



COPTIC ORTHODOX
DIOCESE *of* LONDON

Nursery and Reception

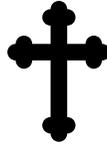
Part I: Tout – Kiahk

(Mid-September – December)

Table of Contents

Date	Lesson
1st Week of Tout: 3rd Week of September	The Lord Jesus Helps the Fishermen
2nd Week of Tout: 4th Week of September	Feast of the Cross: Finding the Cross
3rd Week of Tout: 5th Week of September	Elijah and the Widow
4th Week of Tout: 1st Week of October	The Creation
1st Week of Baba: 2nd Week of October	Noah's Ark
2nd Week of Baba: 3rd Week of October	The Lord visits Abraham
3rd Week of Baba: 4th Week of October	Jacob's Dream
4th Week of Baba: 1st Week of November	Nice Woman Builds a Room for Elisha
5th Week of Baba: 2nd Week of November	Jesus Calms the Storm
1st Week of Hatour: 3rd Week of November	Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers
2nd Week of Hatour: 4th Week of November	The Rich Man and Lazarus
3rd Week of Hatour: 1st Week of December	The Lord Jesus Feeds the Crowd for the Second Time
4th Week of Hatour: 2nd Week of December	Zechariah and Elizabeth
1st Week of Kiahk: 3rd Week of December	The Virgin Mary and the Angel
2nd Week of Kiahk: 4th Week of December	Saint Mary Visits Elizabeth
3rd Week of Kiahk: 5th Week of December	The Wise Men Visit Baby Jesus





The Lord Jesus Helps the Fisherman

Please read Luke 5:1-11, and tell the story, emphasizing the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To show the power of our beloved Jesus, the Son of God.

MEMORY VERSE

“So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him” Luke 5:11

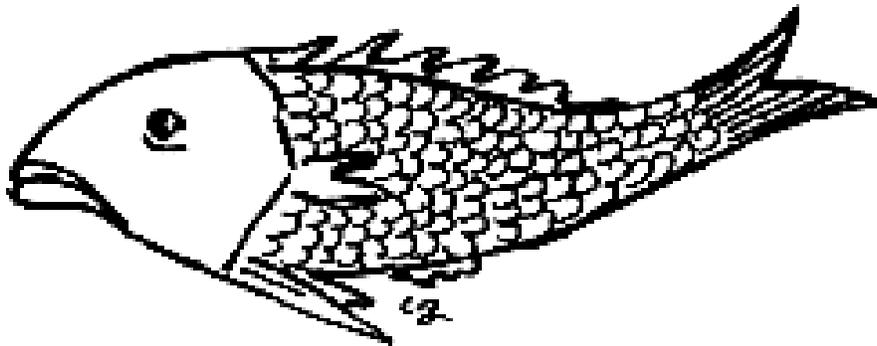
PLEASE EMPHASIZE

- † Jesus always starts the move towards us and in many cases He appears as if He needs something from us. But He always plans to grant us a lot of blessings in our lives.
- † Simon and the other fishermen had been trying to fish all night, but they could not catch any fish. Fishermen usually cannot fish during the day because the fish can see the nets and escape. But, we will see in this story that God can do anything.
- † Jesus got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to move away a little from the land. Then He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. This shows us that Jesus borrowed the boat from Simon and appeared needy; but Jesus had a plan to give Simon lots of fish and later on to make him one of His disciples.

- † There were two boats: one was carrying Peter and his brother Andrew, and the other James and John. Jesus entered the first one. He asked Simon to put his net in the water, even though it was still during the day. Simon obeyed the Lord Jesus. They collected lots of fish and they asked the help of their friends James and John.
- † After they filled the two boats with fish, they left all the fish and followed Jesus. They did this because they believed in His power and that He is the Son of God.
- † Let us praise the name of the Lord.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Whatever we cannot do, can be done by Jesus. All what we have to do is to ask Him and obey Him so that He comes to us as He came to Simon's boat.
2. We must learn from Simon to obey Jesus and give Him the small things that we have. How? We should help the poor. If we have a relative who is sick, we must help him or her. Then Jesus will give us in return great blessings.
3. The Lord Jesus may come to us as needy. But His intention is to give us His blessings.





[SONGS](#) 🎵

PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN

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

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

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

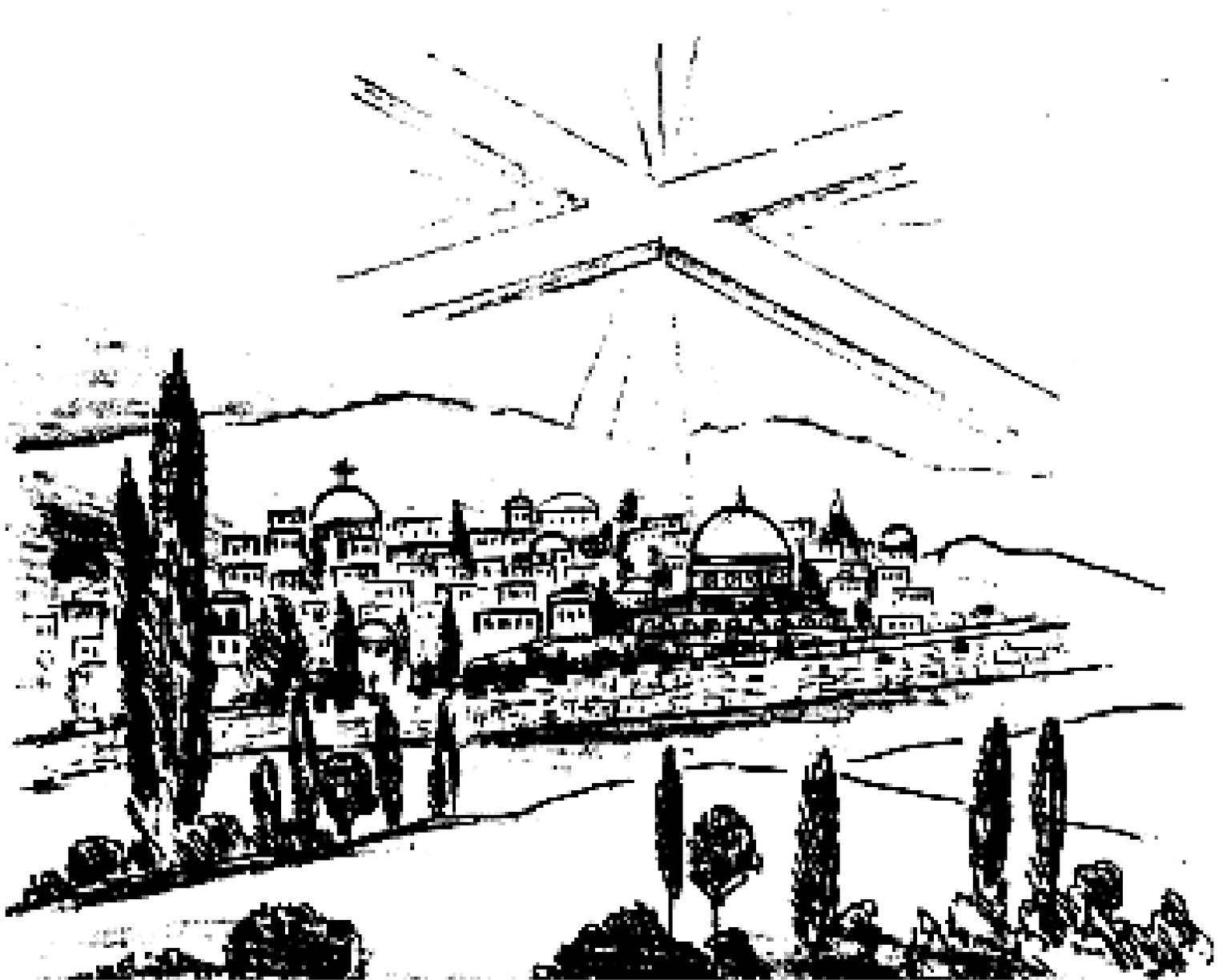
Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)
Out in the deep blue sea.

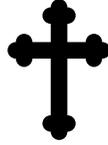
Then the boat was filled with fish (3)
Out in the deep blue sea.

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



The second week of the month of Tout
(September)





The Day of the Feast of the Cross

Please read the attached sheets entitled “The Appearance of the Cross in the Sky” and “The Day of the Feast of the Cross”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

- † To learn about the apparition of the cross in the sky and St. Helene’s finding of Jesus’ cross.
- † To learn how to cross yourself properly.
- † To appreciate the power of crossing yourself

MEMORY TEXT

“Jesus keep me near the Cross.”

PLEASE EMPHASIZE

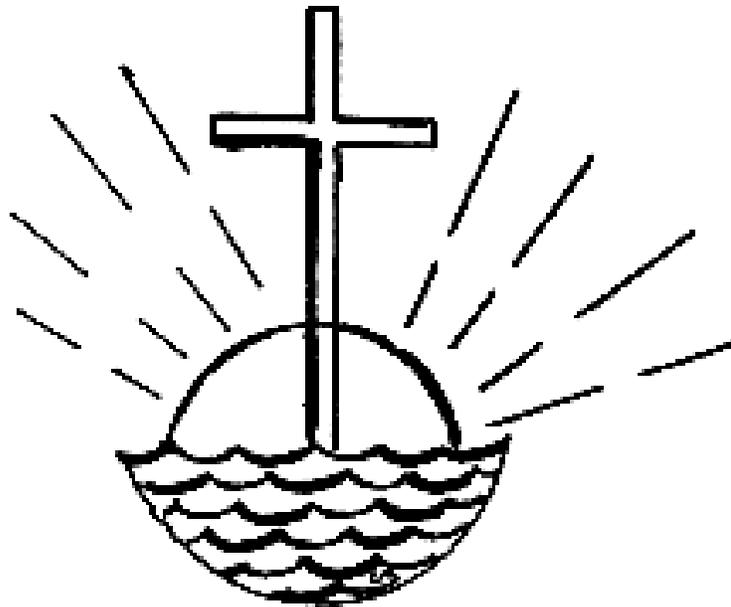
- † Please show the picture of Jesus on the cross. Jesus died on the cross, to assure us that He loves us. Since then all the Christians believe that the cross is a sign of love that we, as Christians, must always remember.
- † The appearance of the shining cross in the sky three times (described in the attached sheet) was received by the people with joy and astonishment.
- † Tell the story of finding the cross (as described in the attached sheet).

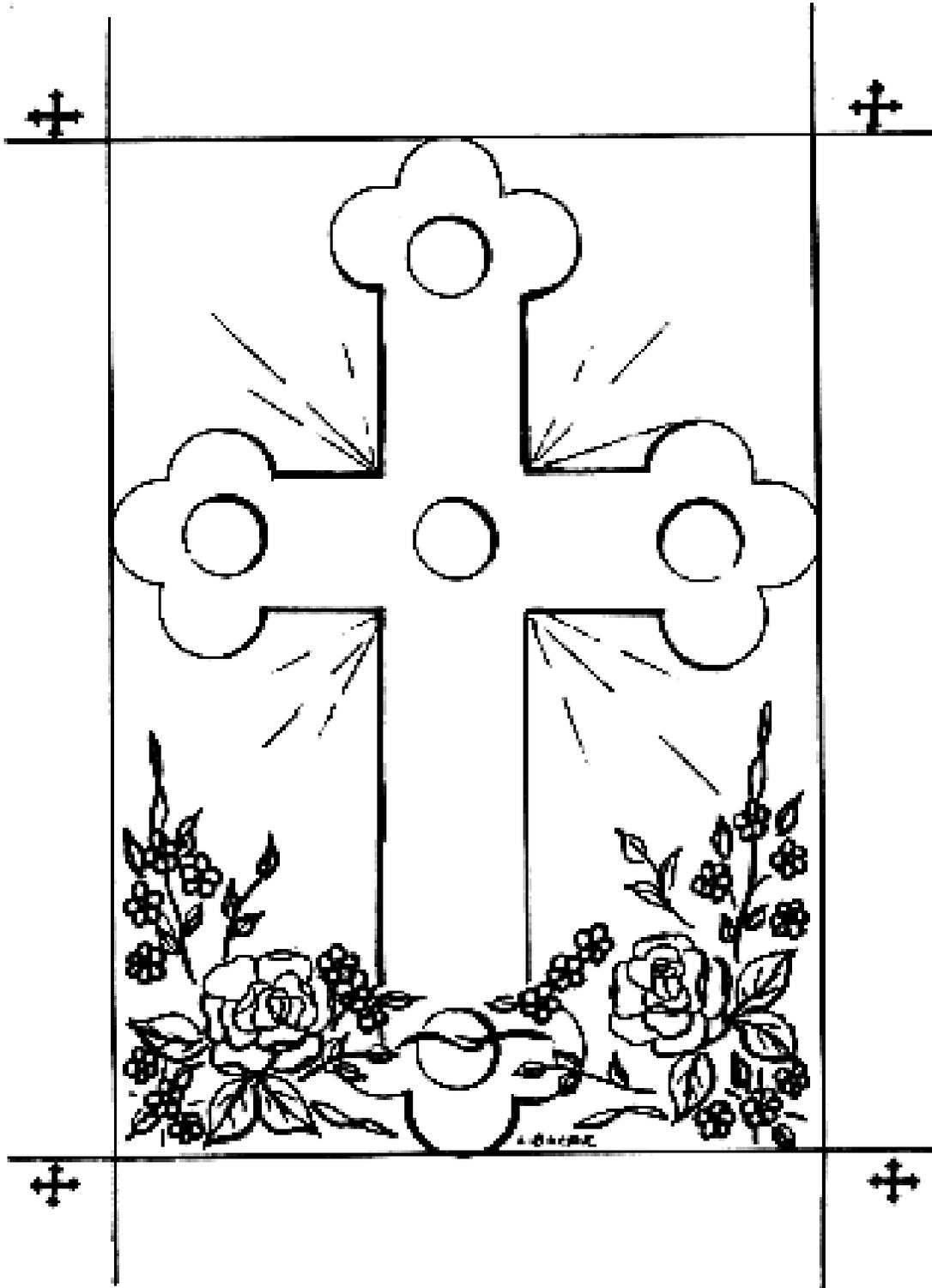
- † Crossing yourself makes you in company with Christ and, thus, you cannot fear anything. You must cross yourself before you sleep and before entering a dark place.
- † You should wear a cross and have one in your room.
- † Cross yourself in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let us learn to cross ourselves in a proper way.

(Be sure to show the children how to arrange their fingers.)

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. What is the best sign that God gave us to show His love for us? The cross.
2. The cross is the sign that we are Christians.
3. We must be crossing ourselves several times during the day so that we do not fear the devil.





[SONGS](#) 🎵

MY CROSS

My cross, my cross
I place you on my bosom

my glory is in you!
and in my bedroom too.

REFRAIN

My cross, my cross
But in my heart, my cross

you're made of lowly wood
you're more precious than gold

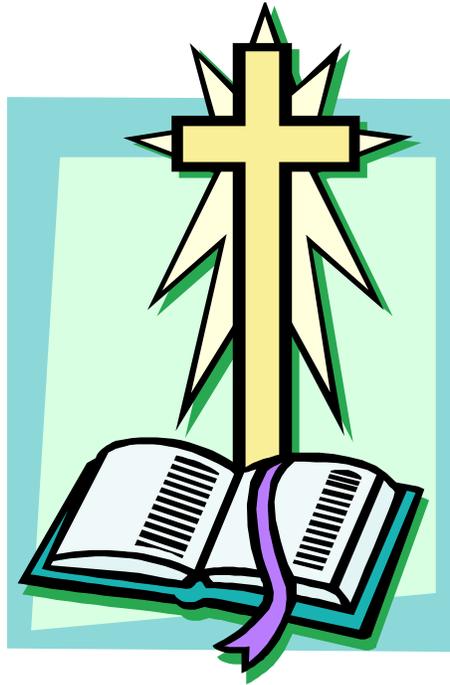
My cross, my cross
I sign you every morning

is with me everywhere
and whenever I fear

My cross, my cross
The pledge of my success

my victory is in you
in whatever I do

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



THE APPEARANCE OF THE CROSS IN THE SKY

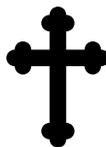
This happened **THREE** times:

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

THE DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE CROSS

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

St. Helene did that because she loved the cross because it appeared to her son, King Constantine before he went to war and he won that war.



.....Elijah and the Widow

Objective:

Learn about sharing and about God's blessings.

Memory Verse:

"God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reference:

1 Kings 17:8-16

Introduction:

Who gives us everything that we have, our food, our homes, our clothes, our toys, etc..? God is the One who provides for all of our needs. God is very happy when He sees us sharing with others and loving others.

Lesson Outline:

Our story today is about a man named Elijah. He loved God and prayed all the time. Elijah always obeyed God. One day, God sent Elijah to a city to meet a poor woman who lives alone with her son. Elijah reached the gate of the city and saw the woman. She was about to go and make the last bit of food which she had. The woman did not have any more food to cook after this meal. Elijah asked her to bring him a cup of water. The woman obeyed Elijah and brought him a cup of water. Then, Elijah asked her to make him a little bread. The widow could not help it and said "I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and now I was about to make it as our last meal, for me and my son.... it is the last thing we have to eat." Elijah told her: "don't be afraid; go and bake the bread for you and your son, but first make a little bread and bring it to me." The woman trusted God and listened to Elijah. She took the last flour and the last oil and baked the bread for Elijah. While baking the bread, she found that the jar is full of oil and the bin is full of flour! When the woman saw that, she became very happy, they all had a very nice meal, and they all prayed thankfully to God.

Conclusion:

God blessed the widow and her son with a miracle (her oil and flour did not run out—everyday she found the jars filled to the top again)! This blessing was because she obeyed the man of God and shared her food. She trusted in God. When we share our things with others because we love them, God will give us many rewards for that. Remember to ask your mom and dad for money to put in the donation box in Sunday school. The church can use that money to share with children and families in need.

Application:

For a visual aid, bring a jar of flour, some oil, and a mixing bowl.. Give each child a small Ziploc bag with some of that dough to take home. Use a coloring page of Elijah and the widow.



The Creation

Objective:

Learn that God made us and everything around us.

Memory Verse:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis 1:1

Reference:

Genesis 1

Introduction:

Ask the children if they like to play outdoors. What do you like to do outside? Do you like seeing the trees, flowers, the sky, and the fields? Have you ever been to the beach and seen the big ocean? Show the children some pictures of the ocean and other nature scenes.

Lesson Outline:

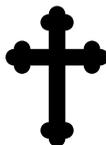
Tell the children to close their eyes for a moment. Now it is all dark. Tell them to cover their ears. Now it is all quiet. A long time ago, before the world began, everything was quiet and dark... no people, no birds, and no animals. Then God spoke: “Let there be light... let there be day... let there be a sun to shine,” and the light came. How good the light was! God kept the dark for nighttime. He made the moon and stars to shine in the dark. That was good too. Then God said: “Let there be sky... land... sea,” and so it was. But, the world was still empty and quiet. Then, God made plants and trees, so, we can have very nice fruits and vegetables to eat and flowers to smell. Then, God made the fish to swim in the waters and the birds to fly in the sky. It was not quiet any more. The dog was saying: “woof-woof,” the cat was saying, “meow-meow,” the mouse was saying, “squeak-squeak,” and the cow was saying, “moo-moo,” etc. Although it became very noisy, God was happy with all that He made and He thought indeed that everything was good. At the end, God found that everything is good, but one thing was missing...Guess what that was? People! Yes, God created a man and his name was Adam and a woman whose name was Eve. Adam and Eve loved each other and God loved them and always helped them in everything. Who created everything? What was the last thing God created? Did God love and help Adam and Eve?

Conclusion:

God created everything around us and He created us. God did all this for one reason: He loves us very much. He wants us to have beautiful things around us. When we see the beautiful sky, birds, grass, or our wonderful parents and friends, we must remember that it was God who made them all and we should thank Him for everything.

Application:

A felt board can be used to display the Creation. As the story is being told, add the items created on that day on the board. Give the children a coloring page of the Creation.



Noah's Ark

Objective:

Learn that God keeps His children safe.

Memory Verse:

"I set My rainbow in the cloud" Genesis 9:13

Reference:

Genesis 6-9

Introduction:

Did you ever go to the zoo? Who can name some of the animals you've seen at the zoo? Today, we will hear a story about someone who had to take care of a lot of animals when there was a lot of rain.

Lesson Outline:

Noah was building a boat, an enormous boat ...Bang...Bang....Bang... went the hammer. The boat was big enough for all his family and two of every kind of animals and birds. The people in the world forgot about God, and they were doing bad things all the time. Noah was the only good man and was a friend of God. So, one day, God told Noah that He was going to send rain...rain...and more rain on the earth for 40 days and nights. God told Noah to build a big boat (The Ark) so it would swim on top of the water. He also told him to take two of every kind of animal and lots of food in the ark. Noah listened to God as he always did and built the big ark.

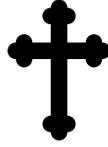
Two of every kind of animals and birds came to Noah in the ark. The animals were so excited...Quack...Quack...said the duck, Moo...Moo...said the cow, ...hurry...hurry... said the geese, and baa...baa... said the sheep (the servant should bring pictures or toy animals and act as they are entering the ark). Noah also brought all his family into the ark (his wife, his three sons and their three wives - a total of eight people). After they all entered the ark, God closed its door (Gen.7:16). The sky started to rain heavily. When the waters started to cover the whole earth, Noah's ark started to float and swim on top of the waters. Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal and bird were saved. Noah sent a dove 3 times to find out if the water had dried up. When Noah and his family and the animals came out, God showed them a big beautiful rainbow in the sky as a promise that this kind of flood will never happen again. God said to Noah: "I set My rainbow in the cloud" as a promise.

Conclusion:

God keeps His children safe. It is important to obey what God tells us, just like Noah did. It is important to obey our parents because they can tell us what is good for us and teach us what God wants us to do.

Application:

A toy ark and animals can be used as a visual aid along with a picture Bible and a coloring page.



The Lord visits Abraham

Objective:

Learn to welcome our visitors and learn that nothing is impossible for God.

Memory Verse:

“God has made me laugh” Genesis 21:6

Reference:

Genesis 18:1-15; Genesis 21:1-7

Introduction:

Have you ever had visitors come to your house? Were you happy? Do you like to have your friends come and play with you at your house?

Lesson Outline:

Abraham and Sarah loved God very much. They were very old in age and had no children. They always wanted a child, but, now they were too old. On one hot day, Abraham was sitting outdoors under a tree. He saw three men coming near. He was very happy he had visitors. He welcomed them and invited them to stay for dinner. He ran and told Sarah to get things ready. They made them the best dinner and were very nice to their visitors. While they were eating, they told Abraham something surprising, “Sarah will have a baby next year.” These visitors were the Lord Himself with two angels. At first, Sarah could not believe the news and laughed, but they said to her: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

God kept His promise and Sarah had a baby boy. They named him Isaac and Sarah was very happy with a big smile on her face. She said out of joy “God has made me laugh.” (Gen. 21:6)

- In this story, what are the names of the two old people who loved God?
- How many men did Abraham see when he was sitting outside?
- Who were the visitors?
- What was the name of Abraham’s and Sarah’s baby?

Conclusion:

We should always be happy when visitors come to our house, just like Abraham and Sarah. When visitors come to our home, we should share our toys, play with them, and be very friendly. We have to make sure our guests are happy at our house. Jesus will be very pleased when we do that and we will receive a blessing as if Jesus Himself visited us. We should also remember that God can do anything for us. Nothing is hard for Him, but He gives us what we need at the right time because He loves us.

Application:

Tell the story while using a picture Bible. Give the children a coloring page after the lesson.



Jacob's Dream

Objective:

Learn that God has angels to help us.

Memory Verse:

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

Reference:

Genesis 28:10-21

Introduction:

How do Angels look? They are white and bright and beautiful (dress up as an angel in class and have the children take turns dressing up). What is a ladder? It has steps to go up and down. Today our story is about a special ladder and lots of angels.

Lesson Outline:

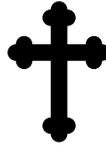
There was a man who loved God very much. His name was Jacob. Jacob's mom told him to go to his uncle because his brother was mad at him and Jacob was afraid. He walked and walked all day until the sun went down. Then he decided to get some sleep. He placed a stone under his head as a pillow and fell asleep. God sent him a nice dream to comfort him. He saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and lots of angels going up and down the ladder. At the top of the ladder, God appeared to Jacob. God blessed Jacob and promised to give him many children. God also told him that He will be with him always, wherever he goes. Jacob was surprised, and when he woke up, he said, "God is in this place." Jacob was very happy with this dream and remembered that God was with him.

Conclusion:

Angels can help us and support us wherever we go. Angels are beautiful and they do whatever God tells them to do. God gives everyone of us a guardian angel that is with us all the time and never leaves us. Even when we are sleeping at night, the guardian angel is still there to keep us safe. We must remember to pray before we sleep. We can ask God to give us nice dreams and for the angels to protect us.

Application:

Story can be told along with a picture Bible and a coloring page. Have the children take turns dressing up as angels. Alternatively, make arts and crafts of an angel.



Nice Woman Builds a Room for Elisha

Objective:

Learn to share and to love others.

Memory Verse:

“Let us love one another” 1 John 4:7

Reference:

2 Kings 4:8-11

Introduction:

Love is the greatest thing we can have. If we love one another, then we are doing the right thing and acting as God’s children.

Lesson Outline:

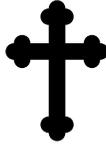
Elisha was a prophet. He loved God so much and loved all people. He used to pray for everyone and care about his people. One day, Elisha went to visit a rich woman, but, he did not have a place to stay. The woman asked Elisha to stay at her home. She asked her husband to build Elisha a small room on the roof of the house. She put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp for Elisha to be comfortable in the room. Elisha was so happy that he had a place to stay and was thankful to the woman. He prayed for her that God would give her and her husband what they wanted, a baby, so she can be very happy.

Conclusion:

This woman was very kind and loving and built a room for Elisha. Elisha too, prayed to God to give her a baby. We have to remember to be kind and loving to each other. We should also learn to share our things and to pray for each other.

Application:

Story can be told along with a picture Bible and a coloring page. At prayer time, have each child pray by name for the person next to him/her or have them repeat a prayer after the servant remembering each of their friends by name.



Jesus Calms the Storm

Objective:

Learn to have courage, and don't be afraid, , because Our Lord Jesus is with us.

Memory Verse:

"...even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Mark 4:41

Reference:

Mark 4: 36-41

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have ever been on a boat or seen one. Ask them to describe a rain storm and if they ever felt a strong wind. Explain to them that during a storm, the waves of the sea are very high.

Lesson Outline:

One day, Jesus was by the seashore and wanted to go to the other side. He asked His friends, the disciples, who had a boat to go with them. The disciples started sailing and all was fine at the beginning. Jesus felt tired so He went to the back of the boat to rest. Then, the wind started to blow...whoooo...whoooo..., and it was getting stronger and stronger. It started to be a big storm and the waves got higher and higher. Boom!Bang!....Splash! The waves were hitting the boat harder and harder, and water started to fill the boat. The friends of Jesus were scared and did not know how to steer the boat anymore. They were not able to get to the other side or even to go back.

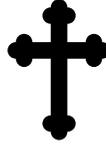
They started looking for Jesus and found Him sleeping on a pillow in the back. They woke Him up quickly and said, 'Master, wake up, don't You see what is happening and how we are having problems....?' Jesus woke up; He looked at the storm and said: "Peace. Be still." As soon as He said this, the wind stopped and the sea was calm again with no waves at all. It was all nice and quiet again. Everyone was amazed and said, "even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Jesus told them that they should not have been scared.

Conclusion:

If we ever feel scared of anything, we should ask Jesus to help us. We should always remember that Jesus our Lord is with us, so we do not need to be afraid or scared. He will always keep us safe. He can do anything, and even the storm, the wind, and the sea obey Him.

Application:

Show a DVD of this miracle, if it is available. Use a coloring page of the story.



Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

Objective:

Remember to always thank God.

Memory Verse:

“We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!” Psalm 75:1 (NKJV)

Reference:

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:

When we ask for something, what do we say? ...Please! When we receive what we asked for, what do we say? Thank you! It is important to remember to say these expressions. It is also very important to always thank God for everything He gives us.

Lesson Outline:

Today our story is about someone who did a very good thing. He said thanks to God, and Jesus was so happy with Him. Once upon a time, there were ten sick men. Their skin was looking bad and no one wanted to touch them. One day, they saw Jesus, so they ran to Him and asked Him for help. Jesus looked at them and told them to go to the temple (church) and show themselves to the priest (Abouna). On their way, their skin started to look better and better until they were all well and all healed. All of them were so happy! They rushed to see their families and tell them the great thing that happened to them. Only one of them suddenly stopped and decided to go back to Jesus and thank Him. The man ran to Jesus and told him, “Thank you! Thank you, Jesus, for making me well.” Jesus was so happy to see that man come and thank Him. Jesus wondered why the other nine did not do the same.

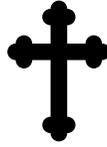
Conclusion:

When we thank Jesus for what we have, Jesus will be very happy with us, bless us, and even give us more. What is the first thing we should say to God when we pray? Can each one tell us one thing for which we can thank God?

Application:

Tell the story along with a picture Bible. If available, use a DVD to show the story. A coloring page of that story can be also used. At prayer time, have the children repeat a prayer after the servant, thanking God and listing many things that we have, or ask each child to just thank God for one thing.





The Rich Man and Lazarus

Please read Luke 16:19-31, and tell the story emphasizing the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To learn that the angels come to receive the souls of the good people after they die and send them to heaven.

MEMORY VERSE

“The beggar died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom” Luke 16:22

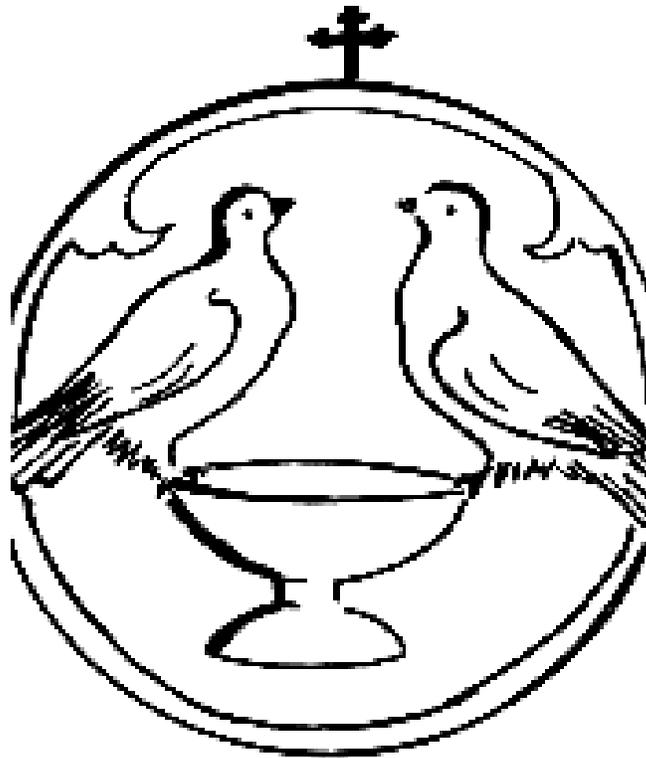
PLEASE EMPHASIZE

- † If someone is hungry and comes to your house, would you give him some food? Yes, I would give him food. Why? Because I love the poor people and I must help them.
- † Give a description of the things that the rich man enjoyed. He did not help Lazarus who suffered a lot. Describe the story in detail.
- † The rich man did not believe in God but Lazarus did. The rich man was not kind. God gave him a lot of money and he owned many things, but he did not offer any help to the poor and the needy. The rich man loved himself only.
- † The bad people will go to Hades where they will cry and suffer while the good people will go to Paradise, where they will have a nice time without tears or sorrow.

- † We have to help the needy. We have to help the sick people.
- † There is no other chance for the bad people to do good things after they die.
- † We have to love God and do what He is telling us.
- † The angels help us during our lives as you recall from the previous lessons. After we die, they carry our souls to Paradise.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Blessed are the merciful because they will have mercy from God and will gain a place in Paradise.
2. If you would like to go to heaven, be nice to people, help the poor people and help the sick people to feel better.





[SONGS](#) 🎵

CHRISTIAN LOVE

*“And now abide in faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”
(1Cor 13:13)*

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

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

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

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

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

never proud nor snobbish
love rejoices in the truth.

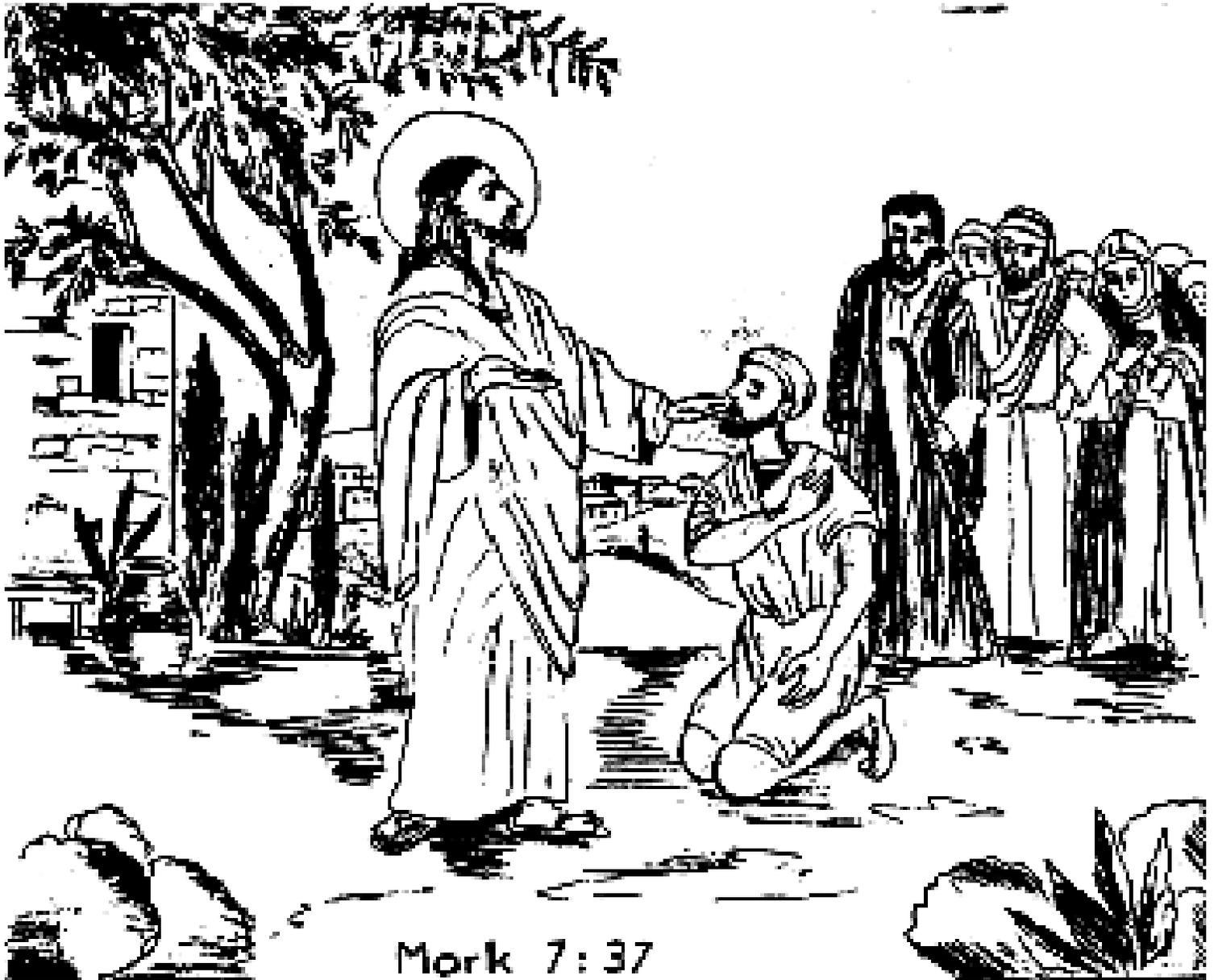
Bears all things
Hopes all things
Now remains faith, hope and love

believes all things
endures all things
but the greatest of these is love.

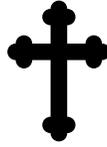
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For the success
Of this Sunday
School Program
the teacher should
refer to the
HOLY BIBLE
In his/her preparation
of the lessons and in
teaching the children
in the class







The Lord Jesus Feeds the Crowd for the Second Time

Please read Mark 6:36-44, (Jesus feeds 5,000+ people) and Mark 8:5-9 (Jesus feeds 4,000+ people), and tell the story with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To show that Jesus cares for hungry people. We too, must be kind to hungry people.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have compassion on the multitude" Mark 8:2

PLEASE EMPHASIZE

† Jesus fed the multitude twice from a very small amount of bread and fish.

† **The first time:**

Jesus taught the people lessons for their souls and their lives. But after that He also taught them, and us, a lesson: we must be kind to the hungry. He took the five loaves and the two fish. Jesus looked up to Heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and the fish, and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied. The leftovers were twelve baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish. More than five thousand people were fed.

† **The second time:**

The great multitudes were with Jesus for three days. Jesus said, “I have compassion on the multitude” He wanted to feed them before they went home. The disciples had seven loaves. Jesus took the seven loaves and having given thanks; He broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before the people. They also had a few small fish, and having blessed them, He commanded that these also should be set before them. And they ate, and were satisfied and they took up the broken pieces, which were left over, seven baskets full. And they were over 4,000 people.

- ✠ We should learn from Jesus how to care for the hungry people. We must collect money for them. You should ask Mom and Dad to give you money to give to the hungry people.
- ✠ We must also learn that the small things we have with the blessings of Jesus will cover all our needs and even more.
- ✠ Jesus’ disciples forgot the two miracles that Jesus did to feed the multitude. One time they entered the ship with Jesus and they had only one loaf and they forgot to bring food. They were thinking of that but Jesus said to them, “when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up? They said to Him, “Twelve”. Also when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said, “Seven”. So He said to them, “How is it you do not understand?” (Mark 8:19-21).

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Jesus was so kind. We must learn from Him to be kind to each other. We must collect money for the hungry and the poor people.
2. When we eat we should only take what is sufficient for us in our plates. We have to avoid throwing out food just as the disciples collected all the leftovers.
3. How many people do you normally feed with five loaves or even seven? Not many, certainly not thousands!
4. How many little fish do you think you would need to feed (and fill) thousands of people? A few thousand!

5. Did Jesus have that much? No. But He could take the little and turn it to more than enough because He is God, and when He blesses something, it always satisfies our needs and more.



SONGS 🎵

O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES

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

O be careful little eyes what you see (2)
For the Father up above is looking down in love
So be careful little eyes what you see.

O be careful little mouth what you say (2)
For the Father up above is looking down in love
So be careful little mouth what you say.

O be careful little hands what you do (2)
For the Father up above is looking down in love
So be careful little hands what you do.

O be careful little feet where you go (2)
For the Father up above is looking down in love
So be careful little feet where you go.

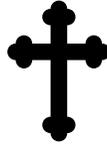
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Luke 1: 5-25



Zechariah and Elizabeth

Please read Luke 1:5-25, and tell the story with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To learn that we must trust in God's promises.

MEMORY VERSE

"My words, which will be fulfilled in their own time" Luke 1:20

PLEASE EMPHASIZE

- † Describe the circumstances related to the birth of St. John the Baptist. His parents had no children and were too old to bear children. They kept praying that a child be born to them. At the right time God sent His angel to convey the happy news to Zechariah.
- † What was Zechariah doing at the altar? He was a priest and he was praying and burning incense. The rest of the people were praying outside the altar.
- † Zechariah was afraid of the angel and did not believe that he and Elizabeth would have such a great son. Why didn't Zechariah believe? Because he and his wife were too old to have children anymore. (People their age had grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren, not little babies.)
- † The angel told Zechariah that he was sent from God and that Zechariah should have believed him because of that. He told Zechariah that he would not be able to speak until he saw the baby God promised.

- † God sent His angel Gabriel to give a message to Zechariah. God uses the angels to serve us. We must trust God and His promises.
- † “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense” Luke 1:11. Actually the angel of the Lord is always standing in this place and never leaves the right side of the altar of incense. The angel raises the offerings, the prayers and the incense up to heaven. This is the reason Abouna at the end of the Divine Liturgy says “O Angel of this day, flying up to heaven with these oblations, mention us in front of the Lord so that He may forgive our sins.
- † In the days after the angel appeared to Zechariah, Elizabeth conceived. She was very happy and thankful to God.
- † Zechariah remained silent because he did not believe the message of God.
- † The Lord answers our prayers. We must trust Him because He loves us.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. An angel waits until the end of our praises and prayers, and then he rises up. We must trust that the angel comes back carrying the fulfillment of our prayers in the right time as he did with Zechariah and Elizabeth.
2. As we trust that God loves us, we must trust His promises. We must not question God.



Colouring



[SONGS](#) 🎵

King of Kings

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

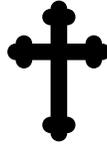
King of kings and Lord of Lords
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace
Glory, Alleluia.

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The Virgin Mary and the Angel

Please read Luke 1:26-38. Also read the attachment “Christmas Message”, and tell the story, with emphasis on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To let the children rejoice by telling them a very happy story and having them know it by heart.

MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is with you” Luke 1:28

PLEASE EMPHASIZE

- † Start with the childhood of the Virgin Mary. Her parents did not have any children and they were old. They prayed to God to give them a child and they promised to give this child back to serve God. After the birth of the little girl Mary, and at the age of 3, her parents gave her up for service and prayer in the altar. She stayed there until she became 12 years old. An old man named Joseph took her to his house to look after her, and they were later engaged. After some time the angel came to her with the happy message.

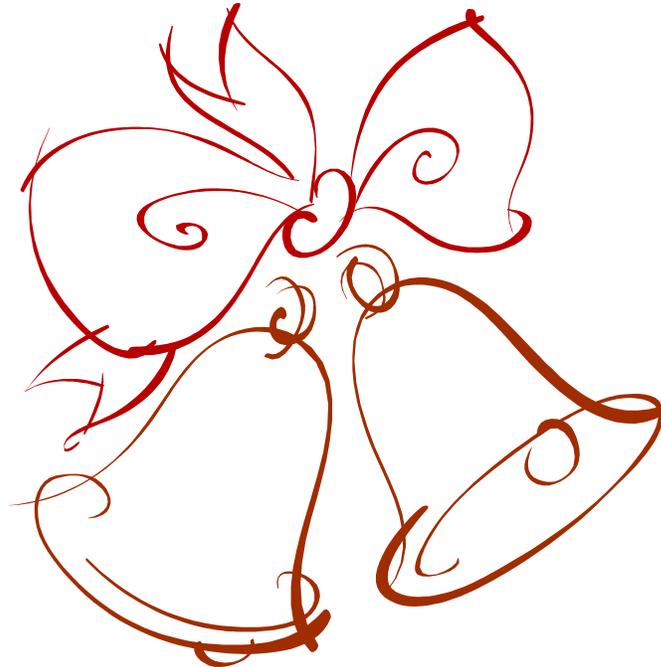
- † Describe the conversation between the angel and St. Mary, in detail. The greeting of the angel had 3 parts: (1) Peace be with you, (2) The Lord is with you, and (3) He has greatly blessed you. Explain each part.

✝ The Virgin Mary was used to seeing angels during her prayers but she was troubled this time because of the greetings of the angel, and she was wondering why an angel would greet her like that. St. Mary was very humble. In her view, she did not deserve all these greetings. She never looked for, or accepted, any praise from people. She had a secret life with God in prayer and never became happy when people spoke so highly of her. This is the reason why she was troubled upon hearing the greetings of the Angel.

✝ The memory verse “The Lord is with you” Luke 1:28, reminds us of when Abouna says the same phrase to all of us in the Divine Liturgy. We then answer saying, “And with your spirit”. Let us learn this by heart.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. The Virgin Mary believed and obeyed the message of God. This teaches us to believe what God tells us in the Bible and to obey it.
2. Let us all rejoice with St. Mary, as she was getting ready to receive Baby Jesus.



Christmas Colouring



[SONGS](#) 🎵

I AM GLAD

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

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

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

REFRAIN

He came for us
Our God, our God

with His tender love
came to save us our God

Saint Mary was pleased
He told her you will bear

when she heard Gabriel
our Lord Emmanuel

The angels in the sky
Glory to God in the highest

praised the Lord for His birth
and peace be on earth

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

appeared to the three wise men
in the city of Bethlehem

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A JOYFUL MESSAGE

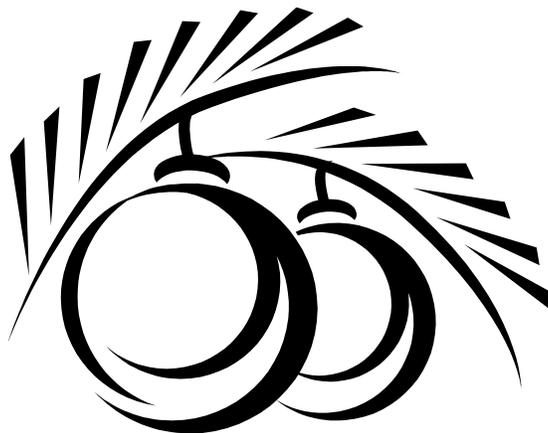
Nazareth was such a pretty village among the hills of Galilee, above the sea. In this village, there lived a young virgin, named Mary, who devoted all her life to worshipping God.

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

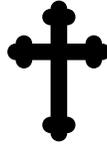
“Do not be afraid,” he said, “God has sent me to give you such happy news.”

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

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







Saint Mary Visits Elizabeth

Please read Luke 1:39-45, and tell the story with emphasize on the points below.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

To learn from the Virgin Mary's love to her relative, Elizabeth.

MEMORY VERSE

*"And entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth",
Luke 1:40*

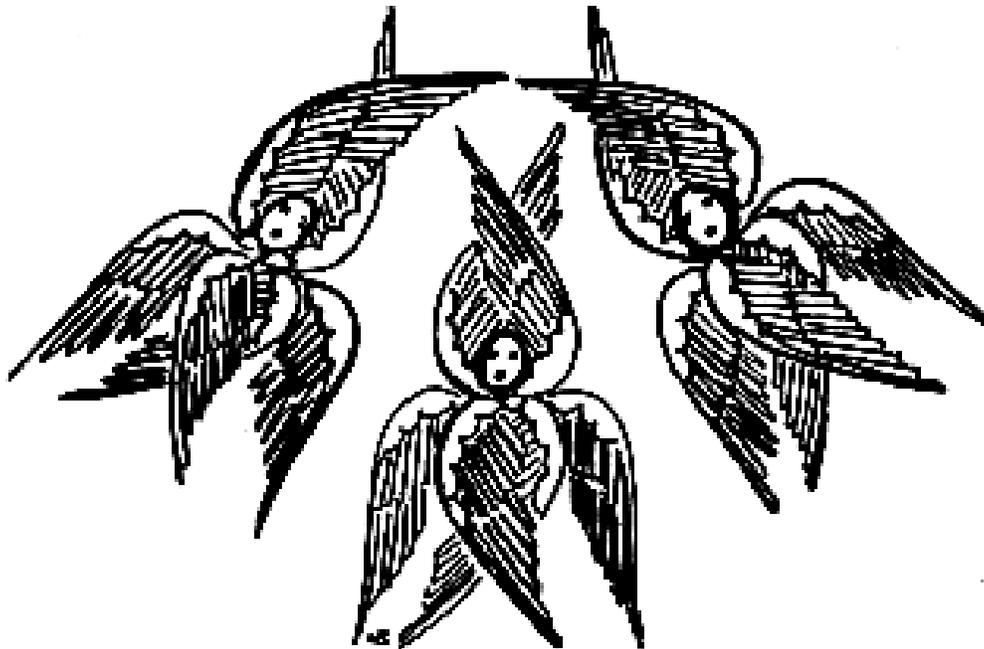
PLEASE EMPHASIZE

- † Let us emphasize the love of the Virgin Mary. Although she was carrying a baby in her womb, she traveled a long distance to help Elizabeth because she heard from the angel that Elizabeth was also pregnant, in her old age. She came to serve her. Nobody asked her. But St. Mary was so nice.
- † We have to love each other, serve and care for each other.
- † The baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb with joy when St. Mary entered Elizabeth's house and greeted her.
- † Elizabeth was very happy that St. Mary, the Mother of God came to visit her.

- † After St. Mary served Elizabeth and helped her with the housework, she returned to her house.
- † St. Mary stayed in Elizabeth's house for three months.
- † Elizabeth gave birth to a baby. The neighbors could not agree about what name to give him. His father, Zechariah, brought something to write on and he wrote the name of "John".

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

If we love St. Mary and carry her picture and hang her picture in our homes, we must do as she did with Elizabeth. We should help other people, especially the elders.





Christmas [SONGS](#) 🎵

I AM GLAD

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

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

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

REFRAIN

He came for us
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Saint Mary was pleased
He told her you will bear

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The angels in the sky
Glory to God in the highest

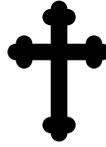
praised the Lord for His birth
and peace be on earth

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

appeared to the three wise men
in the city of Bethlehem

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The Wise Men Visit Baby Jesus

Objective:

Learn that Jesus is our King, the true King.

Memory Verse:

“We have seen His star...” Matthew 2:2

Reference:

Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction:

Review the account of the birth of Baby Jesus in the manger and the story of the shepherds.

Lesson Outline:

When Baby Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. It was big and bright, bigger than all the other stars in the sky and very white and shiny. Wise men, like kings, saw the star from very far. They knew that it was a special star. They said to each other “this star must be for a new King who is born, let us go and find Him and worship Him.” They packed their stuff and started to travel on a very long journey, which took so many days. Nobody had any cars at that time; they had to use camels to travel. They followed the star for a long way and finally, it led them to Bethlehem, where Jesus was. They were very happy to see Baby Jesus and they bowed down to Him. They gave Him three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Conclusion:

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus, the Feast of the Nativity. We are all happy at this time and we give and receive presents just like the wise men did for Baby Jesus.

Application:

Show a DVD of the story and make Christmas arts and crafts.
Continue to teach the children the song: “*Away in a Manger*”