



**COPTIC ORTHODOX**  
**DIOCESE of LONDON**

**Year 4**  
**Part I: Tout – Kiahk**  
**(Mid-September – December)**



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The first week of the month of Tout  
(September)

## “The First Lie and the

## Forbidden Fruit”

**Lesson purpose:** To show that the devil is the greatest liar. We must not listen to him. We must keep.

**Bible verse:** *The serpent said, “you will not surely die”*  
*(Genesis 3:4)*



## **Background information to servant**

- The serpent deceived Eve as he told her that she and Adam would not die if they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We know that Satan is the greatest liar.
- When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree, they lost their purity and innocence at once. They did not realize that they were naked until they had eaten from the forbidden fruit; they felt guilty for this reason, and hid themselves from God. This was man's first sin, which was the transgression of the law, Adam and Eve brought death to mankind and all other living beings.
- As Adam and Eve transgressed God's law and disobeyed His commandment, the grave results to their transgression, or rather sin, were:
  - a) Both were cast out of the Garden of Eden.
  - b) Women were to suffer the pain of child bearing.
  - c) Men were forced to labour for their food among the thorns and the thistles.
  - d) Death was brought on mankind.
  - e) God cursed the serpent.
- Consequently, we became in need of Christ, our Saviour to redeem us from the hands of the devil. Without our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and redeemer, no one can overcome the devil and go back to paradise.

## **Story: Jacob and Isaac**

- When Isaac became old, he could not see very well. His son Jacob wanted to get the blessings of his father Isaac, instead of his older brother Esau. Jacob lied to his father. He put on his brother's clothes and entered his father's room, taking advantage of his weary vision. He took the good food instead of his brother Esau and offered it to his father Isaac. Because he lied to his father, other people lied to him and he suffered a lot. His uncle Laban lied to him and gave him another daughter named Leah instead of the one he loved named Rachel to marry. Also, after selling their brother Joseph, his sons lied to their father Jacob and brought a shirt covered with blood. They told him that they found his beloved son, Joseph, dead; Jacob kept weeping for the loss of his son until he lost his sight and could not see. These are the consequences of lying!

# The Lesson

## PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

### Introduction:

Children please listen to this scenario: Once you forgot to do your homework and when you were asked by your teacher you lied and said that your mom was not feeling well and you had to look after your younger siblings. Your teacher called home and finds out that you were not telling the truth. Discuss the reasons for doing this and the consequences of this lie. What do the Ten Commandments tell us about lying?

- Tell the story of Adam and Eve, and then start by emphasizing that God wanted Adam and Eve to live in the Garden of Eden, enjoy it and live a very peaceful life. God loved Adam and Eve a lot.
- Eve had a bad conversation with the serpent. As usual he lied to Eve and convinced her not to obey God saying, "You will not surely die" Gen. 3:4 if you eat from the forbidden fruit.
- Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden. They spiritually died, because anyone living away from God is considered to be spiritually dead. Adam and Eve became miserable, led a sinful life and were under the influence of the devil.
- God, being merciful, had prepared a plan of salvation for all mankind.
- Please tell the story of Isaac and Jacob. Jacob lied to get his father's blessing (birthright) from his brother Esau. As a result he suffered greatly when his uncle and sons had lied to him.  
Please read the attached material.
- All this teaches us that we must not discuss anything with the devil or let him lead us to doubt the word of God. The main mistake that Eve committed was that she allowed the questioning of God's word and discussed things with the serpent.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) Take time to think before you act because the devil can give you wrong ideas and make you fall into temptation.
- (2) Do not lie.
- (3) Large mistakes usually start with a small mistake. Giving the devil a chance to tempt us with a small mistake leads to a much bigger mistake. Example: A younger brother used to steal small things from his old brother. He got used to that and then he stole something from a store and fell into a huge problem. Let us all be careful from the temptations of the devil even from “small sins.”



The second week of the month of Tout  
(September)

## The Cross at the Highest Point Inside and Outside the Church

**Lesson purpose:** To show the importance of the Cross in Christianity, in our Coptic Orthodox Church and in our daily lives.

**Bible verse:** "But God forbid that I should have glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world."  
(Galatians 6:14)



## **Background information to servant**

### **1) The Apparition of the Cross in the Sky**

**This happened three times:**

- The first time it appeared in the sky, was to the Emperor Constantine The Great to assure him of victory in the prospective 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."
- 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.
- The third time, the Cross appeared to all the people of Jerusalem. This happened in the Holy Fifty days after the Feast of the Resurrection, to be exact, on the 8th of May, A.D. 351 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. It remained for many hours shining brighter than the rays of the sun. All the people of the city came out to see the apparition. They were astounded, and 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 Feast of the Cross**

- On the feast of the Cross, we recognize the discovery of the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. When the Jews noticed the very large number of miracles done by Jesus, they got angry and asked everyone in the Jewish country to collect all the dirt and the rubbish and put it at the top of the Cross. The Jewish people continued to do so for over 200 years until a very large pile of dirt was formed. Saint Helena, 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 is underneath the pile of dirt. She dug out the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ from beneath this dirt. She then built a church on the Cross and the Christian people had the opportunity to visit the Cross and the church. St. Helena did this, because she loved the Cross since it appeared to her when she was with King Constantine before he went to war and was victorious.

**The First:**

On the 17th of Tout (around the 28th of Sept.) is the commemoration of the consecration of the church of the Holy Cross, which is built by the empress Helena, the mother of Constantine.

**The Second:**

On the 10th of Baremhaat (around the 19th of March) is the commemoration of the discovery of the Holy Cross by the same emperor.

## The Lesson

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**Opening Questions

What does the Cross mean to us as Christians?

- The Cross is a sign of glory for Christians, because salvation happened through the Cross. On the Cross, God proved His love for us. When we carry the Cross, we remember the power of the Cross in our lives and what Our Lord Jesus did for us.
- Why do we make the sign of the Cross on ourselves? Why do we put the Cross at the highest point inside and outside the church? The reasons are:
  1. The sign of the Cross has been a sign of victory over the devil in both the old and the New Testaments. Please read Ex. 17:8-13 and the story of the Victory of Moses through the sign of the Cross.
  2. Our Lord Christ taught a lot about the Cross in the beginning of His service and in His teachings before He was crucified. So, we remember to carry the Cross in our lives (i.e. any problem we may face) thankfully.
    - \* Matthew 10:38, “And he who does not take his Cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”
    - \* Matthew 16:24, “If a man would come to me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow me.”
  3. Our Lord Jesus’ crucifixion has been the source of salvation. Everything the Christians are enjoying in the New Testament: (salvation and forgiveness) was completed on the

Cross. Through the Cross, Jesus paid the price of our sins and died for us so that we may have eternal life.

4. The Cross is the subject of glory: \* Galatians 6:14 “but God forbid that I should have glory except in the Cross of our Lord Christ by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
5. The Cross is the subject of the preaching:  
\* I Corinthians 1:23 “But we preach Christ crucified to Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness”
6. The Cross is the subject of strength:  
\*1 Corinthians 1:18 “for the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”  
\* St Paul mentions here that “the message of the Cross|| is the —power of God,” Therefore, when we mention the word of the Cross or when we make the sign of the Cross, we are filled with heavenly strength.
7. The devil is very scared from the sign of the Cross:  
Every time we Cross ourselves, the devil becomes very scared, because he remembers that through the Cross, Jesus Christ defeated him and gave salvation to his people. The devil then escapes from the sign of the Cross. Remember that when St. George put the sign of the Cross on the cup that was filled with poison water, he was able to drink it without being poisoned. (Please tell the story in a bit more detail).
8. The feast of the Cross in the Coptic Church:  
The Coptic Church observes two feasts in honour of the Holy Cross of Christ.
9. From the sayings of the church fathers:  
\*Hail to the Cross that God was crucified on and stretched His hands for everybody.  
\* Adam was dismissed from paradise, because of one tree. Because of the Holy Cross, he regained his original status.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) The Cross is very dear to us as Christians. Through crossing ourselves we gain heavenly strength and victory over the devil.
- (2) We must put the sign of the Cross on ourselves many times during the day: as soon as we get up in the morning, before we eat, before we enter a place, before being driven in a car, before we sleep.
- (3) Because the Cross is very dear to us, we put it at the highest point inside and outside the Church. We also hang the Cross in many locations in our homes.



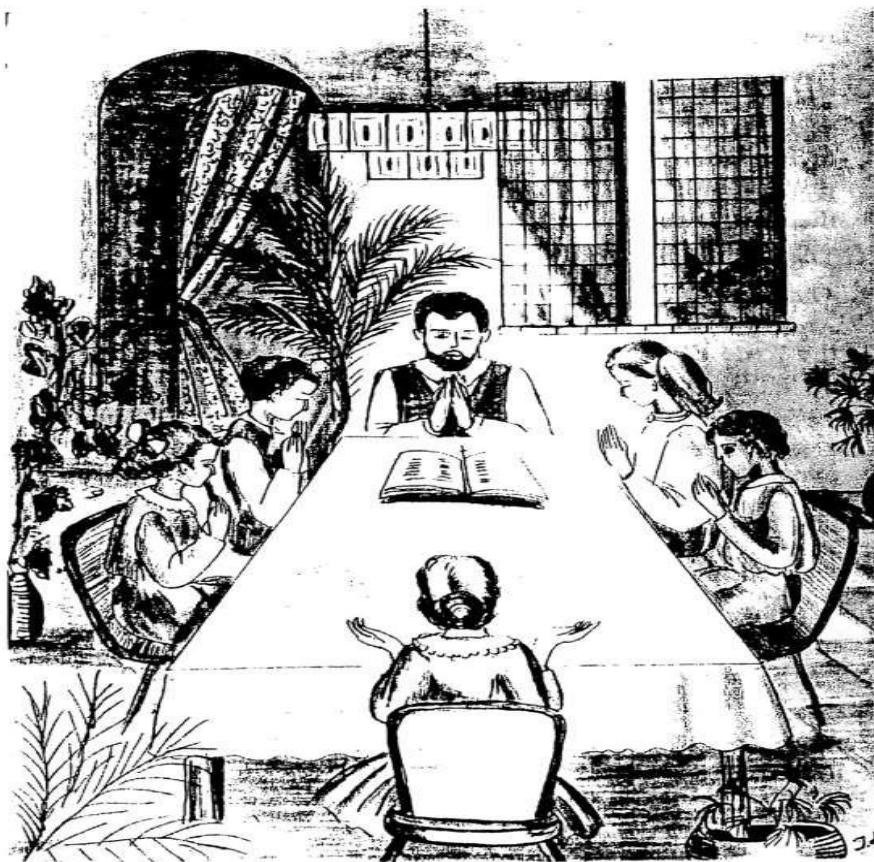
The third week of the month of Tout  
(September)

## “Jacob’s Trip to his Uncle”

**Bible reference:** Genesis 28:10-16, Genesis 29:1-12

**Lesson purpose:** To learn that just as God comforted Jacob, He will also comfort us. His house (the church) is a place made for our comfort and peace.

**Bible verse:** “*The angels of God were ascending and descending on it*” (Genesis 28:12)



## **Background information to servant**

Now Jacob is taking a long walk to another country. His father told him to go there so that he can find the girl who will marry him. Jacob was tired and was lying down to sleep, (because it was night) and he had a dream. Jacob dreams that he sees stairs or a ladder that is so high; it goes right up into the sky. Angels were going up and down the ladder. Then, in his dream Jacob saw God standing at the top of the ladder, telling him that many wonderful things will happen to him because God loves him.

Jacob was a long, long way from home, he was in another country. He was helping a girl whose name was Rachel, who was taking care of her father's sheep. While he was talking, Jacob found out that the girl was a friend. She invited him to come to her house. Her father would be glad to see Jacob. He would let Jacob and Rachel get married. Rachel's father was Jacob's uncle and his name was Laban; Jacob would live in that country with Rachel.

## **The Lesson**

### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

#### Opening Questions

- 1) Give a biblical example of someone who was obedient.
  - 2) What are the rewards of being obedient to God, our parents and guardians?
- Jacob obeyed his parents as the Bible said in Gen. 28:7 “and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.” God comforted him as he traveled a long way to his uncle Laban, God said to him “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land: for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you” (Genesis 28:15).

God also sent His angels to Jacob while he was asleep. Jacob saw the angels come up and down and so He realized that God was taking care of him.

- Just as God told him, “I am with you.” God is telling us the same. We face difficulties sometimes but if we submit ourselves to God, He will be with us, protect us, help us, and give us eternal life. We also have to do as Jacob did i.e. obey our parents.  
When Jacob awoke, he said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Gen, 28:17. From this, we ask: what is the definition of the “house of God”? It is:
  - A place of prayers.
  - A place where the angels ascend and descend.
  - A place where God speaks to his people.
  - It is the gate to heaven.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) As we submit ourselves to God and obey our parents, Our Lord will be with us, comfort us, protect us and help us.
- (2) Our church is a very blessed place in which we get peace and comfort. We must go to church regularly and enjoy participating in the prayers and activities.



### The Characteristics of the Angels and their Role

## The Guardian Angel

**Lesson content:** The angels protect us

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

- **Know:** God loves us and commands his angels to guard us.
- **Feel:** Happiness and not to be afraid of anything because your Guardian Angel is with you.
- **Practice:** To ask for the intercession of the guardian angel.

**Bible verse:** “*For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*” (Psalm 91:11-12)  
(*Psalm 91 in the Agpeya, the 6th Hour prayer*)



## **Background information to servant**

The Holy Bible teaches us that the angels were created on the first day when God created light, but also others think that they were created before that, i.e. before the creation of the Earth. The nature of the angels is spiritual, as they are spirits, or spiritual bodies?! The Dogma of the first church is formed by considering the angels as spiritual bodies and not only spirits. The Bible teaches us that the roles of the angels are:

- (1) Worshiping God.
- (2) Fulfilling His will.
- (3) Serving the heirs of salvation.

It is also said that they are surrounding Christ, and they are always ready to fulfil every service asked from them for the progress of His Kingdom. In the Old Testament, they appeared many times to God's servants to manifest to them His will. They hit the Egyptians with plagues, and they were present with God when He gave Moses the law on Mount Sinai. They accompanied the Children of Israel during their wanderings in the wilderness and destroyed their enemies and encamped around them will a wall during the time of danger. They announced and celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:31, 2:13). They served Him during His temptation in the wilderness, and during His sufferings of his trial and crucifixion (Matthew 4:11, Luke 22:43). They preached his resurrection and announced his ascension into heaven (Matthew 28:5-6, John 20:12, Acts 1:10-1). They released Peter from prison (Acts 5:19, 12:7) and they are always serving the believers (Hebrews 1:14) and guarding the children (Matthew 18:10). They carry the souls of the dead to Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22) and they are going to accompany Jesus Christ in His second coming, and gather His people to His kingdom (Matthew 13:39, 16:27, 24:31).

**In addition, we conclude from the Holy Bible that the angels are:**

- (1) Able to do things both inside and outside our world, according to the will of God. And since their nature is higher than ours, they can do things above our understanding, for example, only one angel killed in one night the firstborn of the Egyptians.
- (2) Able to work in our minds, as they can move us to do good things according to the law of our nature, using suitable ways. And there is a difference between their effect and the effect of God and the Holy Spirit in us, in that the angels show us the truth and guide our

thinking as if a human is changing our thinking. The Holy Bible says: That God has granted the angels authority, sometimes for general guidance and protection and others for giving inner strength and comfort. Just as an angel strengthened our Lord Jesus Christ in Gethsemane during his passion, and was also able to strengthen the believers. And as the fallen angels are able to tempt men with sin, God's angels are able to attract them to holiness. And they protect the believers from their enemies, and they protect the children (Matthew 18:10) and help the elderly (Psalm 34:7) and transport the believers to the place of waiting after death (Luke 16:22). God promised us to be protected by them "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." (Psalm 91:11-12). And all of this is true and not exaggerated, as proven by what Jesus Christ said (Matthew 26:53).

- (3) Serving for the progress of the church. In the Old Testament the law was given by the direction of the angels (Acts 7:53, Hebrews 2:2). And God commanded them concerning His people (Psalm 91:11-12) and in the New Testament it was said that they were attending the meetings of the saints (1 Corinthians 11:10) and they fought the dragon and his angels (Revelation 12:7).

The teaching of the Bible of the service of the angels is comforting to the believers and makes them joyful, because it is proven to them that the angels are encamping around them as soldiers of the Most High, day and night, protecting them from their invisible enemies and surrounding dangers.

### **What is the opinion about the Guardian Angel?**

Some say that every believer has their own guardian angel, according to what Jesus Christ said: For the kids they have their own angels in the heavens "who always see the face of My Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10). And, according to what the people gathered in the house of Mary said about Peter: "It is his angel." (Acts 12:7-15). So, we say that the second verse doesn't prove that Peter hasn't got his own guardian angel, because what is said about Peter's angel wasn't said by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (although the Holy Bible itself is inspired by the Holy Spirit). So, it's not proper to assign to it certain education. What is mentioned in the Bible about this was a general thinking between two groups of people in the house of Mary. In the first verse, it appears that for children there are angels who guard them and stay awake for their good and their best interest but it doesn't prove that for every child or believer he/she has their own guardian angel. Most of the interpreters say that God appointed special angels to take care of certain kingdoms according to what is stated in the book of Daniel

by mentioning the head of the Persian kingdom and the head of the Greek Kingdom, that they are two angels. This is also a point of doubt, according to the following:

- (1) It is not mentioned in either the old or new testaments of the Bible, except for the book of Daniel in which it says that there is a guardian angel or evil spirit appointed for each pagan nation.
- (2) The forces that stood against the angel who appeared to the prophet were called Persian kings (Daniel 10:13)
- (3) It is concluded from Daniel 11 that the counter forces which were mentioned are not angels of good or evil but are merely earthly kings.

Angels are distinguished from humans by being exalted in their highness, strength, holiness, greatness and ability. So, we find David the prophet says in the Psalms: "Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word." (Psalm 103:20). The roles of the angels are various and many, some of them have got roles which are specifically for God, such as praising, worshiping and glorifying God, doing God's orders and delivering messages from God to the humans or on the Last Judgement. Other roles of the angels relate to the service of the believers, such as taking care of them and guarding them, saving them from trials, encouraging them, relieving them, raising their prayers, and carrying the souls of the faithful people to heaven.

## The Lesson

**The Servant:** I want to tell you today about a strange thing that happened to me last week. I was watching TV and I saw a big envoy of cars for a very important person in the country. When the VIP got out of the car I saw his bodyguards who also came out of the car to guard him. And while I was watching the TV I started imagining if I were to have a real bodyguard for myself, what would I do? I would make him wake me up every morning and dress me up to go to school, and to prepare my bag for school every day. Not only that, but I would also make him write for me during the class, and after school to help me with my homework, and prepare for me all the games that I have got at home to play with. Oh, that will be nice to have a body guard!

**(A servant dressed as an angel entering the class and saying hymns and in a happy mood):**

**The Servant:** Who is this who entered the class and his face is bright and beautiful, and his voice is so nice and looks very happy? What is the secret of his happiness? I need to know many things about him, so I must go and ask him.

**The servant goes near the angel and says:** Excuse me, who are you? Where do you come from and what's the secret of your happiness? Can you tell us about yourself please?

**The Angel:** You don't know me?! I walk behind you all day in every place you go, and everything you do, I pray to God that He may help you, and also, I make you to take heed when you stray that you may not fall in a hole or anything in the way that may harm you.

**The Servant:** I have never seen you. How come you say that you always walk behind me?

**The Angel:** Don't you know me?! I'm your guardian angel and God appointed me to be with you and take care of you and raise your prayers to God every time you pray. And to help you in your life, maybe you can't see me, but I am always with you. Also, I become so happy when your behaviors are good and become sad when I see your wrong behaviors.

**The Servant:** Ok, but how are you with me and helping me but I can't feel you at all? And why do you get upset from my behaviors?

**The Angel:** We, angels always like to work quietly and to help people without feeling us, and to help them with many things in their life, in which we make people who deal with you to be nice with you, and when you're afraid of anything we will be beside you to guard you, but the one who haven't enough faith that their own guardian angel guard them will feel afraid and alone, that's why you have to have very strong faith that we angels are always beside you and guard you, not only that, we also raise your prayers to your father Jesus Christ, and all the prayers in church we take it with the nice smell of incense and raise it up to the Lord Jesus Christ, and when we see someone do bad things we become sad because we can't believe how come the son of the great King does this behaviors.

**The Servant:** That's wonderful things the first time I know about the Guardian Angel. But how can I get you to help me in all things in my life like doing my homework?

**The Angel:** No, we don't do your things instead of you, but we help you without noticing us for example when you study a subject at school you don't like, what we do?

We try to help you understand it and study it quickly and easily even if it's so difficult. And If you pray before you do anything we help you with it, even during playing we take care of you, when you're playing, running or going anywhere.

**The Servant:** Wow, that's so nice, I didn't think about the Guardian Angel before and how he is with us always, he's very important and today we knew about him more and more. From today I'll always ask from God to send his angels to help me and will also ask from my guardian angel to pray for me in front of my father Jesus Christ at all times. Thank you, my guardian angel,

please keep beside me always and help me and pray for me in front of Our Lord Jesus, and also when I'm afraid or done something wrong alert me that you are always beside me, with me and supporting me.

**The Angel:** The peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and protect you and your brothers and sisters who are with you today, and their beautiful angels who are standing beside them. May God protect them all. Bye

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- So, when do you think our Guardian Angel gets happy?
- And when does he get upset or sad?
- What are the things that our Guardian Angel does with us?



### Exercise...

That the kids ask the intercession of the Guardian Angel in their prayers, and to thank Our Lord Jesus Christ because He loves us and dedicated His angels for each one of us to look after us.



### Prayer

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... O God Your love is greater than everything ... Your love is greater than the sand of the sea, and the stars of the sky, You love us, that's why You help us in everything in our life, and You command Your holy angels to protect us in our lives, protect me O Lord through the intercession of the guardian angel and all the saints and martyrs. Amen.



**God Loves me, He Provided me  
with Friends**

## **The Healing of the Paralytic Man**

**Bible reference:** Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

**Lesson content:** God loves me, He gifted me with friends

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

- **Know:** We are all members in the body of Jesus Christ.
- **Feel:** Love towards all his/her friends.
- **Practice:** Offer love to all his/her friends.

**Bible verse:** *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” (Matthew 9:2)*

## **Background information to servant**

- One of the miracles of Our Lord in Capernaum and its surroundings (which is located North West of the Sea or Lake of Tiberias – The Sea of Galilee or Lake of Gennesaret) is the miracle of healing the paralytic man. The Lord and his disciples got into a boat and crossed over to Capernaum and entered one of the houses where he used to teach, preach and heal. It might be the house of Peter and Andrew or the house of Matthew.
- The Bible mentions the miracle very briefly: a paralytic man, not able to move, and there is a barrier between him and his healer Doctor, which is the crowd of people who were gathered around Jesus Christ. Because of his disability, his friends strived to carry him on a bed, but they were faced by the crowd who came to listen to God's word or to seek healing, so there was no way past the crowd, not even near the door. Nevertheless, they put in their heart that they wouldn't go back disappointed and defeated by the crowd. Their thought of an idea to going on the housetop, and remove the tiling of the roof (Luke 5:19). They made an opening wide enough to let their sick friend down with his bed to be in the midst before Jesus.
- **When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic: "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."** ... The Bible mentions immediately, while the paralytic man and his friends were awaiting his healing, the scribes and Pharisees were shocked by God's words, and reasoned in their hearts, objecting: "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?** But the one who searches hearts and knows the hidden motives perceived their thoughts and answered saying: "**Why do you fill your minds with evil things? Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?** But I said that **so that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**".  
**Then he said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."**  
Immediately he arose, took up his bed, and departed to his own house. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God.
- **"Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men"**  
Trust that you are one of the four ... "one of the four?!" you may ask.

They are:

1. The church,
2. The true friend,
3. The church represented by the bishop, the priest and the servant
4. Yourself

The church, together with you, can present the paralytic to the Lord Jesus Christ. The paralytic can be yourself, so the church can't present the paralytic except with your own will.

- **Comparison between the paralytic and the sick man at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5)**

We find that our Lord Jesus here stays in the house not only for his friends to take him in but also to make an opening in the housetop and let him down. But for the other man, the Lord Himself went to him and asked him if he wants to be made well. In the case of the paralytic, his soul was healed first from sin, and then after that he took up his bed and walked. But in the case of the sick man, his body was healed first, after that God asked him not to sin again.

So, does that mean that God shows favouritism? Now doubt, our Lord Jesus doesn't discriminate between human, but he differentiates in the approach suitable for each one. The paralytic man had his own friends who could love him and carry him. That's why the Lord waited for them to carry inside each of them a spirit of caring for the other, so that they can receive the crown of communal love. That's why Jesus started with the healing of his soul because he knows a lot about the Lord God even from his friends whom He provided to him.

But in the case of the sick man at the Pool of Bethesda, the Lord cared about healing his destructed soul first as a result of not having anyone to take care of him or support him ... so he needs the Lord God to come to him and heal his body first, so he will be ready to have inner guidance.

- **Friendship**

The greatest picture of friendship is the one which is represented by putting the one we love in front of Christ, who knows his/her needs.

- **The Holy Bible mentions what is true friendship and what is false and unfaithful friendship:**

- 1- **True friendship:** Serves, supports and strengthens. In this type of friendship, each one helps his friend and says to his brother: "Be strong". It's a permanent friendship and not seasonal or temporary, continues in the time of tribulations and poverty.
- 2- **False friendship:** Deceives and has hidden bad motives. It is not driven by compassion and consolation. Job said about his friends: "My friends scorn me" (Job 16:20) and this is the opposite of what Onesiphorus said about Paul (2 Timothy 1:16-17) for he refreshed him and was not ashamed of his chains.

**3- Unfaithful friendship:** Seeks personal benefit (Proverbs 14:20), getting closer to the rich man and getting away from the poor. An example for unfaithful friendship; Judas betrayal to the Lord and his unfaithfulness to Him (Matthew 26:49).

- **From this we notice:**

1. The importance of having true friends in our lives, and this is God's gift to me who loves me.
2. The discernment that we must carry inside us, for choosing our friends.

**Let us realise the deep love of God who provides us friends who are helpers comparable to us, who can help us in our daily lives, and offer us before the throne of grace, to shape our Christian foundation and live a heavenly life.**

## **Activities to introduce the lesson**

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



### **Introductory Story**

There was a king who used to love hunting, and he had a very close friend who was a minister, going out with him in all his trips also in his wars and so forth. One day, the king went hunting as he was used to doing. When he saw an animal afar off, he ordered all the people with him to throw their arrows towards this animal until it gets tired. So, the people around him did what he ordered, but the minister had a bad aim, and his arrow injured the king's finger badly. As a result, the doctor's opinion was to cut his finger.

The king was very angry of the minister, and he ordered him to be put in prison. So his life changed from being a great minister and friend of the king, to a humiliated prisoner. Until one day, when the king went out hunting as usual, he saw an animal afar off which he followed until he disappeared from the site of his guards. By then he was found by Cannibals and they took him as their prey.

The days pass and everyone in the royal palace thought that their king was dead, or that a wild animal had killed him. However, one of his guards later found him during their patrol, thrown at the entrance of the city, being in a very tired state. When they took him back to his palace, the first words he uttered was to ask about his minister. But everyone thought that he was asking about him so that he can hand over the leadership of the kingdom. But when he became well, they brought the imprisoned minister to him and the king ordered to release him from his chains,

and the king rose up from his throne and kissed him, and asked him to forgive him by putting him in prison.

The minister wanted to know the reason for the king's transformation, so the king told him that when the Cannibals captured him and noticed his injured finger, they deserted him, for they do not eat anyone with an incomplete organ in his body. So the king was saved from definite death because of the injury which was accidentally inflicted upon him by the minister.

That's why when our friendship which is established on the love of God, we have to submit ourselves to God and ask him that our friends are the ones who carry us on the path of victory; the path of our Saviour.

## The Lesson

**The Narrator:** When Jesus was in Capernaum, many people came to the house in which he was staying, to the extent that there were no empty rooms in the house, not even in front of the door. In another house not too far from this house, there were five friends talking together.

**Friend 1:** Did you hear the news? Jesus is here ... Jesus is in Capernaum.

**The Paralytic:** Oh, I want to see Him so much but I'm not able to move ... you go and leave me here. You go to see Him, I don't mind. When you come back tell me about everything. Come on, go to see Him.

**Friend 2:** No, I've got an idea. I heard that Jesus heals the people who cannot see, or hear, and even He heals the people like you who cannot walk. We all must go to see Jesus and also to ask Him to heal you.

**The Paralytic:** But how can I go to Jesus?

**Friend 3:** Easy! We are four strong people, so we're going to carry you on your bed. Come on, let's do that.

**The Narrator:** And the four friends carried their friend and took him to the house where Jesus was preaching. But there was a surprise waiting for them.

**Friend 1:** Look at all these people coming to see Jesus! I can't even see him.

**Friend 2:** We have to get closer to Jesus. Let's try the housetop.

**Friend 3:** What shall we do now? Again, we can't see Jesus.

**Friend 4:** I know! Let's make an opening in the housetop and let our friend down on his bed through the opening, and then Jesus will be able to see him.

**Friend 1:** Great idea ... let's try it (sounds of making an opening).

**Friend 4:** Great ... now the opening is big enough.

**Friend 1:** Everything's ready ... let's start!

**The Narrator:** Indeed, his friends started letting him down to Jesus for Him to heal him.

**Friend 2:** We are sorry Jesus that we have done this.

**Friend 4:** When we couldn't enter through the door because there were so many people, that's when we decided to make an opening in the housetop and let our friend down through it. Please Jesus help us.

**Friend 1:** Please Jesus, we know that you heal people, that's why we brought our friend to You. Please heal him so that he can walk again.

**Jesus:** I am very happy with your faith. My son, your sins are forgiven.

**The Narrator:** When the religious leaders heard what Jesus said, they became upset.

**The Religious Leaders (said within themselves angrily):** What? This man says that He can forgive sins? How dare He say that? No one can forgive sins except God! Who does He think He is?

**The Narrator:** But Jesus knew what they were thinking.

**Jesus:** Why do you think like that? Which is easier—to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your bed and walk'? But I said that (so that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins". Then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

**The Paralytic:** Look I can stand, I can walk! Jesus healed me! Thank you so much Jesus.

**The Narrator:** The four friends were so happy that they came and saw Jesus and that their paralytic friend became well. And they went to tell all the people what Jesus had done for them.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Where was our Lord Jesus teaching?
- Who was the hero of the event? Were his friends the reason for his healing?
- What did his friends do to reach the Saviour?
- What did Jesus do when He saw them?
- What were the paralytic's feelings before and after being healed?
- What's the verse of the lesson?



### Exercise...

The servant makes a deal with the kids to write a letter or email to their friend to explain why he loves him and befriended him, and how they are going to reach their eternal salvation through their friendship. And the servant reads the letters and displays the best one in the next lesson.



### Prayer

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, two are better than one because if one falls, his companion will lift him up. O Lord, make my friend my second heart, one who feels my pain and is happy for my happiness. Make him love me because "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Proverbs 27:6)



I am Special and Have Feelings to  
Express

## David & Jonathan

**Bible reference:** 1 Samuel 20

**Lesson content:** Friendship

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

- **Know:** The meaning of friendship.
- **Feel:** The importance of friendship.
- **Practice:** Choosing a true friend.

**Bible verse:** “*Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.*” (1 Samuel 18:3)



## **Background information to servant**

### **King David:**

- “David” Hebrew name which means “beloved”.
- He was one of the sons of Jesse the Bethlehemite, and the youngest of his brothers.
- He lived for 70 years: 30 years before being anointed king, and 40 years after. before the birth of the Lord Jesus by one thousand, one hundred and twenty years.
- His life can be divided into three stages:
  - As a shepherd,
  - In exile, being chased from a place to another by King Saul, and
  - As king of Israel.
- He passed away in 2990 year of the world.
- He was the second king of Israel after Saul.
- He came from the tribe Judah, from Bethlehem.
- The Coptic Church celebrates his feast day on 23 Kiahk.

### **Jonathan:**

- “Jonathan” is a Hebrew name which means “Gift of Jehovah”.
- He was the firstborn of King Saul.
- He was one of the noblest characters in the Old Testament, and the most lovable and closest to the heart, and the true friendship appeared in its greatest ways.
- David’s soul was so attached to Jonathan to the extent that upon Jonathan’s death, David wrote a lamentation in (2 Sam 1:17-27): “I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women.”
- The deepness of the friendship between them was proof of the nobleness and love of Jonathan to David. It is one of the most ideal friendships in history, especially because it was opposed by Saul’s jealousy and disloyalty. So, Jonathan’s loyalty was an example for a great encouragement for David during the years of being refused. There is nothing in history like Jonathan’s giving up his throne for the sake of David, who should be an example of a competitor and rival to him.

### **The nobleness of Jonathan’s character:**

- In spite of Jonathan’s great loyalty to David, he didn’t provoke David against his father Saul, who was still “the Lord’s anointed”. He was totally the opposite of his father; since Saul hated David and tried to kill him by many means. Jonathan loved David and tried to help him by saving him from the incentive of Saul the killer.
- The sibling love of David and Jonathan was structured on their common faith. Both of them were heroes and warriors, but their bravery was sourced from their knowledge that God was always in line with His people (1 Samuel 14:6, 17:47), so their friendship started on the

day when David defeated Goliath and continued until the death of Jonathan, when David talked about the depth of their friendship (2 Samuel 1:26).

#### **Jonathan's great faith:**

- Jonathan's great faith appears in 1 Samuel 14, when he gained a great victory against the Philistines because of his great confidence in God. Jonathan was carrying his weapon behind the rows of the enemies without the knowledge of his father King Saul (1 Samuel 14:1-5): "Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, 'Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.'" (1 Samuel 14:6). Jonathan's faith was based on his knowledge that God will save His people, based on his past experience. And indeed, God delivered the Philistines to the hands of the Israelites (1 Samuel 14:12).

#### **The relationship between Jonathan and David:**

- The thing that sparked the strong love of Jonathan for David was when David killed Goliath.
- **The secret of David's (external) victory in his battle against Goliath might be because of the following:**

A- Because of his internal victory. When his father asked David to go and check the safety of his brothers and bring back news of them, the Holy Bible says: "So David rose early in the morning ... and went as Jesse had commanded him." (1 Samuel 17:20)  
Obedience to one's parents and spiritual fathers in God is an inner victory of one's self-will, and this will be followed by outer victories. Therefore, many were defeated externally because of internal failure. So, David obeyed his Father without hesitation and with joyfulness, because he was quick to obey his father's early-morning request. He also had inner victory when his brother Eliab was aroused against him and so he answered him calmly and wisely.

B- David recognised that every victory is for God Himself and His church, and every defeat humiliates God and His church. So, if he had asked: "**What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine?**" and continued his question saying "**and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the Living God?**" So, he considered the battle a fight between God Himself and Satan, the enemy of good.

He might have asked for example of the reward for killing Goliath, but without doubt there was no reward that could have pulled a man's heart before a giant man like Goliath who was a trained fighter.

King Saul became weak before Goliath and all the men of war, and David's elder brothers were terrified of him. David became jealous for the Lord of Hosts and realised

that "God Himself gives victory so that He is glorified in the midst of His people." By this mind set David went down to the land of battle, hiding in God.

C- **Saint Ambrose thinks:** "The secret of David's victory is that he never waged war, but rather Goliath did, and David was driven to it because of his spiritual zeal. He didn't carry Saul's armour but his own slingshot and stick, and only entered the war after first asking God. He said: "David never waged war unless he was driven to it ... His strength depended more on his own arm than on the weapons of others ... He never entered on a war without first seeking counsel of the Lord.

❖ **Let us in our spiritual fight be committed to these three things:**

1. **Not to start a war by ourselves, but to run from anything that will cause us to stumble.**
2. **If we enter into a war, we must carry with us our personal experiences of God, and depend on His grace working inside us, i.e. we should not just rely on the prayers of others without us first having our own relationship with God.**
3. **Not hastily entering into a war without first seeking counsel of the Lord and His support.**

D- **Saint Ambrose thinks:** That David was victorious because he gave himself to the service of the people, and asked what he could do for the other, thereby putting himself before others. Therefore, St Ambrose said: "David followed in the steps of Moses who was chosen from among the people to govern them. How great was his meekness, kindness and humbleness of spirit! And how great a fighter was he, ready to show love. Before he ascended to the throne, he put himself for the service of all. As a king he considered himself equal to everybody else whilst fighting, sharing in the tire of his people. He was brave in battle, kind in judgement, and patient in tolerating insult, and most of all tolerating others' mistakes rather than acting in a tit-for-tat manner. He was precious to everyone, and although he was only a youth, he was chosen against his will to govern the people. When he became older, his people asked him not to fight in battle, as everyone preferred to face danger for his sake than for King David to face danger for their sake. The people were attached to King David, because he did everything for his people. Firstly, when there was division between the people, he preferred to live in Hebron as if he was in an exile (2 Samuel 2:3) than to be a king in Jerusalem. Secondly, he showed bravery, even towards his enemy.

**Jonathan's covenant with David:**

- “Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even his sword and his bow and his belt.” (1 Samuel 18:3-4) The covenant they made means that they will stick together and each one will help the other. It is difficult to find a friendship like theirs. When David was a young shepherd, he didn’t have clothes to suit his new position as a national hero. For this reason, Jonathan gave him his robe, his sword, his bow and his belt. He deprived himself from everything he had for David’s sake.

**Intercession of Jonathan for David:**

- We see in 1 Samuel 19:2-7 more of the true friendship between Jonathan and David, and how Jonathan warned David of the danger of being killed by King Saul, and advised him how to avoid Saul’s hand. Jonathan acted as a peacemaker and interceded for David before Saul and begged his father for David’s sake. He reminded his father that David, by saving Israel from the Philistines, saved his throne. He also reminded his father that he had never done anything wrong to him, so, he warned his father not to sin by killing innocent blood. Jonathan’s intercession had a temporary effect on his father, for Saul swore that he would not kill David, but after a while he tried to kill him with a spear (1 Samuel 19:9-10).
- We are the losers when we fail to know God in all our ways. When our unity with God is broken, we surrender to temptation and sin. While David agreed with Jonathan to lie for him, so, it was expected the presence of David in the palace during the time of the eating, but he was afraid of going, so he took permission from Jonathan that he may hide for three days, telling him: “If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.’” (1 Samuel 20:6)

**The need of practical love:**

- Many people claim they have love for others, but often such a statement of love is only verbal, and is not accompanied by feelings from their hearts, which is apparent in their dealings! And they might say that they love God, but then break His commandments every day! That is why St John the Beloved wrote: “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:18)

## The Lesson

- Today we are going to talk about King David. God was with David and gave him great power and wisdom, which he used in killing the lion and the bear, as well as the giant Goliath the Philistine, of whom all the children of Israel were afraid. The king and all the Israelites were so happy when David killed Goliath (which was before he became a king). And the king at the time was called Saul and he had a son called Jonathan, and he was also so happy with David and loved him so much, and David became a friend of Jonathan.
- On this day the people kept singing and dancing and were cheering for David more than Saul. And when Saul heard these cheers he became very angry from David and thought of killing him, because Saul was afraid that David would become king instead of him. So, King Saul wanted to kill David with his spear twice, but God saved David from him. So, Saul thought of a plan to kill David and said, "I will tell him to marry my daughter and make him responsible of the wars, so he will die by the hands of the Philistines." And that is what happened: King Saul offered his daughter Merab to David, but David said to him: I don't deserve this position and so Merab got married to another person, and the king kept thinking what to do? So, he said to his servants: "convince David to marry my second daughter Michal." And David became convinced to marry the king's daughter. So, David went to Saul to marry his daughter, Michal, and Saul agreed but he said to him: First, you have to fight the Philistines. And David fought the Philistines and defeated them because God was with him. But the king was very very angry ... do you know why?
- So Saul went to gather his servants again and Jonathan was with them and told them: You have to kill David, but who was David's friend? So Jonathan went and warned David and said to him: King Saul wants to kill you therefore please be on your guard and stay in a secret place until the morning and I will speak with my father about you and give you word. David obeyed what Jonathan told him and hid himself, and Jonathan went in the morning to his father Saul and said to him: "Don't commit sin by killing David; he didn't do anything wrong, but rather, he was the one who saved all Israel from the hands of the Philistines, and he was the one who killed Goliath" So Saul listened to his son Jonathan and said: "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed." This means that he is not going to kill David. So, Jonathan was so happy and went to David telling him what happened, and Jonathan took David and entered into the presence of King Saul who didn't harm him. And Jonathan saved his friend David from the hands of Saul.

# Application



## Comprehension Questions

- Who was the king who killed a lion and a bear when he was young?
- Who is the wife of David?
- Who is David's friend?
- How did Jonathan save David?



## Exercise...

- 1- Thank God for the feelings he has given me to express, and made me distinguished from other creatures.
- 2- Express my feelings with truth and honesty: (love my friends – be happy with the happiness of others – be sad for their sadness)



## Prayer

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

My Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for Your love to me.

O my warm-hearted God, thank You for distinguishing me from all the other creatures.  
Thank You for making me able to express my feelings, and to know how to choose my true friend.

Thank You, my Lord Jesus, because You always guide me with nice examples from the Holy Bible of true friends.

Like Jonathan and David long time ago, help me God to love all people  
and to be able to help my friends and be a good example for them.

Because I am your son made in your image and your example,  
Amen.



### Orderliness

## The Five Loaves and Two Fish

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 14:13-23, Mark 6:30-46

**Lesson content:** The importance of orderliness in our lives

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

- **Know:** The importance of orderliness in our lives which serves his/her community.
- **Feel:** How being organised and following a routine makes God happy.
- **Practice:** To organise his/her daily life priorities more.

**Bible verse:** “*For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people.*”  
*(1 Corinthians 14:33)*



## **Background information to servant**

### **The Christian and the Social System:**

- Every Christian should strive to give Christ first place in his/her private life and in the community around him/her. The means we use to enhance the state of a community and strengthen justice between people can't be useful in a true and permanent way unless we are renewing ourselves in God's saving grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And the Christian must oppose, in the same spirit of Christ, any type of greed, selfishness and vice. He/she should work to fulfil the needs of the orphans, the poor, the elderly, the sick and the outcasts.
- Every Christian believer should make an effort in building-up his/her country, its government and its whole society to master the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly fellowship. To reach this, we should be ready to work with those who are righteous, always taking care to act in a spirit of love, but without compromising their loyalty and love for Christ.

### **The patriotic Christianity:**

- While the Christian is a patriot in the kingdom of God, he/she is also a patriot in a country. He/she should be a good patriot of both. The government is an organisation established by God. Therefore, every soul should be subject to the government's authority (Romans 13:1). It might be not possible for the person to always agree on a law of the land. But as long as the law doesn't violate the relationship of the Christian believer to God, he/she has to obey it. The believer may aspire to petition for certain laws to be changes, but he/she has to obey the law as long as it is functioning, not being afraid of the punishment, but driven by Christian conscience.
- Christians lived for many years under many different types of governments. Under some governments, they faced persecution, and under others they enjoyed protection. But whatever the stance of government, Christ's words are clear: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

### **The Five Loaves and Two Fish:**

- **Introduction to the miracle:** It is the only event considered in the general service of the Lord Christ which is mentioned in all four Gospels: Matthew 14:13, Mark 6:30, Luke 9:10 and John 6:1. This shows the importance of this miracle. This event took place before the last visit of the Lord Jesus to Jerusalem when He was to be crucified there.
- St John the Evangelist presents to us the Lord Jesus as the heavenly Bread who feeds the soul and satisfies it to remain alive and nourished. He is the Incarnate Word; through His

word He raises us to have new life, and by His Body which is the heavenly bread, renews us and roots us in Him.

**In this chapter we see the Lord Christ feeding the multitudes with two fish and five barley loaves, which were presented by a boy:**

- **First:** Jesus lifted up His eyes seeing the hungry multitudes. He didn't wait for someone to ask for food but pre-empted the needs of the people.
- **Second:** While He was offering food for the people he accepted an offering from a small boy. As He gives He takes; this is the sign of mutual love between God and man. He also raised the boy's morale and value; the boy's offering was small, but it satisfied all the multitudes, and there were leftovers of food which filled twelve baskets.
- **Third:** God honours every person, and asks for an offering from a boy, a kid or a child, however little it is! This lets people feel they are playing an active role in serving the humanity through his/her input.
- **Fourth:** The two fish represent the Old and New Testaments, and the five loaves represent the five books of Moses. How different it is to receive the Word of God with understanding from the hands of Jesus Christ, than from reading it with our limited human understanding. God's word satisfies and fills us when our Lord Jesus presents it to us through our church.
- **Fifth:** The multitude came back the next day looking for him, not to enjoy nor for the sake of witnessing miracles or for being fed bread and fish, but because they were filled by the Word of the Lord. Therefore, the Lord Jesus presented to them a new and different table: His body and blood given as food, which gives us eternal life.

**Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down..."**

**He sat them down in order:**

- ✓ Because He is the creator who likes order, and accordingly created everything in order, according to certain system.
- ✓ To teach us to do our work in a fitting and orderly manner. According to the commandment "But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."
- ✓ To help the disciples distribute the food to the multitude quietly. So, each disciple was assigned to distribute to a number of groups of people.
- ✓ Because if he didn't do so, the throng of people would have rushed towards the food and many people would have been deprived of it.
- ✓ To collect the leftover fragments, before the crowd had left and trod on the fragments.

And from this event, it shows that the orders and rites the church follows during its services was handed to us from the disciples, who in turn learned this from our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Activities to introduce the lesson

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



### Introductory Story

- My mum always repeated the following sentence to us which we remembered inside out but never followed it: “Organize your stuff! Tidy your belongings to be able to find things easily! A little bit of order will make life easy.”
- Every morning in our house, there was a contest between my siblings and I to find all our school things, and so we’d be constantly shouting, “Where’s my book?”, “Where’s my notepad?”, “Where’s my pen?”, “Where’s my bag?”, “Where are my shoes?”, “Where are my socks?”, and the list went on...
- We kept looking around ourselves and spent a lot of time preparing ourselves for school or for our weekly outing. All of that, and our poor mum would look with us here and there to help us find our stuff.
- We were three children who didn’t maintain any order and who never put our stuff in its correct place. So, my mum decided to help us by putting everything back in its place after us, hanging up our clothes, organising our school bags. But not one hour would pass before the mess of our toys returned, and the house would be void of order. So, my mum eventually lost hope, and just left us to bear the consequences of our messiness.
- When Grandma came to live with us, she noticed the mess we were living in, so she decided to help my mum by tidying up after us.
- But one day, I heard my elder brother asking: “Where are my sports clothes?! I took them off here yesterday!” So, Grandma asked him: “Did you hang them up?”  
My brother replied: “No, I put them on this chair!” Grandma smiled and said: “So it will be in the barrel.” We all looked in amazement at her! And my brother replied: “Barrel? Which barrel?!” My grandma said: “The barrel in the storage room at the top of the house.” We all shouted in astonishment and denial: “In the storage room?!”
- We quickly went up to the top of the house, opened the storage room, and found it: a big barrel at the back of the room. With great difficulty we tried to reach inside it as the barrel was so deep, and it was about twice our size. So, we tried to tip the barrel over, but it was fixed to the floor. My brother dangled himself down inside the opening of the barrel and then he saw his clothes lying at the bottom of the barrel.
- The next day I was looking for the book that I was reading just the day before, but I didn’t find it. I remember putting it down somewhere just before going to bed. And I thought to myself: “Where did I leave it? Or perhaps, where did I throw it?! Could it be here in my

room? No... Here in the living room? Oh, I remember, I was sitting at the dining table." Then I shouted asking: "Mum, where is my book?" Mum didn't answer; she had stopped helping us to find our stuff. So, I shouted even louder, but again she didn't reply. Then, looking at grandma: "Didn't you see my book, Grandma?" Grandma smiled and said: "Where do you usually keep your book?" I hesitated: "In... in... in my bag!" So I looked in my bag but it wasn't there. Grandma wondered: "Where else could it be?" I said: "On... on the desk!" So I looked on my desk but it wasn't there. So she said: "So it must be in the barrel. Look for it in there. So, I moaned, shouting: "The barrel again?!"

- I hurried to the storage room and there I saw it at the bottom of the cursed barrel. I tried to reach for it, but the barrel was too deep, and I was too embarrassed to ask for help. So, I looked around and found an old chair by the wall. I quickly dragged it next to the barrel, stood on it, and dangled myself inside the barrel, until I could just about reach the book. Then I tried to straighten myself up to get myself out of the barrel, but I couldn't! I shouted for mum, but she couldn't hear me because I was all the way at the top of the house. I shouted again and again, but there was no hope; no one could hear me. So, I struggled and struggled until I eventually managed to get myself out of the barrel. "Ugh, this is a very tiring way," I shouted, trying to catch my breath.
- A few days later, my younger brother came crying, looking for his favourite toy which he was playing with only the day before. I looked at Grandma and saw her smiling. So, I knew straight away where to find the toy. I told my brother, "Come with me, we'll find your toy." We went up to the storage room, and there again in the bottom of the barrel we found the toy. So, I helped my brother to grab it.
- After two months of visiting the barrel, we decided to start putting our stuff in its place to avoid having to visit this barrel again and going through the ordeal of trying to reach to the bottom of the barrel to grab our stuff.
- We eventually realised the lesson that Grandma wanted to teach us, and understood the advice that our mum gave us: "A little bit of order will make life easy." It wasn't long before being organised felt like less of a chore and more of a habit. And every time one of us thought to put something where it didn't belong, he imagined it placed at the bottom of the barrel and then hurried to put it back in its right place, thinking "A little bit of order will make life easy."
- Therefore, keeping order helps us to reach our destination in the easiest and shortest way, especially when we consider that the destination is our eternal life in Heaven.

I wonder, have you ever dreamt about eternity?

## The Lesson

- Our story today is about a boy whose life changed in the space of a day. He was just a normal Jewish boy living in Israel close to Bethesda, but he became one of the most famous characters in the Holy Bible.
- This boy asked his mum to go out to listen to the words of Jesus Christ, so, his mum gave him permission, and she gave him food to take with him: “five loaves of barley and two fish.”
- The boy went out on his journey, and when he arrived, he found a great multitude of men and women, elderly and children, and Jesus was in their midst teaching them and guiding them and healing every sickness and illness in them.
- The day passed very quickly, and before the boy realized it, the Sun had already started to set. So, the disciples of our Lord Jesus asked the Lord to stop teaching and send the multitude away for everyone to be able to find their way back home before it had gotten too dark.
- By this time, the people were very hungry, but there was not enough food to feed everyone. So, Jesus had pity on the multitude, who numbered approximately 5000 people (counting only men, and not women and children) and asked His disciples to serve food for them, and when they told Him that they haven’t got any food except for these “five loaves and two fish” which belong to this boy, but which he is offering to You. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, and then asked His disciples to start organising the multitude into groups of fifty, and for every group to organise themselves, sitting on the ground and staying within their group.
- Then Jesus started by a prayer, asking God the Father to bless what was offered to them, and to make it sufficient to fill them in every way. After the disciples had finished dividing the multitudes into groups of fifty, they started to distribute the food to them. And everyone ate and was filled, to the extent that the fragments that remained had filled up twelve baskets.
- Therefore, when we ask God to bless our work and fill us with His grace, He will do so in the same measure of our orderliness and organisation, so that the result is excellently successful.
- **So, orderliness is like a magical way that guides us to our Lord Jesus Christ. Organising our daily life is important, so as to have times of retreat with our righteous God. And through our orderliness and setting our priorities, we can succeed in our studies and serve our communities in the right way.**

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- Where was Jesus? How big was the multitude?
- What was Jesus doing with these multitudes?
- What was the request of His disciples to Him?
- How did Jesus resolve the problem of feeding the multitude? What is the main condition for this solution?
- How much food did Jesus pray on?
- What is the verse of the lesson?



### Exercise...

To ask the kids to do a daily timetable with the help of the parents, to arrange their time for studying, playing, watching TV, prayer, food and sleeping, so that they can start to get in the habit of following routine and order in their daily lives.



### Prayer

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

Our good Lord Jesus, the God of orderliness and peace;  
Oh, the One who took bread and wine upon His pure hands,  
And thanked, blessed and broke; we believe confess and glorify.  
Give us from the abundance of your warm heart, blessings according to our order,  
So that You may guide us into Your Heavenly Kingdom.  
(The Divine Liturgy)



The fourth week of the month of Baba  
(November)

## Ruth

**Bible reference:** The book of Ruth, chapter 1 to 4

**Lesson purpose:** To learn that Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law. God rewarded her for her faithfulness. She was very polite in her dealings with everyone.

**Bible verse:** *Ruth said to Naomi “For whether you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge” (Ruth 1:16)*



# The Lesson

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

Opening Question:

How does God expect us to treat all people? What does He promise us in return?

- The book of Ruth is known to be written by the prophet Samuel.
- A Moabite girl named Ruth was married to a Jew who was a believer of God. When he died, she went back with her mother-in-law and worshiped God as her mother-in-law did. Her mother-in-law was an old lady who needed help. Ruth put her future on the line and went with her mother-in-law.
- This is the only book in the Bible that is named after a Moabite girl's name because of the very significant role that she played.
- The Lord Jesus came from the descendent of Ruth. Please read Matthew 1:1-16. She got married to Boaz; she had a child and named him Obed. "He is the father of Jesse, the Father of David" (Ruth 4:17)
- This book shows us the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ by flesh to both the Jews (represented by Boaz) and the Gentiles (represented by Ruth) and to all people in the world.
- Ruth was very polite, when speaking to her mother-in-law, to Boaz and to the harvesters. We must also be very polite and kind when we speak to other people.
- Ruth showed a lot of love to her mother-in-law. See the memory verse.
- When Naomi and Ruth entered Bethlehem, the whole city was moved and they asked: Is this Naomi? They all expected Naomi to be back to her land with her husband and her children and all her belongings. But she came back with nothing except her daughter-in-law. But the Lord worked with her and the Bible said "for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons...." Ruth 4:15
- Boaz became Ruth's husband. Ruth gave birth to Obed. God rewarded Ruth. She was polite, she had love and she sacrificed her own life to accompany her mother-in-law.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) God looks from up above. When we do good things to others, He will reward us generously.
- (2) We have to be polite when we deal with all kinds of people.
- (3) As God worked with Naomi and Ruth, He is willing to work with us. The church prays saying to God “participate in the work of thy servants”. Let us also pray in our personal prayers asking God to work with us.



### Respectful Discussion

## Meeting of the Canaanite Woman with Jesus

**Bible reference:** Matthew 15:21-28

**Lesson content:** Respectful Discussion

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

- **Know:** The way and art of dialogue with others.
- **Feel:** The importance of choosing our words.
- **Practice:** Having a discussion with God at any time and having a discussion with others by choosing the right time.

**Bible verse:** “*A gentle answer turns away wrath*”

*(Proverbs 15:1)*

## **Background information to servant**

### **Types of anger and its treatment: Two types of anger:**

- Holy anger: It is anger for the sake of righteousness, and is not loaded with ego, nervousness or ignorance, and it is not quick-to-act anger. The Holy Bible gives us examples of the anger of God and the anger of the apostles and the prophets. History also gives us examples of the anger of the saints. So, we need to be able to differentiate between firmness and anger, as the Bible says: "Be angry, and do not sin." (Ephesians 4:26)
- Vain anger: Vain anger is anger for personal reasons, or for materialistic or worldly reasons, and not for holy reasons. Often, vain anger involved someone losing his temper and is a sin. About this kind of anger, the Bible says: "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression." (Proverbs 29:22)

**Anger is not just a simple sin, but rather a group of sins of which anger is the cause, the consequence, or an extension**

With anger there is:

- Sharpness and nervousness
- Lack of forgiveness
- Hard-heartedness
- Hatred, which is opposed to meekness and kindness
- Lack of humility
- Judging of others

The angry person falls into the sin of:

- Injustice
- Swearing and humiliation of others
- The tongue
- Hatred and revenge
- Intolerance, leading to disputes and quarrels

Angry people can:

- Cause others to stumble
- Lead to rushing and haste
- Lose their Godly character
- Lose their relations with others

Therefore, the sin of anger is opposed to the virtue of peace.

### **The negative consequences of anger:**

- 1- It blinds the vision of the soul and doesn't allow us to look at our personal sins, and the person loses the dignity and the value of people.
- 2- It leads to many other sins as the Holy Bible says: "A furious man abounds in transgression." (Proverbs 29:22)
- 3- It is harmful from the medical perspective.
- 4- It causes one to stumble and lose his reputation.
- 5- It leads to bad relations with others.
- 6- It hinders our prayers and having Holy Communion.

### **Treatment of anger:**

- **Being humble of heart:**

Saint Dorotheos of Gaza said a nice saying which is: "Where there is sympathy and love and humility, how can wrath and other passions develop?" The humble person always places the blame on himself in everything, and doesn't consider that someone did something wrong to him, but he sees that whatever happens to him is because of his sins.

- **Consider the abuser as a doctor:**

The Church Fathers say that whoever speaks in a bad way about us, might be seeing in us flaws we hadn't seen before, and so our sins are revealed to us to know to avoid it.

- **Replying with verses:**

Memorise the Bible verses particular those teaching against anger. Repeat them always, and let them be the focus of your contemplation and remember them every time you are tempted by anger. For example:

- "Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (James 1:20)
- "Anger rests in the bosom of fools." (Ecclesiastes 7:9)
- "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel!" (Genesis 49:7)
- "Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go" (Proverbs 22:24)
- "An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression." (Proverbs 29:22)

- **Be slow to anger:**

Anger is a fast action, being triggered especially when one is rushed, so being calm in our actions can keep us from getting angry.

- **If you don't know how to behave, be silent**

Keeping silence in situations of anger is a virtue. When harsh words are exchanged, this causes anger to grow lead to rage.

- A gentle answer:

The Divine Inspiration in the book of Proverbs says: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1)

If anger rages, it will never get treated with hurtful words, as it was said by the saints: "Fire doesn't extinguish fire but gets extinguished by water." That's why gentle words are more powerful to put out the fire of anger.

- Wisdom:

Wisdom is needed to know when to talk and when to be silent. Here we find the wise Solomon puts before us two different types of behaviour to deal with different types of people and says: "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him." (Proverbs 26:4), then he goes on to say: "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes." (Proverbs 26:5). Therefore, it is according to the circumstances of the case whether you should speak or be silent.

- Remember the bad consequences of anger.

- Do not let yourself stoop down to a low level:

Put boundaries to anger in every stage, and don't let yourself reach the level of hatred and malice.

- Purity of heart, not seclusion:

Some people escape from society to avoid anger thinking they are practising solitude, but, this is a type of seclusion. Solitude is that which is practiced by those who are already successful in their social lives, loving everyone and being loved by them. Therefore, the one who practices solitude practices it so that he/she can spend more time in contemplation, busying all their time with God in prayers and the reading of Scriptures. It is not because he/she is not able to adapt to society, and not because of a hatred for people or lack of simplicity towards them. If the angry person goes to practice a life of solitude, his/her anger will accompany him/her! Therefore, that person should first calm his heart from inside, and purify his heart from anger and rage.

- Show love, kindness and gifts.

- Be understanding and open.

- Take action and do not accumulate.

- Treat anger with six virtues:

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Forgiveness.         | 2. Ascetism                        |
| 3. Gentleness           | 4. Reconciliation and peacefulness |
| 5. Praying and praising | 6. Patience and open-hearted       |

✓ Remember how God acts:

When people hurt us and we get angry, then we do not follow God's example of being long-suffering and patient: As the people hurt Him with all hurtful things by breaking His

commandments, and sometimes getting angry with Him and blaspheming Him, He forgave them, and did not reply back with the consequences of their mistakes. So, if we are provoked to anger, remember how many times we sinned against God and yet He did not get angry with us! Let's learn from God: patience, tolerance, forgiveness, not becoming angry, not treating others like for like, repaying every mistake.

✓ Calmness of voice:

We should train the level and pitch of our voices. This way, our speech may never mistakenly be perceived or transform into shouting and quarrelling. By raising your voice, you will be trying to change people by force, and not by gentle convincing! As for the person who has a strong opinion, he/she will be confident in the proof for his opinion, and therefore does not need to raise his voice. Nor will he/she feel inner weakness or deficiency that he/she would want to fulfil by raising his/her voice.

**Various Practices:**

- 1- Train yourself not to get angry, and don't provoke others to anger.
- 2- As much as you can, get away from the causes that trigger anger, and don't magnify the issues that you face, taking everything to heart.
- 3- If you find fire, don't put fuel on it.
- 4- Mix with the meek, to learn from them calmness and self-control. Take things in a simple way, and do not be easily triggered to anger.
- 5- Don't get into discussions with people while you are exhausted physically, irritable, or tired emotionally or psychologically.

From all of the above we may realise the importance of the gentle answer which turns away wrath. Let us be overflowing with the Holy Spirit who grants us wisdom to be fishers of men by gentleness and love.

## Activities to introduce the lesson

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



### Drama ...Pantomime

Two servants act the following two sketches and the kids to compare between them:

First Sketch

**Son:** Dad, dad, dad I want a new mobile.

**Father:** (Tired, sitting to complete his work papers) Son, I have just come back from work and I have got a lot of work to finish. Shall we talk about this tonight?

**Son:** No, I don't care, I want a mobile today.

**Father:** Ok son, wait till the beginning of the next month until I put together the money to buy it.

**Son:** I still don't care! When I ask for something, I should have it!

**Father:** Ok, that's it. So you can learn to speak nicely, there will be any mobile at all.

### Second Sketch

**Son:** Excuse me dad, I know you're busy, but may I speak to you about something?

**Father:** Of course, my dear, go ahead.

**Son:** I just want to ask you to get me a new mobile because my mobile is not working anymore.

**Father:** Ok, but sorry my dear, please wait till the beginning of next month until I put together the money for it.

**Son:** Of course, my dad and if it is not possible, don't worry, I know our circumstances.

**Father:** Thank you, my son, that you are still feeling us, and I promise the beginning of next month you will have a new mobile.

**Discuss with the kids about the two dialogues and how calm conversation can lead to a positive result, while the opposite will lead to failure.**



### Group Workshops

Divide the class into two groups, and give each group a large sheet of paper. On one paper, write: "The reasons for a successful conversation" and on the other write "The reasons for a failed conversation". Then let them brainstorm within their groups the points related to their heading. At the end, hang up the sheets and go through the points. Example points:

#### **The reasons of a failed conversation:**

- Interrupting the speaker
- Being emotional while speaking
- Not listening
- Choosing the wrong timing

#### **The reasons of a successful conversation:**

- Listening carefully to the speaker

- Choosing your words, and saying “please” and “thank you”
- Speaking with a calm voice

## The Lesson

- She is a Canaanite woman i.e. Gentile, not from the Jewish people, the people of God. She was from the people who worship the idols and there was enmity between the two people. So, our Lord Jesus had to examine her faith to be a role model for all gentiles and Jews.
- The woman cried out to the Lord Jesus saying: “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him saying, “Send her away, she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Then she came and worshipped Him saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”  
(Matthew 15:22-27)
  - What do you think of this conversation? If we were her, would we have responded as wonderfully as the woman did?
  - Did the Lord Jesus respond to her immediately? What did Jesus Christ mean by these words?
  - Did our Lord Jesus know that her faith was strong? Yes, but He wanted to announce this faith to everyone to be a role model for all, and to prove to the Jews (the chosen people of God) that He came for both the Jews and the Gentiles and He came to save all who believe in Him.
  - What do you think if this woman became upset from Jesus’ words, and went and didn’t continue her conversation with Him? For sure she would lose a lot!
- Let’s see what she did, with all humility, love and confidence she talked to Him about her need of the crumbs. What did she mean by crumbs? “She was greedy for a lot of things” but in that instance she left everything to God’s will and as He permits, even in the simple things. She didn’t ask for all the blessings prepared for the people of God.
- What was the result of this calm conversation which was full of humility, confidence and faith. Let’s open the Holy Bible and see the result of this conversation...
- **Jesus Christ was surprised of her faith and words and said to her: “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.**
- **From people’s perspective, you should:**
  - Choose the right time to talk.

- Don't interrupt while someone is speaking.
- As we choose the way, we should choose decent words which respects our elders and shows sympathy for those younger.
- Talking with an acceptable voice; not too high or low.
- Not nagging until we get a response.

- **From God's perspective:**

We have to speak to Him all the time but also with a way full of love, confessing that He came down and saved us by His blood. And to ask Him with all confidence because He can do anything no matter what my sin, because He accepted the Canaanite woman even though she was not of God's people.

We have to persist with Him until we receive the blessing, to help us and strengthen us to repent. Urge Him and ask from Him because He is gracious, and we have confidence that no matter how sinful we are, Christ came for us.

## Application



### Comprehension Questions

- What was the Canaanite woman's request from the Lord Jesus?
- Did Our Lord Jesus refuse the Canaanite woman because she is not from the people of God?
- Does God love all people, believers and non-believers?
- Did Jesus Christ practice calm and decent conversation with others like the Samaritan?
- Do we ask from God during our prayers to learn from him conversation with others?



### Exercise...

- The servant makes a deal with the kids to add a phrase to his request, for example "excuse me" or "please", or any sentence or phrase the servant feels they need to use in their communication with others.

- The arrow prayer: "My Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me – My Lord Jesus Christ help me", in order to realise that God is the One who helps him and protects him and listens to his continuous requests



## Prayer

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

O My Lord Jesus,  
O You who teaches us and guides us!  
Grant us, O God, to enjoy our conversations with You!  
And help me to speak to others with love and respect,  
And to reflect Your image in my behaviour. O my dear Lord, please strengthen me and lead me.  
Amen.



**Be Strong and of Good Courage**

## Introduction to the Book of Joshua

**Bible reference:** The Book of Joshua

**Lesson content:** God's help strengthens us and gives us confidence.

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

- **Know:** The general view of the Book of Joshua and how God helped him.
- **Feel:** The strength of God which protects us.
- **Practice:** To ask for God's strength always

**Bible verse:** “*No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.*” (Joshua 1:5)

## **Background information to servant**

The author of this Book is Joshua the son of Nun. He was firstly called Hoshea, and Moses called him Joshua. At first, he was Moses' servant, then he called him to lead the army and fight Amalek.

Moses anointed him a successor to lead the people and he gave him a last piece of advice, which is to be strong and of good courage and to walk in the way of God.

## **The Contents of the Book of Joshua:**

The book has 24 chapters, which can be divided according to its contents into:

- 1- The victories that are achieved by Joshua's hands in the land of Canaan.
- 2- Dividing the lands among the tribes.
- 3- Instructions and advice of Joshua and the end of his life.

## **The First Part (Chapters 1-12):**

- God gave Joshua the responsibility of leading the people after the death of Moses, to cross the Jordan river and take possession of the land of Canaan. Moses commanded Joshua to hold unto the holy law and to do according to it; "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Thus we can say that the Word of God is the weapon of every servant.
- The people **prepared** to cross the River Jordan. In chapter 2, Joshua sent two spies to Jericho. So, they went, and entered the house of Rahab the harlot who proclaimed her faith by the strength of the Living God and asked them to spare her and her family from death when they enter Jericho. The two spies asked her to tie scarlet-coloured cord in the window so that it would be a clear sign, and no one will intrude her house. Here the scarlet represents the blood of Christ; without bloodshed there is no forgiveness and redemption.
- The people crossed the River Jordan. The river was too deep, but God dried it for Joshua and the children of Israel to cross. And they took from it twelve stones as a remembrance for the people. Following this, in chapter 6, the collapse of Jericho took place.
- In chapter 7, the children of Israel were defeated at the city of Ai, because of the unrighteousness committed by Achan, the son of Karmi, of the tribe of Judah. It is because of such people King Solomon said: "Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines" (Song of Solomon 2:15)
- Chapter 8 talks about the fall of Ai: After Achan repented, the Lord was with the children of Israel, and they were able to take Ai. While they were fighting, Joshua stretched out a spear that was in his hand toward the city of Ai as the Lord had commanded him, and the people

utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. This is an image of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ in which there is salvation and deliverance.

- Joshua then built an altar to the Lord in the Land of Canaan.
- Finally, chapters 9 and 10 talks about the deception of the Gibeonites, and conspiracy of the five kings.

#### **The Second Part (Chapters 13-22):**

- These chapters talk about how the Land of Canaan was divided amongst the tribes of Israel, which was done by casting lots. Each tribe was pleased with their inheritance.

#### **The Third Part (Chapters 23-24):**

- When Joshua became old, he gathered all the people at Shechem and reminded them of all the works that God did for them. He commanded them to fear the Lord and serve Him with sincerity, and warned against worshipping foreign gods, lest they be deprived of the land that was given them. Then Joshua said to them: “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”, so the people showed their readiness for worshiping the Lord.
- Joshua wrote the words of the holy covenant in the Book of the Law. And he took a large stone and set it up to be witness to their words and then Joshua died being one hundred and ten years old after leading the people with honesty and righteousness.

#### **Joshua as a Symbol for the Lord Jesus Christ:**

1. Joshua shares his name with the Lord Jesus' name, which means "Saviour"
2. Joshua defeated the enemies of the people who were pagans, and the Lord Jesus defeated the world and gave the victory to the believers.
3. Joshua was an ideal shepherd and the Lord Jesus was the good shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.
4. God gave us the freedom, and it's possible for the human to choose for himself the track of obedience or the track of disobedience and this appears also from the final words of Joshua.

God's promises for the people was conditioned by their walk in His way, so if they abandoned Him, His promises will be less for them.

## Activities to introduce the lesson

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



### Discovery Activity

You will need: a cup of water + an empty plate + black pepper + some washing up liquid

Get a cup filled with water and put it on a plate and put black pepper on the water, put your finger (or a straw) in the water and notice what will happen. Then try again but after putting washing up liquid on your finger (or a straw). You will notice that the black pepper will get away from it and doesn't touch it. Same as Joshua, he was filled with God's strength which puts away the evil.

## The Lesson

The servant will do a brief explanation of the book of Joshua through the following points:

- “Joshua” which means “saviour”, led the people of God after the death of Moses the Prophet.
- Chapter 1 – The book starts with handing over the leadership to Joshua and fighting the Canaanites.
- Chapter 2 – Sending two spies to Jericho and Rahab helping them.
- Chapters 3-5 – Joshua and the people crossing the River Jordan while carrying the Ark of Covenant of the Lord, and taking 12 stones from the river as a remembrance for their crossing the river.
- Chapter 6 – The collapse of the walls of Jericho by going around it for seven days and at the seventh day they went around it seven times, after which the wall collapsed by the Divine power.
- Chapters 7-8 – The people were defeated at the city of Ai. This was because Achan the son of Karmi sinned against the Lord by taking some of the livestock of Jericho of which God said not to take. When Achan repented, they conquered Ai.

- Chapters 9-12 – The people of Gibeon visit the Israelite camp in disguise, claiming to be travellers in the land and requesting peace with Israel. Joshua does not inquire with God and makes a hasty treaty with the men, only to discover later that the Gibeonites are natives of the land to be conquered. The Israelites refrain from attacking the city, but five other local kings attack Gibeon for making peace with Israel. The Israelites come to Gibeon's aid and destroy the five armies. Joshua helps by commanding God to make the sun stand still during the fight. God listens and stops the sun's movement.
- Chapters 13-22 – Joshua divided the lands between the tribes. The tribe of Levi is the tribe of priesthood and the service of the Tabernacle, so they have no inheritance in the lands. The tribe of Joseph has two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim.
- Chapters 23-24 – Joshua gathered the people reminding them of what has happened from the exodus of the people from Egypt and God's works with them, and their role of obeying God's commandments. Then Joshua dies at 110 years.
- So, he stayed till the end of his life confident that his victory was by God's strength and work, with a condition that he kept the commandments. So, no one could stand before him all the days of his life

## **Application**



### **Activity for memorisation of the Bible verse**

#### **Verse of the Lesson**

*"As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."* (Joshua 1:5)

#### **Method of memorisation**

Writing the verse on a board with missing words, the words are put under the chairs of the children and who find them and go and put it in its place on the board to complete the verse.



### **Comprehension Questions**

- How did Joshua solve the problem of Jericho?
- To whom Joshua was listening?
- How did Joshua face Ai's problem?

- How many kings made an agreement against Joshua? What was Joshua's action with the kings?
- What was Joshua's job before leading the people?
- What is the name of the river which they crossed? And how did they cross it?
- What did Joshua do with the stone?
- What is the name of the city which he conquered?
- What was the commandment of Joshua before his death?



## **Games**

Get the children to form a circle and choose a child and he/she goes out of the circle and the rest to decide on a leader and the child outside the circle shouldn't know who the leader is. The leader starts doing different moves and the boy who was outside the circle standing in the middle of the circle now and tries to know who's the leader.

Then open a discussion about who is our leader? How we should follow His steps? "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." (1 John 2:6)



## **Exercise...**

When I open my eyes in the morning, I ask for God's help, and to give me strength to do whatever is asked from me. And before I sleep to thank God for His strength that helped me throughout the whole day.



## **Prayer**

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

We thank You our Lord Jesus Christ that You are our leader who looks after us and whom we follow. Our Lord, we trust in Your strength and Your help for us. Amen.



The second week of the month of Hatour  
(November)

## Personalities from the Old Testament: David was Chosen by God to Serve

**Bible reference:** 1 Samuel 16:4-13

**Lesson purpose:** To study the life of David with God in a series of four lessons. In this lesson we learn that God looks at the heart of the person not his appearance. This is the reverse of what the world does.

**Bible verse:** “*For I have provided Myself a king among his sons*” (1 Sam. 16:1)



## **Background information to servant**

### **THE SHEPHERD KING**

- The prophet Samuel anointed Saul to become the first king of Israel. But Saul was not faithful to the responsibilities, which God gave him. He did not obey God's commandments.
- God sent Samuel, his prophet, to bring a new King. Samuel came to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem and saw his sons, one after the other, but none of the seven pleased God. Then he asked Jesse if he had other sons. There was only the youngest, who was with the sheep in the fields. Samuel asked to see him.
- The young shepherd, David, came in and God said to Samuel: "Arise; anoint him, for this is he." Samuel poured oil on David's head from his horn in the midst of his brothers. God was pleased with David because his heart was pure and he followed the ways of God: "I have found in David, the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who will do all my will."

## **The Lesson**

### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- **God chose David:**

The people of Israel were affected by their neighbors and asked prophet Samuel to appoint a king for them. They selected a king called Saul and the prophet came and anointed him with the Holy Oil. He advised him to follow God's commandments. Saul was the first king of Israel, but he did not keep his promise to God and did not follow His commandments, so the spirit of God left him. God asked the prophet Samuel to go and select another king from Bethlehem from the house of Jesse. With the guidance of God, Samuel chose David, the youngest of all the sons of Jesse. The spirit of God came upon David and blessed him after Prophet Samuel anointed him. God chose David from among his brothers although he was the youngest and was not even invited to attend the celebration when Prophet Samuel visited his father's house. Why? God looked at David's heart and found him to be good for God to work with.

- **David the Shepherd:**

David was a shepherd; he was looking after his father's sheep. Please note that many of the prophets who were chosen by God were shepherds; for example, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and

Moses. Shepherds usually have special characteristics of kindness, courage, and patience staying up late to look after the sheep. Those are the same qualities that are required from a leader.

- **David the Singer:**

**David was well known for his talents in playing music and writing songs that praise the Lord.**

**Some of his very popular psalms are:**

Psalm 103:1-3 - explain it to the children

Psalm 93:1-3 - explain it to the children

In our church we sing the Psalms of David. St. James said, “If someone is happy, he should sing.”  
(James 5:13)

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) God told Samuel not to look at the appearance in his selection of a new king for Israel. Today too, God looks at our hearts. Let us keep our hearts clean. The world looks at external appearances, but God looks at the heart (i.e. the feeling and thoughts of the individual).



The third week of the month of Hatour  
(December)

## The Life of St Matthew

**Lesson purpose:** To learn that when we love God, we will be ready to give up all materialistic things for His sake. As God called Levi to become His Disciple, He is also calling every one of us to follow Him.

**Bible verse:** *Jesus said to Matthew “follow me and he rose up and followed Him”. (Matt. 9:9)*



## **Background information to servant**

### **YOUR ETERNITY**

***By H.H. Pope Shenouda III***

- Most people think only of their lives on earth, all their wishes are concentrated on this earthly life. All their efforts and struggle are for its sake, but as for their eternity, perhaps they never think of it...
- Your whole life on earth is not worth a twinkle of an eye, if compared with the endless eternity...
- Your life on earth is just the preparation for such an eternity, the immortal life...
- Maybe sticking to a worldly honour makes you lose all the respect that the saints receive in the everlasting glory...
- Nevertheless, you still stick to this worldly honour and sacrifice your eternity, as if you do not care!!
- Perhaps your sticking to some of the temporary or passing worldly pleasures deprives you of eternal happiness...
- Therefore, you have to be convinced with the importance of eternity, put it always in front of your eyes. Everything becomes of small value compared to it.
- How good is the saying of the Apostle, St Paul, to the Corinthians, "*While we do not look at the things which are seen, but all the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal.*" (2 Cor 4:18)
- Truly, in this view, the main difference between a wise person and an ignorant person is quite clear.
- The ignorant is short sighted, his look does not proceed beyond the visible things. But the wise person looks too far, to even after death... and keeps thinking: What will become of me after I take off this body? Where shall I go? What shall I be?
- And you, brother, with what are you busy...?
- Where did you leave your heart? Here or there?...
- For where your heart is, there your treasures will be also...
- The wise feel they are strangers on earth and do not concentrate their hopes on earth, but "*... he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*" (Heb 11:10)
- He who gives importance to his eternity is raised above the earth and all earthly things. Nothing in this world attracts him.
- The whole world is behind him and not in front of him...

## **St Matthew**

- St. Matthew is known by two names: Levi, and by St. Matthew the son of Alpheus. It is probable that Levi was his original name and that he took, or was given the name of Matthew ("the gift of Yahveh") when he became a follower of our Lord. He seems to have been a Galilean by birth, and was by profession a publican, or gatherer of taxes for the Romans, a profession which was infamous to the Jews, especially those of the Pharisees' party; they were in general so grasping and extortionate that they were no more popular among the Gentiles. The Jews abhorred them to the extent of refusing to marry into a family that had a publican among its members, banished them from communion in religious worship, and shunned them in all affairs of civil society and commerce. But it is certain that St. Matthew was a Jew, as well as a publican.
- The Story of St Matthew's call is told in his own gospel. Jesus had just confounded some of the Scribes by curing a man who was sick with palsy, and passing on saw the despised publican in his customhouse. —And he said to him, "Follow me". And he rose up and followed Him.|| Matthew left all his interests and relations to become our Lord's Disciple and to embrace a spiritual commerce. We cannot assume that he was totally unacquainted with our Saviour's person or doctrine, especially as his office was at Capernaum, where he had resided for some time and where our Saviour had preached and wrought many miracles, which no doubt had an influence upon him. But the great cause of his conversion was, as St. Bede remarks, "He who called him outwardly by His word at the same time moved him inwardly by the invisible instinct of His grace." The calling of St. Matthew happened in the second year of the public ministry of Christ, who adopted him into the holy family of the Apostles, whom are the spiritual leaders of His Church.

## **The Lesson**

### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- What's your favorite activity? What would you do if the Lord Jesus came and called you during this activity?
- Our church celebrates the feast of the martyrdom of St. Matthew on Baba 12 (around October 22)
- His name was Levi. He became one of the 12 Disciples. He followed Jesus and left everything. Can we give up something we like because of our love for Jesus? Can we

stop playing to pray? Can we save some money for the poor? Levi was his old name and he became St. Matthew because he loved Jesus and gave up a lot for him. In return Our Lord Jesus Christ has given him a new life that is much happier and hence even His name changed from Levi to St. Matthew.

- St. Matthew wrote the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He preached Christianity in Philistine, in Side and Sour and then went to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia he entered the city of the priests who worshipped idols. He taught them about Jesus and convinced them that He is the true God. While he was preaching to them a table came from heaven and a great light appeared with it. They believed in Christ and he baptized them.
- One time the son of the King of Ethiopia died. St. Matthew prayed for him and gave him life again.
- After he preached in other countries, he came to Jerusalem he wrote his Gospel in Jerusalem.
- He was martyred by stoning on the hands of Photos the King.
- St. Anthony the Great also gave up all his possessions to the poor for the sake of God and to concentrate on the life of prayer. He became the first monk.
- May the prayers of St. Matthew be with us.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) I will follow Jesus and give up some of my comforts, some of my toys and carry the Cross after Jesus. I will help my parents in doing the housework even if they do not ask for my help.
- (2) We are also called by Our Lord Jesus to become Christ-like and be able to attract others to become Christians.



The fourth week of the month of Hatour  
(December)

## When It Comes to God, Do Not Say: “How” as Zechariah Did

**Bible reference:** Luke 1:5-25

**Lesson purpose:** We must trust the promises of God and not question Him. Let the children understand that when the Lord Jesus came he fulfilled His promise. God does things His own way.

**Bible verse:** “*For he will be great before the Lord*” (Luke 1:15)



## The Lesson

### PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- Please read the Bible to the class, Luke 1:5-25and explain as you go along.
- Describe the conditions in which St. John was born. His parents were too old to have a son, but they kept praying. God promised that when we pray in faith, He will give us what we need and much more. Remember that God is our heavenly Father who loves us very much. We must trust God's promises and always pray with faith.
- Zechariah remained silent because he did not believe the message of God. He could not comprehend God's love and instead questioned Him. What God was about to do was above Zechariah's understanding. That is why he questioned Him.
- Archangel Gabriel appeared in the Altar. He was shining and brought good news, Zechariah was afraid.
- Ask the children to list what they know about St. John the Baptist from what is mentioned in Luke 1:5-25: concerning his life, his personality and his role.
- Before the Lord Jesus came, St. John the Baptist told the people that Jesus is God incarnate, the Lamb of God, and the Saviour. This was the job of St. John the Baptist; to tell people about Christ. What would you like to do when you grow up? Please ask the children this question. Would anyone like to work as a preacher or in a church to serve God?
- Even if we do not understand what the Bible is teaching us, we must trust God, obey God, and say no to the devil. As we grow older, we shall understand more.
- God promised Adam and Eve when they committed the original sin, that He would save them again. Many centuries passed by, but God's promise held true.
- Let us be happy these days. Why? Because it is nearly Christmas. What is the main purpose of this occasion? The main purpose is the birth of Jesus Christ; we celebrate this because He came to save us.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) As God fulfilled His promise, we must also fulfill our promises to our parents, friends and all people. Let us question only the devil. Never question God Who loves us.
- (2) When we pray let us only submit our requests to God and not question Him. God has His ways which are above our understanding.



The first week of the month of Kiahk  
(December)

## “The Birth of the Lord Jesus was Announced”

### “Let us be Obedient”

**Bible reference:** Luke 1:26-38

**Lesson purpose:** To let the children rejoice for this joyful news and know these events by heart.

**Bible verse:** *Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord!” (Luke 1:38)*



# The Lesson

## PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- Start by reviewing the story of the birth of St. John the Baptist. The conversation between the Angel and Zechariah was different from the one with the Virgin Mary. The Angel started greeting the Virgin Mary to the extent that she was very surprised.
- Zechariah did not believe the message of the angel. The Virgin Mary believed and obeyed.
- Ask the children to talk about the main characteristics of the Virgin Mary: simplicity (“let it be to me according to your word”), humility, and obedience “Iam the handmaid of the Lord.”

## Discuss:

What is the meaning of the word, obedience? It means that we should follow God’s word, even if we don’t understand it now. Similarly, we have to obey our parents, teachers and father of confession. When we do so, we are winners.

- The Holy Spirit granted the Virgin Mary the greatest gift. She gave birth to a child who is Holy. He is the Son of God. This happened because of God’s love for her and her obedience to Him. As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit who can work in us and give us great gifts. But we must be obedient as St. Mary was.
- What are things that make us happy? Is it more toys? Is it more food? Is it more clothes? What should make us rejoice? It must be true peace and a share in eternal life; which can only be obtained from our faith and life with our Lord Jesus Christ.

# Application



## Exercise...

(1) Let us be extra happy and rejoice these days as we prepare for Christmas.

(2) Let us sing the hymns of the month of Kyahk with the church.



The second week of the month of Kiahk  
(December)

## “St. Mary the Servant and Mother of God”

**Bible reference:** Luke 1:39-56

**Lesson purpose:** To show that we must take the initiative to serve others and be good to them.

**Bible verse:** “*And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her house*” (Luke 1:56)



## The Lesson

### PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- Please start initially by reviewing with the children all that they know about St. Mary and her help to St. Elizabeth.
- Let the children read Luke 1:39-56 and explain as you go along. St. Mary went into the hill country with haste to serve St. Elizabeth by her own initiative. St. Elizabeth was a very old lady and was pregnant. How did St. Mary serve St. Elizabeth? List all the housework she might have done. St. Mary is the Mother of God. We too have to help others especially around our own house or apartment.
- After St. Mary served St. Elizabeth for three months she went back to her home and did not attend the party of St. John's birth. She refused to be praised. We too must serve without asking or expecting any reward. As St. Mary refused any praise from people, God rewarded her handsomely:
  1. The Lord glorified St. Mary and gave her the title, "Mother of God."
  2. The Angel cheerfully greeted her.
  3. St. Elizabeth greeted her and received her in her house with joy.
  4. St. John the Baptist jumped for joy inside Elizabeth's womb when St. Mary arrived and was filled with the Holy Spirit.
  5. St. Joseph honored St. Mary and helped her by fulfilling her every need as the Angel asked him.
  6. All generations' call St. Mary blessed.
  7. When St. Mary departed from this world the Angels took her body away to Heaven.
  8. St. Mary makes many miracles through her prayers to God.
- With all this glory in St. Mary's life, she was a servant of God. Even the Lord Jesus Himself did not come to be served but to serve others and die on the Cross to save us. When we

serve others, we should help the needy and the elderly in order for us to follow the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Mother St. Mary.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) Take the initiative to help others at home, school and in the church.
- (2) As St. Mary refused any praise from people, God rewarded her very well. We too, when we do something good to others, we must thank God and wait for His heavenly rewards only.



The third week of the month of Kiahk  
(December)

## The People of Judea Kept the News in Their Hearts

### “Think Before You Speak”

**Bible reference:** Luke 1: 57-66

**Lesson purpose:** We must learn to think more and speak less. We must think before we speak.

**Bible verse:** “*And all these who heard them (the news) kept in their hearts saying what kind of child will this be*” (Luke 1:66)



## The Lesson

### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- Please review with the children all that they know about the pre-Christmas events.
- Please read Luke 1:57-66 and explain as you go along. Some of the comments are as follows:
  1. The Angel's message to Zechariah is now complete and they now have a son. Their neighbors were exceedingly glad for them. Should we learn to share feelings with other people? When they are happy or sad we must share their feelings as a sign of our love for them.
  2. What were the reactions of the people when they heard the good news?
- They were happy-Luke 1:58
- They were afraid-Luke 1:65
- The people of Judea discovered that all the good news was from God and that they had to start following God's commandments. They kept thinking about them in their hearts-Luke 1:66.

When we read the Holy Bible we must think about the Word of God. In this manner we can benefit from the word of God and apply it in our lives.
- If someone tells us a secret, we must keep the secret and not spread it out. We must start to think more and speak less.
- St. Arsanus, the teacher of the kings' sons, used to speak only as needed. He said, "many times I spoke and regretted it, but I never regretted to be silent."
- It is also a good habit not to interrupt anyone while he or she is speaking.

## Application



### Exercise...

- (1) Think and then speak. When you speak choose the right words and do not say anything inappropriately.
- (2) We must share with people the circumstances that they go through whether joyful or sorrowful. This way they will share with us also when we go through special circumstances.