.....
3. “When chastising us, O God, Spare us from Thy wrathful rod”. Give the meaning of these lines.
.....
4. Fill in the blanks (2 lines)
Hearken as we call to Thee
.....
.....
Grant our needs, though greate now.”
5. “Mercy grant, Lord mercy grant
.....
.....
Kind one, who doth know our deeds.’

Sing this part in full.

Activities

1. Try to sing the hymn “Hearken gracious Lord we pray” with in different tuns.
2. When this is used in Holy Qurbana sing it with other with devotion.
3. Mercy grant, Lord, mercy grant,
Thine abundant mercy, grant;
Count not Thou our evil deeds;
Kind one, who doth know our deeds.

Try to discuss the meaning of these lines in class, especially why we need the mercy of God; and the need for asking for forgiveness.

Let us sing

This hymn “Hearken gracious Lord we pray.....” may be sung by all together. Pupils may be divided into two groups and asked to sing.

Let us pray

Oh Lord Jesus, we are so frail and we call you for your help. Good Lord, Grant our prayers by your grace. God, have mercy up on us and forgive our sins.

Resolution

We will pray everyday by surrendering ourselves before God and also present our needs before Him.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Denteronomy 32:1-5
Monday	Psalm 149:1-4	1 Samuel 2:1-4
Tuesday	Psalm 149:5-9	St. Luke 21:67-75
Wednesday	St.Luke 1:76-79	Psalm 113:1-9
Thursday	Psalm 108: 1-6	Psalm 106:1-3
Friday	Psalm 105:1-3	Psalm 92:1-5
Saturday	Psalm 34:1-5	Psalm 134:1-3

Chapter 15

Let us Sing Songs of Intercession

Central Message: Students shall learn to sing the hymns in the Holy Qurbana seeking the intercession of St. Mary and other saints, meditatively. Also they shall learn to sing the hymns which contain prayer for the departed.

Verse to be memorised: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (St. James 5:16)

Learning Aids: The Holy Qurbanakramam
The Holy Bible

What is the lesson about?

This lesson introduces and explains the importance and meaning of hymns used for intercession of Holy Mary and the saints and also the hymn of prayer for the departed faithful.

Introduction

You know about the hymns which are used for intercession of Holy Mary and other saints along with incense. This Kukulion is like his. "See the royal daughter stand..." The hymn "Cease not, thou of grace a fount..." Belongs to this category. Let us all together sing that hymn. (All sing). Let us learn a hymn for the intercession of saints.

The Lesson

Plead for us, ye holy saints,
Pray to Him whose will ye did,
That from anger we be spared-
That from scourges we be hid.

We shall all together sing this hymn. Teacher sings each line and pupils sing after the teacher, three or four times.

Here the words ‘anger’ and ‘scourge’ stand for punishment. When we do mistakes at home, our parents may punish us. We request the saints to pray for us to God Almighty so that He may spare us from the punishment of anger. We believe that the saints will pray for us, and because of them, God will spare us from punishment. Hence we sing this hymn especially in Holy Qurbana.

In same way we pray for he departed faithful in the Qurbana. The base of this is that, by our prayer God will shower mercy upon them. Now let us learn such a hymn.

They who served and died in hope
Trusting in Thy mercy, Lord.
May Thy living voice them raise
From their graves to paradise.

This hymn means that They who have lived in God’s mercy and died in hope may be raised by His living voice from graves and led to paradise.

Those who live depending on God shall receive God’s grace. We pray for them. They could hear the voice of God. We believe that they will be raised from the tombs and taken to Paradise.

Hence it is our duty to seek intercession of saints and pray for the faithful departed.

Let us think

1. In the hymn “Plead for us, ye holy Saints,” What do the words ‘anger’ and ‘scourge’ refer to?
.....
2. Give the meaning of this hymn.
.....
.....
.....
3. Which is the hymn used for praying for the departed faithful?
.....
4. “They who served and died in hope
.....
.....

From their graves to paradise” Sing the hymn completely.

Activities

1. Sing the hymns - “Plead for us, ye holy saints” and “They who served and died in hope” many times.
2. Find out another hymn for the intercession of the saints with the help of elders at home and sing it next Sunday.
3. When these hymns are sung in the Church, sing with Proper attention and devotion.
4. Discuss the meaning of these two hymns in class and the need for intercession of saints and prayer for the departed.

Let us sing

Sing the two hymns and other similar hymns from Holy Qurbanakaramam, individually and in groups.

Let us pray

Holy Mother, pray to God for us Holy saints, please pray for us so that God may forgive our mistakes. Loving God, keep our departed faithful in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Give us all peace, and forgive us our sins. Amen.

Resolution

Everyday we will pray for our departed faithful and seek the intercession of saints.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	*	Psalm 136:1-5
Monday	2 John 1:7	Psalm 136:5-10
Tuesday	1 John 3:13-14	Psalm 136:11-15
Wednesday	3 John 1:8	Psalm 136:16-18
Thursday	3 John 1:12	Psalm 136:16-18
Friday	Philemon 1:7	Psalm 24:1-6
Saturday	Philemon	Psalm 26:7-10

Unit 4

My Church

Chapter 16

The Importance of Church Worship

Central Message: The worship in church is a heavenly experience. We must participate in it in purity and devotion.

Verse to be memorised: My soul longs indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord.
(Psalm 84:2)

Learning Aids: 1. Picture of a Church
2. Holy Qurbanakramam
3. Holy Bible

What is this lesson about?

The Temple of Jerusalem was the centre of the liturgical life of the Israelites. Jesus went to church regularly and participated in the prayers. We experience God's love through this prayers. The following lesson deals with such ideas.

Introduction

Children, do you enjoy going to church and Sunday school on Sundays? Our lord Jesus Christ also went to Jerusalem church regularly and attended the prayers. Church is the dwelling place of God. Let us learn the importance of worship in our church.

The Lesson

Here is a story

Andrew and his grand father were on their way to church.

Andrew: Grandpa, why do we go to church on all Sundays? Won't God listen to our prayers even if we pray at home.

Grandpa: Mon...., we go to church for worship as it is the dwelling place of God. Why do you go to school? Isn't it enough if you are studying at home?

Andrew: If we don't go to school, we may not be able to learn effectively. It is like that, isn't it Grandpa?

Grandpa: Yes my son: it is our duty to praise God and pray to Him. We must share our happiness and sorrows with God.

Andrew: Grandpa, will you please tell me about worship in Church?

Grandpa: Listen.... Jesus who was born for Jewish parents went to church regularly, from his childhood and attended the church regularly. The Temple at Jerusalem was built by King Solomon. The Jews assembled in the Temple for prayer for performing sacrifices, for making offerings, for praising God and for seeking blessings from God. Hence Jesus also went to Jerusalem Temple regularly.

Andrew: Was Jerusalem Temple like our own Church, Grandpa?

Grandpa: Yes, my child, our Church has much similarity to the Jerusalem Temple. Our worship generally follows the worship pattern of Jerusalem Temple. Our church and the Symbols are so arranged to reveal the presence of God. Hence we must always keep our church neat and tidy. If we make pollute or desecrate the church, God will punish us. Once when Jesus went to Jerusalem Church, he began to drive out the merchants, saying to them. "It is written in the scriptures that God said, My Temple will be called a house of prayer. But you have turned it in to a hide out for thieves".

From this incident, it is clear that Jesus wanted to keep the church pure and clean.

Andrew: Grandpa, I had talked and played with my friends in Church. Now I realize that Jesus doesn't like it.

Grandpa: OK, the past is past. So now on, in the church you should not talk carelessly or make noise or jump up and down. The church helps us to pray earnestly, worship God, to receive the Holy communion and praise God as a community. When the bell rings in church, it actually asks us to come to church for prayer. Hence whenever we hear the church bell, we must make the sign of the cross. Through the church worship, we share with one another God's love and human love. We assemble in the church for worship and we are the children of Mother Church. We all are siblings. The sorrow and

happiness of the whole community. The members of the church must love and help each other. We give the kiss of peace to one another in the Holy Qurbana as a symbol of this.

Andrew: Grandpa, we have reached church. I could understand many things about the church from you. Please tell me more about this when you get time.

While Greeting the Priests

Greeting: Glory be to God

Reply: God Bless You.

Let us think

1. Which was the famous Temple of the Jews?
.....
2. Who built the Jerusalem Temple?
.....
3. What all qualities do we acquire by attending worship in the church?
.....
4. What all things must be kept in mind while attending church worship?
.....
.....
5. What does the church bell remind us?
.....
6. Why do we give kiss of peace in Holy Qubrana?
.....
.....

Activities

1. Draw the picture of a church and colour it.
2. Go inside your church with your teacher and understand about the church.
3. Practise to give the Kiss of peace.

4. Attend the church worship with devotion and holding the Holy Qurbanakramam say the responses to the prayers and sing hymns properly.
5. Make the sign of cross three times when you hear the church bell.

Let us sing

Teacher may help them to sing... Sing a simple hymn

Let us pray

Oh loving Jesus help us to come to the church regularly and attend the services properly as you did in your childhood. Amen.

Resolution

**All those who assemble in my church are children of the church and they are my parents and siblings.
I will pray for them and along with them.**

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Psalm 26:1-7
Monday	St.Luke 21:1-4	Psalm 26:8-12
Tuesday	St.Luke 12:1-5-9	Psalm 135:1-3
Wednesday	St.John 15:1-4	Psalm 135:4-9
Thursday	St.John 15:5-7	Psalm 135:10-14
Friday	St.John 15:8-11	Psalm 135: 15-21
Saturday	St.John 15:12-15	Psalm 84:1-12

Chapter 17

How to conduct ourselves in the Church?

Central Message: The church is holy. We must take part in the worship with fear and respect and feel the presence of God.

Verse to be memorised: A day in your court is better than a thousand elsewhere (Psalm 84:10)

Learning Aids: 1. Holy Qurbanakramam
2. Holy Bible
3. Picture of the pupils own church

What is this lesson about?

Church is the place where God dwells. We must participate in worship with cleanliness of body and manner. We must always bear in mind that we are standing before God. We must attend the church services with fear and devotion. This lesson explains all these.

Introduction

How do you usually prepare yourselves for going to school? Each one tells about his/her preparations. If you reach school late what will happen? Teacher will find fault with you. Sometimes you may get punished. So, all of you will get up early and do the preparation and go to school. Don't you think we need to have the same enthusiasm in going to the church? Do you get up earlier than the other days? We should feel happy to go to church. In the church we feel and experience the presence of God. In the church we also praise and worship God. So we must go to church with proper preparation. Today we learn about those things to be kept in mind while preparing to go to the church.

The Lesson

The teacher calls Jincy to her and said; Jincymol is a good girl. You always come to church on Sundays before the morning prayers. What all preparation do you make?

Jincymol: We wake up early on Sundays, do the morning routine and say the prayers. We avoid loose talk. We put on simple white dress. Girls take scarf to cover the head. Then we go to church with members of the family. Tr: What Jincymol said is quite right. God's Temple is holy. All the services are divine. We learned in Class I that Jesus Christ who was born in a jewich family went to the Jerusalem Temple regularly when he was a child. When you enter the church, remember to make the sign of the cross and pray with fear and devotion. Here is a prayer to be said while entering the church. All pupils say it together.

Prayer to be made while we enter the Church

Oh God, I enter your house. Forgive my sins and make me clean. Bless me to attend the services with devotion and to make my offerings. Amen.

After entering the Church, each one must stand in his row. We must keep in mind that we are before God and hence we must stand to attend the services. We shall not be inattentive or careless. By looking in to the Qurbanakramam we must say the responses to prayers and sing hymns. Worship is not mere saying the prayers, but surrendering our selves to God.

Tr: We worship as a community. We must stand in rows. Whenever we hear the word 'Sleeba' we must make the sign of the cross and bow our head. Don't you remember the way of making the sign of cross? "All stand up and make the sign of the cross".

Tr: We touch our forehead with our three fingers together representing the Holy Father, the Holy Son and the Holy Spirit. We move our fingers from forehead to chest to remember came down to earth from Heaven. We move our fingers from 'left shoulder to right shoulder to remember that we who were on the 'left' due to our sins were brought to the 'right' to be God's Children through the deate and Resunation of Christ. This is the meaning of making the sign of cross.

Throughout the worship, we must see Jesus in our mid. When we all pray together with one mind, God will be pleased with us. We should not have any other thoughts and we must worship God with full concentration.

Let us think

1. Why do we say that the Church is holy?
.....
2. Give the meaning of 'making the sign of the cross'.
.....
.....
3. Explain how we shall conduct ourselves in the Church.
.....
.....
4. Why do we hold the three fingers together when we make the sign of the cross?
.....

Activities

1. Learn the prayer which is used as we enter the church. Say this prayer next time when you come to church. Remember to keep your sandals outside the church.
2. Come for the worship early. Hold the Qurbanakramam in your hands and sing the hymns and so the prayers.
3. Learn to make the sign of cross correctly.

Let us sing

Keep on walking
Let's keep on walking
And keep on talking
Talking to the Lord
 The devil has made his plan
 to make us lose the race
 He follows close behind and
 says 'please turn around'
So keep on walking
Let's keep on walking
And keep on talking
Talking to the Lord.

Let us pray

Oh! Merciful God... help us to come to your church with holiness to take part in the worship. Help us to be regular in coming to the church and worshipping you. Amen.

Resolution

**We will attend the church services carefully.
We will behave in church in a disciplined manner.**

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Proverbs 1:1-9
Monday	Acts 7:44-48	Psalm 91:1-4
Tuesday	1 Chronicles 29:1-3	Psalm 91: 5-8
Wednesday	1 Chronicles 29:10-13	Psalm 91:9-12
Thursday	1 Chronicles 29:14-16	Psalm 91:13-16
Friday	1 Kings 8:28-30	Psalm 121:1-4
Saturday	1 Kings 8:43-45	Psalm 121:5-8

Unit 5

Introducing Great Personalities

Chapter 18

Holy Innocents

Central Message: Holy innocents are the innocent infants who became martyrs for Jesus Christ. We shall seek shelter in their intercession of these holy martyrs.

Verse to be memorised: “Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.” (St. Matthew 5:10)

Learning Aids: 1. Picture of Holy Innocents
2. The Holy Bible

What is this Lesson about?

King Herod planned to kill Jesus when he came to know from the wise men that a king is born in Judea. To eliminate a rival King, he ordered to kill all infants under the age of two. The soldiers went out and killed all the infants. But they couldn't kill Jesus. Holy innocents are the innocent infants who were thus killed mercilessly. Let us learn more about them in this lesson.

Introduction

Tr: There are so many important days in our Church. Which of these days do you like the most?

Pupils give different answers. Jobin says, Tr. Christmas.

Teacher: Good. What is the importance of Christmas? It's the birthday of Jesus. When do we celebrate it? On 25th December every year. What all things do you know about Christmas?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was born in a manger. The angels appeared to the shepherd and sang melodious songs. The shepherds went to the messenger and saw baby Jesus. Did anybody else see Jesus?

Yes. The Magi

What did they do then?

They presented Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense to him.

Let us learn about the infant martyrs who were killed after the birth of Jesus.

The Lesson

The Magi came from the East. They followed a guiding star and reached Bethlehem. They didn't know the exact place where Jesus was born. So they came to the King Herod's palace. They came to know from the Palace that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But the king was not happy about this. The learned men in the palace said that this infant would become a king in the future. The king frightened. Why? He thought that when this infant becomes a king, his kingship will be lost.

The king sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions. 'Go and make a careful watch for the child and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.' This was actually a trick played by the emperor. The wise men were warned by an angel not to go back to the king, after they saw Jesus so they returned. The king became furious because he couldn't kill the infant who would become king.

The King was very crafty. As he could not find baby Jesus, he ordered to kill all the boys below the age of two. He thought that Jesus also would be killed by this summary action. All the boys below the age of two in all families were killed by the soldiers. But they couldn't kill baby Jesus. The angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt and stay there until I tell you to leave".

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until King Herod died.

In the attempt to kill baby Jesus, quite a number of infants were killed. We call these infants as Holy innocents. "We know the term Sahada means martyr. All these infants live in Heaven with Jesus. These Holy innocents will be praying for children everywhere. We may request these Holy innocents to pray for us. There

are churches dedicated in their name. One examples to the Holy innocents church at Mezhuveli in Chengannur diocese. Let us seek the intercession of these Holy Innocents who died for Jesus.

Let us think

1. In which palace did the Magi (.....) reach in search of Infant Jesus?
.....
2. Why did the king become frightened when he heard about the birth of Jesus?
.....
3. What was the order given by the king to the soldier of killing baby Jesus.
.....
4. Why couldn't the solders kill infant Jesus
.....
5. What do we call the infants who died for Jesus?
.....
6. Give the name of a church dedicated in the name of Holy innocents.
.....

Activities

1. Seek the intercession of Holy Innocents
2. Visit the church in the name of Holy innocents with you parents and pray.
3. “Bliss to the prophets.....” find this hymn in the Holy qurbanakramam where we the martyrs. Find other similar hymns and learn them.

Let us sing

“Martyrs shunned this passing world - all possessions spurned.
Left their parents, be then too - left their kith and kin.
Loved they death for Jesus sake - Solemnly their feasts are held.

Let us pray

Oh merciful God, we remember the martyrs who died for your sake. Let their prayer be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Resolution

We will pray seeking the intercession of the Holy Innocents.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		St. Matthew 2:16-18
Monday	Exodus 1:1-7	Daniel 3:1-7
Tuesday	Exodus 1:8-11	Daniel 3:8-12
Wednesday	Exodus 1:12-44	Daniel 3:13-18
Thursday	Exodus 1:15-17	Daniel 3:19-25
Friday	Exodus 1:18-22	Daniel 3:26-28
Saturday	Jeremiah 31:1-17	Daniel 3:29-30

Chapter 19

St. Kuriakose, the Martyr

Central Message: St. Kuriakose, the martyr is a child martyr who lost his life because he didn't renounce his faith in Christ. We must make our prayers through his intercession.

Verse to be memorised: The prayer of a good person has powerful effect (St. James 5:16)

What is the lesson about

Martyrs are the saints who died for the sake of their faith in Christ. Mar Kuriakose is the child martyr who died when he was very young as he didn't renounce his faith in Christ. In this lesson, we read about this martyr.

Introduction

Tr: Who is the patron saint of our Church? Children give answers. We shall say the names of the saints of our neighboring Churches. St. George, St. Mary, Mar Behanan etc.

We learned the meaning of 'martyr' in the last lesson. Martyrs are those who gave up their lives for the sake of Jesus.

Tr. In ancient times, almost all the countries were ruled by kings. There were gods and goddesses they believed. They were very particular that the citizens of the country should worship these gods. If they knew that people worship other gods, they would kill these people. Many Christians had to suffer persecution because they didn't believe. in King's Gods. We know more about St. George, the martyr.

St. Kuriakose, is a martyr who was killed in his tender age because he refused to deny his faith in Christ. In the last lesson, we learned about the martyrs below the age of two. St. Kuriakose was a little more elder to them. He was only three years when he was martyred. Let us try to know more about him.

During the time of Christ and for some years after Him, the emperors of Rome worshipped other gods. Many of them tortured the people who believed in Christ.

Dioce (AD 284-305) was such an emperor. Tarsus was a place under his rule. This town was ruled over by the local king Alexandrus. He didn't like those who worshipped gods other than the gods of Romans. The family of Kuriakose was strongly devoted to Jesus. As his father died so early, his mother who was a devotee and her maids came to Tarsis with Kuriakose, the lad. His mother's name was Julithie. The ruler also came to know this. He ordered the soldiers to bring them before him. Kuriakose and his mother Julithie came to the palace. The king asked everyone to renounce faith in Christ - other wise they would be killed. Suddenly Julithie, the mother replied- "Even my son who is only three years old will not renounce Jesus Christ. How can I, then do it?" On hearing this, they turned to Kuriakose. "Won't you too believe in our god?" They asked. "The boy shouted, I'm a Christian. I believe only in Christ". The furious soldiers hit him against the floor. He broke his head and died on the spot when the mother saw this she was too sorrowful but her faith in Christ doubled. She prayed that she also would join Christ as her son had done. The soldiers cut her head and the mother died with courage praising God.

Julithie and son Kuriakose were considered as saints and martyrs. They had the strong faith which was not shaken even at the risk of their life. This is a great model for us all. How strong was the courage Kuriakose to confess to Jesus? We must pray that we also may have such strong faith. Also we must pray for the intercession of Kuriakose. There are many Churches in our Church is the name of this saint. Let his prayer be a refuge for us.

Let us think

1. What is the meaning of the term 'martyr'?
.....
2. Give the name of martyr, who was very young
.....
3. Who are the youngest martyrs in the Orthodox Church?
.....
4. How old was St. Kuriakose when he was martyred?
.....

5. Name an emperor who hated believers of Christ.
.....
6. What was the native place of Kuriakose?
.....
7. What was the name of Kuriakose's mother?
.....
8. Why did the soldiers kill Kuriakose and his mother?
.....

Activities

1. Kuriakose was not afraid to die. Why? Put '✓' mark against the correct one.

- * Because of love for Jesus
- * Because he liked death
- * Because he didn't know that
- * Because he was going to die

2. Here are some information about St. Kuriakose. Match them.

Mother

At the agree of three

Native Place

Julithie

Death

Tarsis

3. Collect the names of Churches dedicated to the name of Mar Kuriakose, the martyr.
4. Put 'tick' mark against the suitable qualities you find in the life of Mar Kuriakose. Put 'x' mark against the unsuited ones.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Courage | <input type="checkbox"/> | Love to God | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Faith in Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fear of Death | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Anger | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fear of the Lord | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Try to visit a church in the name of Mar Kuriakose, the martyr, and pray.

Let us sing

O (Mar Kuriakose) as in heaven,
Keep we here thy memory
Hear us as we honour Thee
Thy entreaties be our aid

Staumen Kalos Kurielasion.

O (Mar Kuriakose), named art Thou,
By the church that keeps thy feast
May thy Lord His peace bestow,
Making it for ever flow.

Let us pray

Leader says the prayer. The rest shall be said by all.

Leader: O, Mar Kuriakose, who died for Christ.....

All: Please, plead for us.

Leader: O, martyr, who intercedes for us to God.....

All: Please, plead for us.

Leader: O, St. Kuriakose, the martyr....

All: Please plead for us.

Resolution

**We will find shelter in the intercession of Mar Kuriakose
who laid down his life for the sake of Christ.**

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		St.Luke 1:76-80
Monday	St.Luke 2:40-50	St.Luke 2:51-52
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3:17-21	St.Mathew 18:1-5
Wednesday	St.Mark 10:13-16	St.John 11:25-27
Thursday	Proverbs 22:1-6	St.Luke 1:39-44
Friday	Acts 7:54-60	1 Peter 1:13-16
Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:1-5	2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Unit 6

Good Habits

Chapter 20

Cleanliness

Central Message: We must keep our body mind and surroundings clean.

Verse to be memorised: ‘God looked at everything he had made and he was very pleased’. (Gen.1:31)

What is the lesson about?

When we follow God faithfully, we acquire good values in life. This lesson teaches us to keep ourselves clean and tidy conscious about the presence of God.

Introduction

If the table, books and other learning materials are clean, won't you be more happy to learn? When the bed is clean we will be very happy to rest on it. We keep our church clean. On Oct. 2nd, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, in India, the students will make school and surroundings clean under the guidance of the teachers. There they learn the importance of cleanliness.

The Lesson

God created the universe and every thing in it. The earth was formless and desolate and God commanded- “Let there be light” and light appeared and darkness disappeared. God was pleased. God created the nature and man, the crown of his creations. God was pleased with everything. God wants that all these must be clean and tidy all the time. Hence we must develop the habit of cleanliness.

Those who are clean in body mind and spirit can only keep the earth clean.

When we are not clean in our personal life, we may face failure in all the fields. Pollution and other problems on the earth are the result of not keeping our surroundings clean.

Good thoughts, Good words, Good deeds and clean lifestyle all together constitute cleanliness. We can practise these values only with the help of God. Let us think what children shall do, to keep their home, school, church and surroundings clean.

Pause, Think...

1. Do we have the sense of cleanliness?
.....
2. Do we keep our body clean?
.....
3. Do we take care to keep our home, school and surroundings clean?
.....
4. Are our words and deeds according to God's will?
.....

Cleanliness is the symbol of holiness. God created our body and soul. God gave us his glory and holiness. We must keep cleanliness of body, mind and spirit. Uncleanliness might lead to illness. If we take a shower and change our clothes every morning and evening, we would become more healthy. Cleanliness keeps everything beautiful we might experience fatigue, tiredness, and stress, if we lack cleanliness. We need pure water and pure air for proper health. We get them only if our environment is clean. Let us keep clean our home, surroundings, school and church as we keep our body and mind clean.

Let us think

1. What did God create to remove darkness?
.....
2. What are the merits of keeping clean?
.....
.....

3. What are the demerits of not being clean?

.....
.....

4. List some activities you will do to keep your home and surroundings clean.

.....
.....

Activities

1. Clean the church and its surrounding a long with your friends.
2. Try to clean your home and surroundings everyday.
3. Always be careful to keep your body and clothes clean

Let us sing

Teacher shall help the students sing a simple connected with this lesson.

Let us pray

Oh God, teach us to keep ourselves clean this world and all things you created, pure and clean. Prepare us to be good children with clean body, mind and spirit. Amen.

Resolution

We will keep our body mind and spirit, home, school, church and our surroundings clean. We won't do anything that would pollute the environment.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Psalm 19:8-9
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 24:1-5
Tuesday	Isaiah 1:16-18	Psalm 51:9-11
Wednesday	Isaiah 52:11-12	Proverb 16:1-3
Thursday	Ezekiel 36:25-36	St.John 13:9-11
Friday	Acts 18:5-6	St.John 15:1-4
Saturday	Revelations 19:8-9	St.Matthew 23:25-26

Chapter 21

Be a Good Friend

Central Message: We must always try to be a good friend of others.

Verse to be memorised: The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give life for them. (St. John 15:13)

What is this lesson about?

A real friend is one who is always with us in our bad times and good times. We must treat our friends in the way that we expect them to behave towards us. This lesson deals with things to be kept in mind for being a good friend.

Introduction

Don't you all have friends? Who are your friends? Can you name them? Who are your favourite friends? Why do you like them?

We all got friends at school and neighbourhood. Aren't they all good friends? We studied in class I about getting good friends and the benefits of good friendship. At the same time, we must be good friends to others. We are going to learn the qualities that we shall cultivate to become good friends.

The Lesson

It is very good to be a real friend. We can become good friends only if there is God's Blessing. We know the value of a real friend when we are in danger. When we are in trouble we would get relief by talking to a real friend. In the same way we also must be good friends in our home, school and church by being ready to help and comfort others in need. We can win good friends only through our good behavior.

In the Bible, we see two thick friends David and Jonathan. Jonathan was the son of Saul who tried to kill David. Even though Jonathan's father Saul didn't like David, Jonathan loved of David. David was rescued from the wicked plans of Soul to kill him only by the timely warning given by Jonathan. This is the proof of real friendship.

We must treat to our friends as we would expect them to treat us. Here is a proverb. "A friend in need is a friend indeed"

The real friend is one who help us in our difficulties. It is our duty to help our friends when they are in need and also we must console them when they are unhappy. If we keep our friendship only in times of our friends happiness, but stay away from them in their poverty and difficulties, we are not at all good friends. In the parable of the 'prodigal son' we see that the friends who joined him when he had gone away from his father were not good friends.

"Lot of friends in prosperity Noone in sorrow" Such "friends" are not real friends!

Pause... Think...

1. Am I a good friend of my friends?
.....
2. Will you help your friend when he has lost his pencil or book?
.....
3. Will you try to contact your friend when he is absent in class for a long time?
.....

Only one who has a pure heart will become a good friend. When we are able to provide peace and happiness to others with our words and deeds, we will become good friends. Those who are close to Jesus will become good friends. Jesus is our best friend. When we obey Jesus' will, we will be able to share God's love with others. Only a good friend will be able to share the joy of a friend in his achievements and also console him when he is in difficulties.

Pause... Think...

1. Are we happy in the achievements of others?
.....
2. Do we console others in their pain and sorrows?
.....
3. Do we share our good things with others?
.....
4. Do we find happiness in causing harm to others?
.....

Unselfishness is a mark of real friendship. One who leads us to bad things will never be a good friend. Good friends shall try to correct the mistakes of others in a positive manner without offending them and encourage the good thing and talents in others.

In Malayalam, there is a saying. “If you have a true friend you don’t need a mirror”. Be a good friend to others! When there is God’s love in us, we will become good son/daughter to our parents, good brother/sister to our siblings and a good friend to our fellow beings.

When we try to do good and pray for others we will become good friends.

Let us think

Mark ‘tick’ or ‘x’ against the following questions in the following Check List.

1. Do you find happiness in the achievements of others?
2. Are you ready to console others in their sorrows?
3. Are you ready to share God’s given gifts with others?
4. Would you like to share food items with others?
5. Do you derive happiness by doing good to others?
6. Do you love your friends as you love yourselves?
7. Do you pray for your friends?
8. Do you encourage the good qualities of your friends?
9. Do you try to encourage your friends to keep away bad things?
10. Do you help your friends in their studies?

Activities

1. In the class you tell a good thing that you did for your friends.
2. Analyse the above questions in the check list and see if you are a good friend or not.
3. Visit sick people, along with elders in your home and pray for them.
4. Always be ready and willing to help our friends who are from poor families.

Let us sing

Teacher shall help the students to sing a small hymn.

Let us pray

Oh God, enable us to become good friends to others. Fill us with your love. Help us to love and be considerate toward others. Bless all our friends..... Amen.

Resolution

We shall behave as true friends to our friends and we will be a comfort to our friends always.

Follow up reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday		St.John 3:29-30
Monday	Exodus 33:10-11	St.John 15:12-14
Tuesday	Job 6:14	St.James 2:23-24
Wednesday	Isaiah 41:8-10	Psalm 37:1-4
Thursday	Proverbs 14:20-22	Psalm 37:5-8
Friday	Proverbs 17:17	Psalm 23:
Saturday	Psalm 27:6-9	Psalm 35:13-14