

## CONTENTS

FIRST SECTION .....	4
<b>1. Introduction to the series.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>How to Use this Book .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Lesson Structure.....	8
<b>2. Classroom setup and Rules .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Classroom Setup:.....	10
Class structure and rules: .....	10
<b>4. Characteristics of Fifth Grade Students.....</b>	<b>13</b>
childhood: 13	
Year Olds (5 <sup>th</sup> Grade) .....	13
<b>5. Year Calendar .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>7. Theological Background .....</b>	<b>17</b>
A. St. Athanasius On the Incarnation of the Word: A Summary .....	18
B. St. Gregory of Nazianza's Teaching on the Holy Trinity .....	24
C. The Revelation of God .....	33
SECOND SECTION: CORE MATERIALS .....	40
<b>Fifth Grade Curriculum Theme and Objectives .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<i>GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY</i> .....	40
FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM: .....	44
<i>GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY</i> .....	44
<b>Unit I: God reveals himself to us (5 lessons) .....</b>	<b>44</b>

Lesson 1: God reveals himself to us through nature .....	46
Lesson 2: God reveals himself through his son and his spirit .....	49
Lesson 3: God reveals himself to us through scripture .....	55
Lesson 4: God reveals himself through the church .....	59
Lesson 5: We receive God's Eternal life and forgiveness in the Eucharist.....	65
FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM: .....	70

***GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY*** ..... 70

**Unit II: God calls a people (12 lessons) ..... 70**

<b>Lesson 6:</b> Introduction.....	72
<b>Lesson 7:</b> God prepared a savior .....	76
<b>Lesson 8:</b> God sends the savior .....	81
<b>Lesson 9:</b> God prepared to take His people out of Egypt .....	86
<b>Lesson 10:</b> The Passover.....	92
<b>Lesson 11:</b> God baptizes His people: the Red Sea.....	99
<b>Lesson 12:</b> the manna and the quails.....	104
<b>Lesson 13:</b> the water from the rock .....	111
<b>Lesson 14:</b> the Ten Commandments.....	117
<b>Lesson 15:</b> The golden calf and the change of priesthood.....	123
<b>Lesson 16:</b> the TABERNACLE.....	129

UNIT II REVIEW LESSON..... 136

**Lesson :** 137

FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM: ..... 139

***GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY*** ..... 139

<b>Unit III: the journey of lent (6 lessons) .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Lesson 18:</b> Introduction to Lent and the seasons and days of fasting .....	140
FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM: .....	142
<i><b>GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY</b></i> .....	142
<b>Unit IV: The Beatitudes (10 Lessons) .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Lesson 24:</b> Introduction.....	143
<i><b>GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY</b></i> .....	153
<b>Unit V:God calls us to be Holy (6 Lessons) .....</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>LESSON 34:</b> INTRODUCTION .....	153
<b>Lesson :</b> 154	
<b>Seasonal lessons. (3 Lessons) .....</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Seasonal lessons. (3 Lessons) .....</b>	<b>157</b>
1. feast of nayrouz.....	157
1. feast of the cross .....	167

### *PREPARATION MATERIALS:*

- 1. *Introduction to the series***
- 2. *Classroom setup and rules***
- 3. *Themes of grades 1-5***
- 4. *Characters of first grade students***
- 5. *The year Calendar***
- 6. *Teaching Schedule table***
- 7. *Theological Background***
  - A. *Summary of St Athanasius book “on the incarnation”***
  - B. *Summary of St. Gregory of Nazianza “Orations on the Holy Trinity”***
  - C. *Summary of “the Revelation of God”***



## 1. INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Although Sunday school is relatively a recent vocabulary in our Church, its existence is very old. The school of Alexandria is the most ancient of all the Christian seminaries. According to church history, the school of Alexandria was established by St. Mark to teach the new converts the faith before it became the famous theological institute.

### THE RITE OF BAPTISM IS THE MODEL

---

From the rite of Baptism in the Coptic Church, we can identify three stages of “transformation” that must happen to the new converts before they are fully inaugurated as members of the body of Christ. The first is educational, where they get to know the Gospel and get “the Story” as told by the eyewitnesses, the story of Salvation as given to us in both the Old and the New Testament. St Luke writes: *“In as much as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eye witnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophorus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”* The Gospel then is the right information, the good news. Whenever the Gospel is told, some would be moved to repentance to be “cut to the heart.” Some would be filled with joy and wonder and speak in tongues. Some would be filled with fear and trembling. Others would be mocking. No one who hears the Gospel can be indifferent.

In this first stage, the Church anoints the “catechumens” with the sermon’s oil to guard the mind against all the work of the enemy. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in breaking down all high walls and fortified strongholds that keeps humans away from the light of the Gospel of Christ.

The second stage is the stage of the movement of the heart, marked by the oil of Joy, “to be planted in the fruitful olive tree that is the Holy church of God.” The joy of Christ is what carries on with the Christians all their lives. No one can take that joy away from them. It is the joy of Knowing Christ and being in Him. The Joy that fills the heart more than oil and fat can satisfy the body. Our Lord becomes to -the believer in him- the food and the drink of the spirit in the journey through the earthly life. Before the anointment with the oil of joy, the catechumen is asked to make the oath. The oath is renouncing Satan and accepting Christ. The baptized here is a spouse of Christ, pledging fidelity. It is verbalizing what he or she feels in the heart and knows in the mind. Here the Spirit brings life to the heart and satisfaction that no other can bring.

The third stage is the consecration. It starts with the immersion in the water three times in the name of the Holy Trinity. In doing this, the believer is born again to God and becomes united with Christ. He or she is now a new creation, a clean vessel ready to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who should never leave, as long as, he or she lives. The next step would for the Holy Spirit to indwell in the Holy Chrism.

---

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL AS A SUPPORT AND CONTINUATION OF THE MOTHER'S WORK

---

When a baby is going through the rite of Baptism, the mother takes the vows for the baby. In doing this, the church recognizes the mother as the first and most important catechetical school. When the mother renounces Satan for the baby, she pledges to stand against evil work manifesting itself in her children's life. Even more importantly, she pledges to cultivate in her children a strong hate toward sin. When she accepts Christ, she pledges to bring her children to the love of Christ and all his teachings through the church. The mother does not do this alone. The divine plan had already included the help of the Comforter in achieving this goal. Seen from this perspective, the Sunday school work is complementary to the mother's work and a continuation of it.

---

#### THE CURRICULUM IS TRINITY-CENTERED

---

The curriculum henceforth, is a catechetical process. It starts with the Gospel as a foundation. Then a process of building continues through all the grades. The Sunday school program is fundamentally Christ centered. The religious educational process should be both by words and example, reaching mind and heart. It is also both a divine and human labor. In teaching Sunday school, as well as in the mother's early work with children, we should acknowledge and trust the work of the Holy Spirit in the children's hearts and minds.

---

#### THE CURRICULUM IS BIBLE BASED

---

The curriculum is fundamentally biblical, therefore the concepts, the stories and the exercises are all rooted in the Word of God. As a general recommendation, all Sunday school students should have their personal bibles and should be encouraged to use it regularly in the class. To underline, highlight and learn to navigate through the Bible. Younger classes (1-4) should find a illustrated easy read versions, older classes should use adult versions (New King James).

---

#### THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS A REVOLVING PROCESS

---

Many of the concepts that are given earlier in the curriculum are revisited later in the higher grades, at a higher level adding more depth and more consequence to the first message. That puts a lot of emphasis on the foundation, because in any building the foundation would shape the whole building.

In this work, the education is taken from the point of concepts. All the stories of the Gospel and of the saints are means to serve this goal. So stories are grouped according to the concept they serve. Later on, the same stories are revisited to further develop the same concept. We can envision this as a mountain with a circular road that goes around it in a spiral fashion until you reach the top. But there is no “top” to this endeavor.

The first five years in this curriculum are the most fundamental in the formation of the child dogmatically, liturgically, morally and spiritually. *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* Proverbs 22:6

This work is not meant to replace the work of the servants, but to augment it and support it by giving them a clearer, overall view of their task and of all the side points that can distract that work. The main ingredients in our spiritual life are Christ and the Holy Spirit, the two arms of God the Father by which He gathers all humanity to Himself. Likewise in this curriculum, the love of Christ through the Church and the work of the Holy Spirit inside the human heart and in the Church as the body of Christ are heavily highlighted. By doing this we can understand that every single letter and word written in these years has one goal in mind: the salvation of the souls of the students and the teachers. Since there is no salvation possible outside the Church as the “Ark of Noah,” this work is seen and is written from the perspective of the Church. This work is not meant to be a system of beliefs nor a detailed description of our life of orthodoxy, rather, it is an attempt to organize and put in order scattered themes and ideas. It is not meant to be the only way of teaching Sunday school, but a guide on how to undertake that enormous task *“And who is sufficient for these things?”* The subjects chosen for the curriculum are the most common and much needed for our times.

**It should be noted that in this series, the education and spiritual advancement of the teachers themselves are kept as a primary target. The Sunday school head servant should make every effort to educate the class servants on the purpose and goal of the curriculum in each step, a task that can be broken into a meeting before they start each of the units. The parents of the students should also be involved in the process. Servants should solicit their cooperation and understanding of their role in the spiritual, moral and faith formation of their children.**

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The book has three sections. The first section deals with the overall picture and contains information related to the whole process. The second section contains the material related to the grade which the book serves. The third section contains helpful material that would be useful to the teachers during their work through the lessons.

The second section includes lessons that are grouped into units. All the units fall under one subject, which is explained in an introduction and which ties all the units together. For example, the first grade's subject is "the Revelation of God." The second grade's subject is "We Are Called the Children of God." Each unit serves part of the whole subject, and has its own purpose. This purpose is explained at the beginning of each unit and in the reflection on each of the lessons.

The units are each made up of several lessons. Each lesson brings out the unit topic from a different perspective. When teaching the lessons, the servant should bear in mind that the lesson and the story are told from the perspective of the purpose of the unit. For example, the story of the flood can be told from many different angles. If it is told from the perspective of God's power, the storyteller would stress the size of the event. But if the storyteller tells the story from the point of Noah's faith, the emphasis would be on the size of the ark and how long it took him to build it as showing obedience to God. When the story of the flood is told to younger children, all care should be taken not to convey an image of an angry, destructive and vindictive God, rather, a loving Father who cared so much about Noah's both spiritual and physical survival.

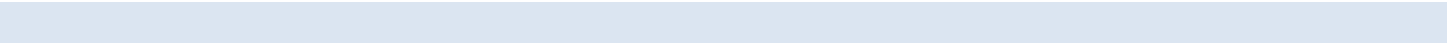
---

## LESSON STRUCTURE

Each lesson is made up of two main sections. The first section deals with preparing the servant, the second section deals with preparing the lesson. In preparing the servants, the goal is to educate and edify the servant at an adult level. This section contains nourishing portions from the word of God and the creed, Patristic Tradition and liturgical prayers. The biblical reference or the actual passage is presented, followed by other references from the Nicene creed and church fathers, followed by a simple reflection on the text and is concluded with a prayer from the church liturgies. The second section begins with an introduction to the lesson, usually a review of the previous lesson and a preparation for the current one, a suggested song taken from the hymns of the Coptic Church liturgies and psalmody. The lesson body begins with the plan and the material that is involved in executing the story followed by the actual story in the language of the fifth graders. This section is concluded with a review questions and a verse to remember. There is an empty note at the end of each lesson for the teachers to write their own notes. The notes will be helpful to the teachers and gives a good feedback.



We ask the intercessions of St. Mary the Holy Theotokos, St. Mark the Evangelist, and all the saints to make this work useful and profitable to both the teachers the children and their families, who are involved in the great process of religious education and spiritual formation.



## 2. CLASSROOM SETUP AND RULES

### CLASSROOM SETUP:

The classroom should be uncluttered, well ventilated and well lit. Colors should be bright and cheering....The classroom should have a white dry eraser board and if possible a projector and screen at one end of the room.

### CLASS STRUCTURE AND RULES:

Children at this age needs structure and consistency, teachers will do well to keep the same structure every Sunday. The most important consistency is the teachers' attendance. It is most helpful when the children see their teachers in the class every week and have the same "drill". The same structure helps them focus on the lessons best, while change of teachers, teaching style and structure distract

Example of structured class time: (total time is 60 minutes)

- 
- 
- 
- Conclusion (5 minutes)
- Prayer (5 minutes)
- Maintain an accurate attendance list and contact information for parents

The rules should be clear, simple, and easy to remember:

- **Raise your hand** if you need to talk, move, or use the restrooms,
- **Close your eyes, stand and do not move** During prayers,
- **Share** materials with your brothers and sisters during the lesson,
- **Help** in keeping the class neat and clean ( keep five minutes at the end, for colleting and storing)
- **Do your homework.**

### PROGRESS CHARTS:

Make behavioral charts in class with stickers to encourage the children desirable behaviors. Attendance charts also should be posted on "progress wall". Reward children's good behaviors at the end of each unit.

#### DISCIPLINE:

Discipline the children after a one-time warning. It is like a traffic light. As long as they are in their "good behavior", the teacher is encouraging by words and gestures (green). On the first sign of disruptive or inappropriate behavior, the teacher should sound a stern warning (yellow). If the behavior is continued (red), an action should be taken. The first action would be removal of the behavior sticker from the behavior chart. If it continues or repeated in the same class, the child gets five minutes time out with another servant. There should be a minimum number of stickers per unit to receive the behavior reward. The rewards for behavior should be simple and not expensive. For that reason, each class should have more than one teacher.

#### HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN:

If we have a hyperactive child or a child with a special need, there is a need to assign a dedicated servant. The servants of a class with a hyperactive child should have some education about hyperactive children, and they should have a plan of action at the beginning of the class year.

### 3. Themes of Grades 1-5

	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Faith</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Virtues</u>	<u>Spiritual Life</u>
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</u>	<i>God Reveals Himself to Us</i>	The Trinity	<b>Gospel</b>	Baptism	Obedience & Sharing	Prayer & The Word of God
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</u>	<i>We are the Children of God</i>	Christ	The Patriarchs: Abraham	Eucharist	Faith & 10 Commandments	Offering
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</u>	<i>God Gives us the ministry of Reconciliation</i>	Salvation	The Patriarchs: Jacob	Confession & Liturgy	solidarity	Repentance
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<i>God in our midst</i>	The Church	The Patriarchs: Joseph	The visible Church & Priesthood	Relations with Others	Prayer of the hours
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</u>	<i>Our Life in Christ</i>	Sanctification	Moses and Exodus	Holy Chrism	Sanctity of the body	Fasting & Giving

#### 4. CHARACTERISTICS OF FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

CHILDHOOD:

PRESENCE OF GOD:

CONCEPT OF HOLY TRINITY:

CHURCH SERVICES:

HOLY COMMUNION:

#### YEAR OLDS (5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

The children need to perceive the likeness between their personal experience and the experience of the children of God, in the past and at present. In this way they perceive the continuous work of God in them. The students of grade 5 will still enjoy stories with visual aids but they are more critical of what they hear. They particularly like to ask logical questions and like to hear logical answers. The main theme to be conveyed at this age is that they are loved and respected. The child is sensitive in this age to his teacher's image. It is also a critical stage for developing their self-esteem.

1. They respond although they are indifferent sometimes.
2. They perfect what they do and like to receive information.
3. They like movement in work and tend to be independent.
4. Boys like to play with boys and girls like to play with girls. This is important to observe in journeys, in clubs and outdoor activities.

5. They like to perform their work secretly (personal matters, unknown places, writing autobiography). Hence they form groups in which they discuss their social concerns. They form theories, which may be wrong or right.

PHYSICAL:

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL:

COGNITIVE:

LANGUAGE:

MORAL:

FAITH:

## 5. YEAR CALENDAR

Month	Action	Notes
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for Unit I</li> <li>• Prepare for Parent's Meeting</li> <li>• Feast of Nyrouz</li> <li>• Feast of the Cross</li> </ul>	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints' Day</li> <li>• Prepare for Unit II</li> </ul>	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advent</li> <li>• Thanksgiving</li> </ul>	
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for Kiahk</li> <li>• Prepare for the Feast of Holy Nativity &amp; Theophany</li> </ul>	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Nativity</li> <li>• Holy Theophany</li> <li>• Prepare for Unit III</li> </ul>	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonah's Fast</li> </ul>	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lent</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Week and Holy Resurrection (could come in May)</li> <li>• Prepare for Unit IV &amp; Summer</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of St. Mark</li> </ul>	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Ascension</li> <li>• Apostles' Fast</li> <li>• Pentecost</li> <li>• Prepare for Unit V</li> </ul>	

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feast of the Apostles</li> </ul>	
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Mary's Fast and Feast</li> <li>• Inventory of the year</li> </ul>	



## 7. THEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- A. St. Athanasius on the Incarnation of the Word: A Summary
- B. St. Gregory of Nazianza's teaching on the Holy Trinity
- C. The Revelation of God

---

## A. ST. ATHANASIUS ON THE INCARNATION OF THE WORD: A SUMMARY

"His incarnation was the starting point for all the good that graced humanity till it was crowned with redemption...and was proof of the love of God to us, and the reconciliation that was fulfilled between heaven and earth." - HHPSIII

Incarnation: the embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus Christ

Corruption- not moral corruption but rather we will not physically decay; God gives us a body after this life which is not vulnerable to decay or death

---

### INTRODUCTION

We must take a step further in our faith and consider the Word's becoming Man and his divine appearing to us. The fact is that the more unbelievers pour scorn on Him, so much the more does He make His Godhead more evident. God proves the impossible possible, He proves the unfitting to be fit through his goodness, and those things which people mark as "human" God may declare divine.

---

### CHAPTER 1. CREATION AND THE FALL

We must understand why the amazing and great Word of the Father, has been made manifest in bodily form. He has been manifested in a human body out of the love and goodness of His Father for the salvation of mankind.

---

### CREATION AND GOD'S GOODNESS

Creation is a sign of God's goodness, and all things came into being through Him, the Designer and Maker of all. Some people say that things created were spontaneous, or that God made all things out of pre-existent matters, just like a carpenter makes a table out of wood. However the creative abilities of God (the Maker and Designer of all) does not depend on anything else. God's abilities have no limits and he would thus not be the Creator. St John states, "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3). St. Peter refers to this saying, "By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the Word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which do appear." (Heb 11:4) God is

infinite not finite and the universe was made out of nothing and out of non-existence God brought it into being through the Word. He says "In the beginning..." (Gen 1:1)

### IN GOD'S IMAGE

---

God made all things out of nothing through his own Word. Of all His creation on earth mankind only was bestowed with grace of bearing God's image. Man was created in God's image so that he may share in the Word and express the Mind of God even as He (Though to a lesser degree.) Through this image we might have the blessed and true life of saints in paradise.

### THE COMMANDMENT

---

Since the will of man could turn either way, (Gods will vs. free will), God gave us a habitation and a law. He set Adam and Eve in His own paradise and laid one prohibition. If they guarded the grace and retained the loveliness of their original innocence, then the life of paradise would be theirs, with no sorrow, pain or care. Afterwards there would be an assurance of immortality in heaven. BUT, if Adam and Eve went astray and did not follow the one rule then they would come under nature's law of death and corruption and live no longer in paradise but dying outside of it. "Of every tree that is in the garden, thou shalt surely eat, but of the tree of good and evil, ye shall not eat, but in the day that ye do eat, ye shall surely die." (Gen 2:16-17) Ye shall surely die", not just die only, but remain in the state of death and corruption.

(When God tells them they will die, it is a decree that is understood as physical death of body as well as a spiritual death. Hades becomes the destination of all souls before the incarnation of the Word. God reveals Himself as human descended from heaven and dies for us that Adam and Eve might be granted bodies and souls incorruptible again and enter the kingdom of heaven)

### OUR TRANSGRESSIONS

---

Why does the origin of man matter to the Word becoming Man? *It was our sorry case that caused the Word to come down, our transgressions that called out his love for us, so that He made haste to help us and to appear among us. It is we who were the cause of His taking human form, and for our salvation that in His great love he was both born and manifested in a human body.* Our fall necessitated the incarnation of the Word.

### OUR WICKEDNESS

---

The human race in their sinning surpassed all limits. Humans in the beginning invented wickedness thus involving themselves in death and corruption, they had gone on gradually from bad to worse. Mankind did not stop at any one kind of evil but rather created even new kinds of evils and sins. Adulterers, thieves, homosexuals, and murderers filled the earth. Cities warred against each other, nations against nations, and the whole earth was filled with wickedness.

---

## CHAPTER 2. THE DIVINE DILEMMA AND ITS SOLUTION IN THE INCARNATION

---

The human race through their wickedness looked to be in the process of self-destruction. Man that was created in Gods image and reflected the very Word Himself was disappearing and the work of God was being undone. It would be monstrous that beings that once shared the nature of the Word would perish and turn back to non-existence. It would be unworthy of God that the beings He created would be brought back to nothing because of the deceit of the devil. Either God had to forget and give up His spoken word and thus be proven false, or man must sink into corruption which would cause God's design to be defeated.

### REPENTANCE

---

God obviously cannot go back on His Word regarding death in order to ensure our continued existence. He could not falsify Himself. So what could He do? Should He demand repentance from men for their transgressions? He could, but that would not guard the just claim of God or be enough to bring us back from incorruption. Nothing could restore Gods image except God's Word. He could bring the corruptible to incorruption (Repentance will make us stop sinning but our bodies are still corruptible. We needed to be re-created in Gods image.)

### THE WORD BECAME MAN

---

Because of our sins, the incorporeal (spiritual) and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered into our world. God entered our world by stooping to our level through His love and Self-revealing to us. He saw how wicked we were, how the race created by God was wasting away and he took pity on us. He chose death on the cross rather than that we should perish and the work of His Father to become undone. He took for himself a body just like ours, and not only that, but he took it from a spotless, pure and stainless virgin. And he did all this, out of love for us, that he might turn men back to incorruption and make them alive through his death.

### A BODY CAPABLE OF DEATH

---

The Word perceived that corruption could not be got rid of otherwise than through death, yet He Himself, as the Word, being immortal and the Father's son, could not die. That is why he took the body of man, which is capable of death so death could be a sufficient exchange for us all. He became the ultimate offering and sacrifice and through his becoming man we were clothed with incorruption in the promise of the resurrection.

---

## CHAPTER 3. THE DIVINE DILEMMA AND ITS SOLUTION IN THE INCARNATION- CONTINUED

---

### KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

---

God understood that men were limited in their knowledge of Him. Our purpose for life would be useless if we had no knowledge of God. What is the point of living if we do not know our maker? How can we be reasonable beings if we don't know the Word? Without the Word and understanding of the Word then we are no better than the beasts of the earth. Therefore, God created us in His own image and His own likeness, and he did this so that we can fully understand the Word Himself, and through Him understand the Father. By understanding the Father men will achieve the only true happy and blessed life.

## FOOLISHNESS

---

Men became foolish and turned away from God. They defiled their own souls and created new Gods and idols. Rather than honoring God they honored material objects like stone or wood and even other men and gave in to the satisfaction of their lusts. There became no law for man and God was not known nor His Word. God however, did not hide from them or allow them to continue in their foolishness but instead unfolded Himself in many other forms and ways.

## GOD'S COMPENSATION FOR OUR LIMITATIONS IS NOT ENOUGH

---

God knew we were limited so he created us in His own image and provided us with all his works of creation. God did not stop there though. He also gave us laws and sent prophets, men that the people knew. God did all this that men may gain knowledge of their Maker. God created three ways for men to understand Him. Men could look up to the heavens, converse with holy men to learn from them, or follow His laws. But men in their wickedness still bowed down to their own pleasures.

## GOD MUST COME DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS

---

Men were dehumanizing mankind. They blasphemed the Word. What then was God to do? After all of His compensations, it was still not enough. Men had to be recreated and renewed in His Image. What could God do other than coming down Himself? Men could not save themselves because they were created only after the image of God. Angels could not save men because they were the image of God. The Word had to come down in His own person, because only Him the Image of the Father Who could recreate man made after the Image.

## RE-CREATION

---

To achieve re-creation God had to get rid of death and corruption. Christ became man so that death could be destroyed and men could be renewed according the Image. An example to better understand this is to imagine a portrait that has been painted and becomes stained (spill something on it). The artist does not throw away the canvas but instead has the subject come and sit down again so that he can repaint the picture on the same material. God did not get rid of mankind but rather renewed us and brought back his lost sheep.

We were saved and live in His Image because he died for us and he arose from dead to prove to man that He has overcome death.

## THE WORD LIVED WITH MAN

---

The Word appeared in body to man and lived among man so that man may center his thoughts and his senses on Him. The Word came down to convince man through His human acts that He Himself is not man but God, the Word and Wisdom of the true God. St Paul states, "That ye being routed and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the length and breadth and height and depth, and to know the love of God that surpasses knowledge, so that ye may be filled unto all the fullness of God". (Luke 10)

---

## CHAPTER 4 THE DEATH OF CHRIST

### MARVELOUS GOD

---

God did all acts on the earth so that man may regain knowledge of their true Father. When Christ died on the cross even creation broke its silence to acknowledge Him. The sun veiled his face (that day became very dark and gloomy), the earth quaked, the mountains were rent asunder (the mountains divided or split), and all men were stricken with awe. All of these things showed that Christ on the cross was God and all of creation were bearing witness by its fear to the presence of its Master! Here is the epitome of God revealing Himself as the Word to us.

### CENTER OF OUR FAITH

---

The center of our faith can be demonstrated by the end of Christ on earth and how he died. We understand that Christ had to die on the cross for us in order bring us back from corruption and re-create the likeness of the Image in men and ultimately abolish death so that we may have immortality through God. One of the reasons why the Word lived with us was that there was debt to be owed. Men were supposed to die. (Remember in Genesis that God didn't create death but rather if Adam and Eve followed his laws then they would live eternally with him in paradise, but because they did not, death was created). The Word revealed Himself to us in this way so that He could be a sacrifice on behalf of us, to settle man's accounts and free him from death.

---

## CHAPTER 5 THE RESURRECTION

### THE GLORY OF AN INCORRUPTIBLE BODY

---

Christ chose a death that was apparent to all, namely the cross to make sure that his death might not be doubted. He rose after three days in particular that the glory of his uncorrupted body might be evident. (Two days is not enough for a human body to rot, and 4 days would result in forgetfulness and doubt that indeed Christ truly had risen).

#### IMPORTANCE OF A RESURRECTED GOD

---

Although it was important for Christ to die for our sins it is equally if not more important that Christ rose from the dead. Death was destroyed and trampled on by Christ. Christ had to rise so that he could overcome death and so that as a risen God he could work through us everyday. Christ is not dead for if he was then he could not make adulterers stop being adulterers, or murders stop being murders. A dead person can do nothing, but a Savior can work miracles, persuading men to a virtuous life and teaching them about immortality through Him. The Son of God is living and active every day and effects the salvation of all; but death is daily proved to be stripped of all its strength, and it is the idols and the evil spirits who are dead. A blind man cannot see the sun, but he knows that it exists because of its warmth; similarly although Christ is risen and we cannot see Him we know that he is present with us every day.

The Savior has destroyed death and freely graced us all with incorruption through the resurrection. He raised His own body as its first fruits, and displayed it by the sign of the cross as the monument to His victory over death and its corruption.

---

## B. ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZA'S TEACHING ON THE HOLY TRINITY

A PAPER PRESENTED BY HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN BISHOP OF DAMIETTE AT ST. BISHOP MONASTERY - 27 DECEMBER 1996

IN OUR COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH, ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZA IS ALWAYS REFERRED TO AS "*THE THEOLOGOS*". THE LITURGY WRITTEN BY HIM, IS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POPULARITY ON GREAT FEASTS (RESURRECTION, ADVENT) AND ON MANY OTHER OCCASIONS. IT HAS EMERGED IN THE LIFE OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH AS A SOURCE OF UNSURPASSED CONTEMPLATION AND SPIRITUAL JOY IN WORSHIP.

HIS TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH GREAT RESPECT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH THROUGH HIS LITURGICAL TEXT AND OTHER TEACHINGS, WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME AS THAT OF ST. ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME ITEMS RELATING TO HIS TEACHING ON THE HOLY TRINITY:

---

### I. GOD IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE IN OUR HUMAN THOUGHT:

St. Gregory was a humble theologian. He admitted, in his **Second Theological Oration**, that "no man ever yet has discovered or can discover what God is in nature and in essence."<sup>1</sup> He also stated that "God would be altogether circumscribed, if He were even comprehensible in thought : for comprehension is one form of circumscription."<sup>2</sup> He explained that our knowledge of God is a little effluence. Thus he said "All that comes to us is but a little effluence, and as it were a small effulgence from a great Light. So that if anyone has known God, or had the testimony of scripture to his knowledge of God, we are to understand such an one to have possessed a degree of knowledge which gave him the appearance of being more fully enlightened than another who did not enjoy the same degree of illumination."<sup>3</sup> But St. Gregory spoke of a clearer knowledge of God in the life to come.

---

<sup>1</sup> P Schaff & Henry Wace, *Nicene & Post-Nicene Fathers*, Hendrickson Publishers, (June 1995), Vol. 7, Second Series, 2nd Theological Oration, Article XVII, p.294.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 2nd Theological Oration, Article X, p.292.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 2nd Theological Oration, Article XVII, p.294.



---

## II. HYPOSTATIC PROPERTIES OF THE THREE DISTINCT PROSOPA OF THE HOLY TRINITY:

In his teaching, St. Gregory defined the distinct properties of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity; thus teaching: “Let us confirm ourselves within our limits, and speak of **The Unbegotten** and **The Begotten** and **That which Proceeds from the Father**, as somewhere God the Word Himself saith.”<sup>4</sup>

He also taught, “This is what we meant by Father and Son and Holy Ghost. The Father is **the Begetter and the Emitter**; without passion, of course, and without reference to time, and not in a corporeal manner. The Son is **the Begotten**, and the Holy Spirit is **the Emission**.”<sup>5</sup> St. Gregory never mentioned any other distinct properties.

---

## III. THE ETERNAL BEING OF THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT:

St. Gregory continued to argue in the same theological oration, “When did these come into being? They are above all “when”. But, if I am to speak with something more of boldness,—when the Father did. And when did the Father come into being. There never was a time when he was not. And the same thing is true of the Son and the Holy Ghost. Ask me again, and again I will answer you, when was the Son begotten? When the Father was not begotten. And when did the Holy Ghost proceed? When the Son was, not proceeding but, begotten—beyond the sphere of time, and above the grasp of reason ; although we cannot set forth that which is above time, if we avoid as we desire any expression as which conveys the idea of time. For such expression as “when” and “before” and “after” and “from the beginning” are not timeless, however much we may force them ; unless indeed we were to take the Aeon, that interval which is coexistent with the eternal things, and is not derided or measured by any motion, or by the revolution of the sun, as time is measured. How are They not alike unoriginate, if They are coeternal? Because They are from Him, though not after Him. For that which is originate is eternal, but that which is eternal is not necessarily unoriginate, so long as it may be referred to the Father as its origin. Therefore in respect of Cause they are not unoriginate; but it is evident that the Cause is not necessarily prior to its effects, for **the sun is not prior to its light**. And yet They are in some sense unoriginate, in respect of time, even though you

---

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son), Article II, p.301.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son),Article II, p.301

would scare simple minds with your quibbles, for the Sources of Time are not subject to time”<sup>6</sup>

Besides using the figure of the sun and its light, he also used the figure of the mind and the word as another example in expounding the relation between the Father and the Son, “He is called the Word, because He is related to the Father as the Word to Mind.”<sup>7</sup>

---

#### IV. THE USE OF ILLUSTRATIONS DEPICTING THE HOLY TRINITY:

Although St. Gregory used illustrations of the sun and its light, and the mind and its word in depicting the relation between the Father and the Son, yet he warned that those illustrations are not identical with the full reality of the Triune God, “I have very carefully considered this matter in my own mind, and have looked at it in every point of view, in order to find some illustration of this most important subject, but I have been unable to discover anything on earth with which to compare the nature of the Godhead. For even if I did happen upon some tiny likeness it escaped me for the most part, and left me down below with my example. I picture to myself an eye, a fountain, a river, as others have done before, to see if they first might be analogous to the Father, the second to the Son, and the third to the Holy Ghost. For in these there is no distinction in time, nor are they torn away from their connexion with each other, though they seem to be parted by three personalities. But I was afraid in the first place that I should present a flow in the Godhead, incapable of standing still ; and secondly that by this figure a numerical unity would be introduced. For the eye and the spring and the river are numerically one, though in different forms.

Again I thought of the sun and a ray and light. But here again there was a fear lest people should get an idea of composition in the uncompounded Nature, such as there is in the sun and the things that are in the sun. And the second place **lest we should give Essence to the Father but deny Personality to the others**, and make Them only **Powers** of God, existing in Him and not Personal. For neither the ray nor the light is a sun, but they are only effulgences from the sun, and qualities of **its** essence. And lest we should thus, as far

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son, Article III, pp.301,302

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd concerning the Son), Article XX, p.316.

as the illustration goes, attribute both Being and Not-being to God, which is even more monstrous.<sup>8</sup>

---

#### V. THE THREE HYPOSTASIES HAVE ONE AND THE SAME ESSENCE (CONSUBSTANTIAL):

On several occasions, St. Gregory spoke of the undivided essence of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. In his oration on the Triune God as Monarch with regard to His creation, St. Gregory stated, “But **Monarchy\*** is that which we hold in honor. It is however, a Monarchy that is not limited to one Person, but one which is made of an equality of Nature and a union of mind, and an identity of motion, and a convergence of its elements to unity—a thing which is impossible to the created nature—**so that though numerically distinct there is no severance of Essence.**”<sup>9</sup> Also, in his teaching on the Son he said, “In my opinion He is called Son because He is **identical with the Father in Essence**, and not only for this reason, but also because He is of Him. And He is called Only-Begotten, not because He is the only Son and of the Father alone, and only a Son; but also because the manner of His Sonship is peculiar to Himself and not shared by bodies. And He is called the Word, because He is related to the Father as word is related to mind ; not only on account of His passionless Generation, but also because of the Union, and of **His declaratory function.**”<sup>10</sup> In the same oration, St. Gregory continued to say, “And the Image as **of one Substance** with Him.”<sup>11</sup>

---

#### VI. The Equality of the Three Hypostaseis:

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 5th Theological Oration (on the Holy Spirit), Articles XXXI and XXXII, p.328.

\* Triadiki-archy (Τριαδική-αρχή)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son), Article II, p.301.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd concerning the Son), Article XX, p.316.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd concerning the Son), Article XX, p.317.

(\*)St. Gregory warned, as mentioned previously on page 3 “lest we should give Essence to the Father alone and consider the Son and the Holy Ghost as qualities of Essence, and not real hypostaseis. Hence each hypostasis has His own hypostatic property, but He is not merely a property of Essence.”

In his Theological Oration on the Holy Spirit, St. Gregory taught against the Arians and the Eunomians, stating; “What then, say they, is there lacking to the Spirit which prevents His being a Son, for if there were not something lacking He would be a Son? We assert that there is nothing lacking for God has no deficiency. But the difference of manifestation, if I may so express myself, **or rather Their mutual relations one to Another**, has caused the difference of Their Names. For indeed it is not some deficiency in the Son which prevents His being Father (for Sonship is not a deficiency), and yet He is not Father. According to this line of argument there must be deficiency in the Father, in respect of His not being Son. For the Father is not Son, and yet this is not due to either deficiency or subjection of Essence; but the very fact of being **Unbegotten** or **Begotten**, or **Proceeding** has given the name Father to the First, of the Son to the Second, and of the Third, Him Whom we are speaking, of the Holy Ghost that the distinction of the Three Persons may be preserved in the one nature and dignity of the Godhead. For neither is the Son the Father, for the Father is One, but **He is** what the Father **is**; nor is the Spirit Son because He is of God, for the Only-begotten is One, but He is what the Son is. The Three are One in Godhead, and One Three in properties\*; so that neither is the Unity of Sabellian one, nor does the Trinity countenance the present evil distinction.”<sup>12</sup>

## VII. SHARING THE SAME PROPERTIES OF ESSENCE:

St. Gregory was very clear, as St. Athanasius, in his teaching that the Three Hypostaseis do not differ from each other except in the hypostatic property. For each of them, the hypostatic properties, are: the “Origin” for the Father, the “Begotten” for the Son and the “Proceeded” for the Holy Ghost. All other properties of the divine Essence are being shared among the Three divine Hypostaseis. He said, “For we have learnt to believe in and to teach the Deity of the Son from their (verses from the bible) great and lofty utterances. And what utterances are these? These: God—the Word—He That Was In The Beginning and With The Beginning, and The Beginning. “In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,” (John 1.:1) and “With Thee in the Beginning’ and “He who calleth her the Beginning from generations” (Isa. 41:4). Then the Son is Only-Begotten : The only “Begotten Son which is in the bosom of the Father, it says, “He that declared Him” (John 1:18), The Way, the Truth, **the Life**, the Light. “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life;” (John 14:6) and “I am the Light of the World” (John 7:12, 9:5, 14:6). Wisdom and Power,

---

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 5th Theological Oration (on the Holy Spirit), Article IX, p.320.

“Christ, the Wisdom of God, and the Power of God.”(1 Cor. 1:24) The Effulgence, the Impress, the Image, the Seal; “Who being the Effulgence of His glory and the Impress of His **Essence**,\*”(Heb 1:3) and “the Image of His Goodness,”(Wisd. 7:26) and “Him Hath God the Father sealed”(John 6:27). Lord, King, He That is, The Almighty. “The Lord rained down fire from the Lord;”(Gen 19:24) and “A Scepter of righteousness is the scepter of The Kingdom;”(Ps. 45:6) and “Which is and was and is to come, the Almighty”(Rev. 1:8), all which are clearly spoken of the Son, with all other passages of the same force, none of which is an after thought, or added later to the Son or the Spirit, any more than to the Father Himself. For Their Perfection is not affected by additions. There never was a time when He was without the Word, or when He was not the Father, or when He was not true, or not wise, or not powerful, or devoid of life, or of splendor, or of goodness.”<sup>13</sup>

In his Fourth Theological Oration (second on the Son), St. Gregory explained the identity of Essence of the Son with the Father saying, “The Son is a concise demonstration and easy setting forth of the Father’s Nature. For everything that is begotten is a silent word of him that begot it”... “He is ... called... the Image as of one substance with Him, and because He is of the Father, and not the Father of Him. For this is of the Nature of an Image, to be the reproduction of its Archetype, and that whose name it bears; only that there is more here. For in ordinary language an image is a motionless representation of that which has motion; but in this case it is the living reproduction of the Living One, and is more exactly like than was Seth to Adam, or any son to his father. For such is the nature of simple Existences, that it is not correct to say of them that they are Like in one particular and Unlike in another; but they are a complete resemblance, and should rather be called **Identical than Like**. Moreover he is called Light as being the Brightness of souls cleansed by word and life. For if ignorance and sin be darkness, knowledge and a godly life will be Light... And He is called Life, because He is Light, and is the constituting and creating Power of every reasonable soul. For in Him we live and move and have our being, according to the double power of that Breathing into us ; for we were all inspired by Him with breath, and as many of us were capable of it, and in so far as we open the mouth of our mind, with God the Holy Ghost.”<sup>14</sup>

---

(\*) This term in the Epistle to the Hebrew (1:3) is in the Greek text : “Hypostasis” (υποστασεως) and can be translated “Person instead of “Essence”.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son), Article XVII, p.307.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd on the Son), Article XX, p.316,317.

---

VIII. *The Holy Spirit Proceeds from the Father Alone:*

St. Gregory clarified the distinction between the generation of the Son and the procession of the Holy Spirit. In his teaching, there is no confusion among the distinct properties of the Holy Trinity.

After he spoke about the special Names of God's Essence, ie. "He who Is", and mentioning other titles of the Godhead such as "the Almighty, the King of Glory, or the Ages, or of the Powers, or of the Kings", St. Gregory states: "Now these are names common to the Godhead, but the proper Name of the Unoriginate is Father, and that of the Begotten without beginning is Son, and that of **the un-begottenly Proceeding or going forth** is The Holy Ghost."<sup>15</sup> It is clear then, according to St. Gregory, that the Holy Ghost is **un-begottenly Proceeding** and has no source in the begotten Son in Proceeding from the Father.

---

IX. THE MONARCHY OF THE FATHER IN THE HOLY TRINITY:

(Patriki-archy = πατρικη αρχη)

St. Gregory stressed many times on the Monarchy (Μοναρχια) of the Father as the Only Origin in the Holy Trinity. The Father is only Unoriginate: "How then are They not alike unoriginate, if They are coeternal? Because They are from Him, though not after Him. For that which is unoriginate is eternal, but that which is eternal is not necessarily unoriginate, so long as it may be referred to the Father as its origin. Therefore, in respect of Cause They are **not** unoriginate, but it is evident that the Cause is not necessarily prior to its effects, for the sun is not prior to its light."<sup>16</sup> Also, St. Gregory taught clearly "The Father is the Begetter and the Emitter."<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd on the Son), Articles XVIII, XIX, p.316.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son), Article III, p.302.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 3rd Theological Oration (on the Son), Article II, p.301.

---

X. THE GIFTS OF GOD ARE FROM THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON BY THE HOLY SPIRIT:

In his oration on the gifts of God by the Holy Spirit, St. Gregory referring to the Holy Spirit said, "That He is the Gift, the Bounty, **the Inspiration**, the Promise, the Intercession for us, and, not to go into any further detail, any other expressions of the sort, is to be referred to the First Cause, that it may be shown from whom He is, and that men may not in heathen fashion admit Three Principles. For it is equally impious to confuse the Persons with the Sabellians, or to divide the Natures with the Arians."<sup>18</sup> The term "First Cause" which St. Gregory mentioned in this last passage is to indicate that the gifts of God has its origin in the Father and are given through the Son by the Holy Spirit.

In his fourth Theological Oration (second on the Son), St. Gregory speaks about the double power of breathing of the Son. By double power of breathing, he meant that the gifts coming to us from the Father and given to us by the Holy Spirit are through the Son, "For in Him we live and move and have our being, according to the double power of that Breathing into us ; for we are all capable of it, and in so far as we open the mouth of our mind, with God the Holy Ghost."<sup>19</sup>

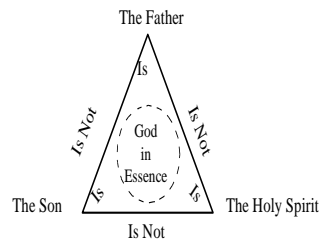
---

XI. A DIAGRAM REPRESENTING THE TEACHING OF ST. GREGORY OF NAZIANZA ON THE  
HOLY TRINITY:

---

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 5th Theological Oration (on the Holy Spirit), Article XXX, p.328.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, 4th Theological Oration (2nd on the Son), Article XX, p.317.



***“God is Love”*** (1 Jn. 4:16)

**No perfect love**

**without 3 Persons**



---

## C. THE REVELATION OF GOD

---

### TYPES OF REVELATION OF GOD:

#### God is Mystery

The closer we come to know God, the more we discover the limitations of our knowledge of God and the limitation of Language in expressing God. We use positive & negating statements in speaking about God. St. Gregory's Liturgy: *"unutterable, the invisible, the infinite; without beginning, everlasting, timeless, limitless, immeasurable, unchangeable, Creator of all, Savior of everyone"* negating limits in describing God: "Apophatic Language"

If God is a Mystery, is there any way of knowing Him?

There are two ways, by which humans can know God, Natural and Supernatural. By Natural we know about Him. By Supernatural He reveals Himself to us to Know Him in a relationship.

---

### 1. NATURAL REVELATION

This revelation is the manifestations of the creator in His creation. We can know about an author from his book, an artist from his art and an architect from her architecture. There are three common places human can search a:

Nature, Human person and History.

#### A. NATURE & SCIENCE

*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead... "Rom 1:19*

*"God by His own Word gave the Universe the order it has, in order that since He is by nature invisible, men might be enabled to know Him at any rate by His works. For often the artist, even when not seen, is known by his works." St. Athanasius: Contra Gentes;"The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers."*

---

#### B. HUMAN PERSON

We have a desire for God *“You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until it rests in You.” St. Augustine*

*For God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of His own eternity. Wis 2:23*

This desire is manifested by our endless search for Love & Truth. Man has a sense of eternity & longing for the infinite. Experiences of Love lead to an experience of the Infinite *“Within the heart are unfathomable depths”* Homily of St. Macarius

### C. History

All races have manifested religious desire. *“And you shall seek Me and find Me, when you shall search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

The search for God demands from man all his heart. Man can never attain the knowledge of God which leads to a relationship with Him through natural capacities. The Lord puts in the nature of man longing for Him, because of that longing in the natural capacity; man can accept & welcome the Supernatural revelation of God. The natural revelation alone cannot begin a meaningful relationship between God and man.

## 2. SUPERNATURAL (REVELATION)

---

He is a hidden God, therefore if He wish for us to know Him, He must reveal Himself to us. The Bible is the Book of History of the Supernatural Revelation of God. Persons who receive this revelation will be in ecstasy, “in the spirit” These people are called Mediators of Revelation.

The greatest and perfect Revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Absolute Teacher.

### DIFFERENT WAYS OF THE REVELATION OF GOD

Visions, dreams, words, actions

Revelation (*apokaluptw* = internal) & (*phanerw* = external)

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ESSENCE & MANIFESTATION

Only God can know His own Essence We can never comprehend God's Essence. Manifestation is what creatures can perceive. We can only know God in His Manifestation.

## THE GREATEST REVELATION OF GOD

God's perfect manifestation is Jesus Christ. Through all times, God has revealed Himself through Christ & the Holy Spirit *"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."* John 1:18

*"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God".* 1 Cor 2:11-12

*"Our Savior, therefore, is the image of the invisible God, in as much as compared with the Father Himself He is the truth; and as compared with us, to whom He reveals the Father, He is the image by which we come to the knowledge of the Father, whom no one knows save the Son, and He to whom the Son is pleased to reveal Him<sup>4</sup>. All who believe and are assured that 'grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1:17), and who know Christ to be the truth, agreeably to His own declaration, 'I am the truth' (John 14:6), derive the knowledge which incites men to a good and happy life from no other source than from the very words and teaching of Christ. And by the words of Christ we do not mean those only which He spoke when He became man and tabernacled in the flesh; for before that time, Christ, the Word of God was in Moses and the prophets." Origen De Principiis, Preface I;"The Ante-Nicene Fathers", Vol. 4, 1979, by Roberts and Donaldson. Eerdmans*

*"Receive Christ, receive sight, receive your light; in order that you may know well both God and man. 'Sweet is the Word that gives us light, precious above gold and gems; it is to be desired above honey and the honeycomb' (Ps.19:10)." St. Clement: Exhortation to the Heathen, Ch.9."The Ante-Nicene Fathers."*

*"For each one (of His titles) by itself does not express God; but altogether are indicative of the power of the Omnipotent ... It remains that we understand, then, the Unknown, by divine grace, and by the Word alone that proceeds from Him." St. Clement: Stromata, Book 5, Ch. 12.*

"Now, God from His own side offered us all the abilities to perceive Him by revealing Himself to us. From our side, it is our responsibility to enjoy this divine knowledge, not only by studying and researching, but also by purifying our souls and hearts, i.e., our internal sight. Joseph C.

McLelland wrote<sup>8</sup>, "Moreover, since 'like knows like' in the Alexandrian world view ... 'the way to the Immutable is immutability.'" *St. Clement: Stromata, Book 2, Ch. 11, Section 6.*

*"But for its knowledge and accurate comprehension, there is need of none other save of ourselves. Neither, as God Himself is above all, is the road to Him afar off outside ourselves, but it is in us, and it is possible to find it from ourselves, in the first instance, as Moses also taught, when he said, 'But the word (of faith) is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart ...' Deut. 30:14. Which very thing the Saviour declared and confirmed, when He said, 'The kingdom of God is within you,' Luke 17:21. For having in ourselves faith, and the kingdom of God, We shall quickly be able to see and perceive the king of the Universe, the saving Word of the Father". St. Athanasius: Contra Gentes, Part 2, Section 30.*

*"Whence also when it gets rid of all the filth of sin which covers it and retains only the likeness of the Image in its purity, then surely this latter being thoroughly brightened, the soul beholds as in a mirror the Image of the Father, even the Word .." St. Athanasius: Contra Gentes, Part 2, Section 34.*

*Through Revelation, God desires all men to come to His knowledge. His will is that all men respond to Him, loving Him, more than their natural ability. The Revelation of God is always in WORDS & ACTIONS*

---

## HISTORY OF GOD'S REVELATION

*God's revelation is always made in the context of a covenant by words and by actions*

### ADAM & EVE → COVENANT WITH HUMANITY

*The Fall did not stop God from revealing Himself to the descendants*

*And I will put enmity between you and woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. Gen 3:15*

### NOAH → COVENANT WITH NATIONS

*All people outside of faith belong to this covenant*

*We remember Noah, Melchizedek, & Job who belong to this covenant*

### ABRAHAM → COVENANT WITH THE PATRIARCHS

*The Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob), Prophets, Righteous men & women of the Old Testament are celebrated as saints by the Church in its calendar*

#### MOSES → COVENANT WITH ISRAEL

*Through the Prophets, God brought up His people in the hope of the Messiah*

#### JESUS CHRIST → COVENANT WITH THE CHURCH THROUGH APOSTLES

Full – Complete – Perfect Revelation of God - End Goal of all Revelations “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*” Heb 1:1-2

#### THERE IS NO FURTHER REVELATION OF GOD AFTER JESUS CHRIST

---

#### KEEPING GOD’S REVELATION

Handing down of God’s revelation: through

1. BIBLE: THE WORD OF GOD
2. HOLY CHURCH TRADITION: HOW TO INTERPRET THE BIBLE

Liturgical celebrations,

Canonical councils and Creeds,

Oral tradition,

Consensus patria (the *consensus of the Church fathers*)

---

#### OPPOSING BELIEFS

Atheism: God does not exist

Naturalism: No existence beyond material world (no Supernatural)

Materialism:	Everything can be explained on material basis (there is neither soul nor spiritual existence)
Spiritualism:	Everything can be explained on spiritual basis
Pantheism:	Everything is god (god & nature is one)
Deism:	There is a god but no religion. Deistic god is not in control (blind watchmaker) deistic god cannot be approached by religion
Rationalism:	Mind does not need revelation (everything can be understood by the human mind)
Agnosticism:	no way to prove or disprove religious revelation
Relativism:	No one revelation- truth is relative to beholder



## SECOND SECTION: CORE MATERIALS

### FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM THEME AND OBJECTIVES

# *God Calls Us to be Holy*

## Lesson List (39 lessons)

During the Fifth Year

### UNIT I: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US (5 LESSONS)

---

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

1. God reveals Himself to us through Nature
  -
2. God reveals Himself to us through His Son and His Spirit
  -
3. God reveals Himself to us through Scripture
  -
4. God reveals Himself to us through the Church
  -
5. We receive God's Eternal life and forgiveness in the Eucharist
  -

### UNIT II: GOD CALLS A PEOPLE (12 LESSONS)

---

**Purpose:**

6. Introduction
  -
7. God prepared a savior



- 
- 8. God sends the savior
- 
- 9. God prepared to take His people out of Egypt
- 
- 10. The Passover
- 
- 11. God Baptizes His people: the Red Sea
- 
- 12. The Manna & the Quails
- 
- 13. The Water from the Rock
- 
- 14. The 10 Commandments
  - Emphasizing the fear of God - God is awesome and fearful, but not in a scary and frightening way. God is powerful
  - God is loving - shown when he saved the Israelites from many of the tribulations that they faced).
  - **Communication of glory** - God chose Moses to receive his commandments.
- 15. The Golden Calf & Change of Priesthood
- 
- 16. The Tabernacle
- 
- 17. Unit Review

### UNIT III: THE JOURNEY OF LENT (6 LESSONS)

---

#### Purpose:

- 18. Intro to Lent
- 
- 19. Our Lord Jesus Christ leads us to offer fasting to God
- 
- 20. The power of fasting
- 
- 21. We give Cheerfully
-

22. Holy Week part 1

- 

23. Holy Week part 2

- 

#### UNIT IV: THE BEATITUDES (10 LESSONS)

---

**Purpose:**

24. Introduction to the Beatitudes

- 

25. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

- 

26. Blessed are those who Mourn

- 

27. Blessed are the Meek

- 

28. Blessed are those who Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness

- 

29. Blessed are the Merciful

- 

30. Blessed are the Pure in Heart

- 

31. Blessed are the Peacemakers

- 

32. Persecuted & House on the Rock

- 

33. Unit Review

#### UNIT V: GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY (6 LESSONS)

---

**Purpose:**

34. Introduction to Sanctification

- 

35. Our Lord invites us to receive God's mercy

- 

36. Our Lord Jesus Christ called us to follow Him (putting on Christ)

- 
- 37. God gives us laws to live by
- 
- 38. God invites us to worship Him
- 
- 39. We protect God's gift of Holiness

## Fifth Grade Curriculum:

# *God Calls Us to be Holy*

### UNIT 1: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US (5 LESSONS)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church. We live in a very overwhelming, materialistic environment and we are very far removed from nature. For example, we eat meat and don't even think that there was an animal who lived and grew and ate and then was killed so we can eat it. We think the animal was manufactured. During Passover, God asked the Israelites to keep the animal for four days so they could feel like it was a part of their lives and they could feel the loss when it was killed. We are completely distant from nature because we live in a man-made world. The more man works on things, the more distant we are from God, the more likely it is for one to think God doesn't exist.

This unit is important to wake up the senses and look and see God in everything. We live in a capsule made by us to protect us, allows us to go back and say that maybe he doesn't exist. We are suffocated, enclosed and removed. Nature is something that is made for humans to enjoy and enrich them – the sea, the sky, the nature, the sand in the desert is so touching and so rich. That's why Jesus used to go out in the open spaces all the time

This is one way God reveals Himself. Add to nature the Bible and Communion then we're in Heaven. How can we give to others if we don't have? We take from God and give to people the attention, care, freedom.

**LESSON 1:** GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH NATURE

**LESSON 2:** GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH HIS SON AND HIS SPIRIT

**LESSON 3:** GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

**LESSON 4:** GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH THE CHURCH

**LESSON 5:** WE RECEIVE GOD'S ETERNAL LIFE AND FORGIVENESS IN THE EUCHARIST

## Unit I

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

---

### LESSON 1: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH NATURE

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

Thomas Dubei ewtn.com (audio library) "Meditation Leading to Contemplation"

<http://www.ewtn.com/vondemand/audio/seriessearchprog.asp?seriesID=7103&T1=Thomas+Dub>  
[ub](#)

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

#### REFLECTION:

---

How does God allow us to die when we were created for life ? Viruses came out from corruption of nature – all the nature got corrupted with the fall of man. St. Paul said "All nature has been subjected to futility" because man, the reason of creation, has fallen. Let creation get corrupted too.

#### PRAYER:

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

Bless the Lord, all you waters above the heaven, praise Him and exalt Him, above all forever.

Bless the Lord, all you powers of the Lord, praise Him and exalt Him, above all forever.

Bless the Lord, O sun and moon, praise Him and exalt Him, above all forever.

Bless the Lord, all you stars of heaven, praise Him and exalt Him. . .

Bless the Lord, O you rain and dew. Praise Him and exalt Him. . .

Bless the Lord, O you clouds and winds, praise Him and exalt Him. . .

Bless the Lord, all you spirits, praise Him and exalt Him. . .

## VOCABULARY:

---

### Contemplation

## INTRODUCTION

---

Last week we discussed the Cross. We discuss how it was found and how important it is in our lives and how it is the only thing we can be proud of. It is a symbol of our faith

We're going to begin a unit that will help us learn more about God. Since we're sons and daughters of God, we should always be trying to learn more about God and trying to get closer to Him. Nature is one of the first ways we can learn about God:

Since God created everything, everything around us can tell us something about God. It reveals some aspect of God to us.

## LESSON BODY:

---

### THE CREATION

---

Read beginning of Genesis 1.

In the beginning there was nothing except for God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. From the first verses of the Bible in the Book of Genesis, we know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always work together. God the Father was the creator. God the Son is the "Word of God" (John 1:1 – in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God). God the Spirit "hovered over the waters." "Let *us* create man in *our* image"

Example: there is an owner of a building, an architect and a laborer. Each one can say *I* built the house. The Father is the owner, the Son is the architect and the Spirit is the laborer.

### CONTEMPLATION

---

It's important to spend some time **contemplating** nature. Contemplation means being still and receiving; deep consideration and reflection; focused thinking; and an awareness of God. We need to spend time contemplating the beauty of nature because it reminds us of God and it shows us how much God loves us that He created all of this for us.

Ask: Has anyone here ever noticed anything beautiful about nature? How did that make you feel? What is a place you felt inspired/felt good about visiting. What do you feel when you see nature.

## NATURE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD

---

We know from nature that God is peaceful, beautiful, strong, loyal, caring from thinking about a sunset, a lion, a dog, and an elephant.

Show pictures of nature and animals and ask the kids what they can teach us about God.

## PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- ***Pictures of nature and animals***

## CONCLUSION

---

## REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

## VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

## DAILY READINGS

---



## Unit I

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

---

---

### LESSON 2: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH HIS SON AND HIS SPIRIT

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

#### THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

---

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

“ The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘ Prepare the way of the LORD;

Make His paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup> Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him <sup>6</sup>and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He<sup>[c]</sup> saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3)

#### THE CREATION

---

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was<sup>[a]</sup> on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. Genesis (1:1-5)

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

## LESSON PREPARATION:

### SONG:

---

Father I adore You  
I lay my life before You  
How I love You

Jesus I adore You  
I lay my life before You  
How I love You

Spirit I adore You  
I lay my life before You  
How I love You

### VOCABULARY:

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSON:

---

Nature is one of the first ways we can learn about God:

Since no one has seen God the father, nature can tell us about the Father. Since God created everything, everything around us can tell us something about God. It reveals some aspect of God to us. Have kids talk about things that they see or love about nature. We know from nature that God is peaceful, beautiful, strong, loyal, caring from thinking about a sunset, a lion, a dog, and an elephant.

## LESSON BODY

---

### GOD IS A TRINITY OF THREE PERSONS

---

God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:

We know about God the Father through the creation, nature, and from the Old Testament. We also know about God the Father through the Son. Christ came down to earth and lived on earth

He had disciples and apostles who knew Him and spent so much time with Him. We know the Holy Spirit through the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation.

#### THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THE FATHER TO US

---

Have the kids act out the Baptism:

**Narrator:** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea

**St. John the Baptist:** Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

**Narrator:** Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them,

**St. John the Baptist:** Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**Narrator:** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John *tried to* prevent Him.

**St. John the Baptist:** I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?

**Jesus:** Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

**Narrator:** And then St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying...

**Father:** This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

#### THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT CREATED EVERYTHING TOGETHER

---

Discuss the creation story briefly:

In the beginning there was nothing except for God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. From the first verses of the Bible in the Book of Genesis, we know that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always work together. God the Father was the creator. God the Son is the “Word of God” (John 1:1 – in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God). God the Spirit “hovered over the waters.”

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### HOW WE KNOW THE SON AND THE SPIRIT

---

**1. The Son:** we get in touch with our Lord Jesus Christ through the **Mysteries:** we gain forgiveness of our sins in Confession and we unite ourselves with Christ in the Eucharist. We are healed in the Mystery of the unction of the sick. By approaching the Mysteries you are taking the Son inside you, you are united with the son, so you will be closer to the Father, you will get closer to the Father. The Son reveals the Father to us.

**2. The Spirit:** 2 mysteries we take the Holy Spirit: Baptism and Confirmation – we are united with the Holy Spirit and we come closer to the Father. we are filled with the Spirit of God in prayer - **Prayer** is direct communication with God. Through prayer we develop a relationship with God. We turn to Him when we are troubled and thank Him for our blessings. The Holy Spirit gives us the feeling of the child when talk to her father. God gave us the **Word of God** (reading the Bible) so that we can read and know him and be filled with His Spirit.

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*“He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.” John 12:45*

*“You received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’, the Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God” Romans 8:16*

#### CREED RECITATION:

---

---

## DAILY READINGS

---

## Unit I

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

---

---

### LESSON 3: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

---

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

Our Father's Plan <http://www.ewtn.com/vondemand/audio/seriessearchprog.asp?seriesID=-306548622&T1=scott+hahn> Listen to this (at least the first 2)

Story of St. Samuel: where Samuel said "speak Lord because your servant is listening" so God talked to him – can hear God when you're attentive

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

St. John Chrysostom's introduction to St. Matthew

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

## LESSON PREPARATION:

*SONG:*

---

VOCABULARY:

---

**Covenant**

INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSON

---

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

CONNECTION POINT:

---

LESSON BODY:

---

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE

---

Introduce the Bible as the most important book on the history of mankind. It is the most printed, most read and most analyzed book in history. It was the first book to be printed. The Bible fully translated into 438 languages and parts of the Bible is translated in 2,454 languages

The Bible is a book written by the Holy Spirit through 40 men over a period of about 1600 years dating from 1500 BC to about 100 years after Christ. The Holy Spirit inspired each writer with the Holy scripture; meaning:

- There are no mistakes in the Bible
- The writer may prophesy with things that will happen in the future

The bible is a family story/tree – shows us where we're coming from and where we're going

### WHAT THE BIBLE REVEALS TO US

---



- **Who is God** – how we meet with God. For example, if the president sent you a letter, what would you do with it? We would all open it, read it and reread it to see what the president wants with us. The scripture is an encounter with God, we meet Him in the scriptures. When we read it, we know His mind, what He wants and His message to us.
- **Who we are**
- **Our relationship**

The Bible has two parts

- The Old testament: The stories of the Israelites and the prophets before Christ.
- The New Testament: Contains the 4 Gospels (the story of Jesus Christ) the acts of the Apostles and the epistles (letters) of the Apostles

#### OLD TESTAMENT STORIES SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

---

Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt a land of slavery

David and Goliath

#### NEW TESTAMENT STORIES SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

---

Christ feeding the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fish

The prodigal son

Institution of the Eucharist

Christ dying for us

#### THE CHURCH VENERATES THE BIBLE

---

We have 5 readings in the beginning of the Liturgy (come early!!!!) It is called the Liturgy of the Word

The most Holy times in the Liturgy is when God reveals himself in the Gospel reading and during Communion

Only well-trained deacons read the Gospel

The candles represent that the bible is our light and guidance

Nobody can move or talk during Gospel reading

Abouna prays special prayers and raises incense during Gospel reading

PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

CONCLUSION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

CREED RECITATION:

---

DAILY READINGS

---

## Unit I

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

---

---

### LESSON 4: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH THE CHURCH

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

*Therefore take heed for yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28*

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

How Lovely

(How lovely it is to get together in love our Lord teaches us  
When two meet in my name together  
I will always be in between their gather) (2x)

R- (O Lord come now and join us here  
We ask you to come and give us cheer  
Fill us with joy from your Holy Spirit  
And peace no riches can provide) (2x)

2- (The Lord is here always with us  
How lovely he is, how content we are,  
We talk to him and he always listens  
He'll always be with us in us) (2x)

#### VOCABULARY:

---

**Holy Synod**

#### INTRODUCTION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

#### CONNECTION POINT:

---

At the end of the lesson the kids should be inspired to pray. They should understand that when you enter a church you are truly inspired because the things in the church have a true meaning and are not just symbols. We should all be inspired to feel God's presence

#### LESSON BODY:

---

## EVERYTHING IN THE CHURCH TELLS US SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

---

Ask the kids what they see in the church. Everything in the church reveals something about God. Ask the kids how they see God in the things in the church.

**Direction of the church:** The church is built facing the east (the sun, or our Christ, shines from the east, star appearing to the wise men from the east, Christ ascended towards the East, and will return from the East)

When we start to practice facing the east: when you face the east, you make a proclamation that Christ is coming. Before you talk about WHERE He's coming from, you're making a statement that He IS coming – it's an expectation. We're an expectation church "we await the resurrection of the dead.."

We even bury the dead with their feet towards the east. So when they stand, they're facing the east at Christ's coming at the general resurrection

East represents life and light

**Shape of the church:** The Church can be built in 1 of 3 different designs. Ask the kids if they know the possible shapes. Ark, Circle, or Cross.

Round buildings: it's a circle, because God is eternal. He has no beginning or end

Cross: we're saved by the Cross.

Ark: We are travelers in this world.

**Naming the church:** after a saint or an archangel - we honor the namesake of those who honored God

**Trinity in the church:** the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all remembered in the church building itself.

Bosom of the Father: the whole area of the holy belongs to the father. On the altar, I offer (1) incense and (2) His Son. It's called the "Temple of God the Father"

The podium belongs to the Son – He's the Word and the altar where you offer Him

Offering Incense: remembering the Spirit

**Icons:** we see God through these saints, martyrs, and angels. A *writer* of icons is actually bringing out the picture the Holy Spirit is putting in him. Eyes and ears of the icons: eyes are

usually big and ears are usually big “blessed are your eyes to see . . . Blessed are your ears to hear”

Icons inspire us to pray. When I sit before a beautiful icon it gives me a feeling that I belong to the heavenly Father and it teaches me about the saint.

Icons speak to us about God. We are driven to meditation and contemplation of the Divine and spiritual matters through the visible Icons, each according to his spiritual needs. We acquire Icons of the Savior, the Mother of the Lord, the angels and the Saints in order to keep their images in our hearts and minds, and to supplement our deep love for them

**Iconostasis:** The bosom of the Father, located in front of the altar portrays The Pantocrator/ Christ sits on his throne facing us “Coming from the East.” To His right, located on the iconostasis, is the Theotokos. The Theotokos icon with the child Jesus: The Orthodox Church believes that Mary is the human being closest (relationship wise) to God. This icon recalls her important role in the Incarnation of the Son of God. The icon is also an image of the Church. It reminds us of our responsibility to give birth to Christ's presence in our lives.

To the right of that icon is the saint of the church. On our right side, we see Christ on his throne or Christ as the Good Shepherd. To the right of that is His Baptism. Above the altar is the Last Supper. For the Altar is where we institute the last supper that our Lord taught us and blessed us with on Holy Thursday. If it wasn't for the Last Supper, This altar would not be what it is today. To the right and left of that icon, you will see the 12 Apostles.

**Ostrich Egg:** Ostrich egg (symbolize steadfast watchfulness. They bring to mind the way the ostrich buries her eggs in the sand and keeps her eyes fixed on the spot ) Heaven & God is looking at us – WE'RE the egg.

-Hung always just in front of the iconostasis: one of the symbols in the church. The saints on the iconostasis are looking at the egg. When a bird comes out of an egg, it flies towards heaven. The saints are watching us – we're the egg and the saints are watching us until we hatch and go be with them

**Colors:** When Easter comes, the Church is decorated in Red and White. The red color reminds us of the precious blood, the white is a reminder of peace and victory

## THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

---

The movement of the Apostles established the Church of Christ on this day of Pentecost, which is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church. The Apostles became missionaries in their own land and abroad. The power of preaching and sanctifying was shared by other preachers and deacons.

“So continuing daily with one according in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. ***And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.***” Acts 2:46-47

When the number of Christians grew and grew it was too much work for just the 12 so they began ordaining deacons and priests in many cities and churches around the world to help take on some of the work and to stay organized. Depending on the talents of the people, different people were given different tasks to perform

#### HIERARCHY IN THE CHURCH

---

There is organization and hierarchy in the church. Includes the **Holy Synod**, the patriarch, the patriarchal secretary, metropolitans and bishops, priests, deacons (archdeacon, deacon, sub deacon, reader, Psalter). The **Holy Synod** meets yearly around the Pentecost and makes decisions regarding the church e.g. no Bible studies should be made in homes, because people used to do this and come up with a lot of heresies and wrong teachings

The unity of the church reflects the unity of the Trinity

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*Ephesians 4:1-6 “1, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of*

*peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all*

CREED RECITATION:

---

.....  
DAILY READINGS

GOD OUR FATHER IS PANTOCRATOR

---



## Unit 1

**Purpose:** The purpose of this unit is to examine the ways God the Father reveals Himself to us. It includes: His Son and His Spirit, Nature, the Word of God and the Church.

---

---

LESSON 5: WE RECEIVE GOD'S ETERNAL LIFE AND FORGIVENESS IN THE EUCHARIST

---

---

SERVANT PREPARATION:

VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ" John 17:3

"For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" Romans 14:17

CREED:

---

CHURCH FATHERS:

---

REFLECTION:

---

PRAYER:

---

---

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

## VOCABULARY:

---

### Eternal life

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSON

---

As a church we act in unity (one part, one family, one pope, bishops, congregation- one body)  
As a united church we have one faith....

But *what is faith?*

- Belief, trust, in what? In what we can't see.....
- We believe in one God , the Trinity, The Son became flesh to save us {incarnation}.....
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead and eternal life

We receive God's love through scriptures, nature and church you then show that love to others

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

## LESSON BODY:

---

### WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE

---

Eternal life is to live with God in eternity- After we die, we will be raised with a different body and be with God for eternity in heaven. There is no badness, no hunger, no tiredness, only joy, happiness, peace, love and righteousness

It is to be with God in His kingdom

Jesus talked to us about eternal life. He said: “And this is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”(John17:3)

#### EXPERIENCING ETERNAL LIFE HERE ON EARTH

---

Can eternal life start now? Can you experience living in Gods’ kingdom during your day? How about when you do something good, as in helping someone

Think about what Christ told us. Eternal life is that we know God the Father and Jesus Christ, whom the Father sent to us. How do we know God? To know God means to experience Him first hand. What are some of the ways we can do this?

Think about the life in heaven with Joy , Peace and righteousness, how you will be able to experience this life here on earth. Think about ways or times you do something and feel inner happiness and joy. St. Paul told us: “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy” Romans14:17

We receive God’s love through nature, the scripture and the church. Nature is something that is made for human to enjoy and enrich them... the sea , the sky , the sand in the desert all are so touching and rich. Add to the nature the bible and the communion then we’re in heaven.

We should then show that love to others – always watch for someone in need for your help, Kids who are left out, a friend doing something wrong. Help each other in church by keeping quiet – when you talk and text, you are giving a bad example to others. When you do something to serve and help others, you will feel joy and peace.

#### LIVES OF SAINTS AS EXAMPLES OF LIVING ETERNAL LIFE ON EARTH

---

Saints are a great example of people who lived eternal life here on earth because they were extremely happy living close to God, living a life of prayer and a life of giving. Even though many of the saints have left everything, they feel content, satisfied and joyful.

Tell the story of St. Peter

#### DURING THE EUCHARIST WE RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS & ETERNAL LIFE

---

During the Eucharist we are very close to God. We can see Him and taste Him.

Tell the story of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35). They could not recognize Christ despite the fact that their hearts were on fire while he explained to them the

scripture. Their eyes were open when he broke the bread. In the Eucharist, our eyes are open and our heart is ready to listen to Christ as He talks. Our heart will start to burn and when we take Communion our eyes will be open.

During the liturgy, Jesus continues to walk by our side, opening to us the Scriptures and leading us to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of God. We remember everything God does, the story of salvation. It is a group prayer and we are meditating on nature, the church and scripture. When we meet him fully, during the communion, we will pass from the light of the Word to the light streaming from the “Bread of life”, the supreme fulfillment of his promise to “be with us always, to the end of the age” (cf. Mt 28:20).

We receive eternal life in the Eucharist because Christ said: *Whenever you eat of this Bread and drink of this cup, you preach My death and confess My Resurrection and remember Me until I come back.*

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE EUCHARIST

---

The Eucharist was called the breaking of bread in early Christianity. It is the center of the church’s life. It is very important to be well prepared to partake the Body and Blood of Christ. We need to follow all of the directions that are given to us inside the Church in order to learn how to receive the Eucharist

Clean heart, clean mind, clean body

- Self examination
- Repentance & confession

Practice the church faith: prayers, asheya, fasting

We come out of the Eucharist filled with light, love, joy and righteousness. Will we be able to give others what we were filled with?

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” John 6:54

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

---

### DAILY READINGS

---

Fifth Grade Curriculum:

## *God Calls Us to be Holy*

UNIT II: GOD CALLS A PEOPLE (12 LESSONS)

**Purpose:**

**LESSON 6:** INTRODUCTION

**LESSON 7:** GOD PREPARES A SAVIOR

**LESSON 8:** GOD SENDS THE SAVIOR

**LESSON 9:** GOD PREPARED TO TAKE HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT

**LESSON 10:** THE PASSOVER

**LESSON 11: GOD BAPTIZES HIS PEOPLE: THE RED SEA**

**LESSON 12: THE MANNA AND THE QUAILS**

**LESSON 13: THE WATER FROM THE ROCK**

**LESSON 14: THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**

**LESSON 15: THE GOLDEN CALF & THE CHANGE OF PRIESTHOOD**

**LESSON 16: THE TABERNACLE**

**LESSON 17: UNIT REVIEW**

## Unit II

**Purpose:** introduce the kids to the Book of Exodus as a story of sanctification

---

---

### LESSON 6: INTRODUCTION

---

SERVANT PREPARATION:

VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

Genesis 15

CREED:

---

CHURCH FATHERS:

---

REFLECTION:

---

PRAYER:

---

---

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---



## VOCABULARY:

---

**Israelite, salvation, sanctification**

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

## LESSON BODY:

---

### GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE

---

Discuss who are God's chosen people in the Old Testament. The **Israelites** were God's chosen, special people in the Old Testament. We're going to be talking about who they are during this lesson.

Who are God's chosen people now? Us! "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9)

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

---

God created Adam and Eve to enjoy His love. But they sinned and needed salvation! God's plan of salvation started from the beginning. God was working from the beginning

**Salvation:** bringing us back to a place where we belong. Adam & Eve in paradise, the Israelites in the promised land, us with Christ in Heaven.

God's plan was to create a SPECIAL nation where he can be born amongst them. When God chose His people, he wants them to be **sanctified**: sets them apart and filled with His Holiness. Whenever God finds His people mixed with the world, He takes them out.

## ABRAHAM TO MOSES

---

God called Abraham AWAY from his family and put a covenant on him (filled him). God promised Abraham a big nation but it was not the right time to give Abraham's people the land, it was not ready. God had a plan to bring the Israelites to the Promised Land but it would take a long time. If the people who lived in the Promised Land knew that Abraham's family was growing bigger and bigger, they would kill them before they were big enough to take over. God's plan was perfect because Abraham's family grew in a land far away, and it got very big, but the people who lived in the Promised Land didn't know this was happening.

How did Abraham's family move to a different country? Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob who had Joseph and his 11 brothers. Who remembers the story of Joseph?

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and sold him as a slave. Joseph was a slave in Egypt for a long time. He even ended up in prison after he refused to sin. His Honesty and God's grace propelled him to become pharaoh's right hand man. A famine forces Jacob family to buy wheat from Egypt where they meet Joseph. Pharaoh honored Joseph by inviting all his family to come and live in Egypt (80 people). They lived in Egypt for 400 years.

A new king who didn't know Joseph came into power and enslaved the Israelites. The king commissioned them to build mortar and bricks. God, however, had a plan to save His people. God was in charge and planning everything. He was the one who gave Joseph the gift of interpreting dreams so he would be in charge when the famine came. God prepared the famine so Joseph's whole family would move to Egypt.

## PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

## CONCLUSION

---

## REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

## VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### *3. CREED RECITATION:*

---

#### **DAILY READINGS**

**Unit II**

**Purpose:**

**LESSON 7:    GOD PREPARED A SAVIOR**

SERVANT PREPARATION:

VERSE & REFERENCES:

CREED:

CHURCH FATHERS:

REFLECTION:

PRAYER:

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

VOCABULARY:

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSON

---

We're starting a new unit. Who remembers the lesson from last week? We will be talking about "God calls a people." God chose the children of Israel as his people because the faith of their fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as the Savior of the whole world will come from among them.

Before God started to prepare the people, He needed to prepare a leader. A leader who will be able to lead them to Him as a sanctified or special people.

Who were God's chosen People?

How did God prepare them to be his people (the great Exodus = getting out)

Who was their leader? (Moses)

Did Moses need preparation to lead his people? In what aspects??(Challenge the kids to tell you a story from Moses' life that prepared him to lead the people.)

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

### LESSON BODY:

---

#### QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER

---

**Patience:** Was Moses always patient? (No, he killed the Egyptian) What did God do about it? (He sent him to learn patience in the desert for 40 days). After that Moses was the most patient person as the bible says

**Leadership and understanding.** Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house, he learned all the wisdom of the Egyptians, he needed that to lead the very stubborn nation of Israel. He used it also when he needed to talk with Pharaoh.

God was working throughout Moses' life to prepare him to lead God's people out of Israel. He planned for Moses to become the grandson of Pharaoh to learn wisdom and leadership. He led Moses to the desert for 40 years to learn patience and obedience. Most importantly, God sanctified Moses by setting him apart from the world then filling him with His holiness.

## DIVINE PROVIDENCE

---

God set Moses apart from the world. Moses was very special, all throughout Moses' life you see God working to show how special Moses...we'll review that now

An invisible hand reached into Moses' mother's womb and made the baby's face so beautiful she couldn't kill him, she didn't care if she'd be killed – she knew God wanted to save Moses just by looking at him. After taking care of Moses for 3 months, she couldn't do it anymore so she put him in a basket. The same invisible hand made the basket stuck on the bushes. The same invisible hand closes the womb of a different woman, who really wanted a child. The same invisible hand made the weather so hot the day the basket is in the water that the barren woman is in the water too.

The woman hears crying, sees the baby and recognizes it as a Hebrew baby. She knows the decree that the baby should be killed. But the baby is so beautiful – the invisible hand knew exactly what would impress this woman so much that she wouldn't want to kill the baby. On the same day the baby goes back to his mother with a new name and a new title New title = son of pharaoh

Divine providence: every action seems so natural, yet every single piece fits together. In what looks like everyday normal occurrences are miracles. The invisible hand of God is following me and it shows how much God cares about me. He doesn't shake the universe, he gently moves it so "everything works for the best for those who love God"

## BAPTISM

---

What is this Mystery? A mother brings baby to the water, then receives the baby again the same day with a new name and a new identity = baptism = sanctification

The word Moses means son of water - He was saved by the water twice

## EXAMPLES OF GOD'S SANCTIFICATION

---

**Abraham** "Now the LORD had said to Abram:

"Get out of your country,  
From your family  
And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you." (Gen12:1)

**Moses**

**Priests** take a 40 day seclusion period in a Monastery to be set apart from the world and be filled with God's holiness.

**Bishops** are chosen among Monks who were set apart from the world and filled with holiness. This enables them to serve God's people

**Jesus**, he went alone in the desert for 40 days before he begins his ministry to teach us to do that as well

**We are:** We too are special. God called us by name. We are His. We are separated from the world unto God. When we are baptized God separates us as His children.

Our calling is the same that God told the Israelites: *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"* (1 Peter 2:9) *"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. <sup>6</sup>And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"* (Exodus 19:5)

## PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

## CONCLUSION

---

As for us, we were already set aside to God from the world when our parents left us in God's hand in the Baptismal Font. We are a special people, a sanctified people for God.

God prepares leaders for his people, nothing in your life is happening for no reason. It is God who is weaving all these things together to prepare leader to lead his people.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

### DAILY READINGS



## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

### LESSON 8: GOD SENDS THE SAVIOR

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

#### VOCABULARY:

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSONS

---

What have we been talking about? The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years before it was time for them to leave. They were slaves and treated horribly so they needed a strong leader to bring them out.

How God prepares Spiritual Leaders. What are some of the qualities they need? **Wisdom & leadership, patience and SANCTIFICATION**

How was Moses separated? From his family, from pharaoh's family and went to the desert. This week we will talk about how Moses was filled with holiness. He had to be filled with holiness before leading his people to freedom.

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

God sanctifies us through special encounters/special places where I need to be REALLY attentive → we are made holy/pure/clean by these things:

- Gospel
- Communion
- Prayer

My taking off my shoes is a signal to me that I need to pay great attention and respect → practicing the fear of God = greatest respect and attention. Taking off our shoes is a great sign in our Church

When Moses saw burning bush it took his full attention

### LESSON BODY:

---

## THE BURNING BUSH

---

After killing the Egyptian Moses fled to the desert. One day he was taking care of a flock of sheep he went up a mountain. And Moses saw a huge fire in a bush BUT the bush was not burning! Moses got closer to see and he heard a voice saying

MOSES! MOSES!

And Moses answered: *Here I am*

“Moses” God spoke from the bush “take off your shoes because the ground you are standing on is holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, he was afraid to look upon God

“I have seen My people’s sufferings and have heard their cry, I know their sorrows and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them to the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I will send YOU, Moses, to pharaoh so that you can lead My children out of Egypt”

Moses said: who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?

God said “I will be with you Moses, and when you bring My people out of Egypt you will worship on this mountain.” And God told Moses Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go and God told Moses that God would smite the Egyptians and then Pharaoh would let them go and they would go with lots of jewels and precious things from the Egyptians. Moses asked God what he should do if the people didn’t believe him. God told Moses to take his rod and throw it on the ground and it would become a snake and if he were to pick it up again it would become a rod. God also told Moses to put his hand in his cloak and when he took it out it became like a leper’s hand – white as snow. Then if Moses put his hand back in his cloak it would return to normal. God told Moses to perform these signs so the Israelites would follow him. God gave Moses a 3<sup>rd</sup> sign to do: take water out of the river and put it on the land and it would become blood

## WHY GOD USES SIGNS

---

God uses signs so people can have faith. Signs are familiar things to people – everyone has their own unique sign. When God is about to do something really big, he gives them a sign.

In Moses' encounter with God: God gave Moses, the Israelites, and the Egyptians signs. What do think the sign was for the Egyptians and for Moses's people? Moses' hand and staff. What do you think was Moses' sign? *you will bring the people back to worship on this mountain*

E.g. Nativity: the sign is that a Virgin will give birth to the Son of God. Everyone had a sign to believe this miraculous event was taking place. Zacharias? his sign is that he became mute. St. Mary? her cousin, who she knows and is old, is pregnant. St. Elizabeth? she heard St. Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. The shepherds? the manger, it should have food not a baby. The wise men? the star

#### WE ENCOUNTER THE BURNING BUSH DURING COMMUNION, WHEN WE PRAY AND WHEN THE GOSPEL IS BEING READ

---

The Burning Bush was a place where God talked to Moses and God and Moses were very close. When does Christ talk to us? What was the 1<sup>st</sup> thing Moses did when he met God? He took off his shoes. When we meet God and are filled with His holiness we too need to take off our shoes → it's a sign to me that I need to pay a lot of attention because we are practicing the fear of God. These events require the greatest respect and attention.

(1) Communion – when we take communion we become like the burning bush because we're filled with Jesus Christ, God is dwelling inside us

(2) Prayer

(3) Reading the Gospel – Abouna stands with the censer offering incense. 2 deacons with candles. When the Gospel is being read, we might take off our shoes, we don't talk, we pay great attention, we don't move – they wait to sit until it's done. If you walk in when someone's reading the Gospel, stand in the door and don't move. We all stand

These 3 encounters with God are VERY important: we are sanctified through these special encounters with God. That means that I need to pay a lot of attention and be very focused during these times. Like Moses gave the burning bush a lot of attention, we need to give God a lot of attention during these times.

These encounters also make me holy and we need to keep ourselves holy – our body, tongue and senses.

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Mt. Sinai DVD chapter 15** – places where they show the tree

## CONCLUSION

---

Take away sandals meditation: we put on shoes because the ground is very hostile since the cursing – shoes as protection. When you take off your shoes you are admitting the land in this place is not cursed – you are going into a very special and very holy land that will give you a lot of good, not bad.

Where do you take off your shoes? Your BED – safest, best place. Take off your shoes where you're most comfortable

## REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

## VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

## 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

## DAILY READINGS

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 9: GOD PREPARED TO TAKE HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

##### Exodus 5-10;

**Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.”;

**Matthew 24:29** “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken”

**Zechariah 14: 6- 7** “It shall come to pass in that day / *That* there will be no light; The lights will diminish. It shall be one day / Which is known to the LORD— Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen / *That* it will be light.

**Amos 8:9** “And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord GOD “That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

Think about each plague a little deeper. The water turned into blood symbolizes the struggle to get closer to God and the necessity of changing our hearts. The plague of the frogs symbolizes a lot of talking nonsense/talking for no reason. The darkness calls to the darkness within and our need for real light in our everyday lives (reference book).

Why does God harden their hearts: Isaiah 6:10; 64. God is requiring a humble heart. We sometimes think that God can control the outside but He has no power over my heart, I have all the power over my heart. Pharaoh and the Israelites should have gone to God and asked Him to change us and manage the insides of our hearts. When God says "harden their hearts" it just means that God is not giving him grace. If we don't ask God to soften our heart, there is no way it will be softened

Humility: asking God to break our hearts, teach us to obey Him, change my heart → it's our free will, we cannot make our hearts go after God, I have the freedom to ask God to come and make the change. Here, God knows that they're not acknowledging Him, He leaves them

#### PRAYER:

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

Humble yourself before the Lord

1-Humble yourself before the Lord (echo) 2x

And He (echo)

Shall lift (echo)

You up

1. Higher and higher

2. Into the heavens

And He shall lift you up

Refrain:

Our God is an awesome God  
He reigns from Heaven above  
With wisdom, power, and love  
Our God is an awesome God

2-Serve the Lord with all your heart (echo) 2x  
And He (echo)  
Shall lift (echo)  
You up  
1. Higher and higher  
2. Into the heavens  
And He shall lift you up

3-Love your neighbor as yourself (echo) 2x  
And He (echo)  
Shall lift (echo)  
You up  
1. Higher and higher  
2. Into the heavens  
And He shall lift you up

#### VOCABULARY:

---

**Exodus, plague**

#### INTRODUCTION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Who were God's chosen people in the Old Testament? : **Israelites**

Who were they? : **Descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**

How did they get there? : through **Joseph**

How long did they live there? : **400 years**

God wanted to **sanctify** His people...what does that mean? : to set apart and to fill with holiness



Who was His chosen leader and how did he sanctify him?

Moses has to go to Egypt to separate the Israelites, God's chosen people. This takes place in the book of Exodus. What is an **Exodus** = going out departure. There are 3 exoduses in the Bible: Israelites from Egypt, Exodus of Christ to the Father, and the last Exodus of the Church to the age to come. All 3 always have plagues. Jesus had miracles, the last exodus it says Heaven and earth will be shaken, like labor pains.

#### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

#### CONNECTION POINT:

---

Know that God can control everything around me, but He can't work within me because I have free will. I have to humble myself and ask God to come and work within me.

We must ask God daily to come and change us. When we don't acknowledge God as the God of our hearts, things can go badly. Every day I have to bring my heart to God and ask God to let his Holy Spirit fix me

*Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble*  
Proverbs 28:14

#### LESSON BODY:

---

##### WHY THE 10 PLAGUES?

---

Exodus 5 - <sup>1</sup> Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'" <sup>2</sup> And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."

WHY?: God chose to do all this to show His power to both the Egyptians and the Israelites. All the plagues were against the Egyptian gods to show their weaknesses, their magic could not compete. God is using the plagues to prepare to take His people out of Egypt to the Holy Land. This is important because the Israelites were in slavery for 400 years. There had been abused

and living in slavery, God did not want them looking back after they left so the Israelites had to see His power. Shows that God is loving, but not weak.

The Israelites were not touched during the plagues because they were **sanctified** by God. They were separated from the Egyptians.

### THE PLAGUES – 1<sup>ST</sup> EIGHT

---

What is a **plague**? any widespread affliction, calamity, or evil. Especially one regarded as a direct punishment by God.

**Water to Blood:** the Egyptians used to worship the Nile so God changed it from good water to rotten/bad so they were not able to use it at all

**Frogs** – refers to an Egyptian god (oserees) when the frog expands its jaw it was thought to be a godly act from this god. God meant to show them that the frogs can actually cause damage and harm

**Gnats (lice)** – the Egyptian priest used to be very clean/careful. The lice was **created** from dust and the Egyptian magicians couldn't mimic this plague. God is the only one who can create things. The magicians even commented that this must be the finger of God working

**Flies** – the Egyptians believed in gods that killed all the flies/don't let flies bother them/responsible for cleaning Egypt from the flies. He was showing them their god was nothing

**Death of livestock** - Egyptians used to worship some of the animals like the calf, so again God showed the weakness of their gods

**Boils** - the Egyptians used to do human sacrifices to their gods and spread the ashes of these people around the country for blessings and they used to use Israelites for these sacrifices. God commanded Moses to use ashes to cause the boils to show that this was not a blessing

**Hail** - it shows the warning/power of God

**Locusts** - shows the weaknesses of the Egyptian gods because the locusts killed all the crops which were very important for the Egyptians. Weaknesses of the Egyptian gods because they were not able to feed their people

1<sup>st</sup> two plagues: magicians were doing exactly what Moses was doing

3<sup>rd</sup> Plague: do not do it – said it was the Finger of God

4<sup>th</sup> Plague: they had it on them – begged Pharaoh to let Israelites go

### THE NINTH PLAGUE: DARKNESS

---

**Darkness** - came as a sign to prepare the Israelites that they were leaving and the Egyptians that the coming plague was the last and final blow.

We know time by the cycle of light. Light is the source of time. Making darkness tells the people who work on the cycle of time that their time is done - telling Egypt that its over, their time is done. The coming plague is the final one. In Genesis God made the light and darkness for times, seasons, and signs.

In the Bible we can actually find two other Exodus journeys - two big events that come with warning signs similar to these plagues - 1) Jesus on the Cross (Exodus of Christ to the Father) where first He did miracles that resembled the plagues and it was dark from the 3rd to the 6th hours. Time is up 2) the Exodus of the Church to Heaven at the end of times where there is first "labor pains" similar to the plagues.

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- Pictures of plagues

#### CONCLUSION

---

Next week we'll be discussing the 10<sup>th</sup> plague: First born – **Passover** = the beginning of months. Take an unblemished lamb, a male of the first year. Kill it at twilight. Put some of its blood on the doorposts. They shall eat the flesh on that night, roasted, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Let none remain.

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

#### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

#### DAILY READINGS

---

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

#### LESSON 10: THE PASSOVER

---

##### SERVANT PREPARATION:

---

##### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

**Movie** the Messiah: Prophecy Fulfilled part 2

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQRlAA4gAZ8>) Explains Passover – time for whole family to gather together. Prepare by 1st taking out the yeast from the house (leavened bread) job of older person in house to clean it. 2nd between 3-5pm they sit at the table oldest next to youngest. The youngest asks the questions – “why is the night so special, more than any other night?” “This is the night our Lord delivered **us**” (not our ancestors because if God didn’t deliver our ancestors we would still be there). Must ask “us”. If “**they**” = stubborn, doesn’t want to be counted as one of the family. Is then later excluded

Taking the yeast out of the house is the 1<sup>st</sup> part of sanctification: stopping to see my sin, which leads to repentance and confession. Zephaniah 1:12 – the priest of the church has to find out what’s wrong with the people and rebuke the people and clean it. How can we clean the leaven in the church, what is our Passover? The Eucharist.

Corinthians 5:6 – leaven is a common theme in the Bible, “malice and wickedness” as old leaven.

This is a preparation for the golden calf lesson. Moses gets frustrated and breaks the two stone tables and says whoever belongs to God let him come to me = the first born, the ones God bought who should have been dead. The first born didn’t come but the Levites did come and replaced the first born. 1st Numbers = counting first born, 2nd Numbers = replacing first born with Levites.

---

##### CREED:

---

CHURCH FATHERS:

---

REFLECTION:

---

PRAYER:

---

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

*SONG:*

---

You are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak

You are the treasure that I seek

You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel

Lord, to give up I'd be a fool

You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Jesus, Lamb of God

Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame

Rising up again I bless Your name

You are my all in all

When I fall down You pick me up

When I am dry You fill my cup

You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name  
Jesus, Lamb of God  
Worthy is Your name

#### VOCABULARY:

---

**Passover**

#### INTRODUCTION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

#### CONNECTION POINT:

---

We try our best not to sin, but we're not perfect. God gives us the means to sanctify ourselves.

Focus on repentance/confession & Eucharist. How are we sanctified? By being set apart and being united with God. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> part.

We are holy because we are sanctified and consecrated. Discuss boundaries with the kids.

#### LESSON BODY:

---

#### WHAT IS THE PASSOVER

---

It is a Jewish holiday that commemorates when the Israelites in Egypt were freed from 430 years of slavery.

“Every firstborn son of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the first born son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the first born of the cattle as well.” (Ex11:5). The first born could be a little baby, a teenager, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather! Four or five generations were killed on one night including slaves and animals. The first born is the leader, the power of the family and will carry on the family. With animals, the 1<sup>st</sup> born is the strongest.

When the angel saw the blood on the homes of the Hebrews, he passed over without harming anyone or killing their first born or cattle.

#### WHAT GOD ASKED THE HEBREWS TO DO

---

1. Mark this day on the calendar, keep it as a ceremony every year, and pass it down to your children. (Ex12:25-27)
2. Take a lamb or a goat one year old, no blemish, from the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and keep it till the 14<sup>th</sup>.
3. Slaughter them at twilight, save the blood in a basin.
4. Do not break any of its bones
5. Use hyssop to sprinkle some of the blood over the doorpost (overhead frames and sides)
6. Eat the meat roasted over the fire, bitter and herbs.
7. Burn any left over.
8. Eat in a hurry, wearing your clothes, belt, shoes or sandals, staff in your hand, packed ready to leave.
9. Eat unleavened bread for 7 days. Unleavened bread = bread without yeast.

#### THE PASSOVER LAMB IN RELATION TO CHRIST AND THE EUCHARIST

---

The Passover lamb was a symbol of Christ in many aspects, it was the prophecy for Jesus crucifixion and salvation. We want to link or connect the Passover lamb with Christ fulfilling the prophecy for our salvation. We will apply that with our practice in the liturgy, commemorating Jesus' sacrifice.

When the Jews celebrate Passover, they are not thinking of it as a memorial but they are actually part of the Exodus, sharing in the Exodus. If they don't do it, they are not counted as people of God. The Passover makes them part of a big family, they are taking the same meat and food at the same table as their ancestors. We likewise believe that we become one with the disciples at the Last Supper. We are not repeating what they did, we are partaking of it

**Removing the yeast from the house:** The elder of the family searches everywhere in the house with a lamp for yeast. He makes sure there is none of it

- The yeast represents sin.
- Jesus is without sin.
- We need to get rid of all sin before approaching communion. The Holy Spirit is looking at my heart, sees what's not right and that is what actually cleanses me. We must pray for this in liturgy over and over. I don't know what's wrong with me, Holy Spirit please come and show me.

**Each man is to take a lamb for his family,** one for each household but if any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor

- Everybody takes Communion
- Abouna splits the Body of Christ for us to share

**The lamb is without blemish:**

- Jesus who was without fault.
- In the liturgy, Abouna chooses the loaf of bread without any burns it has to be perfect

**The chosen lamb should be 1 yrs old:** the prime of the lamb's life, is fully developed and not premature.

- Jesus died when he was in the prime of his youth 33 year old
- In the Liturgy we offer God the prime time of the day, the early morning.

**No bones should be broken in the lamb and the lamb should not be sick**

- Jesus was healthy and perfect and they didn't break his bones. As Jesus died with his own will, he laid his own life for us.
- The bread should be perfect (well rounded and well baked)

**The family has to finish eating the whole lamb, nothing would be a leftover**

- Likewise, Jesus was not left on the Cross, he was buried the same night.
- We also finish the whole body of Christ in the Eucharist



**The lamb is kept for 5 days in the house** - he becomes a part of the family

- Likewise Jesus is so precious to us and he was in Jerusalem from the palm Sunday till his crucifixion
- We spend time in the liturgy with Jesus, which is why we spend 3 hours with Him.

**The Lamb saved the Hebrews and gave them freedom**

- It's a symbol of Jesus who saved us and gave us eternal life.
- In the Liturgy we celebrate eternal life - obtain salvation, remission of sins and eternal life to whomever partakes of Him

**Blood on door posts:** they were physically set apart (sanctified). The homes were set apart by blood. This blood stayed on the doors when they left. Imagine an empty city with blood on the doorposts.

- Blood of the lamb on the door is in the shape of the cross.
- We also have a mark, because of the Body and Blood that we eat. The Angel of God knows and can see our mark.

## EXODUS

---

Exodus means come out of. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> book in the old Testament, and the Biography of the life of Moses.

When Pharaoh and the Egyptians asked the Hebrews to leave, the Hebrews left without a plan to where they will move, completely trust and obedience to every word God said.

Never was obedience more clear than here, the ones obeyed lived and were free, the ones who disobeyed perished.

## PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Activity sheet**
- **Matzo, better herbs to dip in vinegar for the kids to taste**
- **Assign to households:** divide the kids into groups and give them Jewish names for each household. They can also wear robes as costumes. Take the 1<sup>st</sup> born from each household and give him/her the rules of the Passover to tell their family.

## CONCLUSION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

1. What happened to the people of God during the plagues?
2. How could the Hebrews be saved from the last plague?
3. What does the slain lamb remind us of today? What does it symbolizes?
4. Can the lamb be old or weak, have a blemish or a broken leg?
5. Could the Hebrews keep the leftover lamb to eat the next day?
6. Did they have time to bake their bread for the journey?
7. Why do you think that the Egyptians urged the Hebrews to leave quickly giving them gold and silver?
8. How do you think the Hebrews felt when they left Egypt?
9. They carried with them the bones of \_\_\_\_\_, a son of Jacob.

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

### DAILY READINGS

---

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 11: GOD BAPTIZES HIS PEOPLE: THE RED SEA

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

“As many as have been baptized onto Christ have put on Christ” Galatians 3:27

Romans 6

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

## VOCABULARY:

---

### Providence

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

The Passover and the crossing of the red sea are the 2 most important events in the history of the Jewish, in the Old Testament for the Christians, and the whole world too.

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

The children should understand there is not friendship or union between God and the world. Unity with the world would be as if an Israelite stayed behind and tried to help the Egyptians – this would lead to death of the Israelite and the Egyptian. E.g. Noah, he could either build the ark and be made fun of, or give up making the ark and become like the others and die with them.

We have a fear of being alone. We can only separate from the world if we have courage and strength from God. We know that separation from the world isn't easy, it wasn't easy for the Israelites either. The separation comes from a realization that we're not one of them. You need a father of confession and a relationship with God.

People aren't "good" and "bad" they're either in the church or not in the church (we shouldn't judge anyone). We need to separate from the people not in the church. When you eat something different, when you won't do drugs, go on a date etc. the kids will make fun of you (you will be persecuted) and you have to know right then that you are different. If you don't know that you're different, you're going to be in trouble.

When you have the Chalice and Patten: would you let anyone from the street come and use it? Same with us – but the point is what would you do when the sanctification is threatened? If people want to take my body or my mind, or my eyes or my ears and make them regular? Are you going to stand by and watch or are you going to defend? What happens when you defend? They're will be a fight, and you'll get hurt - You're identity will be threatened, how will you defend yourself

## LESSON BODY:

---

### THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

---

Show maps of the route of the Exodus. Explain to the kids how God led them - a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of smoke by day. "By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in the pillar of fire to give them light." Ex13:21

God led the people through Egypt towards the Promised Land. He led them to a place and it looked like they were blocked in.

### THE ISRAELITES APPEAR TO BE TRAPPED

---

God cornered the Israelites by bringing them to the Red Sea. Pharaoh thinks they got lost so he saw it as a perfect opportunity to charge but actually God brought them to the only part where they could actually cross the Red Sea, where the slope was gentle enough that they could cross

When the Hebrews were blocked in between the Red Sea, the desert and the Egyptians, they were terrified, and started to blame Moses. Moses answered, "Fear not, stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will fight for you and you have only to be still." Ex14:14. God actually brought them to the only part where they could actually cross the Red Sea, where the slope was gentle enough that they could cross

Moses asked the people to (1) not be afraid (2) stand firm (3) watch what the Lord will do (4) be still, hold your peace

God's **providence**. Sometimes when I feel trapped, it might be the only way for an exit. The things that make us scared are the things that God uses to help us. When we stick to God and don't yield to temptation, God sticks with us

### GOD SAVED THE ISRAELITES

---

God did many things to save the Israelites when they thought they were trapped. First, he told them to move forward: "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on." Ex14:15

He moved the cloud from above them to behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. He opened a path through the red sea, and sent a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. Lastly, He brought confusion to the Egyptians. "He made the wheels of their chariots come off, so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'" Ex14:25

#### THE ISRAELITES WERE BAPTIZED BY CROSSING THE RED SEA

---

The cloud of water vapor above them and two walls of water on the side show how they were completely immersed in Red Sea. This also shows that the good that God wants to preserve is continuing through (the Israelites) and the bad (the Egyptians) are destroyed.

A baby goes into baptism and is preserved while the bad things are destroyed. The Israelites were cut out from Egypt. We are cut out from the world (separated) by our Baptism. The Israelites were baptized with Moses so they had complete union with Moses (1 Cor 1:1-2 *all were baptized onto Moses*). It's like a marriage, they became one- Moses can never leave them and they cannot leave him. Likewise, when we are baptized with Christ we become one with Him. Whatever He does, we will do, whatever you do, He does. We are linked with Christ

***"As many as have been baptized onto Christ have put on Christ"*** Galatians 3:27

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Maps of the route of the Exodus**
- **Exodus Revealed** – chapter 8, about 45-50 minutes in. the crossing site has been prepared for thousands of years. The spot they were standing on is the only place where they were safe and they didn't know it.

#### CONCLUSION

---

The powerful God who divided the Red Sea is the same powerful God of the resurrection. If we obey, follow the rules and pray with reverence and attendance we will live through the life of the Lord through the Liturgy. Through the blood of the lamb we will pass from disobedience to obedience, from chaos to order, from intendance and disrespect to complete reverence and respecting the presence of God.

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Q. Why did Pharaoh follow the people?

Q. How were the people rescued?

Q. Who was really trapped?

Q. What does Pharaoh stand for? Who do the Hebrews stand for?

When evil men fight against God, they will receive their justice.

*VERSE TO REMEMBER:*

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

*3. CREED RECITATION:*

---

**DAILY READINGS**

---

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 12: THE MANNA AND THE QUAILS

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

---

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

Exodus 16

John 6:22-71

- John 6: 35: *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."*
- John 6:27 *Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.*
- John 6:49 *Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.*

Potato flakes meditation: What stinks and brings worms = meat, not potato flakes. The Eucharist is the same as the manna, it is the same material as Christ's body and blood but in a different form. "you are what you eat"= if you eat something it actually turns into your body. If I eat the manna but do not have faith then the next day our flesh will be like the rotting Manna. We do not trust in God that He will provide everyday, your own flesh that is eating the manna will be dead/rotting and bringing worms (do not worry)

---

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---



The Lord provided his people with food and water even when they were in the desert for 40 years. We are in a much better position today in our lives and we still have lack of faith in Christ. I must always remember that no matter what situation I am in, God is always watching over me, taking care of me and providing for me my needs. I must also remember that eternal life is through communion and it is a big blessing that we are given this privilege.

PRAYER:

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

---

INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ask the students about the previous week's lesson on crossing the red sea, how was this related to the sacraments of the church? What did they learn from last week's lesson?

Just as they Israelites had to trust in God and believe that He would save them from the Egyptians, they also had to trust in God and believe that He would provide them food in the desert.

How our Bread from Heaven is actually Communion given by Abouna.

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

CONNECTION POINT:

---

Trust in God/Faith. Special focus in the Eucharist: if we believe God will provide for us, He'll provide for us food to live forever.

#### LESSON BODY:

---

##### THE MANNA FROM HEAVEN

---

Every Sunday we go to liturgy and come to class and we have food, right? Well can you imagine if you were an Israelite and you had just run away from Pharoah and you're now in the desert...what do you do??? There are no fast food restaurants to go to!

When the Israelites went into the desert they began to lose faith in God and they started to complain! God heard their prayers and he provided them food—What did the Lord provide them??

Have the students read the story in Exodus of the manna and the quails. Manna will rain down from heaven. They had to completely trust that God would give them what they needed and none of them would go hungry as long as they obeyed the rules.

*And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Exodus 1-3*

*<sup>6</sup> Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?" <sup>8</sup> Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord."*

*<sup>9</sup> Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'"<sup>10</sup> Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.*

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

<sup>13</sup> So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. <sup>14</sup> And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat Exodus 16: 6-15

...

"And the house of Israel called its name manna, and it was white like coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey." Exodus 16: 31

...

<sup>35</sup> And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. Exodus 16:35

#### COLLECTING THE MANNA

---

Pay special attention to the rules associated with collecting the manna.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily." Exodus 16:4

...

<sup>16</sup> This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'"

<sup>17</sup> Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. <sup>18</sup> So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. <sup>19</sup> And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." <sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. <sup>21</sup> So

*they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.*

*<sup>22</sup> And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'" <sup>24</sup> So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. <sup>25</sup> Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. <sup>26</sup> Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."*

*<sup>27</sup> Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. <sup>28</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? <sup>29</sup> See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." <sup>30</sup> So the people rested on the seventh day. Exodus 16: 16-30*

Review the important rules for collecting the manna: (1) the fathers collect it for the family (2) none can remain until the next day or it will rot (3) there is always enough (4) they can't collect any on the Sabbath so on the 6<sup>th</sup> day they collect twice as much and it won't rot the next day

The Israelites had to trust in God, if you take more than what you need it won't last. If you know that God gave you a commandment not to work on Saturday do you expect God will send manna on Saturday? Shows belief that God won't do things he says he won't – they'll go out and not find anything

Talking about faith - if you get your days portion, trust God will give you the next day. If you don't trust him then you see the visible results of not trusting in God – we'll rot

#### THE MANNA AND THE EUCHARIST

---

Ask the kids what sacrament the manna reminds them of. Compare the four rules for the manna mentioned above with four rules of the Eucharist:

- 1) Abouna, the Father, gives communion
- 2) None of the Eucharist remains until the next day, Abouna always finishes it all
- 3) There is always enough Blood and Body

- 4) We keep the holy day, holy – we must keep Sunday for Christ – commandment of keeping the Sabbath Holy came before the manna, God wanted to keep this first covenant which came before food. This means that we keep Sunday holy and come to church, we don't work but the Church works for us.

#### THE MANNA THAT WILL NEVER SPOIL

---

*Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" <sup>33</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations." <sup>34</sup> As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. Exodus 16:32-34*

Why was this portion left in the Ark? So they can see with their senses what will happen when people don't trust God and we don't have faith we'll rot like the extra manna  
The portion that stays in the Ark of the Covenant that will stay forever: communion. The Jews can't take from it because Jesus didn't come yet, talks about the food that people will eat and stay forever. In the Ark of the Covenant is the rod, tablet, manna- different messages- priesthood (Israelites could not get it), food kept for eternity (Israelites could not get it- Eucharist),

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Frosted Flakes and cups** – pass out Frosted Flakes to each of the kids. Tell the kids to only take what they think they will eat and not to have any leftover!

#### CONCLUSION

---

##### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Why did God send the manna to the Israelites?

What happened when someone tried to take more manna than needed?

How is the manna like Communion?

What do we need to do to be able to receive Communion?

The Lord will always provide for you. The Body and Blood of Christ will give you eternal life. He who eats of His flesh and drinks from his blood shall not perish but have eternal life.

*VERSE TO REMEMBER:*

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

*3. CREED RECITATION:*

---

**DAILY READINGS**

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 13: THE WATER FROM THE ROCK

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

Samaritan woman  
John 7:37 – 39 living water

John 19:31-37 - not one of His bones shall be broken. By the death of Christ and piercing of His side the disciples got their sign, were assured that the Holy Spirit would be given to them, whatever He promised would be given out of His own body and spirit

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

St. John the celibate: our way of being quenched is discovering Christ through liturgy. Started with baptism, being one with Christ. We offer all our prayers to Christ- agpeya- each hour is a meeting with Christ; -liturgy is what the Israelites were doing by the rock; waiting to be quenched by the water as we participate in liturgy to be quenched in the end by communion. The first 15 minutes after communion is when God is permeating the body with grace. It's like He's settling in.

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

## LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Last class we talked about how the Israelites complained and God sent them manna and quails but it says in the NT that the Israelites ate the manna in the wilderness and died but Jesus is the bread of life, all who eat of Him shall not die, but live. Eucharist is the bread that comes from Heaven. Also taught us to trust in God and to have faith:

2 weeks ago we talked about how God Baptizes His people: Crossing of the Red Sea. This is where God really separated His people from the Egyptians. We talked about how we have to really separate ourselves from the world as well. Like the Israelites couldn't remain with the Egyptians and go through the Red Sea, we can't remain friends/united to the world and with God. Separation from the world isn't easy

We're like sponges that are dry. Either we can be filled with good clean water or we can be filled with dirty water. Either way, we're going to be filled because we have a need inside of us. And it is up to us, with guidance from our Father of Confession, on how to be filled. We're going to talk a lot more about this today, so keep it in mind.

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

---



Jesus is the source of quenching, answer to the separation. When we feel lonely, when we feel pressured by the world to mingle, when we feel not good enough → our closeness to Jesus is the solution.

#### LESSON BODY:

---

#### THE ISRAELITES WERE THIRSTY

---

We're continuing our journey with Moses and the Israelites and so the next thing that happened was

One day, Moses was leading the children of Israel from the Wilderness of Sin as the Lord commanded him. When they stopped to camp for the night, there was no water for the people to drink.

**Israelite 1** (says to Moses): Moses! We have traveled long and far. We are thirsty and have searched for water but we can't find any!

**Israelite 2** (also to Moses): Yea! Come on Moses! Give us water to drink!

**Moses:** Why do you test me? Most importantly, why are you tempting the Lord?

**Israelite 3:** What do you mean Moses? We are thirsty! We followed you out of Egypt to be saved.

**Israelite 4:** What are you trying to do? Kill us with our children and our livestock! We would have been better off in Egypt Moses. It's true, we were slaves, but at least we had water to drink!

**Moses** (turns away from them and says): Lord, what shall I do with these people?! They are almost ready to stone me!

**Narrator:** And the Lord said to Moses "Go on before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river and go. Behold I will stand before you there on the rock, and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it that the people may drink."

*Moses strikes the "rock" and water comes out.*

**Moses:** Surely, we should never tempt the Lord saying "Is the Lord among us or not". The Lord is always here protecting us and when we thirst, he will give us the water to drink.

This story seems very similar to the story about the manna and the quails – it shows that the Israelites lacked faith that God would take care of them and it teaches us to always trust in God and turn to Him when we are in need of anything. BUT we compared the manna to the body of Christ.

#### LIVING WATER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

---

Water has a very special significance in the New Testament, because of what happened here. Does anyone have any idea where water, and especially someone thirsty for water comes into play? The Samaritan Woman

Summary of the story: Jesus left Judea and went to travel to Galilee. In order to get there, he needed to go through Samaria. When he arrived to Sychar, which was a city of Samaria, he was wearied from his journey and sat by the well. It was the sixth hour (about 12 noon).

A woman of Samaria came to draw water from the well and Jesus said to her, give me a drink. Then the Samaritan woman said to him, wondering “How is it that You being a Jew ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” because at this time, Jews did not deal with Samaritans.

**Jesus said to her, if you knew who this is who asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you the living water.**

**The Samaritan woman, still unsure and doubting of who Jesus was said, “Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where then do you get that living water?”**

**Jesus tells her “whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**

The Samaritan woman asks Jesus to give her this water so that she may not thirst, and Jesus says to her, “Go call your husband”

She says “I have no husband”. And Jesus answered saying “You have spoken well when you say ‘I have no husband’ for you have had five husbands and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

She then asks if he is a prophet. She then says, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, He will tell us all things”

Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you, am He”

Then the disciples came and saw Jesus and thought, “why is he talking to that woman?”

Then she went out and told everyone “Come see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

## SOURCE OF WATER

---

In the story, Jesus quenched the woman's need for love because He is the source of unconditional love. Jesus is the SOURCE of this water but the water itself, what quenches us is the Holy Spirit

Jesus is like the Rock, because when He was on the Cross – out of Him came water and blood. When Christ was pierced on the Cross, it was a sign that He was the new rock for us

The water is the Holy Spirit

Where did Jesus give us this living water? Pentecost

## WE ARE SPONGES

---

Remember earlier I said we were like sponges? And we can be filled with clean water or dirty water? This clean water is the Holy Spirit. How are we refilled with the Holy Spirit?

When we separate ourselves from the world, we will have a need within us. We'll feel empty and like a sponge, need water to quench us. By coming closer to Christ, the rock, we will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be quenched.

The spiritual quench comes from God through sacrament and prayer:

**Communion-** We are quenched when we receive Christ. When Jesus was on the cross and his side was pierced, water and blood came forth. One of the kids asks "if this water is so important, why isn't water a part of communion?"

The answer would be that water is in fact a very important part of communion because when preparing the blood, we mix both wine and water

We should try to remain quiet and still after taking communion, to really feel and meditate on Christ within us

**Prayer and Worship-** In order to receive Christ, we need to be 'thirsty'. The Israelites were thirsty for the physical water. The Samaritan woman was thirsty for the true and perfect love (spiritual water). In both cases, they asked of God for this water. Moses cried out to the Lord in prayer and the Samaritan woman asked the Lord herself "where can I get this living water?" These are parallels for our prayer. We need to ask and request that the Lord relieve us from the agony and emptiness of thirst and to fill us with his fountain of quenching love that is eternal.

→ Especially praying with the agpeya. Every hour is a cupful of water thrown on us

## PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Mountain of Fire DVD chapter 16** – show scene of split rock

## CONCLUSION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

### DAILY READINGS

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 14: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

Exodus 19-20

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

#### VOCABULARY:

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

God's chosen people in the Old Testament were sanctified

Q. Who are God's chosen people in the Old Testament?

Q. What does Sanctification mean?

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

The Jews would view the commandments as the first tool of sanctification. By the commandments God sets them apart. In America the Jewish people are set apart by the Sabbath – can't use any machinery, have to walk to the church no matter how far they live – compel them stay close to the temple, they are the only people living around their sanctuary, have places that are very Jewish. By the Sabbath they are set apart, sanctified

Talk about the fear of God: Israelites couldn't tolerate the voice of God, they weren't prepared. Moses was the only who was prepared and could take it in.

### LESSON BODY:

---

#### GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO THE ISRAELITES

---

Exodus 19-20

The Israelites were walking through desert for a long time and God was leading them and guiding them. God told Moses to tell the people: *"Now therefore, if you keep My covenant, you shall be a special people to Me above all nations; for all the earth is Mine. You shall be to Me a royal priesthood and a holy nation."* (Exodus 19:5-6)

So Moses went to the people and told them all that God told him. The people responded and said, everything God says to do, we will do. *And the Lord said to Moses "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever."* (Exodus 19:9). Moses told the people that the Lord was going to speak to them but they had to get ready first.

#### THE ISRAELITES PREPARE TO HEAR GOD

---

Exodus 9:10-15

*<sup>10</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. <sup>11</sup> And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. <sup>12</sup> You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. <sup>13</sup> Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."*

*<sup>14</sup> So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup> And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives."*

#### GOD SPEAKS TO THE ISRAELITES

---

Exodus 19:16-20

*<sup>16</sup> Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup> And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain<sup>[a]</sup> quaked greatly. <sup>19</sup> And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. <sup>20</sup> Then the Lord came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.*

The Lord then spoke the 10 Commandments to the people but they were very afraid.

*<sup>18</sup> Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."*

*<sup>20</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." <sup>21</sup> So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. Exodus 20-18:21*

This shows that the Israelites who were with Moses were so very afraid after what they saw and were afraid that God was going to kill them, but Moses told them not to fear and that God shows his power to keep us in fear away from sin, but not away from God.

We have fear of God that motivates us to be fearful of sin as well but this same God that they feared was the God that provided the food for them and the water when they were thirsty.

We must remember that the fear of God is a loving fear and knowledge of God's capacity of power but also his capacity of love.

The most important thing for us to remember is that God has the power to do anything. When we love him and obey his commandments we will be in the favor of this power. When we are sinful and disobey his commandments, we risk ourselves in being condemned by this power. And just as God has the power to bless and to condemn, he has the perfect and generous love to forgive when we disobey his commandments.

## THE COMMANDMENTS

---

Part Two: The commandments:

Ask the kids: Where are the commandments? The Commandments are now engraved on our hearts to have in front of us at all times, meaning they were given for us all and not just for those back in the time of Moses. There

Compare Jesus and Moses: Moses was given the commandments, but he couldn't get the people ready to receive them. Christ prepared us to receive the Holy Spirit which then allowed us to receive the commandments on our hearts conscience tells us what's right and wrong

What are the Commandments? They are a covenant between God and man. Sometimes referred to as "the tablets of the covenant" (Deut. 9:11) and "the book of the covenant (ex. 24:7)

What are some examples of the number 10 in other parts of the bible, agpeya, liturgy, etc? 1- represents PERFECTION in the law. The **10 Virgins** at the Wedding (Matthew 25 and in the first watch of the midnight hour in the agpeya) refer to the whole world. **Tithes** (man should give God one tenth of his wealth). Applies to its multiples, too (grading is out of 100 in school)



## THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

---

Each commandment can apply to us today and can even help us when we go to confess to Abouna.

Ask the kids if they remember the theme for the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 commandments. They govern our relationship with God.

Ask the kids if they remember the theme for the last 6 commandments. They govern our relationship with other people.

1<sup>st</sup> Commandment: **I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me** - Facebook, Money, etc.

2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment: **You shall not make for yourself an idol** - Images: computers (e.g. facebook), videogames, TV → all images that attract people and take over their hearts and we worship these images. We worship them by spending our life in front of them

3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment: **Do not take the name of the Lord in vain** - Oh my God!, Jesus Christ!, etc. When the name is uttered for any reason other than worshipping God.

4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy** - No work should be done on Sunday. All of your hw should be done before hand so the day can be spent praising God and with family and friends. You should also not be alone on Sunday, playing a computer game or video game by yourself. You should spend this time with God and family.

5<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **Honor your father and mother** - Obey your parents!

6<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **You shall not kill** - doesn't have to be a literal murder but can be throwing someone down (making fun of them → killing self-esteem)

7<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **You shall not commit adultery** - boyfriend and girlfriend – represents the idea of everything having certain time and place

8<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **You shall not steal** - taking things without permission – give it to the person in charge

9<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor** - lying is never the answer because as we've learned the devil is the father of lies

10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or anything that belongs to your neighbor** - be grateful for what you have and thank God. Shouldn't say that I wish I had a bigger

house like my friend because there are some people that aren't lucky enough to even have a house

These commandments show us who God *is*. He says don't kill, He's the source of life; He says don't commit adultery, He's never tempted. The commandments speak of God's nature. When we break a commandment, we are breaking God's law, which is a law of love and we're going against God's nature.

### THE NEW COMMANDMENT

---

The old law, the 10 commandments, can be summarized in a two verses. Ask the kids if they know the verses. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37-40)

The new commandment is: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* John 13:34

### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

### CONCLUSION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Have the kids recite the 10 Commandments and the new commandment

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light* (1 Peter 2:9)

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

### DAILY READINGS

---

## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 15: THE GOLDEN CALF AND THE CHANGE OF PRIESTHOOD

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

Matthew 21:43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.”

Exodus 19: 5,6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. <sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

Book of Numbers - the people are numbered 3 times. 1<sup>st</sup> to count all the males to inherit the land (above 20) ; 2<sup>nd</sup> then the Levities (to substitute the Levites for the firstborn) ; 3<sup>rd</sup> census is counting the firstborn males

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

## LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

---

---

## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

What are the 10 Commandments?

How did God appear to the Israelites? Mountain shaking with fire and trumpets.

Where they able to see Him? God is fearful and awesome and while He loves us and we love Him, we must also respect Him. Highest respect should be given to God.

Do we respect Him at church? At home? Is He the focus of our lives?

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### CONNECTION POINT:

In the previous lesson, the Israelites did not hear or see God. Moses was the one whom God communicated with and Moses in turn told Aaron, his brother, God's commandments. Aaron then was the main intercessor of God's word to the people. He was responsible for communicating God's commandments to the people and he was also responsible for offering gifts and sacrifices to God on behalf of the people, that they might be reconciled to Him. Who in church today is the intercessor for the people? Who hears our sins then offers them up to God for our reconciliation to Him?

Abounas in our Church today play a similar role to Aaron and the priests of the Old Testament. By following Christ's commandments we will be also be called "a special treasure" and a "holy nation"

#### LESSON BODY:

---

#### THE GOLDEN CALF

---

Ask the kids if any of them know how priests were chosen in the OT?

Review story of the Golden Calf: after Moses and the Israelites heard the 10 commandments, Moses ascended to the top of Mt. Sinai he was there for a really long time talking to God. It says in the Bible that Christ and Moses were friends and they talked as friends. But the people were impatient: *Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."* (Exodus 32:1)

When Moses came down from the Mountain and saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf he became very upset and angry. But he still asked God to forgive the people their sins. Moses is a true Christian in the sense that he truly loved the people, although he hated their sins.

Then Moses did something really interesting. He stood at the entrance of the camp and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me." Moses called God's people out from the crowds.

What characteristic would you use to describe the Israelites? Impatience? The Israelites lost sight of the true God because of this impatience. We see many examples of patience in the Bible because his people were dedicated to his will - Jacob worked a total of 14 years before receiving the Rachel as his wife, Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah after many years of dedicated prayer. Sarah was beyond child-bearing age (Abraham about 100 years old)

What does the Bible teach us about patience?

*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;  
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,  
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass (Psalm 37:7)*

Tunnel Vision is the loss of peripheral vision with retention of central vision, resulting in a constricted field of vision. Sometimes this is how we must treat our outlook towards God. As

long as we remain focused on him, his ideals, his laws, and his love, we cannot stray away from goodness. However, once we let our vision run without control, this is when we run into trouble

We can see the overlap between this story and the story of Adam and Eve. *“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* (Genesis 2:16) - They were only limited in eating a single thing but could not have the focus to not be led astray. In the Gregorian liturgy, the priest says “Of one plant have You forbidden me to eat, that of which You have said to me, “Of it only do not eat.” But according to my will, I did eat. I put Your law behind me by my own counsel, and became slothful toward your commandments.” Likewise, although the Israelites were able to see the glory of God, they became distracted and thus fell into sin

In the end, they were to make a decision: When Moses returned from the Mount, does anyone remember what was the option that was given? *“then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the LORD’s side—come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.”* (Exodus 32: 26)

[if the kids ask what happens to those who worshipped – they died. Why? Those who kept worshipping the calf would keep corrupting the other people. The Egyptians worshipped the calf, which is where the Israelites got the idea to make this image. Those who worshipped the calf were treated just like the Egyptians. ]

## REVIEW THE PASSOVER

---

I want us to quickly go over the last plague, the one that allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. What happened?

Wait for a student to say Passover, then have them explain the story – make sure they hit on the following **key point**: by putting blood on the door the angel of God skipped that house and did not kill the first born there. The Passover lamb took the place of the firstborn. The firstborn should have died, had God not told Moses how to save him.

## CHANGE OF PRIESTHOOD

---

Ask all the older siblings in the room to move to one side and the younger siblings to move to the other side. Tell the younger siblings they are safe from all harm. Tell the older ones to imagine that they heard they would die during the night. But instead of them dying God would save them if they killed a lamb, put its blood on the door and did all rites of Passover. Would

they do it? Would they thank God for saving them? When God did this, He bought the firstborn Israelites with the blood of the lamb.

After reviewing this story, who do think should have been the first people to run to Moses when he called for God's people? While God saved all the people of Israel, who did God especially save? Who should have been the first to Moses?

The firstborn were meant to be God's chosen ones. They were supposed to have run to Moses first and they were supposed to be the priests, they were at the heart of salvation. They did not come and instead Moses' own tribe came to him – the Levites. For this reason the Levites became the line of priesthood throughout the OT. This also shows how important priests are to God's plan of salvation. You can't be saved without priests.

People of God, like the firstborn, can turn away from sanctification.

#### CHRIST CAME FOR US

---

When Jesus Christ came down from Heaven to save us, who did He come to first? What group of people did He first deliver the message of salvation to?

When the Jewish people did not head His commandments, they rejected His salvation and therefore rejected His Kingdom. Christ's message was then spread to everyone – Christ's Kingdom is available to all who are obedient to Him (both Jews and Gentiles). It was the first time that God's message was spread throughout the whole world (the Gentile nations) because Jesus Christ came to save us all.

Read Matthew 21:43

Even though He came first for the Jews, He still came to save everyone. He bought us with His blood just as God bought the firstborn with the blood of the lamb. This is why we say that Jesus is like a lamb going to the slaughter. We can chose to reject Him as some of the Israelites rejected the God who saved them from 400 years of slavery in the land of the Egyptians, or we can chose to accept Him in our lives as the tribe of the Levites so then we will be called a "holy nation" and children of God.

Read Exodus 19: 5,6 and 23:22

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

-

## CONCLUSION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

### DAILY READINGS



## Unit II

### Purpose:

---

---

#### LESSON 16: THE TABERNACLE

---

##### SERVANT PREPARATION:

---

##### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

**Hebrews 9** – Holy of Holies only opens one time a year when the priest goes in to sprinkle the blood. Gives two sets of sacrifices one for sins (blood) and burnt offering, everything is taken. Door of Temple is shut on this day only. On Yom Kippur the priest takes off simple clothes and puts on royal clothes as if he's putting on a new body after the sacrifice

There are 3 doors in the Tabernacle one before the outer room (the door is called the Way) then before the Holy (the door is called the Truth) then before the Holy of holies (the door is called the Life). Only on Yom Kippur is the outer door closed but the other 2 open

The sin offering is the offering of the Cross because God's body is taken out while His blood is spilled. After the sin offering must have the burnt offering – fire comes on dead body – in the tomb, Resurrection fire comes and takes Christ's body all the way up, raises it up, now the Holy of Holies is open.

**Sanctification mediation:** the Tabernacle is the model of holiness because it has degrees of separation, 3 degrees of separation. 1<sup>st</sup>, the outer court: confess sins, offer sacrifices. 2<sup>nd</sup>: clean place, light bread and incense. 3<sup>rd</sup> place: no one enters

How we can think of our lives: moving from stages of consecration: start by doing sins, we don't care, we go to the alter and have to confess the major sins → 2<sup>nd</sup> we go to the next stage and the doings are gone but the thoughts are there: hate etc → 3<sup>rd</sup> stage: nothing we can blame ourselves for, and there we can see God. Before that there is no way anyone can see God. When Christ came, symbols aren't needed anymore.

When Abouna does the litanies he stands at the door of the alter – that space is not for anyone, it's the highest consecrated place. In that place there is a threshold to get to the alter of incense. On the threshold was a curtain. Now the curtain is open and where the priest stands is in the place of the alter of incense. The rod of Aaron: the priest; the manna: is exposed, the body. The tablets of stone: in everyone (starting with the Bishop). We do have the temple of God but both the building and us as human beings

The tabernacle is to memorialize the Israelites exodus because the Exodus is a sanctification itself: sacrifice (Passover lamb), go through water, pillar of light and cloud, manna as the showbread, as you approach the promise land there is a cloud of smoke which covers presence of God (incense) then the holy of holies which is indescribable.

**Prayer mediation:** Luke 11 – darkness and midnight with closed door: holy of holies. Neighbor lives in the holy of holies. No one can enter. Because we are living in the NT we get the response when we knock in the darkness. Our emotions distract us from God and when we come to God and we don't know what He is but we keep banging with Faith, something is opened and you feel like you're fulfilled – you're given food and drink. You're ok although you haven't seen anything. You're quenched. God will give us the Holy Spirit.

**Tabernacle as stations to God:** The goal of the Tabernacle is for God to live among His people, to sanctify them and make them like Him. Sanctification occurred through animal sacrifice in the Old Testament. Now, we must come to God in prayer. I can pray from my feelings/emotions but the church is trying to bring us from ourselves to Christ. Thinking about God, in Christ, through prayer and using the Agepya: 1<sup>st</sup> hour: I remember the resurrection. I think about Christ while praying. The psalms represent Christ's life. We're not emptying ourselves enough so we're not ready to do this

CREED:

---

CHURCH FATHERS:

---

REFLECTION:

---

PRAYER:

---

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

---

## Tabernacle

### INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

REVIEW PREVIOUS LESSONS:

---

From the beginning God saved the Israelites from the Egyptians. He led them out of Egypt and through the desert and he NEVER left them without anything...food, water, safety.

He always told them what to do in times in trouble. He protected them with the Passover and gave them specific directions on what to do.

When Moses was given the 10 commandments, only a part of the Israelites followed. They were also given special instructions on how to worship Him. This is what we call the Tabernacle.

To understand this lesson on the tabernacle, you must think of the Israelites' journey from the very beginning of their journey.

## REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

## CONNECTION POINT:

---

## LESSON BODY:

---

### WHAT IS A TABERNACLE

---

**Tabernacle** means “tent,” “place of dwelling” or “sanctuary.” It was a sacred place where God chose to meet His people, the Israelites, during the 40 years they wandered in the desert under Moses’ leadership.

*“...make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8)*

*“Then I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God. They will know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that I might dwell among them.” (Exodus 29:45-46)*

And so God dwelled among His people in the tabernacle in the wilderness. He appeared as a pillar of cloud over the tabernacle by day and a pillar of fire by night in the sight of all Israel.

Note: In the New Testament, John writes: “The Word became flesh and made his *dwelling* among us.” (John 1:14) This word “dwelling” is the same word for “tabernacle” in the Old Testament. In other words, God came in living flesh to  *dwell* or to  *tabernacle* among His people. As He walked upon the earth and lived among the Jews, Jesus Christ Himself fulfilled the picture of the **Old Testament tabernacle**.

The tabernacle tells the story of Exodus – we will discuss this. But there is also a relation to the New Testament.

### THE GATE

---

Only one gate = only one entrance. 30 feet wide, located on the east end, covered by a curtain

Christ connection: it can represent Christ as the only way towards our fellowship with God: *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)*

## THE BRAZEN ALTER

---

Inside the courtyard upon entering the gate. The altar was the place for burning animal sacrifices - first step for sinful men to approach a holy God was to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature – by laying hand upon head of the offering, the person's sin and guilt was being moved to the animal. The priest would then slaughter the animal, sprinkle its blood in front of the veil of the Holy Place, burn the sacrifice, and pour the rest of it at the bottom of the altar

Israelites journey: the Israelites exposed to a sacrifice during The Passover! The bronze altar reminds them of when God saved their first born.

Christ connection: raised on a mound of earth, like a projection of Christ, our sacrifice, lifted up on the cross on Golgotha

Why don't we sacrifice anymore?: Christ, the Lamb of God, came as the ultimate and last sacrifice for mankind

## THE BASIN/LAVER

---

Large bowl filled with water located halfway between the brazen altar and the Holy Place. Made of bronze. The priests cleansed themselves at the laver before serving the Holy Place, so that they would be pure

Israelites journey: the people were "washed" during the crossing of the Red Sea

Christ connection: we are forgiven through Christ's work on the cross, but we are washed through His Word and through confession

Now we move on to the inside, which is called the Holy > first room in the tent of the Tabernacle- it had 3 pieces of furniture: The golden lamp stand, the altar of incense, and the showbread table

## THE GOLDEN LAMP STAND & THE ALTER OF INCENSE

---

The golden lampstand stood at the left of the Holy Place. 1 piece of pure gold, had a central branch with 3 branches on each side – seven lamps holding olive oil and wicks. Had to keep them burning continuously – only source of light in the Holy Place

Altar of Incense sat in front of the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Burned incense every morning and evening at the same time as the daily burnt offerings. Symbol of prayers and intercession of the people going up to God

Israelites journey: God always accompanied them with the pillar of light and the pillar of smoke to lead their way

Christ connection: The lampstand is like Christ, who is the “true light that gives light to every man,” while the golden altar represents Christ as an intercessor before God the Father

#### TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

---

Small table that stood on the right side of the Holy place that held 12 loaves of bread = 12 tribes of Israel. Every Sabbath the priest would remove it, eat it in the Holy Place, and put fresh bread on the table. It's a picture of God's willingness to fellowship and communion with man

Israelites journey: like the manna that God gave them while they were traveling

Christ connection: Christ says “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty “

#### HOLY OF HOLIES

---

A thick veil curtain called the veil separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place – it is shielding a holy God from sinful man. Only the high priest could enter, once a year on the Day of Atonement, it's a representation of Heaven Itself

The “Ark of the Covenant” – a golden ark with three important items inside. The items important because they symbolized the new things to come to the Israelites

- First pot of manna: symbolizes the Eucharist – first pot did not ever rot but was kept as a reminder for them for what is to come
- The tablets of stone with the 10 Commandments: symbolizes the new covenant between the Israelites and God
- The Rod of Aaron: symbolizes the new priesthood which Jesus will establish

Presence of God remained shielded from man behind a thick curtain during the history of Israel. Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross changed that. When He died, the curtain in the Jerusalem

temple was torn in half, from the top to the bottom. As the veil was torn, the Holy of Holies was exposed. God's presence was now accessible to all.

Do we understand the difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament? The Old Testament is before Christ and the New Testament is after Christ came. The Holy of the Holies, the Ark of the Covenant and its contents represent the things the Jews were waiting for but could not access yet. It would be given to them in the New Testament with Christ's coming.

*"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith." (Hebrews 10:19-22)*

In the same way we can think about progression in our lives. 1) we are sinful, but go into the altar and confess these sins. 2) the actions are gone but the thoughts are there, like hate, etc. 3) when we are blameless, we can finally see God

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- **Movie: Tabernacle** – shows Pillar of Fire and 12 tribes around Tabernacle and goes around Holy of Holies
- Kit of Tabernacle

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)*

#### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

#### DAILY READINGS

---

## UNIT II REVIEW LESSON



## Unit II

**Purpose:**

---

**LESSON :**

---

**SERVANT PREPARATION:**

**VERSE & REFERENCES:**

---

**CREED:**

---

**CHURCH FATHERS:**

---

**REFLECTION:**

---

**PRAYER:**

---

---

**LESSON PREPARATION:**

---

**SONG:**

---

**VOCABULARY:**

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

CONNECTION POINT:

---

LESSON BODY:

---

---

PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

## CONCLUSION

---

*REVIEW QUESTIONS:*

---

*VERSE TO REMEMBER:*

---

*3. CREED RECITATION:*

---

---

**DAILY READINGS**

Fifth Grade Curriculum:

## *God Calls Us to be Holy*

### UNIT III: THE JOURNEY OF LENT (6 LESSONS)

**Purpose:**

**Lesson 18:** Introduction

**Lesson 19:** Our Lord Jesus Christ leads us to offer fasting to God

**Lesson 20:** The power of fasting

**Lesson 21:** We give cheerfully

**Lesson 22:** Holy Week Part I

**Lesson 23:** Holy Week Part II

## Unit III

### Purpose:

---

---

### LESSON 18: INTRODUCTION TO LENT AND THE SEASONS AND DAYS OF FASTING

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

#### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

#### CREED:

---

#### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

#### REFLECTION:

---

#### PRAYER:

---

---

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

#### SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

.....

INTRODUCTION

.....

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

.....

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

.....

CONNECTION POINT:

.....

LESSON BODY:

.....

.....

PLAN AND MATERIALS:

.....

- 

CONCLUSION

.....

*REVIEW QUESTIONS:*

.....

*VERSE TO REMEMBER:*

.....

*3. CREED RECITATION:*

.....

DAILY READINGS

.....

## Fifth Grade Curriculum:

# *God Calls Us to be Holy*

### UNIT IV: THE BEATITUDES (10 LESSONS)

**Purpose:** The person always has a feeling of sadness and hunger inside him, he is always looking for something to satisfy the feelings of satisfaction and hunger by earthly things. You lose focus/separate from God when you only look at the earthly materials, which is why we're not satisfied and we're sad. When I direct my need to God, that's how I start to feel satisfied. Blessed are you when you feel your sadness. (Thomas Dubay Contemplation – proof that we were called to follow God). Ask the kids to describe the best days of their lives, they were happy. After that day passed, what happened? Nothing changed, you're back where you started. When we connect to God is when we're changed

Example: 2yr old/5 yr old: the best thing that makes him happy is like going to Chuck E Cheese. What if you, as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader went there? When you grow up, your satisfaction changes. What satisfied me when I was 5 doesn't satisfy me in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or when I'm 20. This tells me that the earthly things don't satisfy me at all.

The Sermon on the Mount: Salt and the light is the image of God. Jesus always talks about God as light. Who is God? He's the one who takes care of the sparrows and lilies, He takes care of me - from the image of God we can see that He's caring and a giver. When we act out the beatitudes we're taking on God's image. We're not giving God anything, we're taking on His image. God isn't taking out our freedom or our happiness, He's giving me a blessing. "Seek out the Kingdom of God and . . . " Matthew 6:31 - I seek out the Father because He likes to give

**Lesson 24:** Introduction

**Lesson 25:** Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

**Lesson 26:** Blessed are those who Mourn

**Lesson 27:** Blessed are the Meek

**Lesson 28:** Blessed are those who Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness

**Lesson 29:** Blessed are the Merciful

**Lesson 30:** Blessed are the Pure in Heart

**Lesson 31:** Blessed are the Peacemakers

**Lesson 32:** Persecuted & House on the Rock

**Lesson 33:** Unit Review

## **Unit IV**

**Purpose:**

---

---

**LESSON 24: INTRODUCTION**

**SERVANT PREPARATION:**

**VERSE & REFERENCES:**

---

**CREED:**

---

**CHURCH FATHERS:**

---

**REFLECTION:**

---

PRAYER:

---

LESSON PREPARATION:

SONG:

---

I wanna be like Jesus think like Jesus do  
what He will do in every way ever where every day ...  
I wanna be like Jesus so that Jesus will be seen in me  
Father help me be like Jesus  
I wanna be like Jesus, think like Jesus, do what He will do  
in every way ever where every day ...love shine through  
I wanna be like Jesus so that Jesus may be seen in me  
Father help me be like Jesus

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJ0llutCHL4>)

VOCABULARY:

---

**Beatitude**

INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---



## CONNECTION POINT:

---

## LESSON BODY:

---

### ACTIVITY

---

Begin with the activity: give each kid seven pieces of paper with a picture of (1) Christ (2) Friends (3) House (4) Phone (5) Your favorite TV Show (6) Your favorite video game (7) Your favorite dish.

Ask each kid to give up two things (they can't give up Christ)

Begin to take those things one by one.

This is the last season for the TV show (ask them to throw away that paper).

They developed an allergy and they can't eat their favorite food any more.

A powerful computer virus hit all electronics and destroyed both your video game and phone.

Your dad had to change jobs and you need to move to another state, you need to give up your house and best friend.

### TRUE HAPPINESS

---

Explain the moral behind the activity is that a lot of things that we think give us happiness are temporarily and can change. The only source of happiness that we can never lose is God. God gives us true happiness that lasts forever. Jesus showed us how to find this true happiness by living in love and hope.

God loves us so much to the extent that he sent His only Son who died and suffered for us so that we have an eternal life. He wants us to be happy because he loves us so much. Do you think Jesus was happy when He lived on earth? He was the happiest person in the world because #1- He loved God and #2-He always did what pleased His Father.

Jesus was happy in loving people. He helped them, forgave them, gave them peace. We will be happy if we also help people, forgive people and bring them peace. Ask the children to think of ways that they can do these things. Jesus was also very happy even though He was not rich. He worked hard as a carpenter, but He knew that God His Father loved Him and was taking care of Him, so He was *satisfied*. y, Jesus was happy even though He knew He would suffer. Why? Because He trusted that God His Father would bring good from His sufferings. Also, because He

knew that He was suffering for what was right and He was happy to be able to show His love for His Father by His suffering. Sometimes we, like Jesus, will have to suffer for what is right, but this can also bring us happiness.

If God loves the human so much and wants them to be happy, why many people are not happy, even some Christians? Jesus taught us the way to obtain this happiness he granted us, it is how we can obtain the true happiness that Jesus felt. There is a special name for Jesus' way of happiness: the Beatitudes. **Beatitude** means "deep happiness or blessing." There are 8 of them. Jesus gave us the Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount. It is called this because there were many people listening to Him and He was standing on a mountain. The Holy Spirit does not leave us alone when we try to do this; He comes and comforts us and gives us strength to do the Beatitudes.

This happiness is a lifestyle change, we are changing our ways to become more like God.

#### THE BEATITUDES ARE A CODE OF LIVING

---

The Beatitudes are about the code of living: start with picture of royal family, soldiers/military- any discipline: anything in the world that makes sense must be disciplined, have to be prepared to think in a different way. For example, doctors have to study for 12 years (college, med school and residency) and then once they become doctors, they can't drink or do drugs. Entering into a discipline like this affects everything, how you work your mind, what you think about.

Different areas of our life are targeted for different disciplining e.g. athletes = body; astronauts = mind; God = heart. In all these disciplines, it starts by seeming out of ordinary, it's not easy coming. What happens when athlete finishes marathon, king is crowned, astro goes out in space → it makes it worth it. Narrow gate – it's a hard way but there's a reward. The reward for God's discipline (the Beatitudes) is eternal happiness that will never be taken away.

Materialistic things that give us instant gratification, such as bugging parents to get things you want, after 1 week its lost its luster. If you work for being a good athlete, or a queen the pleasure will last longer. The happiness that comes from instant gratification dies instantly: easy come easy go; harder come harder go; hardest come, never leaves. Discipline that comes from beatitudes is everlasting – these are the characteristics of God

#### READ THE BEATITUDES

---

Read the Beatitudes with the kids from the Bible - and they should know it's the 6<sup>th</sup> hour Agpeya - it's in Matthew 5, it's the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, the Sermon on the Mount is the Christian way of life, it's the law we live by, the beginning of it is the beatitudes

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- Paper with pictures

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

#### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

---

#### DAILY READINGS

## Unit IV

### Purpose:

---

---

#### LESSON 25: BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

---

##### SERVANT PREPARATION:

##### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

##### CREED:

---

##### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

##### REFLECTION:

---

##### PRAYER:

---

---

---

##### LESSON PREPARATION:

##### SONG:

---

##### VOCABULARY:

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

*Q. What does "beatitude" mean?*

A. Blessedness, how happy you will be

*Q. How many beatitudes are there?*

A. Eight total

*Q. Where can we find the Beatitudes in the Bible?*

A. Matthew 5: 3-10

*Q. Why are they important?*

A. They are guidelines Christ is giving us to inherit eternal life and happiness as His children

Just like anything worth being, such as a successful athlete, a musician, a doctor, etc. it takes practice all the time, but is worth it when you finish. It's not like a videogame or TV, which is nice for a little, but can get boring or can be lost as we showed last week.

### REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

### CONNECTION POINT:

---

### LESSON BODY:

---

#### THE FIRST BEATITUDE: POOR IN SPIRIT

---

Ask the kids if they know the first Beatitude. Read it with them: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit.  
Ask the kids if they know the reward? For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

Today we'll be talking about this Beatitude. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? What are some examples of people who are poor in spirit? And what is the reward of those who are poor in spirit?

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT? ST. ANNA SIMON

---

Ask the kids if they know what it means to be poor in spirit. Once they give a few guesses (usually about being materially poor). Tell them the story of St. Anna Simon to help them understand what it means.

She was the daughter of a rich king and queen. She was so wealthy and she loved the poor. Her parents were righteous people and they taught her to fear the Lord and loved the church. She would have gatherings at her house once a week and serve dinner to the poor.

Her parents passed away and she was to be the queen and rule over the land. What do you think she did? Did she dance around and sing “oh ya..im queen! I rule! Im awesome! I have so much money and power! Oh ya! Im queen! She did not want to do this so she left everything and went to the desert...can you imagine leaving your throne, your home, food, power, riches...this girl had everything and she left it.

There is one little detail about St. Anna Simon that she is known for. Does anyone know it?? She left the doors of her castle open!! She did not care at all about her worldly riches. She went to the desert and there were many wild beasts there. They used to take her to where there was water for her to drink and something for her to eat.

She always prayed to the Lord. She desired to feel the humiliation and insults that our Lord experienced. She decided to go to a convent with nuns but she knew that if she acted normal, they would respect her. So what did she do?? She acted like an idiot. She used to put water in her food and mix it up. Her duty was to clean the floors and she would do an amazing job and sing beautiful hymns as she did it. But when someone came by she would start grunting and would spill the water all over the floor. She acted dumb and the nuns used to say awful things about her behind her back. They wanted to kick her out but were afraid that the wild animals would eat her.

This went on for many years...it was not until a great saint, Abba Daniel- a monk came to visit the convent that she was discovered. A voice came to him from heaven one day that told him “There lives a saint whose faith far exceeds yours and anyone else’s” At night when Abba Daniel and his deacon were at the convent, they saw St. Anna Simon praying and she was lifted above the ground and a great light was coming from her hands and body. The next day, St. Anna Simon knew that she was discovered so she left the convent and no one knows what happened to her after that.

What do we think showed that she was poor in spirit? It's actually just one thing...She didn't care! The extent of her uncaring- leaving the door open, living in the desert, wanting to be humiliated and insulted. She was completely satisfied with and thankful for what she had. Being poor in spirit means being simple; instead of wanting everything, or always wanting more, or not being happy with what we have, we accept it.

#### WHO ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

---

To be poor in spirit is to not rely on anything earthly. We empty ourselves and are "poor" and exposed before God. We want and need Him only. For example, what is your favorite food? Now what is a food you absolutely hate? Imagine you are starving and haven't eaten anything for days. Now someone put the food you hated in front of you. You would eat it and stuff yourself but then your favorite food is brought...you wouldn't touch it!

When we're filling our hearts with the least important things, we're not leaving room for the best and most important thing – God

As another example tell the story of the rich man who came to Christ to inherit eternal life (Matthew 19: 16-26). "Children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." In this situation it is not our actual possessions that keep us from entering into the heavenly Jerusalem, but more so our attitude toward them. If we administer our possessions properly, according to the will of God, we will gladly "unload" some of them and share them with the people around us; thus the entrance is granted

The poor in spirit are those who are in need of, or hunger for, God. We need to empty ourselves to be poor and exposed before God. We want and need Him only. When we have nothing to fill us and wait for God to do it. If we don't show our need then we won't ask him to fill us.

St. Paul said: "When I am weak, then am I strong." St. Paul had a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him. He was at first very uneasy at it, and he prayed the Lord thrice that it might be removed, but Christ told him *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* God kept it that he could never forget his dependence upon God. When he was weak in himself, he was strong in Christ. and thus prepared him to do all things through Christ who strengthened him.

#### WHAT IS THE REWARD FOR THE POOR IN SPIRIT?

---

“For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” that’s a **GREAT** promise, what else could you want?

A way that looks narrow and hard, but is **EASY WITH GOD** and leads to life. The Whole Gospel and New Testament books are ways to explain the Beatitudes by parables and life stories. Jesus knows that it is very difficult to empty oneself, to be humble and needy of God, so He blessed them

When we were doing the Moses unit we talked a lot about sanctification. To be set apart. We are set apart as children of God. And the opposite of sanctify.....Defile- an awful word.

Opposite of poor in spirit?? Pride and blasphemy

#### HOW CAN WE BE POOR IN SPIRIT?

---

1. In all we do, **give thanks**: for the food, the clothes, toys, games, homes, parents, siblings, etc.
2. **Be content**, happy, with what we have, from friends, allowance & belongings.
3. **Satisfied with who we are**: do not have to be the popular kid, or the class clown or draw any attention.

#### PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

#### CONCLUSION

---

#### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

#### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

#### 3. CREED RECITATION:

---

#### DAILY READINGS

---



## FIFTH GRADE CURRICULUM:

# *God Calls Us to be Holy*

### UNIT V: GOD CALLS US TO BE HOLY (6 LESSONS)

#### **Purpose:**

**Lesson 34:** Introduction

**Lesson 35:** Our Lord invites us to receive God's mercy

**Lesson 36:** Our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to follow Him (putting on Christ)

**Lesson 37:** God gave us laws to live by

**Lesson 38:** Invitation to worship

**Lesson 39:** We protect God's gift of holiness

## Unit V

### Purpose:

---

### LESSON :

---

### SERVANT PREPARATION:

---

### VERSE & REFERENCES:

---

### CREED:

---

### CHURCH FATHERS:

---

### REFLECTION:

---

### PRAYER:

---

---

### LESSON PREPARATION:

---

### SONG:

---

VOCABULARY:

---

INTRODUCTION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

REVIEW VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

CONNECTION POINT:

---

LESSON BODY:

---

---

PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- 

CONCLUSION

---

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

3. CREED RECITATION:

---

DAILY READINGS

---



## SEASONAL LESSONS. (3 LESSONS)

**Purpose:** This unit covers the feasts and the seasons of the church. The main focus of this unit is to prepare the students to fully engage in the church life and celebrations.

1. The feast of Nyrouz: (Help the students celebrate the feast processional with colored icons of Martyrs)
2. The feast of the Holy Cross: (Help the students celebrate the vespers processional with Wooden crosses and color coded ribbons)
3. The feast of the Holy Theotokos (How to make an Icon of the Theotokos)

---

### 1. FEAST OF NAYROUZ

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

##### A. VERSE & REFERENCES:

*Psalm 42:1-4 "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast."*

##### B. CHURCH FATHERS:

**A martyr from The Apostolic Fathers: St. Ignatius of Antioch**  
**Feast on the twenty-fourth day of Kiahk**

Virtually nothing is known of St. Ignatius' life preceding his journey to martyrdom from Antioch to Rome. St. Ignatius (about 35-107 C.E.) was probably born a pagan of Syrian origin. In the year 69 C.E, St. Ignatius was appointed as the second bishop of Antioch, succeeding St. Peter the Apostle. Antioch is a city in Syria where St. Paul and St. Barnabas started their famous journey. Also at that time, St. Ignatius was a disciple of the apostle John.

##### His Martyrdom

St. Ignatius was ordered by the Roman prefect to be chained and sent to Rome during the reign of Emperor Trajan. When the Emperor heard that St. Ignatius had attracted many to believe in the Lord Christ through his teachings, the Emperor brought the saint and asked him, "Are you Ignatius the

Theophoros?" St. Ignatius replied, "Yes, I am." The Emperor inquired about the meaning of his name. The saint replied saying, "Theophoros means 'God-bearer.'" The Emperor asked, "Do you think that we do not carry our gods to support us in wars?" The Saint answered, "How can these statues be gods? Listen, there is no God except the only God that created the Heaven and Earth, and His Son Jesus Christ who was incarnated to save mankind. So if you had believed in Him, you would be content now in your kingship." The emperor attempted to persuade him to forsake Christianity, but he refused. The Emperor was enraged, ordered him bound with chains, and taken to Rome to be thrown to the beasts.

Despite the misery that St. Ignatius was subjected to, he was still always content and thankful. Ignatius responded to the Emperor's orders by kissing the chains that would be his means of receiving the crown of martyrdom. He shouted in joy, "Thank You Lord, for You granted to honor me with the abundance of Your love. You allowed me to be chained like Your Apostle Paul." He then left Syria under a heavy guardianship of ten soldiers. Two members of his own church, Rufus and Zosimus, also accompanied him and were also eventually sentenced to death. The believers tried to save St. Ignatius by paying bribes to the soldiers, but St. Ignatius refused, for he was yearning for martyrdom. He went on his way to Izmir (Smyrna) where the guards halted the journey for an extended rest stop. This is where he wrote a letter to the Christians of Rome that said in it: "I am afraid that your love may be harmful. If you wish to prevent my death, that will not be difficult for you. But allow me to be slaughtered wherever the altar has been prepared... I am wheat which must be ground, to make bread, to be offered to Jesus Christ. Whenever the people will not behold me anymore, I will behold our Lord Jesus Christ."

In Izmir (Smyrna) St. Ignatius was received with great honor by St. Polycarp and was visited by many priests, deacons, and members of neighboring Christian communities. Onesimus, bishop of Ephesus, was also with Ignatius there. Onesimus brought along a deacon named Burrhus who was a scribe, and with his help, Ignatius wrote letters to the churches. He wrote thence to the Churches of Ephesus, Magnesia, and Tralles, letters of encouragement, and a fourth to the Church at Rome, begging them not to deprive him of martyrdom by intervention with the pagan authorities.

From Izmir (Smyrna), the guards hauled Ignatius to the port city of Troas. Burrhus the scribe stayed with him, still writing letters to the various churches. He wrote to Philadelphia, Smyrna, and St. Polycarp. Then he was taken from there through Macedonia and Illyria to Dyrrhachium, where he was embarked for Italy.

When he arrived at the coliseum in Rome, the guards rushed him into the arena where he faced the wild beasts cheerfully as a person hurrying to eternal glory. Two lions sprang upon him and left only a few bones of him as the Saint delivered up his soul in the hand of the Lord. Then the lion released him and went back to his place, and the believers came and carried his body with great honor to a place that they had prepared for him in Antioch. Emperor Theodosius the Young (408-450) put the relics in the temple of Fortune located in the center of Antioch, which was converted to a Christian church, and named it after St. Ignatius' name.

### His Feast

The feast of St. Ignatius is the 17<sup>th</sup> of October in the Roman Catholic calendar. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> of December in the Greek Church. The Coptic Church celebrates his feast on Kiahk 24 (January 2<sup>nd</sup>).

### His Letters

St. Ignatius' life is represented mainly by his letters and writings. Seven of St. Ignatius' writings composed on his way from Antioch to Rome are preserved. The seven epistles are an invaluable testimony to the beliefs and internal organization of the early Christians. St. Ignatius is the first writer to stress the virgin birth. He firmly denounced Docetism and viewed the mystery of the Trinity as an implicit doctrine of faith. The only guarantee against heresy, he taught, is the church united under a bishop. St. Ignatius is also the first in Christian literature to use the word *Catholic*.

The overall theme of St. Ignatius' letters is best described by St. Paul the Apostle's words, "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" (Col 1:27) To St. Ignatius, union with Christ is more important than anything else imaginable. St. Ignatius' theme can be summed up by his final salutation to the Church of Smyrna, "I salute the bishop, worthy of God, and presbytery for God, and my fellow slaves, the deacons, and all of you, individually and together in the name of Jesus Christ and His flesh and blood, in union with God and with you." (St. Ignatius' letter to Smyrna 12:2)

Each of St. Ignatius' letters is fairly similar in content, though each one has its own uniqueness. Perhaps the most common element of each letter is St. Ignatius' emphasis of the unity of the church and the role of the bishop as the center of that unity. He is most emphatic about the value and role of the Eucharist as the primary means of mediating the life of the risen Lord to the members of His body, the church. The letters differ according to St. Ignatius' delegations and conversations with the separate regions. These letters are of immeasurable significance for the history of the dogma.

### His Teachings

St. Ignatius' letters reflect how fervently he spoke and show us how he taught through intense religious zeal. In his letters, St. Ignatius addressed the question, "how can we attain salvation?" He taught that salvation may be attained by "fellowship with Christ, the only source of life," and "isolation from those whom we do not live the true life with." Also, he explained that we have attained salvation through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified to grant us life. Finally, salvation may be attained by our unity with the risen body of Christ. The Lord is immortal life who grants us the new risen life and divine love.

St. Ignatius' letters reveal to us much of the history of the Church and the foundation of its true beliefs. For instance, St. Ignatius proceeds to write about the Church's role for Christians. He explains that the Church is a place of sacrifice, presenting the Eucharist as the sacrifice of the Church. It is a place of salvation, as salvation uses infinite love towards God to destroy death and the authority of the devil. He

states that the Church is a place of prayer, as the combined prayers of the clergy and people are much more powerful than those of the individual. He also asserts that the Church is a place of purity, and all who are involved with the Church are pure.

St. Ignatius is the first to use the term “Catholic Church,” denoting the faithful gathered collectively and universally. It has been used in our liturgies, not to mean universality in location, but the spiritual existence in relation with the one altar and one Eucharist. It is the Church who gathers in love and unity in Christ.

St. Ignatius has also reiterated the function of the sacraments in our church’s early history. Baptism is among the sacraments that St. Ignatius wrote about. He taught that baptism was necessary for Jesus to purify the water from the dominion of the devil and to fulfill every righteousness. St. Ignatius also taught of the sacrament of the Eucharist. He affirmed that it is the primary means of mediating the life of the risen Lord to the members of the church and renewing our spiritual life. St. Ignatius has also underlined the rules of marriage. He declared that marriages must be held before the bishop and through his approval, as he is the father of the couple, and he emphasized the importance of celibacy and the sanctity of marriage. St. Ignatius also had very much to say about priesthood, as he was the bishop of Antioch.

St. Ignatius also had much to contribute to the hierarchical orders of the church. He portrayed a vivid picture of the ranks of priesthood and their place in ministering. He also confirmed that God had established these ranks by his own will and through the Holy Spirit, and thus they are to be respected regardless of their age or any trivial matters. The idea that the head of the Church represents Christ causes Ignatius to view these positions with great dignity, yet humility. He also manifests the great responsibility that priests and bishops must have, because without them not even baptism, agape, or Eucharist may be celebrated.

Finally, St. Ignatius taught that we must follow the perfect example; that of Christ. As Christ imitated his Father so must we imitate Christ. St. Ignatius chose to be martyred as the perfect imitation of Christ; hence “only he is the true disciple of Christ who is ready to sacrifice his own life for Him.” St. Ignatius teaches that we must always seek Christ, placing Him who died for us before all the earth. Thus we must always yearn to be in God’s hands and never fear death, as death is actually bondage of the devil.

#### THE EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS TO THE ROMANS

*Ignatius, who is also called Theophorus, to the Church which has obtained mercy, through the majesty of the Most High Father, and Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son; the Church which is beloved and enlightened by the will of Him that wills all things which are according to the love of Jesus Christ our God, which also presides in the place of the region of the Romans, worthy of God, worthy of honor, worthy of the highest happiness, worthy of praise, worthy of obtaining her every desire, worthy of being deemed holy, and which presides over love, is named from Christ, and from the Father, which I also salute in the*



*name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father: to those who are united, both according to the flesh and spirit, to every one of His commandments; who are filled inseparably with the grace of God, and are purified from every strange taint, [I wish] abundance of happiness unblameably, in Jesus Christ our God.*

#### **CHAPTER 1: AS A PRISONER, I HOPE TO SEE YOU**

Through prayer to God I have obtained the privilege of seeing your most worthy faces, and have even been granted more than I requested; for I hope as a prisoner in Christ Jesus to salute you, if indeed it be the will of God that I be thought worthy of attaining unto the end. For the beginning has been well ordered, if I may obtain grace to cling to my lot without hindrance unto the end. For I am afraid of your love, lest it should do me an injury. For it is easy for you to accomplish what you please; but it is difficult for me to attain to God, if ye spare me.

#### **CHAPTER 2: DO NOT SAVE ME FROM MARTYRDOM**

For it is not my desire to act towards you as a man-pleaser, but as pleasing God, even as also ye please Him. For neither shall I ever have such [another] opportunity of attaining to God; nor will ye, if ye shall now be silent, ever be entitled to the honor of a better work. For if ye are silent concerning me, I shall become God's; but if you show your love to my flesh, I shall again have to run my race. Pray, then, do not seek to confer any greater favor upon me than that I be sacrificed to God while the altar is still prepared; that, being gathered together in love, ye may sing praise to the Father, through Christ Jesus, that God has deemed me, the bishop of Syria, worthy to be sent for from the east unto the west. It is good to set from the world unto God, that I may rise again to Him.

#### **CHAPTER 3: PRAY RATHER THAT I MAY ATTAIN TO MARTYRDOM**

You have never envied any one; ye have taught others. Now I desire that those things may be confirmed [by your conduct], which in your instructions ye enjoin [on others]. Only request in my behalf both inward and outward strength, that I may not only speak, but [truly] will; and that I may not merely be called a Christian, but really be found to be one. For if I be truly found [a Christian], I may also be called one, and be then deemed faithful, when I shall no longer appear to the world. Nothing visible is eternal. "For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." For our God, Jesus Christ, Now that He is with the Father, is all the more revealed [in His glory]. Christianity is not a thing of silence only, but also of [manifest] greatness.

#### **CHAPTER 4: ALLOW ME TO FALL A PREY TO THE WILD BEASTS**

I write to the Churches, and impress on them all, that I shall willingly die for God, unless ye hinder me. I beseech of you not to show an unseasonable good-will towards me. Suffer me to become food for the wild beasts, through whose instrumentality it will be granted me to attain to God. I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ. Rather entice the wild beasts, that they may become my tomb, and may leave nothing of my body; so that when I have fallen asleep [in death], I may be no trouble to anyone. Then shall I truly be a disciple of Christ, when the world shall not see so much as my body. Entreat Christ for me, that by these instruments I may be found a sacrifice [to God]. I do not, as Peter and Paul, issue commandments unto you. They were apostles; I am but a condemned man: they were free, while I am, even until now, a servant. But when I suffer, I shall be the freedman of Jesus, and shall rise again emancipated in Him. And now, being a prisoner, I learn not to desire anything worldly or vain.

#### **CHAPTER 5: I DESIRE TO DIE**

From Syria even unto Rome I fight with beasts, both by land and sea, both by night and day, being bound to ten leopards, I mean a band of soldiers, who, even when they receive benefits, show themselves all the worse. But I am the more instructed by their injuries [to act as a disciple of Christ]; “yet am I not thereby justified.” May I enjoy the wild beasts that are prepared for me; and I pray they may be found eager to rush upon me, which also I will entice to devour me speedily, and not deal with me as with some, whom, out of fear, they have not touched. But if they be unwilling to assail me, I will compel them to do so. Pardon me [in this]: I know what is for my benefit. Now I begin to be a disciple. And let no one, of things visible or invisible, envy me that I should attain to Jesus Christ. Let fire and the cross; let the crowds of wild beasts; let tearings, breakings, and dislocations of bones; let cutting off of members; let shatterings of the whole body; and let all the dreadful torments of the devil come upon me: only let me attain to Jesus Christ.

#### **CHAPTER 6: BY DEATH I SHALL ATTAIN TRUE LIFE**

All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. It is better for me to die in behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth. “For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?” Him I seek, who died for us: Him I desire, who rose again for our sake. This is the gain which is laid up for me. Pardon me, brethren: do not hinder me from living, do not wish to keep me in a state of death; and while I desire to belong to God, do not ye give me over to the world. Suffer me to obtain pure light: when I have gone thither, I shall indeed be a man of God. Permit me to be an imitator of the passion of my God. If anyone has Him within himself, let him consider what I desire, and let him have sympathy with me, as knowing how I am straitened.

#### **CHAPTER 7: REASON OF DESIRING TO DIE**

The prince of this world would fain carry me away, and corrupt my disposition towards God. Let none of you, therefore, who are [in Rome] help him; rather be ye on my side, that is, on the side of God. Do not speak of Jesus Christ, and yet set your desires on the world. Let not envy find a dwelling-place among you; nor even should I, when present with you, exhort you to it, be ye persuaded to listen to me, but rather give credit to those things which I now write to you. For though I am alive while I write to you, yet I am eager to die. My love has been crucified, and there is no fire in me desiring to be fed; but there is within me a water that lives and speaks, saying to me inwardly, Come to the Father. I have no delight in corruptible food, nor in the pleasures of this life. I desire the bread of God, the heavenly bread, the bread of life, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became afterwards of the seed of David and Abraham; and I desire the drink of God, namely His blood, which is incorruptible love and eternal life.

#### **CHAPTER 8: BE YE FAVORABLE TO ME**

I no longer wish to live after the manner of men, and my desire shall be fulfilled if ye consent. Be ye willing, then, that ye also may have your desires fulfilled. I entreat you in this brief letter; do ye give credit to me. Jesus Christ will reveal these things to you, [so that ye shall know] that I speak truly. He is the mouth altogether free from falsehood, by which the Father has truly spoken. Pray ye for me, that I may attain [the object of my desire]. I have not written to you according to the flesh, but according to the will of God. If I shall suffer, ye have wished [well] to me; but if I am rejected, ye have hated me.

#### **CHAPTER 9: PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN SYRIA**

Remember in your prayers the Church in Syria, which now has God for its shepherd, instead of me. Jesus Christ alone will oversee it, and your love [will also regard it]. But as for me, I am ashamed to be counted

one of them; for indeed I am not worthy, as being the very last of them, and one born out of due time. But I have obtained mercy to be somebody, if I shall attain to God. My spirit salutes you, and the love of the Churches that have received me in the name of Jesus Christ, and not as a mere passer-by. For even those Churches which were not near to me in the way, I mean according to the flesh, have gone before me, city by city, [to meet me.]

## CHAPTER 10: CONCLUSION

Now I write these things to you from Smyrna by the Ephesians, who are deservedly most happy. There is also with me, along with many others, Crocus, one dearly beloved by me. As to those who have gone before me from Syria to Rome for the glory of God, I believe that you are acquainted with them; to whom, [then,] do ye make known that I am at hand. For they are all worthy, both of God and of you; and it is becoming that you should refresh them in all things. I have written these things unto you, on the day before the ninth of the Calends of September (that is, on the twenty-third day of August). Fare ye well to the end, in the patience of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### C. REFLECTION:

---

It is no coincidence that the coptic Calendar is the Calendar of martyrs. Our Coptic Church as the Bride of the Lamb, is also the mother of martyrs. We know that the faith of Christ could have not survived without the martyrs' blood that covered Egypt at different times and ages. There is not a city nor a town that had not been void of martyrs. There had not been a century that did not witness martyrdom of Copts. Martyrs are the precious sacrifices that the church offers to God from this passing world. First grade students should be taught about Nyrouz martyrs without unnecessary exposure to violent stories.

### D. PRAYER:

---

Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; And to You the vow shall be performed.  
O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come.  
*Iniquities prevail against me; As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them.*  
*Blessed is the man* You choose, And cause to approach *You, That* he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple.  
*By* awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, *You who are* the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas;  
Who established the mountains by His strength, *Being* clothed with power;  
You who still the noise of the seas, The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.  
They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice.  
You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water;  
You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it.  
You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows;  
You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.  
You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip *with* abundance.

They drop *on* the pastures of the wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on every side.  
The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing. *Psalms 65*

---

## LESSON PREPARATION:

### A. SONG:

---

O red dates your color is like, ..

### B. VOCABULARY:

---

1. **Relic – part of a saints' body**
2. **Martyr – one who witnesses to the Truth, even up to death**

### C. INTRODUCTION

---

If your church owns relics of martyrs you can ask your students: *Who here knows what all those red tubes are that we have in our church?* Does anybody know what is inside them, why they are so special? [there are **relics** of the saints inside them!] Does anybody know on which feast we take out almost all of them? [Nyrouz! Nyrouz is one of the feasts of the church and it is the Coptic New Year. It comes every year in September. Every year, our church does a very big procession, even going outside and around the church, with all the deacons holding a relic]. Does anybody know which special saints' relics we take out on Nyrouz? [The **Martyrs**]. Martyrs are people who were killed because they believed in Christ. They are most honored in the church and God gives them a very special place in Heaven. And on the Feast of Nyrouz, we remember the martyrs and we celebrate them (because we are happy that they were victorious on earth and are now with God in Paradise), we celebrate *with* them (because the church in heaven and the church on earth together worship and praise God joyfully), and we also thank God for giving the martyrs to His church because without them, the church would not have survived.

### D. LESSON BODY:

---

#### THE MANY MARTYRS OF OUR CHURCH

Take one copy of each one of the icons so that every martyr is represented and put them up on the board or at the front of the room so all the students can see them. Tell the students the names of each one of the martyrs. Explain to the students that each student will get to choose one of these icons, color

their own icon, sign their name on the back, frame it, and then walk in the procession at church on Nyrouz vespers with their icon, showing the church this martyr so that the people can honor him/her. Have the students choose their icons. Have the ones who chose the same icons sit in groups. As each group is coloring their icon, one servant will come and sit with the students and (gently) explain the story of that martyr to them while they are coloring. Servants will also help the students sign their names and frame their icons when they are finished coloring. Icons will be stored in the classroom. Servants will come up with a plan for distributing the icons to the students on the feast vespers procession and will tell the students what they should do in order to get their icon on Nyrouz and to be ready to walk in the procession. Servants should carefully plan and assist students to participate in the procession in co-ordination with the priest, deacons and parents.

#### E. PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

*The purpose of this class is to give the students a way to take part in the feast of Nyrouz. By coloring and framing their own icons in order to walk in the procession, the students will come to understand that they have a role in the church and an important place in the family of God. The stories of the saints' lives will be told to the students while they are coloring.*

*Teachers should have extra ready framed colored pictures of martyrs for children who did not have a chance to be in the class and prepare for the feast.*

- Copies of the icons of martyrs for the students to color and frame preferably on card paper
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Frames
- Decorations for the frames
- A way for the students to sign their names to the back of their icon
- A letter to the parents to bring their children on the eve of Nyrouz for vespers

#### F. CONCLUSION

---

##### 1. REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Q. What is Nyrouz?

A. *The feast of the new Coptic Year*

Q. What do we celebrate on Nyrouz?

A. *The Martyrs of the Church*

Q. How do we celebrate the Nyrouz feast?

A. *By making a procession with relics and icons of martyrs*

Q. What is a martyr?

A. *One who witnesses to the truth even to the point of death*

Q. What is a relic?

A. *A part of the body of the martyr.*

## 2. VERSE TO REMEMBER:

---

*"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21*

## UNIT IX: SEASONAL LESSONS

---

**Purpose:** This unit covers the feasts and the seasons of the church. The main focus of this unit is to prepare the students to fully engage in the church life and celebrations.

---

### 1. FEAST OF THE CROSS

---

#### SERVANT PREPARATION:

##### A. VERSE & REFERENCES:

*John 12:32-34 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die. The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, "The Son of Man must be lifted up"? Who is this Son of Man?"*

*Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

*Matthew 24:29-31 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*

##### B. CHURCH FATHERS:

---

St Cyril of Alexandria Commentary on St John 12:32,33

Howbeit, after that Christ had given Himself unto the Father for our salvation as a Spotless Victim, and was now on the point of paying the penalties that He suffered on our behalf, we were ransomed from the accusations of sin. And so, when the beast has been removed from our midst, and the tyrant is deposed, then Christ brings unto Himself the race that had strayed away, calling not only Jews but all mankind as well unto salvation through the faith that is in Him. For whereas the calling through the Law was partial, that through Christ was universal. For Christ alone, as God, was able to procure all good things for us. And with exceeding good omen, He speaks of being "uplifted" instead of being "crucified." For He would keep the mystery invisible to those intent on killing Him; for they were not worthy to learn it: nevertheless, He allowed them that were wiser to understand that He would suffer because of all and on behalf of all. And especially I suppose any one might take it in this way, and very fitly; that the Death

on the Cross was an exaltation which is ever associated in our thoughts with honor and glory. For on this account too Christ is glorified, forasmuch as the benefits He procured for humanity thereby are many. And by these He draws men *unto Himself*, and does not, like the disciples, lead them to another. He shows therefore that He is Himself by Nature God, in that He does not put the Father outside Himself. For it is through the Son that a man is drawn unto the knowledge of the Father.

*33 But this He said, signifying by what manner of death He should die.*

Hereby the Evangelist showed that the Lord did not suffer in ignorance, but voluntarily; and with full knowledge, not only that He was dying, but also in what manner: and He named the Cross [as His] death.

**St John Chrysostom commentary on the letter to the Galatians chapter 6:14**

**Verse 14.** *"But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Truly this symbol is thought despicable; but it is so in the world's reckoning, and among men; in Heaven and among the faithful it is the highest glory. Poverty too is despicable, but it is our boast; and to be cheaply thought of by the public is a matter of laughter to them, but we are elated by it. So too is the Cross our boast. He does not say, "I boast not," nor, "I will not boast," but, "Far be it from me that I should," as if he abominated it as absurd, and invoked the aid of God in order to his success therein. And what is the boast of the Cross? That Christ for my sake took on Him the form of a slave, and bore His sufferings for me the slave, the enemy, the unfeeling one; yea He so loved me as to give Himself up to a curse for me. What can be comparable to this! If servants who only receive praise from their masters, to whom they are akin by nature, are elated thereby, how must we not boast when the Master who is very God is not ashamed of the Cross which was endured for us. Let us then not be ashamed of His unspeakable tenderness; He was not ashamed of being crucified for thy sake, and wilt thou be ashamed to confess His infinite solicitude? It is as if a prisoner who had not been ashamed of his King, should, after that King had come to the prison and himself loosed the chains, become ashamed of him on that account. Yet this would be the height of madness, for this very fact would be an especial ground for boasting.

**Verse 14.** *"Through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world."*

What he here calls the world is not the heaven nor the earth, but the affairs of life, the praise of men, retinues, glory, wealth, and all such things as have a show of splendor. To me these things are dead. Such an one it behooves a Christian to be, and always to use this language. Nor was he content with the former putting to death, but added another, saying, "and I unto the world," thus implying a double putting to death, and saying, They are dead to me, and I to them, neither can they captivate and overcome me, for they are dead once for all, nor can I desire them, for I too am dead to them. Nothing can be more blessed than this putting to death, for it is the foundation of the blessed life.

**C. REFLECTION:**

---

*The Church celebrates the feast of the finding of the Holy Cross with two processions. One short at vespers and another longer and more elaborate at Matins. Children would be excited to share in both*



*processions, but because the feast in most years falls on week days, it might be impractical for them to participate in the morning one. All attention should be given to them in participating in the vespers procession.*

#### D. PRAYER:

---

Lord, who on the sixth day, at the sixth hour You were nailed to the Cross for the sin that Adam dared to commit in paradise. Break the bonds of our sins, Lord Christ and save us. I cried to the Lord and He heard me. Lord accept my prayer and answer my supplication, hear me in the evening and in the morning and at noon. Hear my words and spare my soul.

---

#### LESSON PREPARATION:

##### A. SONG:

---

Evol Heten pi-Estavros.

##### B. VOCABULARY:

---

##### 3. Trinity

##### 4. Blessed

##### C. INTRODUCTION

---

I have a very important question for you today; the answer to this question has literally changed peoples' lives. What is the most powerful sign in the whole world? [May need to provide examples of signs so that the students understand: a heart, an arrow, etc... Encourage them to think of truly the most *powerful* one]. The Cross. This is the most powerful sign in the world.

##### D. LESSON BODY:

---

#### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Why is the Cross so powerful? Because when I sign myself with the Cross, I sign myself with the weapon that defeated the devil and sin. Because when our Lord gave up Himself on the cross He brought us back to His kingdom.

It is powerful because I say with it the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (make the sign of the cross as this is being said). This is the Name of our God, of the **Trinity**. And it is the most important name and the most **blessed** name.

I need to tell you something else – the sign of the Cross is almost like a secret for the Christians. Other people who are not Christian do not understand how special the Cross is to Christians and to them, it just seems like moving your hand around. But a Christian knows the secret, knows how powerful and how special the Cross is. Remember that.

When I sign myself with the Cross, I go from top to bottom. This means something. Let me ask you – who went from the top to the bottom? What is up there, at the top? [Heaven]. And what is down here, that we are standing on? [Earth]. Who was living in Heaven and then came down to Earth? [Our Lord Jesus Christ]. So when I take my fingers and I go from top to bottom, I am doing what Christ did when He came from Heaven down to Earth and was born from St. Mary.

Then after this, we go from left to right. This also means something very special. The left side represents the sadness and darkness we were in without Christ. Then when I move my fingers from the left side to the right side, this shows the change that Christ has done in my life – He moved me from a dark, sad place and to a place that is full of light and joy, moved me closer to Him.

## USING THE CROSS

Does anybody know when we use the sign of the Cross? [Anytime and all the time!] We use the cross before we do anything: before we leave our room, eat, sleep, do our work in school and at home. We also use the sign of the cross if we are ever scared or sad or angry. [Invite the students to name other times they would use the sign of the cross].

## E. PLAN AND MATERIALS:

---

- *Prepare wooden crosses for the students to carry during procession. have them decorate it during the class and write messages of love to Christ our Lord.*

## F. CONCLUSION

---

### 3. REVIEW QUESTIONS:

---

Q. Why the sign of the cross is powerful?

A. *because it is the sign that defeated the devil and that we say the Name of God with it*

Q. When do we bless ourselves with the sign of the cross?

A. *before we start anything*

Q. When I make the sign of the cross, why do I move my hand from my head to my belly?

A. *to say that Our Lord came down from heaven to the belly of St Mary*

Q. Why do I move my hand from left to right

A. *to say that by the Cross of Our Lord we were moved from darkness and sadness to light and joy*

4. VERSE TO REMEMBER:

.....

*Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*