



**COPTIC ORTHODOX**  
DIOCESE *of* LONDON

**Year 1**

Part I: Tout – Kiahk  
(Mid-September – December)



# Table of Contents

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
1st Week of Tout: 3rd Week of September	<b><u>Family:</u></b> I Have Got a Compassionate Father: The Prodigal Son
2nd Week of Tout: 4th Week of September	<b><u>Faith:</u></b> Feast of the Cross - The Cross is a Sign of God's Love: The Cross is a Sign of Blessing
3rd Week of Tout: 5th Week of September	<b><u>Eternity:</u></b> Angels of Heaven: The Prophet Daniel
4th Week of Tout: 1st Week of October	<b><u>Community:</u></b> I Will Not be Afraid for You Are with Me: David and The Lion and The Bear
1st Week of Baba: 2nd Week of October	<b><u>Virtue:</u></b> God Chose Me by Name: Samuel Chooses David
2nd Week of Baba: 3rd Week of October	<b><u>Bible:</u></b> God Always Saves Me: The Three Youths in the Fiery Furnace
3rd Week of Baba: 4th Week of October	<b><u>Church:</u></b> The Church is the House of the Lord: The Towers, Domes and Bells
4th Week of Baba: 1st Week of November	<b><u>Family:</u></b> God Loves Me, He Knows My Needs: God Looks After Elijah
5th Week of Baba: 2nd Week of November	<b><u>Community:</u></b> I Feel the Needs of Others: Joseph and the Famine
1st Week of Hatour: 3rd Week of November	<b><u>Virtue:</u></b> I Am Different – Speaking the Truth: The Samaritan Woman and Telling the Truth
2nd Week of Hatour: 4th Week of November	<b><u>Bible:</u></b> I Enjoy His Blessings: Adam and Eve in Paradise
3rd Week of Hatour: 1st Week of December	<b><u>Church:</u></b> He Teaches Me in His House: The Lectern and the Church Readings
4th Week of Hatour: 2nd Week of December	<b><u>Faith:</u></b> Christ is My God: The Healing of the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda
1st Week of Kiahk: 3rd Week of December	<b><u>Faith:</u></b> The Birth of the Lord Jesus: Angels and Shepherds
2nd Week of Kiahk: 4th Week of December	<b><u>Community:</u></b> Physically Serve Others: Saint Mary and Elizabeth
3rd Week of Kiahk: 5th Week of December	<b><u>Eternity:</u></b> Merciful Character: St Nicholas





**I Have Got a Compassionate  
Father**

**The Prodigal Son**

**Bible reference:** Luke 15:11-24

**Lesson content:** God's love and His Fatherhood

- Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:
- **Know:** God's love and forgiveness towards me.
  - **Feel:** Our heavenly father accepts whatever happens.
  - **Practice:** How to pray and ask for forgiveness.

**Bible verse:** *“For the father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me” (John 16:27)*



## The Lesson

- There was a small town where a man lived with his two sons. They lived in a big beautiful house and had lots of servants. Their father loved them and they had everything they wanted. In those days, when a father died all his money would be split amongst his children.
- However, the youngest son did not want to wait and wanted his inheritance as soon as possible. He went to his father and asked him for his part of the inheritance. His father asked him why he wanted the money seeing as he already got everything he asked for in his father's house. The son replied saying that he did not want to stay in the house, but wanted to travel far away. The father was deeply saddened because he did not want his son to leave him. In those days, the sons actions were not respectful as this meant he considered that his father had already went to heaven.
- But because the father loved his son, he did as his son wished and gave him what he asked for. He counted all the money he had and gave his youngest son his part. His son was so happy with the money. He left home and was so happy to explore another city and do whatever he wanted to do. He travelled far and started to spend his money on everything and anything he wanted. He made lots of unkind friends who liked him only because of his money.
- After a while, he had spent all the money he had and so went to look for his friends, but they just left him because all his money was gone. He sold everything he had to find some money to buy food. When he sold everything, he did not know what to do. He even had to sleep on the streets because he ran out of money. After a while an old man had pity on him and told him that he could work with him on his farm. He was so happy to have found a job but his job was to look after pigs. They were wild animals but he had no other choice. He even hoped to eat the same food the pigs did because he was so hungry.
- Suddenly he remembered his father's amazing house and said "my father's house was full of food and I am dying of hunger. Even the servants in my father's house have more food than me. All my clothes have torn and I smell unpleasant. I wonder if I can return to my father's house. Will my father accept me?" After a lot of thinking, the youngest son decided to that he would return home and tell his father "I was wrong and I am not worthy to be your son. Treat me as one of your hired workers". Indeed, he got up and left to return home to his father's house. For the entire journey he was thinking of what to say to his father. Once he approached the house, he found his father standing waiting for him. When he saw his son, he ran to him and hugged him. His son said "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one

of your hired servants.” The father was so happy that his son had returned and gave him sandals for his feet; he put a ring on his finger, and gave him a new robe. The father asked his servants to kill the fattened calf and have a big feast because his son was dead and now he is alive.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- How many children did the father have?
- How did the younger child make his father upset?
- What did the father do when his son asked for the inheritance?
- What did the son do with the money when he took it from his father?
- How did his father meet him after all he had done?
- What did the father ask his servants to do for his son when he came back?



### Exercise...

- To draw something and present it to their father showing their love to their fathers.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

O Lord and Master of my life, grant me not a spirit of sloth, meddling, love of power, and idle talk. But give to me, your servant, a spirit of sober-mindedness, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brother, since you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.



**The Cross is a Sign of God's Love**

## The Cross is a Sign of Blessing

**Bible reference:** Genesis 48:8-20

**Lesson content:** The Cross is a sign of blessing - Jacob's blessing of Joseph's sons

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The story of the discovery of the Cross.
- **Feel:** That the Cross is the reason for blessings for in our lives.
- **Practice:** To ask for the blessings of the Cross in our lives.

**Bible verse:** *"The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22)*



## The Lesson

- What happened to the Cross after Jesus rose from the dead? After Jesus died and rose from the dead, some Jews hid the crosses of Jesus and the two thieves crucified with Him as well as the tomb of Jesus. They wanted to hide any presence of the Cross because of the miracles that were happening next to the tomb.
- After many years, a king named Constantine was going into a big war. The night before, he saw a vision of the Cross in the sky with the following written words; “with this sign you will conquer”. King Constantine’s mother, Queen Helena was a Christian and so King Constantine knew about Christianity, but he was not a believer. King Constantine placed the sign of the cross on his soldier’s flags. They entered the war and defeated their enemies.
- After the war, Queen Helena decided to visit Jerusalem to receive a blessing from The Holy Land, close to the mountain of Golgotha. She ordered for the cross of Jesus to be found and three wooden crosses were found. They wanted to know which of the three crosses belonged to Jesus and St Cyril, the Pope of Jerusalem at the time decided to test the power of the crosses to be able to identify which belonged to Jesus. To do so, a dead man was brought forward and was placed on each of the three crosses. He was placed onto the first cross and nothing happened. He was then placed onto the second cross and again nothing happened. He was finally placed on the third and final cross and rose from the dead. Through this, they knew which cross indeed was the cross that belonged to Jesus Christ and they glorified God.

## Application



### Exercise...

- To ask the children to do the sign of the cross before doing anything (before food – before playing – before studying – before sleeping – when waking up)



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank you God for loving me and looking after my family. You listen to me when I speak to You. Thank You for being with me when I am at school. Thank You for always looking after me. Amen.



**Angels of Heaven**

**The Prophet Daniel**

**Bible reference:** The book of Daniel Chapter 6

**Lesson content:** To feel the love and care of God

- Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:
- **Know:** That God sends His angels to protect us during difficult times.
  - **Feel:** The importance of angels in our lives.
  - **Practice:** To thank God in our prayers for the presence of angels around us.

**Bible verse:** *“The angel of The Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them” (Psalms 34:7)*



## The Lesson

A long time ago there lived a community known as the nation of Israel. They were the only nation in the whole world who worshipped God. At that time, another nation called Babylon fought with the nation of Israel. Babylon defeated Israel and took the Israelites to work in their land.

The king of Babylon was called Darius and Daniel was one of the captured Israelites who were working in Babylon. Daniel was very close to God and king Darius loved Daniel because of his wisdom which of course was given to him by God. As a result of his love for Daniel, the king appointed him as a satrap\* the kingdom and because of this, the other satraps and governors tried to find charges against Daniel.

Indeed, one of the governors of Babylon agreed with one of the other satraps to go to the king and ask him issue a decree stating that anyone requesting anything from any god or other leaders except for king Darius, will be put to death by throwing them into the lion's den. The king liked this idea and issued the decree, signed with the king's stamp which meant that he would not be able to go back on his word. He made sure everyone in the city knew about the new law including Daniel. Daniel knew this decree was issued as a result of the jealousy other had towards him because he always prayed to God for his people to return home.

Daniel did not obey the new rule and opened his window to pray to God. The governor saw him and went to the king to let him know what Daniel was doing. He told the king that Daniel did not care about the new decree and continued to pray to God. When the king heard this news he was deeply saddened because he loved Daniel. However, he kept his word and ordered his soldiers to capture Daniel and throw him into the lion's den.

Daniel knew the lions were very hungry, so hungry that they would eat anyone thrown into the den before they even reached the floor. The king and people of Babylon gathered to witness the consequences Daniel would face. With great sadness, the king ordered that Daniel be thrown into the den. As soon as Daniel fell into the den, he closed his eyes and prayed deeply to God and trusted that God would save him. He did not feel any movement around him and so opened his eyes to find the lions sitting around him like cats.

Daniel thanked God for saving him. The next morning, king Darius went to the den to see what happened to Daniel. He called out to Daniel asking him if he was ok and if his God had saved him from the mouths of the lions. Daniel answered saying "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." (Daniel 6:22) The king was so pleased and ordered the guards to remove Daniel from the den. And the king gave

commanded that the men who had accused Daniel be thrown into the lion's den. The king made a new decree stating that Daniel's God is the living God and His kingdom is forever because he delivers and works wonders. The entire kingdom knew of the power of Daniel's God and that He saves His children from any distress and sends His angels to strengthen them and give them joy.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Daniel was living during the reign of the king of Babylon. What was the name of the king?
- What was the secret of Daniel's success in his work in the palace of Darius the king?
- What was the decision that the king took? Who was the reason for that?
- What happened to Daniel as soon as he went down to the lions' den?
- What are the things that make us afraid in our lives and how can we overcome it?



### Exercise...

- The children to thank the Lord Jesus during their prayer as He asks His angels to protect us.
- To ask for the intercession of the guardian angel during their prayer.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank you God for loving me and sending your angels to protect us in our daily lives. Please help me not to be afraid from anything and to have faith just as Daniel did. Whatever happens in my life, I will trust that You are with me and Your angels are protecting me. Amen.



**I Will Not be Afraid for You Are  
with Me**

## David and The Lion and The Bear

**Bible reference:** 1 Samuel 17:34-35

**Lesson content:** To not be afraid

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** God gives us strength to help others in need.
- **Feel:** The hand of God which takes away our fear.
- **Practice:** How to make sacrifices to protect others.

**Bible verse:** *“Though an army may encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear...” (Psalms 27:3)*



## **Background information to servant**

### **Who is David?**

He is Jesse's son from a city called Bethlehem, the same city of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was one of the greatest kings in Israel, who lived nearly 100 years before Christ. The Scriptures, which are inspired by the Holy Spirit, refers to him as "a man after the Lord's heart" (1 Samuel 13:14), because he had a humble heart. Prophet Samuel referred to him in 1 Samuel 16:12 as one "with bright eyes and good-looking". He was brave in keeping sheep, to the extent that he killed a lion and a bear which had taken a lamb out of the flock and saved the lamb. He lived a life of meditation and was singing his psalms while looking after the sheep. And so he deserved to be called the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1).

Keeping the sheep is a way that God used more than once to prepare his great servants like the prophets Moses and David.

### **God chose David as king**

The Lord said to Samuel: I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite because I have seen in his sons a king. So Samuel did as the Lord said. And Jesse showed his seven sons to Samuel but the youngest one was not present. So Samuel sent for him. Then God said: "anoint him for this is the one to be king".

Q: What can we learn from God choosing David the youngest of his brothers?

We learn that God doesn't use the limited human measures when he chooses his prophets.

### **The greatness of David is because of the following three reasons:**

- 1- God's witness to him "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)
- 2- Jesus Christ was a descendant from him "the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1)
- 3- His good characteristics which remained with him all his life, like when David kept Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son at his table (2 Samuel 9:10)

### **The problem of fear in children**

It's not strange to be afraid! Fear is something normal that people feel in some situations when they are threatened with danger. These fears can appear clearly from the age of three years, and its levels can differ between being cautious, panicking and being horrified.

And the normal sane fear is good for man; if someone doesn't get afraid of fire it can burn him or destroy him. However, there is also obsessive fear, and such exaggerated fear is abnormal. For example, the fear of darkness is normal for a 3-year-old child, but if it results in a severe panic, the fear is abnormal.

### **Where does fear in children come from?**

- Parents constantly threatening and frightening their child(ren)

- Children watching violent, horror and/or crime movies, and listening to frightening stories, especially those involving witches and ghosts.
- Lack of love and care, which can lead to insecurity in the children, for example fearing the loss of his/her mother or father, the parents deserting him/her, the separation of the parents, abuse, hatred and/or deprivation.
- Fear by contagion, the state of fear is like any other emotional state which is passed from one person to another. For example, many mothers show fear and panic in front of their children, like being afraid of animals, so their children end up growing to have this same fear.
- Exaggeration of fear and anxiety from the fathers and mothers. So, if a young child see his mother's face confused and pale when he gets a small injury; he/she will tend to panic and be afraid, and the child will grow up with a strong fear about himself.
- The environment of the family, when it is full of tension and arguments, can affect the child's contentment and make him grow up in fear.

**Sometimes parents (and servants also) jokingly frighten kids, and then laugh from his fear, but this is cruel and should not happen.**

#### **Dealing with fear:**

Parents and educators play an important role in helping children to deal with fear and the feelings and behaviors accompanying it, by:

- ✓ Accepting the child's fear and the crisis he's facing.
- ✓ Hugging and kissing him/her, and to be close to him/her. And you should help him/her to face his/her fears, so that his fears do not accumulate.
- ✓ Calming down him/her and assuring him/her of his/her safety.
- ✓ Giving the child his/her space to express his/her feelings and to respect it.
- ✓ Encouraging the child to know the source of his/her fear.
- ✓ Using role play and exchanging roles to train for fearful situation.

## **Activities to introduce the lesson**

**You can use the one of the following ways to introduce the lesson.**



### **Introductory Story**

Is there anyone of us who doesn't get afraid at all?  
How do you face your fears?

In a faraway city, there was a boy called Jack, and he was the same age as you. Every night he used to stand up and pray with his dad and mum and his sister Christine, asking God to protect him all night and take away from him any bad dreams.

One day Jack woke up very early, and after he got out of bed he washed his face and came back to his room to pray to God and thank Him for the night which has passed.

And when he nearly finished praying, he heard something strange. He heard a strong tapping on the glass of his window, and his window was facing a garden. So, slowly, he went to the window and raised the curtain, only to see something very strange!

He saw a bird outside the window, and a butterfly inside the room. The bird was trying to reach the butterfly to eat it, but it kept hitting the window with its beak because it didn't see the glass between it and the butterfly! On the other side of the window, the butterfly was so afraid, flying up and down to flee from the bird, and it also didn't notice that it's in the protection of the glass.

Dad heard the tapping sound, so he came quickly to Jack's room, and he saw this strange scene. Then he said to Jack: "Did you see that? This is how we are with God who always protects us like the glass protected the butterfly and it didn't see it. We don't see God's protection that's why we get afraid in any situations."

## The Lesson

- A long time ago there was a man named Jesse who had eight sons. The youngest of them was called David. He was a beautiful boy who always wore brightly coloured clothes. Even though David was young, he used to happily look after his father's sheep and take them to the hills near the river so that they can play and eat with the birds and other animals.
- He used to hold a staff in his hand and carry a small bag where he kept small stones inside. David also had a slingshot and a harp. He always used to play the harp and sing "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want".
- One day David took his father's sheep near the water. One of the sheep was quite naughty and ran off far away to play. Then he got lost! David looked for him everywhere and found him between a lion and a big bear. David got scared but remembered the strength of God and said "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want". David ran towards the lion and bear to save the little sheep.
- David killed the lion and the bear and saved his sheep through God's strength. David hugged the sheep and took him back to his friends.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What is the name of David's father?
- What was the job of David when he was young?
- What was David using to get the sheep back when it gets out of the flock?
- Who attacked David's sheep?
- Why wasn't David afraid when he killed the lion and the bear?
- How did David feel when he saved his sheep?
- How can you serve others? (Start a discussion)



### Exercise...

- To write down the following verses and keep these verses in their bags, taking them out when they are afraid to remember God's words to us that he grants us power to support us. The following verses are:
  - + "Though war break out against me, even then I will be confident." (Ps 27:3).
  - + "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing." (Ps 23:1)



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Lord Jesus Christ, please help me and lead me not to sin. Stop me from making any mistakes.  
Have mercy upon me and do not turn me away. Amen.



**God Chose Me by Name**

**Samuel Chooses David**

**Bible reference:** 1 Samuel 16

**Lesson reference:** [www.madareselahad.org](http://www.madareselahad.org), [www.dltk-kids.com](http://www.dltk-kids.com)

**Lesson content:** God loves me, He chose me by name

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** God chose David as King, regardless of his age.
- **Feel:** Joyful in knowing that he is accepted by God and is given strength.
- **Practice:** to pray before making choices/decisions.

**Bible verse:** *“I found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will do all my will” (Acts 13:22)*



## Background information to servant

- The first and second books of Samuel, according to Jewish tradition, are in fact one book called 'Samuel'.
- The first book carries Samuel's name because he is the main character in the first chapters, as well as being the first person to anoint kings for Israel (Saul and David), the first to write prophecies and historical facts, driven by the Holy Spirit. He was the first leader to be sent in the most perilous period during the Israelite's transition from the generation of Judges to the generation of Kings, and during that time he helped to improve the situation for the people.
- Samuel was a patriotic and a spiritual leader.
- The meaning of the name 'Samuel': 'the Lord heard' (I asked the Lord and He responded)
- The book of Samuel was divided in two parts during the translations of the 70 Apostles (1 Samuel, 2 Samuel), this was for practical reasons since there was a need to use both languages, and the translations of the books of Samuel and Kings by the 70 Apostles were considered to the books of the Kingdom.
- 1 Samuel ends with the death of Saul, 2 Samuel begins with David being enthroned over the Kingdom and historical events of David's life as a King. David was the one who established the Kingdom, not Saul, as well as being the one who prepared for the building of the Temple, and has provided many psalms, many of which contained prophecies about Christ. It is therefore not a surprise to find David as the main subject of the books of Samuel, he is the grandfather of Christ, in the flesh.
- In order to understand the Psalms of David in detail, the books of Samuel should be read.
- In David's life we find phenomenal grace as well as falls.
- The books of Samuel feature the stories of the last two judges of Israel (Eli the priest and Samuel the prophet), and the first two kings of Israel (Saul and David). Saul's sin is the disobedience of God, but David's virtues are admitting his sins, obedience, submitting to God's will, even when he was being disciplined [by God] he remained silent and did not grumble, hence he was deserving of the description "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will."
- According to Jewish traditions, the books were written by Samuel the prophet until his death, then Gad and Nathan the prophets completed the chapters. We would find the source of this assumption in 1 Chronicles 29:29-30, " Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, with all his reign and his might, and the

events that happened to him, to Israel, and to all the kingdoms of the lands.” (1 Chronicles 29:29-30).

- Date of the authorship [of Samuel]: the book was written after the split of the Kingdom, before the captivity [of Jerusalem]. The full term of David as King was mentioned, “In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.” (2 Samuel 5:5), a distinction between the kings of Judah and the Kings of Israel was also mentioned; “So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.” (1 Samuel 27:6).
- During the period of Judges, God reigned as King over His people, He chose for them a judge. The book shows God’s ways in dealing with people, whether they were good or bad, individuals or a nation. We are shown His judgement, His discipline, forgiveness and mercy.
- In his book Samuel demonstrates the power of prayer, since Samuel was a fruit of his mother’s prayers, and the nation gained victory by Samuel’s prayers.

## Activities to introduce the lesson

You can use the one of the following ways to introduce the lesson.



### Introduction

God looks at the heart, not the appearance, He chooses the weak, the poor, the humble, the simple, to be saints, servants, ministers, and even kings. God chose David, the goat herder, to become the greatest leader of His people. Likewise, He chose you to be sons and daughters.



### Introductory Story

[Tells a story of a clown knocking the door to surprise a birthday boy with balloons and to sing Happy Birthday to him. The birthday boy was delighted, he asked his mum and dad if someone had informed the clown of his birth date. The parents told the boy that there is a special friend who knows the date of his birth without being told. This special friend is Christ, who loves, knows what the boy likes and dislike, knows what to give. The boy is told that he can trust this friend and talk to Him whenever he wants.]

## The Lesson

- Samuel was one of God's servants, he loved God very much and listened to everything He says. One day, God told Samuel, "I would like you to go to Bethlehem to Jesse, take oil with you in order to anoint Jesse's son as king over Israel. I know that he has a good heart and he will be faithful to My people." So, Samuel went joyfully because he was going to see the king that God has chosen, when he arrived in Bethlehem (the city in which Jesus Christ was born), Jesse called his sons to take part in offering a sacrifice for God.
- Samuel asked to see Jesse's sons, the eldest son Eliab was presented, Samuel saw the Eliab was a handsome and tall young man, he thought to himself "Surely this must be the one". Samuel prayed and asked God if Eliab was the chosen one, God said to him, "Do not look at beauty and height [appearance], because I look at the heart, is he willing to obey Me and serve Me?!" The second son was presented, but he was not chosen by God. Samuel viewed all 7 sons, but none of them were chosen by God.
- Samuel asked Jesse if he had anymore sons, Jesse told him that he has one young son left, his name was David, but he herds goats, Samuel told him, "Send someone to call him, I would like to see him". When David arrived, God said to Samuel, "This is the boy that I would like to make king, and to serve me". So, Samuel anointed David's head with oil, as a symbol of being chosen by God. God gave David strength to serve Him and do what is pleasing to God. God looks at our heart, our love for Him, and our deeds.
- We should know that 'God knows me by name...He chose me since I was in my mother's womb...He plans my life like a true Father...therefore I ought to trust in His promises, in His love as a Father, obey His commands, and depend on His strength'.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Who is the prophet that God sent to anoint a king for Him?
- Which of Jesse's sons was chosen to be king?
- What was David's job? A shepherd, a doctor, and engineer?
- David was very beautiful, his heart was always with God, that is why God chose him to be king.
- Does God know me by name? if so, how should I work with Him (Open a discussion)



### Exercise...

God looks at the heart, not the appearance, He chooses the weak, the poor, the humble, the simple, to be saints, servants, ministers, and even kings. God chose David, the goat herder, to become the greatest leader of His people. Likewise, He chose you to be sons and daughters.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank You God because You know everything about me. Thank You for loving me and caring about me. God please help me to share with You all that I feel inside of me. Amen



**God Always Saves Me**

**The Three Youths in the Fiery Furnace**

**Bible reference:** Daniel 3

**Lesson content:** He always saves me

- Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:
- **Know:** God is able to save us from danger.
  - **Feel:** The presence of God in times of difficulty.
  - **Practice:** to seek refuge in God during difficult times.

**Bible verse:** *“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.” (Psalm 91:14)*



## Background information to servant

- The book of Daniel is the last book of the large prophecies, it features 14 chapters. The last two chapters and part of the third chapter are considered as part of the Deuterocanon books and are referred to as the sequel of Daniel.
- The book consists of a historical section, chapters 1-6, which includes the events of Daniel and the three Youths, Daniel's service in the Babylonian kingdom, and his diligence in remaining faithful to his God despite all the difficulties that he and the three Youths have faced. The other section of the book is about prophecies, chapters 7-12, which includes Daniel's visions and prophecies related to the end of time.
- Nebuchadnezzar is the greatest Babylonian king, he reigned for 43 years, from 562-605 BC. He continued to rule over the land of Judah, and to receive taxes for three years. At that time, the king [of Judah] was Jehoiakim (2 Kings 24:1). In the year 602 BC, Jehoiakim rebelled [he refused to pay the tribute that he was obliged to send annually to Babylon], he took advantage of the opportunity that Nebuchadnezzar was busy fighting other wars away from his kingdom and was preoccupied away from the Kingdom of Judah because of its distance from Babylon. However, Nebuchadnezzar conquered his enemies quickly and returned to the Kingdom of Judah. He invaded Jerusalem, put an end to the revolution, and seized Jehoiakim. He then freed Jehoiakim and appointed his son [18-year-old] Jehoiachin as a new king in his place (2 Chronicles 36:6,10). Jehoiachin also rebelled, so Nebuchadnezzar came for the third time, invaded the city, took treasures from the house of the Lord, and took people captive with him to Babylon (2 Kings 24: 12-16). Then Nebuchadnezzar appointed Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah, as king, and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah looked after the state for Nebuchadnezzar for eight years, but on the ninth year, Zedekiah got greedy and wanted to be independent. When he found out that the Egyptian army was nearby their kingdom, he hoped that the Egyptians would help him against the Babylonians (Jeremiah 37:5). However, Nebuchadnezzar [the king of Babylon] did not spare him, he besieged Jerusalem for the fourth time, following a hard siege he killed Zedekiah's sons in front of their father, and put out Zedekiah's eyes and carried him off captive to Babylon in 587 BC. Nebuchadnezzar's army burnt God's Temple and took thousands of captives to Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar ordered some of the king's descendants and some of the noble young men to be taken captive, amongst them was Daniel and his friends the three Youths (Daniel 1:3-7). "And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said. Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand

captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.” (2 Kings 24:13-14).

- Prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah have all prophesized about the captivity of the kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians. Isaiah’s prophecy came 100 years before the Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah prophesized that the period of captivity will be for 70 years, but the people did not believe him.

## **The Lesson**

- A long time ago, Babylon was ruled by an arrogant king called Nebuchadnezzar. He created a large image of gold and put forward a strange law that said: when people hear the different musical instruments play, they have to fall down to worship the gold image, and whoever doesn’t fall down to worship the gold image will be thrown into the fiery furnace. So King Nebuchadnezzar held a celebration for the dedication of the gold image that he had set up. He gathered the judges, governors and important officials to celebrate and worship the gold image when they hear the sound of the music.
- On the day of the celebration all the people and nations in Babylon came, and fell down to worship the gold image when they heard the music. However, the three young men called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, did not do this. Some evil people rushed to tell the king that those three young men did not obey his commands by worshipping the gold image.
- Those young men refused to fall down and worship any one other than God whom they believe in, and would not worship and obey the commands of anyone other than their God, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.” (Luke 4:8). When the king heard of those three young men who did not worship the gold image, he got very angry and called them to ask if this matter was true. They replied to him ““O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18). When the king heard this, he became even more angry, he ordered that the fiery furnace be heated up seven times more (increase the heat of the fire), and for the three young men to be tied up with ropes and thrown into the fiery furnace to die. They were thrown into the furnace as the king had ordered, and the Angel of God (God) [note, ‘Angel of God’ here refers to Christ, in an illuminated body], came into the fiery furnace to accompany them and to quash the power of fire so that it does not burn them. The king watched what was

happening and suddenly he screamed out and said, didn't we throw in three men, "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (Daniel 3:25). He called them, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." (Daniel 3:26). When they came out, he saw that they are well, the fire has not affected their bodies and not a single hair on their head had been burnt.

- This is how God saved the three Youths, because they stuck to him and remained true to His Words. After seeing this, the king believed that the God of the three young men is the One true God, because He saved them from the furnace. The king put forward an order, that none of the
- people should speak disrespectfully against the real God.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Who was the evil king?
- What law did the king issue?
- What did the three Youths do when they heard the music?
- Were the three Youths alone inside the furnace? Who was with them?
- Who saved the three Youths from the fiery furnace?
- Who is the true God? Why did the king end up believing in Him?



### Exercise...

Ask for God's help when you don't feel so good, or when you are afraid or in danger. Repeat this verse, "Save me O God!" (Psalms 69:1)



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank You God for preserving us, and for Your speed in helping us in difficult times, Lord do not leave us in difficult time, be with us and save us like You saved the three Youths from the fiery furnace, because you are God who is capable of anything.



**The Church is the House of the  
Lord**

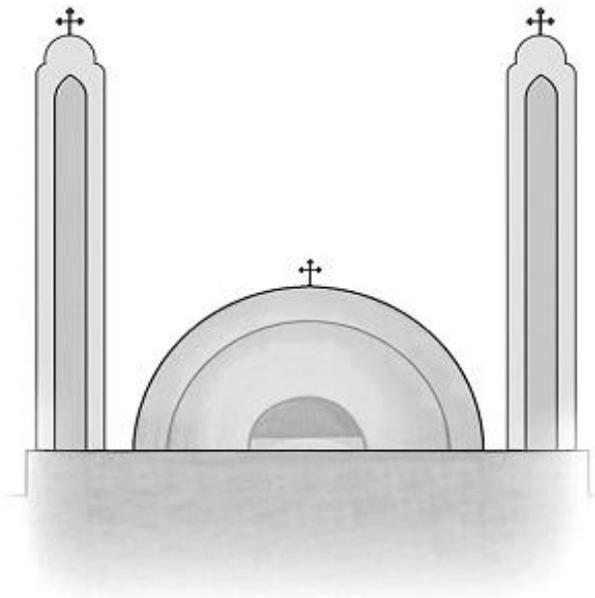
**The Towers, Domes and Bells**

**Lesson content:** God invites me to His house – Memorise the seven sacraments of the Church

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The appearance of the church, and her sacraments/mysteries.
- **Feel:** God loves me and calls me to His house.
- **Practice:** learning the 7 Holy Sacraments.

**Bible verse:** *“I was glad when they said to me “Let us go into the house of the Lord”” (Psalms 122:1)*



## **Background information to servant**

It has been called the Allegiance, the Holy Vine, and it is a congregation of the faithful, it is the House of God dedicated for worship, it is the home of the angels who praise with us.

The word 'church' is originally Hebrew, and it means a 'consortium/convention', some say the name is of Greek origin (Ekklesia) meaning a 'group' or a 'calling/invitation'

## **Appearance of the church**

1. Is usually built as a rectangle toward the East, in the form of a ship (to symbolize Noah's Ark), sometimes it is built in the shape of a Cross, and at times it is built as a circle (as a symbol that God has no beginning and no end).
2. On the inside it is divided into the main part of the church, chorus of the Deacons, then the Altar. The iconostasis is the sanctuary door which carries icons and separates the Altar from the Deacon's chorus.
3. On the outside some churches have one tower whilst others have two towers. Towers are symbolic of the mast of a ship, and a lighthouse that guides ships and people. Bells are usually hung in the church towers and were used to call the faithful to church. They are rung when bishops visit, during the offertory, and on feasts. The Cross standing above this, is a symbol of deliverance and salvation.
4. The church has three doors, as a symbol of the Trinity.
5. The church ceiling is characterized by domes, or wooden beams, or tiles. [The representations of domes symbolize heaven.]

## **Sacraments**

The Sacraments or mysteries of the church are Baptism, Holy Myron Oil, Repentance & Confession, Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Priesthood

## The Lesson

- Q1. Have you ever heard the church bell? Do you know where it is located?
- If the present church has a bell, take the children to look for it.
- Q2. So, does anyone know what the word 'church' means?
- Bravo! It means God's house. What else? The place where we gather together to pray.
- Q3. Do you know that our churches are built in a specific way?
- In the shape of a rectangle, or circle or a Cross.
- Q4. When you look at the church from outside, what other things do you see?
- Bravo! Towers. Like the mast of a ship. This is if the church is built in the form of a ship.
- Q5. How many towers do we have?
- Bravo!
- Q6. What other special things do you see in the appearance of the church?
- The domes of the church ceiling.
- Q7. We have just seen the church bell, do you know what it is used for?
- Bravo! To call people to church to pray.
- And when a Bishop visits. And during the offertory.
  
- Do you know that our church has sacraments or mysteries - who is going to count with me? count each sacrament on our fingers (Baptism, Holy Myron Oil, Repentance & Confession, Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Priesthood.)

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What shapes are the churches built into?
- What are the roles of the bells, towers and domes in the church?
- What sections is the church divided into on the inside?
- How many church sacraments do we have and what are they?
- How do you feel about the appearance of the church, its towers and domes? (Start a discussion)



### Exercise...

Servants to ask children to learn Psalm 122 (from Agbeya, 11th Hour), within a month after the lesson has been taught. Recite the Psalm every time on their way to church.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Lord Jesus Christ, good lover of mankind  
Give us joy in Your Holy church, by Your works in the church, bless us  
Give us the strength of Your life-giving Cross, so that we may live to glorify Your Name  
Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor, Who seek after my life. Amen.



**God Loves Me, He Knows My  
Needs**

**God Looks After Elijah**

**Bible reference:** 1 Kings 17

**Lesson content:** My family life

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** How God fulfils my needs.
- **Feel:** God's love and His care for fulfilling my needs.
- **Practice:** How to thank God for His gifts.

**Bible verse:** "...*Yet the Lord thinks upon me...*" (*Psalms 40:17*)



## The Lesson

- A long time ago when God's people loved Him and prayed to Him, there was a king called Ahab. King Ahab was married to a lady called Jezebel, who was a very bad lady and did not love God and worshipped an idol called Baal. Baal was made out of stone which meant he could not hear or talk or help anyone. Not like God, who created the heavens and earth and everything for us to enjoy.
- During that time there was a man called the Prophet Elijah who loved God and knew that those who worshipped Baal were doing wrong. He always told the people not to worship Baal because it was made out of stone. However, the people were afraid of the King and Queen. Elijah told the King and Queen to stop worshipping Baal and to worship God instead. Unfortunately the King and Queen did not love God and refused to listen to Elijah. Elijah warned the king and said to him "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word". This means there will be a famine and people may die.
- However, the queen and king did not listen to Elijah and indeed it stopped raining for many years because God was upset with them. But because God looks after His children, He told Elijah to go and sit next to a brook and sent him a raven every morning and evening to give Elijah bread and meat. God looks after His people just as he looked after Adam and Eve in paradise and created everything for them.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What was the name of the king?
- What was the name of the wife of King Ahab?
- What was the name of the idol which Ahab and Jezebel worshipped?
- When God was upset with Ahab and Jezebel, what did he tell Elijah to say?
- How did God send food to Elijah?



### Exercise...

- 1- To always thank God for taking care of us all the time and to thank him for (Dad – mom - brothers/sisters – friends – My church – My toys ... )
- 2- To memorise the prayer of Thanksgiving “Let us thank the beneficent and merciful God ... till this hour)



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank you God for your love for us and thank you for looking after me. Thank you for creating everything for me for me to enjoy. Thank you for looking after me just as you looked after Elijah the Prophet. Please be with us always and forever. Amen.



**I Feel the Needs of Others**

**Joseph and the Famine**

**Bible reference:** Genesis 41-45

**Lesson content:** My family life

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The importance of helping others.
- **Feel:** They are unique because they are children of God, therefore they are able to serve and help, and God will make them successful.
- **Practice:** Covering the needs of others and helping them.

**Bible verse:** *“The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man...” (Genesis 39:2)*



## **Background information to servant**

### **Who is Joseph?**

Joseph is a Hebrew name meaning 'He will add'. In the Old Testament Joseph is the eleventh son of Jacob and the first with his wife Rachel. He was born in the land of Paddan-Aram, Rachel named him Joseph and said, "The Lord shall add to me another son." (Genesis 30:24), thinking that God will give her more children.

### **Book of Genesis**

Information on Joseph is found in the book of Genesis, chapters 37-50.

(Review Genesis 37 Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved his other sons, the jealousy of Joseph's brothers and Joseph's dreams which further provoked his brothers' hatred, causing them to plot against him.

Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers. When the brothers saw Joseph approaching at a distance, they plotted to kill him, they took his coat and threw him into the pit. They then sold him into slavery to traders, who took him to Egypt. Joseph is symbolic of Christ who obeyed the Father, came down for our salvation, but the Jews who He came to save plotted against Him, Judas handed Him over for the price of a slave.

### **Joseph in Egypt**

The traders sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. Joseph proved to be very loyal, diligent and successful, the Lord blessed everything that Joseph did (even after he was imprisoned), thus, Potiphar made Joseph his personal attendant, putting him in charge of the entire household. The reason for this, as the Holy Spirit revealed to us, was because this Hebrew slave [Joseph] held on to his God, despite all the harsh events and conditions that he went through, "The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man" (Genesis 39:2).

### **A difficult test**

Joseph went through a difficult test as a young man, the wife of his master, who put him in charge of his household as a result of God's blessings, tried to seduce him. He responded with a phrase that has become well-know across all generations by every young man, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

### **A successful prisoner**

Joseph was thrown in prison under the false accusation [of rape], but it wasn't long before the prison warden was pleased with Joseph [because the Lord gave him favour in the warden's eyes], Joseph was put in charge of all the other prisoners [including Pharaoh's butler and baker], "because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper". Joseph gained the gift of being able to interpret dreams, he used this skill to help other prisoners. This skill resulted in his eventual progress to Pharaoh's palace, at the specific time that God had appointed.

### **A Minister managing all the lands**

After interpreting Pharaoh's dream, which all Egypt's magicians and wisemen have failed to do, Joseph was appointed as the wise commissioner/over-seer to all the land. Pharaoh gave Joseph the Egyptian name 'Zaphenath-paneah', which meant 'saviour of the world', symbolic of the Lord Jesus Christ, who saved the world from the death of sin.

Dear servant, by sticking to God you are called to be a strength to all those whom you serve, so that none of them would hunger or perish, be a source of fulfillment to them, in your wisdom, care and diligence.

Read the relevant chapters in Genesis – when teaching about the wisdom and success of Joseph, ensure that you explain that all this wisdom was given by God to his loyal children, it is not a matter of intelligence or extraordinary human ability. May God be with you.



## Introductory Story

The preliminary story can be in the form of historical facts about Joseph.

- Joseph is one of Jacob's sons. Jacob had 12 boys, 10 older boys, the Joseph and Benjamin were the youngest.
- Their father Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, so he bought him a coat of many colours, the other brothers became jealous of Joseph.
- One day, the older brothers went to herd their sheep, but their dad Jacob got worried, so he said to Joseph, 'Joseph go check on your brothers, see why they are late and let me know'.
- When Joseph's brothers saw him coming from afar and thought 'what if we use this opportunity to get rid of him', so they threw him in a pit. After a while they took him out and sold him as a slave to some traders who were travelling to Egypt. Joseph said to them, 'I'm your brother, do not do this to me', but they did not listen to him.
- When the traders arrived in Egypt, they sold him to Potiphar, captain of the guard to Pharaoh, the King of Egypt.

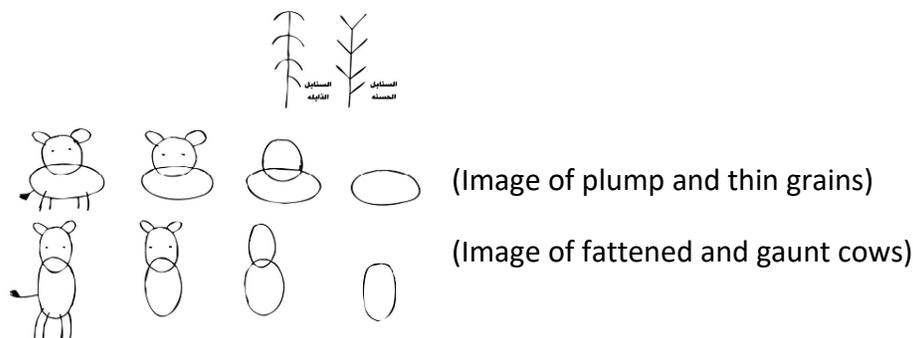
What do you think Joseph is going to do in Egypt? Is he going to leave God? Of course not. Let's find out together.

## The Lesson

- A long time ago there was a great Pharaoh in Egypt, Pharaoh was the ruler of the country, he was the King of all of Egypt. One day Pharaoh had a strange dream whilst he was asleep, he dreamt that he was standing a river when he saw seven cows come out, they were fat and looked good. Then another seven cows came out of the river, but they were ugly and gaunt [very thin]. Suddenly the seven thin cows ate the seven fat cows that looked good, then Pharaoh woke up. He slept again and had a second dream. He dreamt that seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. Then seven thin heads. The seven thin heads ate the seven plump and full heads. Pharaoh woke up in a fright, he asked the magicians and wise men to interpret his dreams, but no one was able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh had a butler whose job is to serve Pharaoh's beverages, the butler then remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh, 'when I was in prison I met another prisoner who could interpret dreams. He interpreted my dream and everything Joseph told

me was true'. Pharaoh asked for Joseph to be brought to him, he told Joseph the dreams and asked him to interpret them. God had blessed Joseph and had given him wisdom, Joseph told Pharaoh that both dreams have the same meaning, the seven fat good looking cows and seven plum heads of grain are seven years of plentiful goodness for Egypt, the seven ugly thin cows and seven thin heads of grain are a great famine that will overcome Egypt, the land will be poor and depleted by the famine. When Pharaoh saw how much wisdom God had bestowed on Joseph, he made Joseph second-in-command in Egypt, and told him to do whatever he wanted in order to prepare for the seven bad years of famine that are coming.

- The good years of plentiful goodness were passing, Joseph told people to gather and storing enormous amounts of grain from each city for when the famine comes. When the seven years of famine eventually came, it was according to what Joseph had told Pharaoh, the land dried up and there was no crop. People were hungry and had nothing to eat, so they used to go to Joseph to give them from the food and grains that had been stored during the seven years of goodness.
- Joseph's brothers lived far away in the land of Canaan, they were hungry, their land was dry and they had no crops, so their father Jacob told them to go to Egypt and buy food. So the brothers went to Egypt to buy food from Joseph, when they saw Joseph they did not recognize that he is their brother, Joseph recognized them but did not want to reveal to them yet that he is their brother whom after all these years had become in charge of all the land of Egypt. He gave them all the food they needed without even charging them money, then he revealed himself to them and asked them to send for their father Jacob and ask him to come and stay with him to enjoy the goodness of the land of Egypt. Indeed, they brought their father Jacob and all their families and stayed with Joseph in Egypt, instead of dying from hunger in their own land. This is how Joseph took care of his family and all the people of Egypt, he provided all their needs, he helped to overcome the famine and to survive.



## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Recall the dreams that Pharaoh had.
- Describe how Joseph interpreted those dreams and Pharaoh's amazement.
- Acknowledge the meaning of the dreams and how they prepared for the famine.
- Explain why Pharaoh had chosen Joseph to be a govern the country



### Exercise...

- Recite the verse of the lesson.
- Learn to help others; my classmates, my mother at home, my younger siblings.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Our Beloved Jesus Christ, we thank You for Your gifts at all times, and just as You take care of me Lord, also make me able to care for and help others who are in need, like Joseph helped his brothers during the famine. Lord teach me to serve all my brethren, be successful throughout my life to gladden Your heart, because You like to see Your children successful, so that they become a light in the world.



**I Am Different – Speaking the  
Truth**

**The Samaritan Woman and Telling the Truth**

**Bible reference:** John 4

**Lesson content:** My life

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** God rewards those who tell the truth.
- **Feel:** The importance of telling the truth.
- **Practice:** How to always tell the truth no matter what happens.

**Bible verse:** *“But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’...” (Matthew 5:37)*



## The Lesson

- One day Jesus was walking with His disciples. They kept walking until they got really tired and decided to rest in a town called Sychar in the city of Samaria. Jesus sent his friends to get some food and waited for them by a well called Jacob 's well.
- Whilst Jesus was sitting next to the well, a woman came to the well to fill a water pot. Jesus asked her if she could get Him some water to drink. She answered and said to Him how could He ask her for some water when He was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. The Jews and Samaritans did not speak to each other so she thought it was unusual that He asked her for a drink.
- Jesus told her that if she knew who He was, she would have asked Him to give her a drink and Jesus would give her the living water. Anyone who drinks of the living water will not die. This meant that anyone who follows Jesus and listens to His words would live forever.
- The Samaritan woman replied by asking Jesus to give her this living water so she would not have to return and keep filling her jar. Jesus asked her to go and call her husband and He would wait for her. She said that she did not have a husband. Jesus was happy that she did not lie to Him and told Him the truth.
- Jesus is pleased with us when we do nice things and tell the truth. Even if we do something wrong and are asked about it, we should always tell the truth. Jesus rewarded the Samaritan woman and left her to preach about Him in her city. She became a saint and was the first lady to preach about Jesus.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What is the name of the city that our Lord Jesus and His disciples went to?
- Where did the disciples of the Lord Jesus go afterwards?
- Who did our Lord Jesus meet next to Jacob's well?
- What was the discussion about between the Lord Jesus and the Samaritan woman?
- What did the Samaritan woman do after she believed in the Lord Jesus?



### Exercise...

- To always say the truth at all times whatever the circumstances are.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your love for us, our God of tenderness, because you have created me who is distinct and different from everyone. I thank you Jesus because I am your son and you teach me good things. Help me to always tell the truth. Amen.



**I Enjoy His Blessings**

**Adam and Eve in Paradise**

**Bible reference:** Genesis 2

**Lesson content:** Story of a Bible Book

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** God created everything for my benefit.
- **Feel:** The love and care of God.
- **Practice:** To thank God for everything He created for me.

**Bible verse:** *“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good...” (Genesis 1:31)*



## The Lesson

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and on this earth God wanted to create man. The earth was dark and had no form, but because of God's love for man, He started to prepare the earth so that it would be suitable for man....so what did God do?

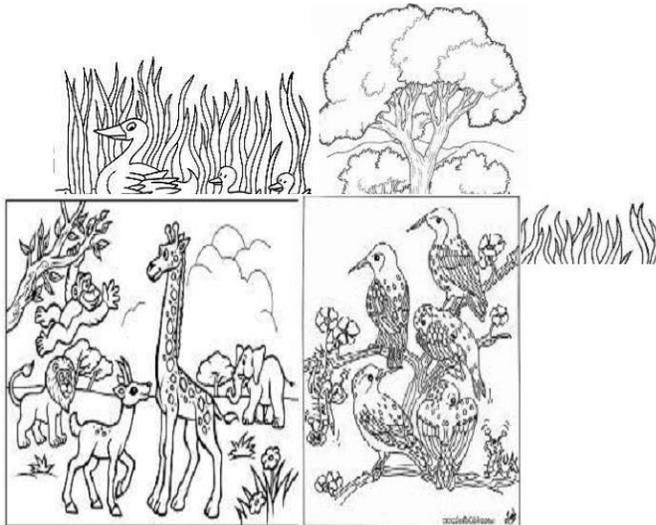
God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. This is why He created the Sun, to give light and heat during the day and He also created the moon to reflect light in the night.



God also created the trees, plants and rivers so that we can eat and drink and for man to enjoy the beautiful views on the earth.

God also created all the birds, animals and fish. Like what? (Ask children)

When God saw that everything was good and ready for man, He created Adam in His image. God made Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God placed Adam in Paradise to enjoy the blessings he was given.



The animals were not given names yet, so God brought all the animals and birds to surround Adam and He told him to give every living thing a name. God saw that Adam was alone and needed a companion, so He put Adam to sleep and took a rib out of his side and created Eve. He called her woman because she was taken out of man.

God created everything, not only for Adam and Eve, but for all of His children including you and me. We thank God for everything He created and all the blessings He has given us.



## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Who created the plants and the animals?
- Why did God create all of that?
- Who gave names to the animals?
- Who did God create after He created Adam?



### Exercise...

- To thank God that He has created me and created everything around me to enjoy.
- To look after everything God created for me (the trees, the birds and the animals, the rivers, ... ).
- Not to refuse to eat or drink from God's blessings as He has created it for me.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your great love for me and creating so many things on earth for me to enjoy, just as you did for Adam and Eve. Thank you for all the food, plants, water, birds, animals and fish and all the good things you have created. Amen.



**He Teaches Me in His House**

**The Lectern and the Church Readings  
(St. Anthony Listens to the Gospel)**

**Book reference:** The Synaxarion – 22 Toba (30 – 31 January)

**Lesson content:** My Church

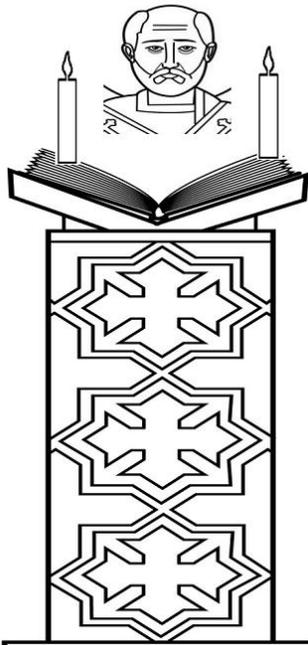
**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The Church books and their use.
- **Feel:** The importance of God’s words in their lives.
- **Practice:** How to be punctual and respectfully listen to the readings during the holy liturgy.

**Bible verse:** “... speak, Lord, for Your servant hears...”  
(1Samuel 3:9)



## The Lesson



**Background:** The Mangaleya (lectern) is a Coptic word, which originates from a Greek word meaning 'Bible holder'. It is made out of wood and has four legs. It is around 128cm in length and is used to hold the Bible and books containing rites of the Church.

There are usually two lecterns in the Church. The one placed northwards faces the east (towards the altar) and is used to read the Bible in Coptic. The second placed southwards also faces the east and is used for other readings in English and Arabic.

**Lesson:** The lectern is placed at the front of the Church, in the deacon's chorus. It looks like a closed box and has a drawer where the books are kept. The lectern is used during the mass to read the Bible from as well as other books.

1. The first reading in the mass is from the Pauline Epistles. It is made up of one of the letters that were written by St Paul. St Paul wrote 14 epistles (letters) to different people or countries.
2. The second reading in the mass is from the Catholic Epistles. These are made up of seven letters including James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John and Jude which were addressed to the early Christian churches.
3. The third reading in the mass is from the Acts of the Apostles. It describes the Acts of the Apostles and the Church after Jesus' ascension. How they preached and spread the word of God around the world.
4. The fourth reading in the mass is from the Synaxarion. This book contains the stories of the lives of the martyrs and Saints of the Church. For example when it is the feast of St Mark, the story of St Mark will be read from the Synaxarion.
5. The fifth reading in the mass is the Psalms and the Gospel. A reading from one of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John is read depending on the Church calendar. The Gospels contain details

on the life of Jesus and everything He did. For example; the birth of Christ, His baptism, the Sermon on the Mount, the healing of the blind as well as the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus etc.

This is why before the Gospel is read, the deacon says “stand up in the fear of God and let us listen to the Holy Gospel”. This is why we have to stand up and listen to what Jesus wants to teach us and we should follow His teachings.

For example, St Anthony followed Jesus’ teaching when He said “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” Matthew 19:21.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- How many readings from the Holy Bible do we hear during the holy liturgy?
- How many Epistles were written by Paul the apostle?
- Why did they name the Catholic Epistles as such?
- Who listened to the verse today in the holy liturgy and applied it?



### Exercise...

- To be punctual and respectfully listen to the readings during the holy liturgy.
- To draw a chart of the arrangement of the church readings in the liturgy.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Thank you Lord Jesus for your great love for us and for sending us your word in the Bible. Thank you for teaching us how to follow your commandments. Please help us to listen to your word and fulfill all your commandments. Amen.



**Christ is My God**

**The Healing of the Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda**

**Bible reference:** John 5:1-18

**Lesson content:** My faith (The authority of the Lord Jesus on diseases)

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The power of God over healing the sick.
- **Feel:** Secure, peace and joy because you are the son of God.
- **Practice:** How to pray for the sick.

**Bible verse:** “... *Rise, take up your bed and walk.*” (John 5:8)



## The Lesson

- There was a pool called the pool of Bethesda which was by the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem. There were many sick people that lay around the pool. Some were blind, some were lame and some were paralysed. They were all waiting for the angel to come down and move the water. The first person who would enter the water after it was moved by the angel, would be healed.
- This is why people would stay around the pool, so that they could be that first person to enter once the angel moved the water. One of the men around the pool was completely paralysed which meant that he could not move at all so could not enter the water on his own. He had no friends or family who could help him which meant that someone would always go in before him.
- The paralysed man was sleeping next to the pool for 38 years. One day Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate a feast. The pool of Bethesda was close to the temple and Jesus saw the sick people lying next to the pool. He approached the paralysed man in particular, as He knew He needed the most help. Jesus asked the paralysed man, "Do you want to be made well?" The man answered and said "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus told him "Rise, take up your bed and walk". The paralysed man was healed and could move and he listened to what Jesus said and took his bed and happily walked away.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What was the name of the pool? Why did many sick people stay around the pool?
- How many years did the paralysed man spend at the pool?
- Who healed him? What did He say to him?



### Exercise...

The servant to ask the children:

- Every child to pray for anyone who is sick, from their family, friends or neighbors and to ask God to heal them because God is the only one who can heal our sicknesses.
- Every child should thank God so much for the grace of health that God has given to them.
- Also thank Him that He has healed them or one of their relatives from their sicknesses.
- To accompany a servant to visit someone who is sick to ask about them and help them.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your love and your authority over healing the sick. I thank you for being able to heal every sick person just as you did for the paralysed man at the pool of Bethesda. I pray that you heal every sick person because you are a loving God. Amen.



## The Birth of the Lord Jesus

### Angels and Shepherds

**Bible reference:** Luke 2:1-10

**Lesson content:** Meeting with God (The Shepherds meet Jesus in the stable)

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** The story of the birth of Christ.
- **Feel:** The joy of the Shepherds when they met Jesus.
- **Practice:** How to know Jesus through prayer and the Church.

**Bible verse:** *“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14)*



## The Lesson

- Do you know what the job of a shepherd is? I will tell you; a shepherd is someone who looks after sheep and helps them to find a nice patch of grass to eat and some water to drink. One day a shepherd and his friends went to find a place for their sheep to eat and drink. Eventually they found a beautiful place to rest in. They sat down and lit a fire to keep them warm and give them some light and had a chat about their day. Whilst they were talking, a strong light appeared in the sky and they saw angels dressed in white. The angels were singing “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
- The shepherds were afraid from what they had seen, but in the midst of their fear, an angel approached them and said “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”
- The shepherds were filled with joy and wanted to know more about the baby that had been born. They left everything and went to find the newborn in the place that the angels told them about. The shepherds set out to Bethlehem and found the stable that the angel had told them about. They entered and found St Mary, Joseph and the baby in the manger.
- When the shepherds found out that this was the baby Jesus, they bowed down to Him. They thanked God for loving us and sending us His only son. The shepherds were really happy to have met Jesus and when they left, they told the good news to everyone they saw.
  
- Just as the shepherds were filled with joy when they got to see Jesus, we too should spend time with Jesus and talk to Him as we will also be filled with the same joy. We can spend time with Him through prayer, reading the Bible, coming to Church and attending Sunday school.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What was the job of the shepherds?
- What were the shepherds doing during the night?
- What did the angel say to the shepherds?
- Can you describe how the angels look like in Heaven?
- Did the shepherds go to the stable after they finished their work; slowly or quickly? Why?
- Who was there in the stable?



### Exercise...

- Train your children to go to the church and stand up to pray to meet the Lord Jesus.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for forgiving my sins. Thank you for always being there for me and making me feel special. Thank you for all the joy you give me when I spend time with you.

Amen.



**Physically Serve Others**

**Saint Mary and Elizabeth**

**Bible reference:** Luke 1:39-45

**Lesson content:** Serving others

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** That Jesus calls us to serve others and society.
- **Feel:** True happiness when serving others.
- **Practice:** How to help society by serving others.

**Bible verse:** *"...If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35)*



## The Lesson

- After the Angel Gabriel visited St Mary and told her the good news about Jesus' birth, the angel also told her that her relative Elizabeth was going to have a baby and that she was six months pregnant. St Mary knew that Elizabeth was very old. She thought about Elizabeth and how tired she must be and decided that she would go and visit her so that she can help her. St Mary did not think about herself at this time and that she also may be tired, but wanted to do whatever she could to help Elizabeth.
- St Mary gathered her belongings and started her journey to Elizabeth's house. She greeted Elizabeth and when Elizabeth heard her, the baby moved in her tummy. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" She also said to her "why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth knew that St Mary was going to be the mother of Jesus and was so happy that she had come to visit her in her home.
- Mary replied to Elizabeth and told her that she had come to serve her as she must be really tired because she will give birth soon. St Mary stayed and helped Elizabeth for three months until John the son of Elizabeth was born. Mary then returned home. St Mary was so kind as to put Elizabeth first before herself and serve her until she was better.
- We too can help others whenever they are in need, no matter how young we are. Ask the children the different ways they can help others, how they can help out at home, at school etc.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Where was the Virgin Mary staying when the angel appeared her?
- What is the name of the angel who appeared to the Virgin Mary? What is the name of her relative?
- St. Elizabeth was waiting for a baby. Do you know his name? And his father's name?
- What did St. John do in St. Elizabeth's womb when the Virgin St. Mary came?
- Why did he do that?
- Why did the Virgin Mary walk all this distance to go to St. Elizabeth?
- How can we serve others ... and our community? (Start a discussion)



### Exercise...

- Starting from today, ask the children not to throw any rubbish on the floor and to throw it in the bin. This is a type of serving the community.
- You can gather the children one day to clean some places in the church just as our Lady St. Mary did in the temple.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

My Lord Jesus, thank you for looking after me wherever I go. Thank you for all the nice gifts you have given me. Please fill my heart with love so that I can love everyone. Please help me to always help others who are in need so that they can be joyful. Amen.



## Merciful Character

### St Nicholas

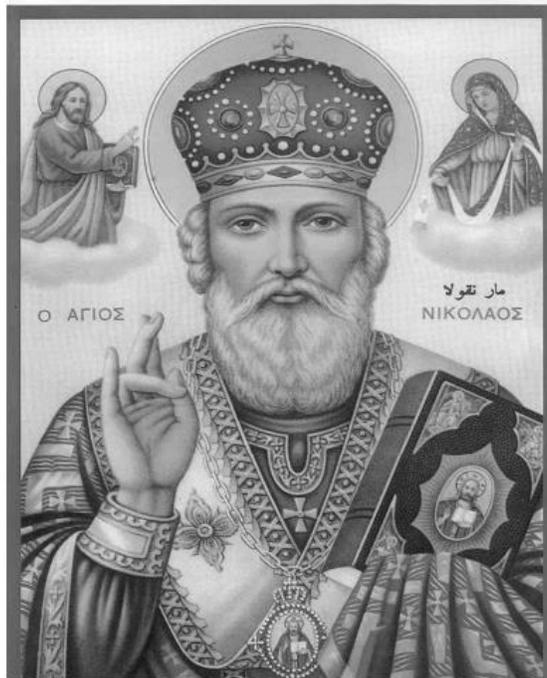
**Book reference:** The Synaxarion – 10 Kiahk (19 – 20 December)

**Lesson content:** Church Fathers

**Lesson objectives:** to help the child to:

- **Know:** How to help others.
- **Feel:** The needs of others.
- **Practice:** How to be compassionate towards everyone.

**Bible verse:** *“Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*



## The Lesson

- St Nicholas was a man who loved to help the poor and those in need. God helped him to find out that there was a poor man who needed money so that his three daughters could get married. The man did not know how he would find all this money for his daughters to get married. St Nicholas visited the poor man and saw how upset and worried he was.
- One night when the father and daughters were asleep, St Nicholas threw a bag of money into their window and quickly walked away before anyone could see him. When the father woke up and found the bag of money, he was so excited! This meant that his first daughter had enough money to get married. The father wanted to find out who it was that had given him this money.
- However, there was still not enough money for the other two daughters to get married. One day, whilst the father was sitting down and thinking of how he could make enough money to help his daughters, he found a second bag thrown into his house from the window. He did not manage to find out who it was that threw the second bag into his home.
- The second daughter was now able to get married and the father and his daughters were all really happy. However, he really wanted to know who it was that was giving him this money. He came up with an idea and decided as soon as he heard a bag of money being thrown into his house, he would run outside to see who it was.
- It happened again. A bag of money was thrown into the poor man's house for the third time and so the man ran out to see who it was. He managed to catch the generous man this time, it was indeed St Nicholas. St Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra (now in Turkey). He was born to a rich Christian family. His father's name was Epiphanius and his mother was called Touna. He was known for his love and care for the poor.
- Just like St Nicholas helped others, nowadays we see Santa Claus doing likewise during Christmas. St Nicholas helps us to remember that we should help the poor and remember them, especially during Christmas. During Christmas we get many presents and new toys and clothes and we should thank God for all of this. We should also remember our brothers and sisters who might not get any presents or nice gifts because it might be too expensive for their parents. We should think of ways we can help them. We can give our toys and clothes to charity and even give donation to the Church on a Sunday if we can.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What was the real name of Santa Claus? What was the name of the city over which he was a bishop?
- What was the name of his father and mother?
- Who can tell me the story of the three girls?
- How was St. Nicholas throwing the money?
- How did the father of the girls come to know about St. Nicholas?



### Exercise...

Helping the children to mention different acts of mercy and ways of helping others such as:

- I have a shirt or dress which became too small for me, so I can give it to someone smaller than me who is in need.
- I have a friend in my class who is poor, I can buy for him a notebook or a pen and I can give it to him as a gift ... etc.
- This next week, each one of us should write what they have done to help a poor person this week.



### Prayer

***Meditate on it ... live it ... pray it on the level of the kids***

My beloved Jesus, thank you for your love and care for us. Thank you for teaching us about St Nicholas and how he helped those in need and how we too can help others. Help us to learn from you how we can be compassionate towards others in need so we can put joy in their hearts. Amen.