

Sunday School Program

Grade 1

Class of Archangel Michael



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen.

Preface To The First Edition

The sole aim of Christianity is that people should know the Redeemer and live with him as pure sons. The church education aims at helping people to live in purity. So the Servant has to make lesson and the child's activities an integrated part of the church live and the typical Christian life in society.

Any course, however perfect it may be, and however well prepared it is, needs a good Servant to teach it. Every Servant must prepare his lessons well.

This guide, together with the Book, "How to serve the Elementary Stage" is an attempt to help the Servant to prepare his lessons. The Servant has to make use of it as the need arises, but not to depend entirely upon it.

Publishing and Editing Committee
Diocese of Beni Sweif

Preface To The Second Edition

The Lord of Glory came down to earth to change the way people live: from submissions to sin to enjoyment of righteousness. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10: 10). So, Christianity aims at the new virtuous life. It is worthy of note that the church, through her various services, and the preachers, through their various preaching services have one aim; i.e. people must recognize this new life and enjoy its grace and grow in it through practicing virtues. The church education deems it its duty to serve children in the domains of education and preaching so that they may grow in Christian life and become faithful to the Lord and bear true witness to Him: "I have written to you, young men because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14).

Servants of Church Education are the deacons of the Church who are devoted to instructing young people in religion. Their service is part of the church pastoral work. So, the Servant's interest in both the child and the lesson and the spirit of his dedication constitute the basis of his service. That is why he has to prepare his lessons very well.

This guide, together with another book, "How to serve the Stage of Childhood" is an attempt aiming at helping the Servant to prepare his lessons.

The Lesson

Church Education Service is divided into:

- A lesson full of prayer, knowledge, hymns and group interaction.
- Assignments in the form of Scripture Studies, answering questions, drawing, etc.
- External social activities in which parents, pastors and children meet.
- Partaking all types of public worship, teaching and various occasions.
- Deacon Servants should commit themselves to attending to the children with interest.

This Book

We have combined the Church Education Course set by the Bishopric of Education with the Religion Education Course set by the Ministry of Education. The fifth syllabus is distributed over the months of the year and the regular school lessons are added and distributed over the first and second periods as alternative lesson by the end of each period. It is for the Servant to choose which lesson to give. It is he that should decide, as the whole matter depends on the circumstances of his service.

In this “Guide”, some lessons are prepared in detail while others are briefly prepared. This is done on purpose, as we do not want the Servant to rely entirely on this “Guide”. We have set some verses, scripture items, extracts and hymns for each grade. Such items integrate with the lessons and are necessary for the children.

Home Assignment

We have issued illustrated lessons with this second edition. They are to be distributed among the children. Children should keep a private notebook in which they can write notes about these lessons and do their homework and activities.

May God the Almighty guide us to serve the children of the church and to bring them up in the life of grace, holiness and the fellowship of saints.

Glory be to God forever and ever, Amen.
Publishing and Editing Committee
Diocese of Beni Sweif

The First Elementary Grade Program

The Age of Six

A six-year-old child leads a life of continuous experience, thoughts, and exciting treatment. So, Church Education attempts at helping him know how the Lord cares for him, and in this way, the child will respond through his love to God and his obedience to Him. The Servant should be aware of the fact that the child is curious to know everything about God. Therefore, tell him that God is Our Shepherd and that the Lord always cares for him, his family, his school, his church, his friends and life inside and outside the church... And here we find that a hymn that give courage and a story, which is lively, will be important and effective.

We have to note the following:

1. Do not expect much from the children. Give them support and encourage them to work in an atmosphere of love.
2. Give a variety of activities and encourage the activity that is somewhat calm and peaceful.
3. Bear it in mind that children cannot go on working for a long time, unless they do manual work, and speak while working.
4. Introduce discussion that results in new information and do not resort to the traditional method.
5. Make use of the children' ideas and take what they love into consideration. You have also to take the following into account:
 - a. The previous lesson.
 - b. Church service.
 - c. Church life.
 - d. Family life, school life and general activities.

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THE FIRST PERIOD

(1) The Nyrouze Party Or The Martyr's Miraculous Deed (St. George)

References

- + Study the Book: Martyrdom in Christianity - St. George
- + "The Great Martyr" by Deacon Faris Saeed
- + Children illustrated stories series (The Glories of Martyrs) - Siliman Nesseem

To the Servant

1. St. Paul said: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives, in me" (Galatians 2:20). Some people feel that this is strange, but it is the only natural and logical language for those who live for Christ.
2. But to all who received him, who believed in His name he gave power to become children of God.
3. Life, which is devoted wholly to Christ, is truly called Christian life. Martyrs lived for Christ with grace; they did no evil and remained pure till death. Sincere Christians were honest in life and death. They endured torture and pain; they received the horrible death calmly and they did not deny their Redeemer.
4. Let us study the story of the three young men (Daniel's friends; Daniel 3); Daniel in the Pit of Lions (Daniel 6); and Stephen (Acts 7).
5. They are now in heaven with Christ; there is fellowship between them and us; they love us and pray for us; and through their prayers we receive the mercy of God. Let us call them, intercede with their prayers, and put lit candles before their icons, and sing hymns of praise to God and for them.

The Lesson

Aim

Being firm in faith till death

Verse

"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want" {Psalm 23:1)

Hymn

+ O St. George, O St. George (Praise the Lord, Page 130)

Aids

Bring a picture of St. George, decorate it with flowers, and bring some candles and a matchbox, then the Servant asks the children: Whose picture is this? What is he riding? What does he hold in his hand? What is there under the horse?

A Story

On the Way: A man, his wife and their son, Isaac was traveling on a boat making for St. George church. Together With other people, they took the boat. The people spoke about the miraculous

deeds performed by St. George casting out demons, healing blind people. Isaac was happy. He listened to those stories and sang hymns of praise.

Where were people going? Which means of communication did they take? Why was Isaac happy? Lets sing a hymn together: O St. George, O St. George.

Isaac drinks water: Isaac fell asleep, and then he got up and asked his mother to give him water to drink. His mother was half asleep. She stretched out her hand to fill the cup with water from the river. A man was passing Isaac. The boy stood up in horror. He fell down into the river and it was dark. His mother cried, “O St. George...” The people cried. They lit candles. It was still night... Those who knew how to swim threw themselves into the river but they could not find the boy. A little boy said that he saw Isaac swim in the river before the boat, surrounded with light. The people were surprised. Isaac’s mother wanted to go back to her town but her husband insisted on visiting St. George. She agreed. She wept bitterly. She cried, “O St. George, bring me my son”.

What happened to Isaac? What did the little boy see? Let’s repeat the verse together, “The Lord is my Shepherd”

The Visit: The boat reached the shore. All the passengers left the boat. Isaac’s parents visited the church. They offered their oblation. Priest Hanna was pleased with them. “Welcome Isaac’s father. Welcome Isaac’s mother. What is wrong with you?” “Isaac fell into the river”, they said. The priest kept silent for a while then said: “Isaac! In the name of the Father, and the Son Isaac He was surprised. He was whispering when they heard him saying: “Who was here then?” Isaac’s father cried; “What did you say, father?” And the priest said, “Nothing, my son. I thought I saw Isaac here...” The procession was coming and children were in Deacon’s clothes. St. George’s Icon was surrounded with flowers and candles. Priests were holding censers. All the people were singing hymns “O St. George, O St. George...” Isaac’s mother cried, “My son” and Isaac ran towards the children. He said to her, “All people are praising God”. He told her the story and all the people were astonished. How did Isaac escape death? Isaac said that when he fell into the water, he cried, “O Lord, save me, O St. George”. A very big fish carried him through the water and brought him to the shore. Then he saw St. George bring him down from the horse. He entered the church when he knew that there was a procession...He put on a deacon’s clothes. All the people said, “O St. George!”

Children carry St. George’s picture, carry candles and sing the hymn.

Questions

- + Whose picture is this?
- + What was St. George’s job?
- + What is that serpent on the ground? It is the symbol of the devil?
- + Where were Isaac’s parents going to?
- + What happened to Isaac?
- + How was he saved?

Homework

Let's light a candle before St. George's Icon in the church, this week. Let's pray and intercede with St. I George "O Lord, help us".

Notes:

1. If it is difficult to make a procession in the class, all the classes can make a procession after the end of the lessons, and each class can carry the picture of the saint they have studied.
2. There is no need to give the story of St. George in detail.
3. Teach the children to befriend saints.

(2) Making the Sign of the Cross

References

- + Matthew 10:38,27:32
- + 1 Corinthians 1:18
- + Galatians 6:12

To the Servant

1. Have you made the cross a goal of your life? Do you have comfort of heart in the cross?
2. Do you feel that the cross is the cause of your salvation and forgiveness of your sins as Christ's blood was poured upon it, that blood which purifies us of every sin?
3. Do you pray to the beloved Lord who took flesh and was crucified and in this your spiritual power increases through your continuous prayers to him?
4. There is comfort and pride in the cross... Through the cross, the Lord of Glory went to the Mount of Ascension, and the cross brings our soul to where the crucified lives: "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you and fill up in my flesh what is lacking the afflictions of Christ" (Colossians 1:24).

The Lesson

Aim

The children should be accustomed to making the sign of the cross and to resorting to it and trusting in its power in their daily life.

Verse

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1)

Hymn

- + My Cross My Cross...Arabic Song
- + The Lord is my Shepherd... the Lord is my Shepherd [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

Aids

1. A cross that is made of colored paper stuck to papier-mâché, or made of reeds, bamboo or palm leaves, or of a collection of post stamps, or a group of snails or stones of fruit... according to what you find in your environment.
2. The Servant raises the picture of the cross before the children and asks: "What is this picture about? Why do we love the cross? Where can we see the cross? The church... sanctuary... sanctuary veil... in the priest's hand... Why do Christians make the sign of the cross and tattoo this mark on their hands? Why do they carry the cross? Because they love it and are proud of it. When do we make the sign of the cross? When we walk in dark places, when we are afraid, before we eat and drink, when we enter our house or any place and when we go out (to have its blessing before and after prayer), when we get up, before going to bed, and when we enter the church.

A Story

There was a boy whose name was Peter. His father asked him to fetch a book from a dark room. At first Peter hesitated, he was afraid, but he remembered what the Sunday School Servant said to them "The Servant said that the sign of the cross drives fear away". He raised the finger of his right hand to his forehead in this way, and said "In the Name of the Father" because God the Father is up in heaven...and put-it on his chest in this way and said, "And the Son" because the Son descended to our earth and dwelt in the virgin's womb to redeem us. Then he put it on the left side, then to the right side in this way and said, "And the Holy Spirit" because the Holy Spirit brought us from the left to the right, i.e., from the dark to the light and we stayed with Christ. He then completed saying: "One God. Amen". Then he kissed his hand as a sign of showing thanks to the Lord. Peter was pleased as he could drive fear away by making the sign of the cross. He entered the dark room and he said: "The Lord is my Shepherd". Let us say together "The Lord..." and let's say "My Cross, my cross". Let's sing a hymn together. He fetched the book and ran to his father and gave it to him and told him how he was afraid at first, but when he made the sign of the cross, he drove fear away. His father kissed him.

Questions

1. Why do we say "In the name of the Father", up there at our head? And the "Son" when we refer to our chests and the "Holy Spirit" moving our hand from left to right?
2. What is the name of the boy?
3. Why was he afraid to enter the room?
4. When was he able to enter the room?
5. What did he bring? For whom? Let's say the verse together: The Lord is my Shepherd, etc.

Homework

1. Making the sign of the cross before eating, going to bed, and when you get up or when you are afraid.
2. Each child can draw a cross on a piece of paper and color it. The Servant is to give rewards for the best three crosses drawn by children.

Notes

1. Before giving any new lesson make sure that each child has drawn the cross in the right way.

2. Encourage the child to love the cross and to be proud of it. Examples: Tattooing the mark of the cross on the right hand and hanging a cross on the chest.
3. Explain the relationship between Christ and the cross. Speak about Christ crucified on the cross because of his love for us.
4. When the Servant faces the children to teach them how to make the sign of the cross, he should move his hand from right to left so that children will imitate him and move their hands from left to right.
5. Make crosses of wood and hold them in your hands while praying in class.
6. The Servant distributes crosses made of plastic among the children.

Recitation

The children begin to study the Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven... This should be used till lesson 8 and the Servant should encourage and reward those who study and use it.

The Unit of God's Power and His Care

(3) The Process of Creation: God Creates the World for Us

References

+ Genesis 1: Interpretation of the Book of Genesis, Sporting

To the Servant

1. If we were not created, we would not know Christ nor would we taste his love and grace.
2. God created us to know him, live for him and enjoy staying with him.
3. We must thank God all the time for the things he created for us such as the sun, plants and animals.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care and love for us

Verse

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1)

Hymn

+ “I have two little eyes with which I can see the Face of the Lord” or “who has created this high heaven” [Arabic Songs]
 + “1,2,3 Jesus Loves me” [Praise the Lord, Page 61]

Aids

1. Some beautiful things, different types of flowers with different colors, different kinds of stones, snails, sand, vegetables or fruit, and a cup of water.

2. Pictures of animals or models of animals and fish or birds.
3. Pictures of silver stars, sun, and moon.
4. Phonograph - Audio visual center - The Book of the Fathers (Lesson 1)
5. Films.
6. A blackboard and chalk (white and colored) for drawing things.

Questions

- + What can we see when we walk in the street? In the school! In the garden! In the sea!
- + Questions about things (The things the Servant has brought with him - Emphasize their beauty and use).
- + Set the scene by asking what would the case in the world be and how would it look like without men, things, water, plants or animals.

1. The Servant begins the lesson by saying that God exists... the earth was void and there was nothing on it. There were no trees, no houses, no animals and no people. Nothing, nothing, nothing. There was darkness only. And God said, "I will make a man and call him Adam. I will make him happy. He will love me and speak with me at anytime". Then the Lord said, "I will arrange everything in the world and I make the earth a good place for Adam. I will create light so that Adam can live". And then God said "Let there be light and there was light, a bright light. The sun gave heat and light. Adam could see everything. He could read, play and eat. When the sun disappeared at night, the Lord said, "I will not leave Adam in the dark and God made the moon and the stars". Then the Lord said: "When Adam comes, what will he eat?" The Lord ordered the earth to bring out good vegetables so that when Adam comes he can eat good food. Many vegetables and fruits appeared on earth, apples, watermelon, grapes, cress, etc. (The Servant asks the children to complete the list of vegetables and fruits).
2. Then the Lord said, "When Adam comes, what will he ride when he wants to travel? A cat? A dog? (Here the children say: a donkey... a horse... a camel) God made all the animals (rabbit, lion, elephant). The Servant asks the children to complete the list of animals) (Do not concentrate on animals in this lesson, as we shall explain them in detail in the next lesson.
3. God made the birds, the fish, etc.
4. On the sixth day: the last day the Lord said, "Everything is good". Then the Lord brought some dust and breathed life-giving breath into it -and Oh! There was a very good-looking man standing before the Lord and the man was very happy and the Lord said to him, "Your name is Adam. You will have all these things for your benefit and I will be with you.
5. Adam saw everything and knew that everything was useful to him.

Notes

1. You must not explain how the Lord created Adam and Eve in detail for this age.
2. Concentrate on the Love of God for Adam.
3. When the Servant prays with his class, he must thank the Lord Jesus for the sun, the light and all the things God made for us.

4. The Servant must not mention the days of creation in their logical order in this stage unless he uses means of illustration that can draw creatures every day and explain what happened on each day in a simple way.

(4) God Cares for Adam in Paradise

References

+ Genesis 1, 2: Interpretation of Genesis, Sporting

To the Servant

1. O Lord, What is man that you are mindful of him and the Son of Man that you visit him? For you have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet.
2. You created me a man, as a lover of mankind. And You are not in need of my worship but rather that I had need of your sovereign. O Lord, You are not in need of my worship, my service, or my prayers but it is I that am in need of you.

The Lesson

Aim

God's care and love for us

Verse

“Bless the Lord, O my soul” (Psalm 103:1)

Hymn

The previous one

Aids

1. The same as the previous lesson.
2. Of what use was each of the following to Adam: plants, animals, fish, the sky, etc.
3. How did Adam enjoy the things God made for him?
4. What would have happened if God had not created light for Adam: plants, animals, birds, etc.?

Adam is alone in the Garden. The Lord creates Eve to help him. They lived together in the Garden of Eden and he was pleased with her. They gather food and eat together.

One day, the Lord brought all the animals to Adam and Adam saw that all the animals obeyed him. All the animals played together; the mouse with the lion, the dog with the cat and the elephant with the monkey.

Then the Lord said to Adam, “Give a name to each animal” And Adam gave the name “dog” to one of the animals and he called it and the dog knew its name and ran quickly to Adam. Adam

said to the cat, “Your name is cat”, a cat sat on a chair under the tree and the cat sat under the tree and so on. He gave a name to each animal. Adam thanked God for this.

Notes

1. Concentrate on Adam Is happiness when he saw Eve, and on their happy life together in the Garden.
2. God gave Adam authority over all animals and all animals, even the fierce ones, lived with Adam in peace.
3. Explain how Adam was interested in animals and how he treated them in a gentle way so that the child I will play with the cat or the dog without hurting them.

(5) God Cares for Noah in the Ark

References

+ Genesis 6, 7 along with the previous reference

To the Servant

1. All those who entered the Ark were saved and the same is true for anyone who enters the font of baptism as when a person enters the font he feels as if he were in the Ark surrounded with water.
2. God calls all people to come and be saved and he who wants to be saved, answers and responds to the call of the Lord, enters the ark, shuts the door and prays to God, but he who does not want to be saved, will be destroyed by the great flood of this world.
3. God is true in his promise, and if the Lord had not promised not to send another flood, many other great floods because of their sin and also our sins would have drowned the people of the world. We, as Servants in Sunday School always sin against the Lord, as we do not fulfill our promise to the Lord. May the Lord. May the Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us.

The Lesson

Aim

Noah’s love for God and God’s love and care for him.

Verse

“Bless the Lord, O my soul” (Psalm 103:1)

Hymn

+ My Cross...My Cross

Aids

1. A model of a ship made of wood, paper or cloth, or a picture of a ship.
2. Pictures or models of different animals.
3. A picture of a raven and a dove or a model of them.
1. What happens when heavy rain falls?

2. What happens when water falls for a long time?
3. Is it possible for ships to sink in the rain? Why?

Give the children an idea about the animals, which the Lord created. (Revision of the previous lesson) Give them an idea about ships, their kinds and describe the ships.

Explain what an ark is and tell them that it is the name of a very big ship (So that the child can understand the meaning of the word “Ark” as it is new to them and it is difficult for them to imagine it). Give them an idea about rain and what happens if it continues to fall heavily and for a long time.

Items

1. Noah was a good-hearted man. He worshipped God but he lived among wicked people. God loved Noah and He advised him to build up a big ship (the Ark).
2. People laughed at Noah and they did not take his words seriously so they were drowned.
3. The Lord saved Noah and kept him safe and Noah thanked the Lord who saved him.

You can remind the children of God’s love for man. You can ask them, “What did the Lord do for Adam?” The children can sing hymns, “Who created heaven?” or “I have two eyes”. Although the Lord loves man, we see that man sins again and again. Describe people who sin and how they always call each other and one another bad names. They never go to church. They never pray. God sent Noah to preach to them. Noah was a good-hearted man. Noah and his family obeyed the Lord. Noah taught people how to love the Lord but they laughed at him and rejected him.

The Lord was not pleased with those people who did not walk in his ways and who were very bad. Noah prayed to the Lord and the Lord said to him, “Noah, I am not pleased with those people so I will make the sky send huge amounts of water. Rain will fall heavily and all the people of the earth and all the animals will be drowned. For this reason, make yourself a big ship of three decks with windows and when you finish making it, I will tell you what to do. Noah told the people that the Lord would drown them with rain but they did not take his words seriously. Noah gathered many pieces of wood and with the help of his sons and built up the ark.

People wondered... they laughed at him because he was making a ship in the street. When he had made the ship, he prayed to the Lord. He and his sons prayed to the Lord. The Lord said to him, “Noah, get into the ark and take your family with you. Take into the ark with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and every kind of bird... sheep... donkeys...” In this way the ark was full of animals. Noah and his wife, and his sons and their wives, went into the ark to escape the flood and the Lord shut the door behind Noah. People were watching and laughing at the ship that was in the street.

Heavy rain fell down from the sky, snow also... all the people were drowned...all houses were destroyed... Each one of them climbed a high place, a tree, a house, but wherever they went they found water reaching them and all people were drowned. But Noah and his sons, his wife and his sons’ wives, and the animals that were with him inside the ark were saved. The Ark was floating

on the surface of the water. Noah and his sons were praying inside the ship and the animals were standing still while they were praying. After forty days the rain stopped and Noah opened a window to see if the earth was dry .He brought a raven and said to it, “Raven, go out and see if there is a tree”. The raven went out and did not come back. Noah sent a dove with the same words. The sweet calm dove obeyed him. It went out quickly but found nothing but water so it went back to him. Noah sent the dove out again after a few days, and the dove came back with a fresh olive leaf in its beak... So he knew that the trees had appeared. Noah was very happy this time. Noah went out of the ark with his wife, his sons and their wives. All the animals and the birds went out of the ark in groups of their own kind. They all thanked God because He saved them.

Questions

1. What did the Lord ask Noah to do?
2. What happened when rain fell?
3. Who remembers the verse?

Instructions

1. The Servant concentrates on the fact that the Lord saved Noah because he was righteous, and that he destroyed the others because they were wicked.
2. The Servant should not forget that some situations arouse the children’s curiosity and interest, so he has to explain how Noah and his children lived with the animals inside the ark. Swallows awoke them to pray and when Noah and his children prayed, the animals kept silent and did not move and even the sparrows prayed with them.
3. Make a ship of stiff paper with windows at the top and use it as a means of illustration.

(6) The Angel Guides Tobiah

References

+ The Book of Tobiah

To the Servant

1. God has given man talents, powers, and gifts that the angels desire to see.
2. The Lord delights in the sons of men -We have to know that our delight is in Jesus Christ, as it is written: “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).

The Lesson

Aim

Angels guard us

Verse

“He shall give his angels charge concerning you” (Matthew 4:6)

Hymn

White, white... as white as a beautiful dove [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aides

1. An angel's wing made of silver paper, or white cardboard paper or cloth - a white dress.
2. A big plastic fish.
3. A pair of dark spectacles to present Tobiah's father as a blind man.
4. A big picture of the Guardian angel.

Introduction

1. Revise the Lesson about Noah and show how the Lord cared about him, kept him and was with him.
2. Provide an idea about blindness and how it is difficult to cure.
3. Show that a blind man is usually nervous.
4. Provide an idea about fish, gills, and whale. Cod liver oil, a good idea about angels, their light, their obedience to God and their services to people.

Items

1. Father's love for God and his people.
2. He fell ill and his wife began to murmur and complain.
3. The angels cared about Tobiah.
4. All the people became happy when Tobiah's father recovered.

There was a king who did not know the Lord - He treated people severely -Tobiah, a God-fearing man comforted those in grief, gave food to the hungry and clothes to those who needed clothes. One day he went to his house late and slept beside a wall.

A swallow poured its water on his eyes and he became blind. He did not murmur or complain. He thanked the Lord. We are poor but I am sure that the Lord will give us many good things. His wife sewed clothes. She brought a little kid, slaughtered it, and cooked its meat to eat. He said to her, "Take care not to steal anything".

He asked his son to go to the city of Media, to bring ten pieces of silver from a man there, who had taken them from him. When he went out of his house he saw a man whose face was sweet - he did know him so he said to him, "Are you going to Media? Do you know the way to Media?" The man with the sweet face said, "I went there many times". The boy went back to the house and told his father about the man with the bright face... but his father could not see him... But he asked him to go to Media with his son - and when he came back, he would give him his wage. The mother was anxious about her son as he was her only son. She wept bitterly but she rejoiced when Tobiah's father told her that the Lord's angel would accompany the boy to Media, guard him on the road and take care of him till he came back to them.

He took the dog with him. He slept beside the sea. He washed his feet. A whale came out of the water to devour him. He was afraid but the angel said to him, "Hold it by its gills... cut it... get its heart and liver out..." and the boy did so. He put some salt on its meat and ate. When they

came back the dog was ahead of them and it barked loudly. His father rejoiced. The boy put a piece of the whale's liver on the eyes of his father and the man recovered his sight and was healed. They tried to reward the man who accompanied the boy, but the man said, "I am Angel Raphael standing before the Lord... Peace be to you... Do not be afraid... Tobiah's father rejoiced. He lived till he saw Tobiah's sons and grandsons.

Questions

1. What did Tobiah's father and mother do to earn their living?
2. Who met young Tobiah when he went out of his house?
3. What should you do to please your guardian angel?

Notes

1. Do not mention the details of Tobiah's marriage and how the devil killed the wife's husbands.
2. Do not tell them that the Book of Tobiah is one of the Apocrypha Books so as not to confuse their minds.
3. Concentrate on the angel's good qualities and sweet face.

(7) The Angels: The Guardian Angel

References

- + Matthew 4:6, 18:10
- + Synaxarium, Part 1, 12 Babah

To the Servant

1. How wonderful the work of the angel is. They are always praising and glorifying the Lord. It is our duty to do the same work as they do and we have to follow their example.
2. A monk once said, "He who always seek his sins before him is better than that who sees angels.
3. God loves us deeply and desires our salvation so he has given us his body and blood and did not give them to angels as the Scripture says: He delights in the sons of men, and he did not say that his delight was in angels.
4. O Great Angel Michael intercede for us so that the Lord may forgive our sins.

The Lesson

Aim

God cares about us when we are in trouble

Verse

"For My angel will go before you" (Exodus 23:23)

Hymn

+ You and your angels are with me O most merciful [Arabic Song]

+ 1, 2,3 Jesus Loves me ...[Praise the Lord, Page 61]

Aids

1. The previous aids concerning the angel.
2. Some dishes, flour -fruit.
3. A fish.
4. The Angel's pastry.

Introduction

1. Review questions about the work of angels given in the precious lesson.
2. How did Angel Raphael guard Tobiah on his way to Media?
3. How was his father healed?
4. Describe his appearance and the color of his face.
5. Where do angels dwell?
6. How does the Angel's pastry look like?
7. When do we make it and why?
8. God and the angels are pleased with us when we give alms.

Items

1. A man and his wife rejoiced when they saw the angel. They made a feast for the poor on the Angel's Day.
2. Because they were poor, they could not make a big feast for the poor as they used to do.
3. The angel helped them and he made the feast.

A Story

There was a man and his wife who loved God and the poor people. They used to make a feast for the poor on the Angel's day. God blessed their house and gave them many things.

They did not stop doing that, but one year they had no money ...they had no food. They were sad because they would not make the feast for the poor as usual on the Angel's Day. They decided to sell their clothes. The angel appeared to them and told the man to go to a sheep keeper and take a sheep from him and pay a small part of its price, and then to go to the fisherman and buy a big fish and pay a small part of its price and to go to the baker's shop and buy some loaves. The man brought the sheep, the fish and the loaves and put them in the dining room as the angels ordered him to do.

1. What did the man and his wife use to do?
2. What did the angel say to the man?

He went out to invite the poor as he did every year. The house was crowded with guests and the man did not know how much food they would eat... He entered the kitchen and prayed to the Lord... He said to the Angel Michael, "Come and see: What shall we do now?" The Angel Michael appeared to him and said, "Do not be afraid... Open the dining room and give food to the guests... When he opened the room, he found it full of all kinds of food, fruit, and sweets. He gave the people to eat and thanked God for all these good things. Then they all left in peace

thanking God after they had cleaned the table and the house... The Angel appeared with his bright beautiful white light.

Hymn

Write, white, white as ...

The angel said to the man “open the fish”. He opened it and found 300 pounds in it. The angel said to him, “Give one hundred pounds to the sheep keeper, the fisherman and the baker... bring back your clothes and buy new clothes. Give one hundred pounds to the church and take one hundred pounds. Keep it for your wife... Now you know that it is the Lord who has sent me and he tells you that from now on you will need nothing. Then the angel disappeared.

Homework

The child is asked to color the picture of the lesson at home and hang it on the wall beside his bed.

Notes

1. Make your description of some situations lively - the appearance of the angel should be described nicely.
2. Emphasize the state of poverty they suffered from and their perplexity on the feast day.
3. It is important for the children to be happy when they hear of the appearance of the angel and the money inside the fish.
4. If we pray before we go to bed, God will send us an angel to guard us all night long and protect us from bad thoughts and dreams.
5. You can turn the light on when the angel appears and turn it off when he disappears.
6. Encourage the child to give alms and to save some of his pocket money and put it in the alms box devoted for the poor.

(8) The Stairway that Jacob Saw: The Angels Comfort Jacob in his Troubles

References

+ Genesis 28: Explanation of the Book of Genesis

To the Servant

1. When the cares of my heart are many, thy consolations cheer my soul.
2. It is the Lord to whom we should resort in time of trouble and pain as no man can comfort us or make us forget our suffering but the Lord answers us quickly.
3. The Lord comforted me in all my troubles and solved all my problems, but sorry to say, I always forget the Lord's gifts to me and his blessings - however the Lord is always honest with us although we are not honest with him.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord comforts us when we are in trouble

Verse

“Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15)

Hymn

+ White... white... white... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Introduction

1. In the desert we see sand, wild animals -It is hot -It is cold -It is dark.
2. There are no people, no houses, no streets, no plants, no light, and no water.
3. Revision of the angels: Whom does the Lord send us when we are alone? Whom does the Lord send us when we are afraid?

Items

1. Jacob's obedience to his parents and his love for God.
2. Troubles on the road...He looked at the sky and was delighted.
3. God sent angels to comfort him and mad him glad.

An old man had two sons Esau and Jacob. Jacob worshipped God, obeyed his parents and his parents loved him. Esau was annoyed with Jacob because his parents loved him more than they loved him. His mother advised him to go to his uncle's house (her brother) to stay there for some days till Esau forgets his hatred to his brother.

- + What is the name of the two sons?
- + What is the name of their father?
- + What did the mother say to the younger son?

Jacob told his father that he would stay with his uncle till Esau learnt to pray and obey his parents. He greeted his father and mother and kissed their hands. He took with him food and water for he was travelling a long distance. It was the first time for Jacob to travel alone. He was afraid of insects and was sorry for his brother. Night came when he was in the desert. He was anxious and tired. He slept on the ground. He remembered his father's house where he slept in his bed and covered himself with a quilt made of silk... He prayed...then he slept and put his head on a stone.

While he was asleep, he saw a sweet dream. (We also have sweet dreams if we pray before we go to bed). He saw a tall stairway reaching the sky. Angels were going up and down the stairway. Their light was shining brightly. Then Jacob saw a light that was very bright coming out of heaven and the Lord came down the stairway and stood and said to him, “Jacob, do not be afraid. I will be with you and I will give you this land on which you are lying”. The angels said to Jacob, “You are lucky. The Lord has spoken to you. The Lord loves you. Do not be afraid of

anything". Jacob woke up. He was very happy. He said, I must build a church for the Lord in this good place where I slept. He took the stone that was under his head and set it up as a memorial. Then he poured olive oil on it to dedicate it to God, and said, "My Lord, thank you very much for your love for me. When I come back I shall build a church here in this place as I have said". He prayed and then he continued his journey and arrived at his uncle's house in peace.

- + What was the dream that Jacob saw?
- + What did Jacob say when he woke up?
- + Who of you prays before going to bed?

Instruction

1. This lesson is very nice. The Servant should describe Jacob's state of fear in an emotional way... Then he explains how the Lord comforted him.
2. The reason why Jacob was afraid from the children's point of view is his state of loneliness outside his house.
3. When you describe the dream concentrate on the beauty of the angels in a very simple and sweet way. Show that the angels were kind to Jacob and comforted him.
4. Do not mention how Esau sold his right as a first-born son. Do not say that Esau envied his brother or that he intended to kill him. Just say that Esau was annoyed and refused to meet him.
5. You can train the children to pray before going to bed to have happy dreams.
6. You can describe the angels by saying: The angels were dressed in white... they were like white doves... bright, bright as light... In this way the children understand the lesson... They sing a hymn then go back to the lesson... In this way you keep them attentive.

(9) The Lost Sheep

References

- + Luke 15: Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke

To the Servant

1. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.
2. How lovely it is to be one flock, of one shepherd, the Lord Christ.
3. Although Jesus gives all means of comfort to us as well as means of grace, blessing and love, yet we often desire to Sin.
4. Lord, you made me a shepherd to take care of these young angels. O Lord do not deprive them of your grace because of my sins, and do not deprive me of their blessing and accept their prayers for me. Amen.

The Lesson

Aim

God's love and care for us

Verse

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1) or “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11)

Hymn

+ We are the children of the shepherd, the good shepherd [Arabic Song]

+ I have decided to follow Jesus [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

Aids

1. A picture of a sheep or some sheep or a model of a small sheep.
2. A shepherd's staff (stick). Some green plants as food. A flute for the shepherd for singing hymns.
3. The picture of Christ, the good shepherd to be shown at the end of the story.

Introduction

1. Who has seen a sheep?
2. How does it look like?
3. What does it eat?
4. How does he speak?
5. Where does it live?
6. When does it eat?
7. Where does it drink?
8. Where does it sleep?

Give the children an idea about how sheep live. They live together in one place... they go out together every day to search for good, in any garden, and drink from any canal... they walk behind the good-hearted shepherd... who hold the staff in his hand to protect them with from any dog or wolf... He holds some clover in his hand and they gather around him... Give them an idea about the mountains and the far away places where there is no water, no light, no plants... and which are full of thorns.

Items

1. The sheep among its brothers the sheep and its sweet life with its shepherd.
2. The state of the sheep, which went away from its brothers and lost its way.
3. The state of the sheep when it came back to the flock and the shepherd and they were all happy when it repented.

Marcos has one hundred sheep... he loves them.. He knows each one of them by name... Every day they leave the house and go to the gardens and the fields to eat, play, drink and enjoy the beauty of nature.. There is a nice sheep among the sheep called Foufou. The Servant describes the beauty Foufou and its love for its brothers and its thin voice... maa...maa...maa... One day, uncle Marcos took his children the sheep, which were gentle and sweet... and said to them, “Today we are going for a walk in a very nice place full of clover. It is far away from here”. They became very happy and shouted maa...maa...maa... Uncle Marcos took some clover and all the sheep walked happily behind him. When they arrived at the place they found that it was very nice. They stayed there for some time. They ate, drank and played. Uncle Marcos played his

flute and sang some hymns. We are the children of the shepherd.

- + How many sheep does uncle Marcos have?
- + What is the name of the young sheep?

A strange sheep came from another place but it was a little bit naughty. It said to Foufou, "There is another beautiful place where there are very beautiful things. There is a lot of food there. There are high mountains there where we can jump and play. Let us go there. Foufou thought for a while. Will he leave uncle Marcos and its brothers and go with the naughty strange sheep, and place without its brothers. While it was still thinking, the foreign sheep pushed it and took it away with it. They continued walking till they arrived at the place. They jumped, played, mounted the high mountains, and they enjoyed themselves. Foufou asked where the food was and where the water was. The strange sheep said that there was no food but they came to play. They became tired and there were pains in their legs because of the stones over which they jumped. The naughty sheep left Foufou alone and went home quickly. Foufou tried to go back to its brothers but it lost its way. It said maa maa...maa...but no one heard it. It lost its way. It called, shouted and wept...maa...maa...maa... No one heard it. It sat down at last and wept bitterly.

In the evening all the sheep went back home. When they entered the house Uncle Marcos counted them by calling each one by its name...1, 2, 3, 4...99. "Where is my friend Foufou?" he asked. He called "Foufou, Foufou" but no one answered him. He asked the sheep, "Has any of you seen Foufou?" but no sheep answered. Marcos said to them, "Wait here and I shall go out to search for it".

The children sing a part of the hymn: We are the children of the Shepherd.

Uncle Marcos took a lantern and went out. All the sheep kept awake and no one slept. Uncle Marcos searched for it everywhere but in vain. He was very sad. He said, "Where are you Foufou?" but no one answered him, "O Lord, help me to find Foufou, see it and bring it back to its brothers...Foufou!!" He asked a man who was walking in the street, "Have not you seen my young sheep Foufou?" The man said, "What is it like?" Marcos described it and the man said, "Yes, I have seen it. It is sitting there weeping" and the man described the place to him. Marcos quickly went there and was very happy to find his sheep. He carried it, kissed it and was very happy. Foufou was very happy and said, "May the Lord forgive me. Forgive me Uncle Marcos I repent. I'll never go with that naughty strange sheep. I love my brothers". It went back quickly to its brothers which were waiting for it beside the door. When they heard it saying maa...maa... they all said maa...maa...and gave it a warm welcome. They said, "Where have you been Foufou... Thank God". Foufou said, "Forgive me my brothers. I'll never walk with anyone but you. I'll never keep away from you. Thank God". They kissed one another. They kissed Foufou and thanked the Lord.

- + Where was Foufou?
- + What did its brothers do when it came back?

Instructions

1. This story is very interesting to the children specially when we describe the state of

the lost sheep and make them love it as if they were living with it.

2. Do not concentrate on the sorrow for losing the lost sheep so that you may be able to make them happy when it comes back.
3. When you ask the children to name the sheep or to count them, it is enough to name two or three sheep. Do not ask them to count from one to one hundred. Otherwise the noise resulting from counting will make them forget the aim of the lesson. This story depends primarily on the way the Servant presents the lesson. For example he expresses his sadness and sorrow for the sheep being lost and absent and expresses his joy when it comes back.
4. It is easy to act this story and explain it by saying that the shepherd is our Lord Jesus Christ and the sheep are all the Christians each of whom He knows by name and the lost sheep is the person who keeps himself away from the Lord and does not listen to his words, and does not go to church or to Sunday School. But our Savior searches for him leaving the good 99 till the lost sheep returns and at the time of his return he is pleased and happy. Heaven rejoices with Christ Jesus when one lost man comes back.

Homework

Draw a sheep and color it. Write these words in the lower part of the picture: I am the good shepherd.

Recitation

Psalm 23 suits this lesson: The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. Children accordingly, study it and use it in their prayers till the end of the period. The Servant encourages them to do so.

(10) The Miracle of Walking on the Water

References

+ Matthew 14: 22-36: Explanation of the Gospels (Fr. Marcos Daoud -Al Mishriky -Fagala)

To the Servant

1. “Fear not”, is there a greater comfort other than this especially when we suffer troubles afflictions and pains. He who said: “In the world you have tribulations” also said, “But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”.
2. Sometimes we do not recognize Christ’s voice because of our concern with the world and our suffering from many things. It is the same thing the disciples did after he had said to them, “It is I, Do not be afraid” and they did not believe.
3. Sin generates fear and confusion but when Christ abides the heart, he drives all fear out.

The Lesson

Aim

1. The power and authority of God over nature.
2. His care of His disciples.

Verse

“Be of good cheer, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27)

Hymn

- + We are the shepherd’s children [Arabic Song]
- + 1, 2, 3 Jesus loves me [Praise the Lord, Page 61]

Aids

- + The picture of the lesson

Introduction

1. An introduction about the Disciples of Christ...their numbers...their names...mention three or four names including Peter.
2. An idea about the sea, boats, fish and fishing.
3. Describe a rough sea and how it looks like. Do not use lights.

Items

1. The disciples in the ship when they were fishing.
2. The rough sea and tile fear of the disciples.
3. Christ walked on the water then Peter walked on the water. Christ calmed the storm and the disciples believed.

The disciples followed Christ wherever he went. Many other people went with him to learn and listen to him. Christ healed all the sick people. One day Jesus was teaching the people. He was near tile shore of the sea and the place was crowded with people. Night was about to fall, so Christ asked his disciples, and Peter was with them, to take the boat and go ahead to the other side. He told them that he would come back to them after sending those people away. The disciples got into the boat and went on away from tile shore. (They thought that Christ would come in a boat so they were afraid). The people went home and Jesus was alone. He went up a hill by himself to pray and he stayed there till midnight. The disciples waited for Christ to come but he was late. He came to them after midnight and all the people were asleep.

- + Where did Jesus teach the crowds?
- + What did he say to his disciples?

Suddenly a storm blew and tile sea became very high...waves and storms and there was thunder and lightning in the sky...and rain fell heavily. The sound of thunder was very strong. The boat leant over to the left side then to the right side, then it went up with tile waves, and then it went down. It became like a feather. The water carried it up and down and the disciples were afraid. They were about to be drowned. (Describe the state of the disciples and their attempt to control the ship, which was about to sink).

- + What happened to tile sea?
- + Where were the disciples at that time?

Suddenly Christ appeared with his bright light walking on the water in the dark. The disciples were afraid and they held to one another. Christ stood on water and said to them, “Be of good

cheer, it is I; do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

But they did not believe. They thought they saw a ghost. Peter said, "We know that Christ is powerful". He said to Christ, "Lord, if it is you, command me come to you on the water" and Jesus said to him, "Come". (Here the Servant describes the disciples' surprise and their concern with that wonderful sight.) Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. He felt that the water was dry like the ground. Then Christ stretched out his hand to Peter and said, "Go on Peter come and walk on the water". Peter walked a step... two steps... then he began to think, "How am I walking on the water" the storm is strong and the sea is high. I am afraid. I may be drowned. He forgot that Christ was standing near him. He started to sink down in the water because he forgot Christ "Save me, Lord", he cried. "I am sinking down. Hold my hand Jesus". At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "How little faith you have. Why did you doubt?" Peter sadly said, "Jesus, forgive me". They both got into the boat. The wind was still blowing. But Jesus looked to the sea and raised his hand and said, "Sea, be calm" and he pointed to the cloud and the rain and said, "Enough". The wind died down and the boat sailed on in peace till it reached the other side and when they were on the shore all the disciples knelt down and worshipped Jesus and requested him to forgive them because they were afraid. He forgave them and they walked on singing a hymn: We rejoiced and praised God. We prayed and sang a hymn.

Exercise

The children should practice making the sign of the cross as this would protect them from fear and darkness.

Notes

1. Tell the children that Christ was the disciples' friend and that he loved them very much. Emphasize some situations where this love was clever for example his talk with them and having food together.
2. We have to personify the image of the sea and wind and the confusion felt by the disciples. We have to bring the boys' senses to feel the atmosphere of the storm and the rough sea. The children will feel happy and comfortable when they hear that Jesus has come to them at night.
3. Some words are difficult so they must not be said during the lesson. These words are; Peter doubted the faith of the disciples.
4. Peter began to sink down because he saw the wind and the storm around him and forgot Jesus. He saw that the wind was very strong so he was afraid ...and then he began to sink.

(11) The Miracle of Catching Huge Amounts of Fish

References

- + Luke 5:1 -11
- + Explanation of the Gospels (Marcos Daoud Al Mishriky Fagala)

To the Servant

1. At Your word I will let down the net.
2. Peter says: Master, we have labored all night and caught nothing. I can also say: Lord, I labored all my life and caught nothing, but I am about to lose everything help me.
3. The net that brings others to the Lord Christ is love; true love.

The Lesson

Aim

Christ's power and ability to perform miracles

Verse

1. "At Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:15).
2. "What is impossible with men is possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

Hymn

The previous one

Aids

1. The same aids of the previous lessons plus the following.
2. A fishing hook with a paper fish joined to it.
3. A net of cloth or thread full of paper fish.
4. A big picture about the story.

Introduction

An introduction about the sea and fish and how fish live. How are fish caught and when (at night when they sleep!) The Servant explains how fish are caught and how the fish jumps inside the net in an attempt to go back to the water. Review of the previous lesson and the authority of Christ over water and winds.

Items

1. The disciples cooperate in fishing.
2. They toiled all night and took nothing.
3. They rejoiced when they saw Jesus and the power of the miracle. Describe their feeling and how they thanked Christ.

Who of the disciples was a fisherman? Peter. He took the other disciples to fish at night and go back home in the morning. They sold what they caught -they ate the fish. They went to fish at night in two boats, as they would fill the two boats with fish.

Their labor all the night... they became tired... they did not sleep - they were sorry for being unable to fish. They searched everywhere in the sea, even in far away places - but they could not catch even one fish. They asked themselves: How can we go back home to our children without fish? What will they eat? What will they do? When it was dawn they said, "Let us go home".

When they reached the shore, they found Jesus standing teaching Peter. The disciples stood to

listen to the words of Christ and forgot their toil. The people went home. The Lord Jesus Christ got into the boat with the disciples and said to them: “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch”. The disciples obeyed him when he said, “Let down your nets for a catch”. Peter said to Jesus, “Jesus, we did not sleep all the night. We searched every part in the sea. No single fish jumped into our net”. Christ’s love for the disciples. He refused to let them go home without anything. So he said to Peter: Never mind, Peter. Try this time. Let down your nets for a catch. Peter obeyed Jesus and let down his net with the help of the other disciples. They waited for a while, then they began to drag it...they found that it was very heavy. All the disciples exerted a great effort in dragging it. They raised it and found that it was filled with fish, big fish and small fish. The fish were jumping in an attempt to go back to the water. The boat was filled with fish...and it was very heavy and was about to sink. They filled the other ship with fish...the two ships were filled with fish and were about to sink. The disciples were surprised but happy because of the great amount of fish they caught... Peter came to Jesus, knelt down -shut his eyes and said: “Lord, forgive me. Do not be angry with me. We thank you very much for the fish”. They went back home joyfully because of the great amount of fish they caught.

Homework

Children should pray before they eat so that the Lord may bless the food. There must be something kept aside for the needy.

Notes

1. One of the children can relate to the children how he saw fishermen fishing with a net or with a hook.
2. Concentrate on the disciples’ feelings, their sorrow for not catching fish, their surprise at the big catch, and their thanks to Jesus and Peter’s prayer.

(12) Healing the Sick Man of Bethesda

References

+ John 5:1-15: Explanation of the Gospels

To the Servant

1. If Jesus had no authority over sickness he would not have asked the sick man: “Do you want to be healed?”
2. Many times we do not want to be healed, but we love sickness so the beginning of the road should hate sickness.
3. If the invalid feels that it is the Lord who has healed him and not the medicine or the doctor, his heart will be filled with comfort and with love for Jesus.
4. If we have faith that Jesus is our Shepherd and it is He that supports us and cares about us, we shall not be disturbed during illness, and we shall not go to more than one doctor because Jesus is the healer and the true physician.

The Lesson

Aim

The power of Christ to perform miracles and his kindness to the invalids

Verse

“Rise, take up your bed, and walk” (John 5:8) or “I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26)

Hymn

- + Thirty and eight years [Arabic Song]
- + 1, 2, 3 Jesus loves me

Aids

The picture of the Lesson

Introduction

1. Revision of the previous lesson and showing Christ's authority over the wind, the water and fish.
2. An introduction about the pool, how it looks like -Describe the pool in a simple way.
3. Christ's kindness to the invalids and his love for them.

Items

1. An idea about the pool and how the angel healed people.
2. The invalid's case (38 years old) -his pains and despair.
3. The power of the miracle, his happiness when he saw Christ and how he thanked him.

Questions

1. What is the name of the pool?
2. For how many years was the man sick?
3. Who was kind to him?
4. Let us repeat the verse together!

Instructions

1. Show that the doctors could do nothing and the people thought that he was a hopeless case.
2. Do not concentrate on the doctor's failure in healing him so that the children may not lose confidence in them but tell them that patient was lazy and his relatives were also lazy and considered him a hopeless case, because he was sick for a long time so they left him alone.
3. Concentrate on the power of the miracle and the patient's joy when he was healed.
4. Do not give the details of the pains the patient suffered so that the children may not be psychologically affected by the cruelty of the man's sickness. It is enough to say that he was unable to move or to walk.
5. Acting makes the story lively and inculcates the story in the minds of the children.

Exercises

- + To pray for the sick people whom we know and whom we do not know.

+ Remember the names of the sick children when you pray.

(13) Jesus Heals an Official's Son

References

+ John 4:46-53: Explanation of the Gospels

To the Servant

1. If we have faith that Jesus supports us and cares for us, we shall not be disturbed during illness, and we shall not go to many doctors.
2. We should seek the help of God during illness before we ask any man to help us.
3. If the Lord desires that I should not live, what should life mean to me?

The Lesson

Aim

To show that the power of God heals the sick people and that God loves patients

Verse

“I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26) or “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalms 103:2)

Hymn

+ I was sick and weak [Arabic Song]

+ 1,2,3 Jesus Loves me

Aids

A model of a horse or a picture of a horse and some medicines (a thermometer or a picture of a captain)

Introduction

1. Revision of the previous lesson. Christ's love for the patients. He heals them. The invalid's love for Christ. People's love for Christ.
2. When children fall ill, their parents care about them.

Items

The man was an official in the court of a king. He obeyed the king's orders. His friends loved him. He had a nice son whom he loved much. The boy filled the house with movement and laughter. He was an obedient boy and loved by all like his father. One day the boy sat in the sun for a long time. He became hot. He trembled. He was unable to walk. He slept in his bed. The doctors did their best to heal him but in vain.

His father was sorry for him. His relatives also felt sorry. They cared for him. They gave him lemonade and tea. They gave him all means of comfort. The boy suffered from a dangerous disease. His father was confused and asked the people to search for a good doctor. The people

told him that Jesus healed invalids, taught people and performed miracles. The man was very happy because he would meet Jesus and speak to him. He prepared a horse (or a donkey). He went there quickly. The horse also ran quickly because it loved the sick child. The horse wanted to go quickly to Christ so that Christ might heal the boy.

Christ was teaching and healing many sick people. The man met Jesus and knelt down before him. He said to Jesus, "Jesus, my son is very sick. Please come with me to heal him". Jesus said to the man, "Go back to your house... your son has been healed". It was 3 o'clock afternoon. The man believed Christ and knelt down before him "I thank you, Lord because you healed my son", the man said. He rode his horse and went back quickly to his house to see his son. His neighbors met him. They were very happy. They told him that his son had been healed and left his bed exactly at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The man told them that he met Jesus at 3 o'clock. The man kissed his son. They thanked the Lord for his love for their son and for all sick people. They sat with the boy and did not let him alone.

Note

Jesus is able to heal us if we pray him to do so. The prayer of the unction of the sick is very important.

Instructions

1. Transmit the situation of the sick boy at home to the children... relatives visit him -the mother makes tea and brings him what he wants. The boy suffers from pains. His father is sad.
2. Emphasize the power of Christ when he was among the people healing the sick people and emphasize also the power of his words "Go, your son will live" in spite of the great distance between Christ and the boy.
3. Show that the man had great faith and that he was simple and he believed the words of Christ. The Servant should not say "and the man believed" but should say, "The man believed the words of Christ".
4. Do not mention the names of Capernaum, Galilee or Judea as the child may find it difficult to study these words.
5. Speak about the horse and its feelings as children like such tales, its sorrow for the sick child when it ran quickly to Christ so that he might heal the boy to see Christ, its happiness when it met Christ it wagged its tail, it danced. It was happy when the boy was healed and it brought the drinks and gave the people who came to congratulate the boy's father. It played with the children.

(14) Peter was set free from Prison with the help of an angel

References

+ Acts 12: 1-17

To the Servant

1. Sometimes the person who is exposed to temptation is weak. The church must care about him as it prayed for Peter when he was asleep.

2. Service is not for the powerful only, but it is for the weak. Apply this to the domains of your service.
3. Determine the things you lack and put them before Christ and make them your goal.

The Lesson

Aim

God loves us and answers our prayers

Verse

“My angel will go before you” (Exodus 23:23)

Hymn

- + White, white
- + When I fell tired [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

Aid

A big picture about the lesson: A wing of an angel and the picture of the lesson.

Introduction

Revision questions about the work of angels in tile previous lessons.

We heard about one of our Lord’s disciples whose name is Peter. He loved our Lord and spoke to people about him. The King was angry with him so he put him in prison. They tied his hands with chains and ordered some soldiers to guard him so that he might not escape. Peter was not afraid because he was sure that God was with him and God said, “My angel goes before you”. The other disciples prayed for him. Peter entered tile prison and was at ease. He said, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”. (The children recite the part they studied). Peter slept. The church did not sleep. The church prayed for Peter “O Lord, rescue Peter and bring him back to us”. Suddenly, there was a bright light in tile prison. It was a beautiful heavenly light. The Lord sent an angel (Describe the beauty of the angel and how he is dressed). He struck Peter on the side and woke him. Peter opened his eyes. He saw an angel before him. He could not believe his eyes...a real angel. The angel said, “Get up quickly”. The chains fell off his hands. The angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals” and he did so. “Follow me”, the angel said. Peter went out and followed the angel. They passed the first and second guard; they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street: and immediately the angel left him.

Peter went out of prison and went to Mark’s house where the disciples were gathered together and were praying.

He told them how the Lord answered their prayers. The Lord answers those who pray to him.

What was Peter doing in prison? Who brought him out of prison? What is the name of the maid? What was the church doing? Let us say together: My angel goes before you.

Homework

Pray and say: Thank you Lord because your angel always guards me.

Instructions

Explain that the power and the authority of God are higher than the power of men and the heads. Only God can bring a man out of prison and save him from any trouble even if he is bound with chains.

(15) God on His throne in Heaven and the Heavenly Hosts Around Him

References

+ Revelation 4:7

To the Servant

1. Paul the apostle could not describe heaven, but he said: “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”.

The Lesson

Aim

To make the children love the Kingdom of Heaven

Verse

“Praise the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary” (Psalm 150:1)

Hymn

+ “I have two little eyes” or “Who created heaven”

+ O God of Hosts [Praise the Lord, Page 20]

Aid

Some beautiful pictures showing the beauty of the sky. The artistic rules should be observed so that a picture may not leave a bad effect on the mind of the child about heaven; the wings of angels; candles; palm leaves; the picture of the lesson.

A group of children put on eight wings, white dress, each one holds a candle in his hand -The rest of the children stand before the angels singing hymns with gestures and acting carrying palm leaves.

Samir is a Sunday School child. He learned a lot about God's love for us. He yearned to see Jesus and angels. One night he prayed and then slept. He saw in a dream, a white beautiful angel. He asked him to take him with him to heaven. He saw a very beautiful colored gate and two angels standing on guard. The angel said to the two angels, “Samir loves Christ”. So they allowed him to enter. Samir and the angel entered. Samir was surprised when he saw the land of Paradise. It was green and beautiful. It was covered with bright colors. He saw angels dressed in white. The

sky was shining. They walked till they reached the place where Christ was. They found two rows of angels bowing down in worship. They were singing hymns of praise: Holy, Holy. They saw a very big chair made of gold. Christ was sitting on that chair. The light of Christ was bright. Twenty-four priests were around him. There were also four saints: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. There were many people holding palm leaves in hand. They were all kneeling down in worship before the Lord and saying Holy, Holy, Holy. The angels around the Lord were flying and singing hymns. Christ took hold of Samir, welcomed him and said, "I am very pleased with you because you pray and go to church and to Sunday School and because you obey your father, mother, brothers and sisters. Samir was pleased and said to the angel "I want to stay here for good". He said to him, "I shall come to you when your life ends in peace".

- + What did Samir see in heaven?
- + What did they carry?
- + What did they say?
- + What shall we do to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Note

The servant should take the child with him to the world of imagination, as this lesson is not successful except in an imaginary atmosphere.

Encourage the children to stand in the church during the mass and during prayers as the Lord is present then so all people must praise the Lord and share the angels in praising God.

(16) Review

References

- + Review previous references and aims

To the Servant

1. Check your services concerning preparation of lessons; visiting your children; prayer; the life of your children.
2. You can bring all aids used in the previous lessons and they are all very good aids. They will help the child to remember the story. Connect each lesson with its hymn and verse and make a revision on the previous hymns and verses.
3. It is not necessary for the revision to be composed only of questions to be answered by the children. The Servant can ask the question and he himself gives the answer as a form of revision. The aid is the best means to remind the children of the lesson.
4. When you raise the picture of St. George ask: Whom did St. George rescue when he fell into the sea? Show the boys the picture of the Ark and say: Who did the Lord care about and rescue from the great flood? Who were with him? Dress a boy in white and revise the lessons about angels; and so on.
5. The Servant relates any story without mentioning names and the child recognizes them through acting.
6. The Servant acts a verse from the Bible through movements only, not through words and the children recognize the verse through acting.

Note

Review does not mean review of information but means review of aims and benefiting the child.

(17) The Angel Tells the Virgin the Good News

References

Luke 1:26-38

To the Servant

1. The meekness that filled the Virgin's heart made the Lord look at her.
2. Contemplate the Virgin when she said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord".

The Lesson

Aim

Rejoice with the church and co-operate with her in the preparations for Christmas

Verse

"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among woman" (Luke 1:28)

Hymn

Any hymn about the Virgin

Instructions

1. Bring two wings for a child to put on and play the part of an angel.
2. Choose a little girl to play the part of the Virgin if there are girls in the class.
3. The Servant speaks about the angel while the children act.
4. Prepare the clothes and the tools necessary for the virgin, Joseph, and the angel and distribute the parts (a wing, white shawl, cloths, a strong light, etc).

One day the virgin saw a light round her. The Angel Gabriel appeared and said to her "Hail to you, highly favored one, the Lord is with you". Then he announced the birth of Jesus Christ after nine months. He said that the Lord had chosen her to be the Theotokos, i.e. the Mother of God because of her piety and meekness. The Lady Virgin believed the words of the angel and said: "I am the Lord's handmaid". The Virgin rejoiced, knelt down in worship, and thanked the Lord.

Aids

Present the story through acting at the end of the lesson. The virgin prays; a light in front of her, a Bible on the table, calm music, and if possible, the angel enters (accompanied by a bright light). The Virgin is wondering. She does not speak, and then she expresses joy and submission. The angel tells the good news when exits. The Virgin kneels down in worship then prays. While she sitting, Joseph the carpenter enters carrying his tools (a saw, an axe, etc.). The virgin exits and goes to Elizabeth.

Instructions

1. Let the children feel the happy atmosphere because of the good news of the birth of Christ and the Virgin's joy for the happy news.
2. Start making the Nativity cavern to be shown on Christmas, prepare all necessary things.

Aids

Cardboard paper, straw, models of clay, the manger, animals, etc..

Verses studied in this period are:

1. At Your word I will let down the net (Luke 5:5), Lesson 11
2. Bless the Lord, O my soul. (Psalm 103:1), Lessons 4, 5
3. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits (Psalm 103:2), Lesson 13
4. Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify me. (Psalm 50:15), Lesson 8
5. For My angel will go before you (Exodus 23:23), Lessons 7,14
6. He shall give His angels charge concerning you (Matthew 4:6), Lesson 6
7. I am the good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11), Lesson 9
8. I am the Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26), Lessons 12, 13
9. It is I; do not be afraid (Matthew 14:27), Lesson 10
10. Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary (Psalm 150:1), Lesson 15
11. Rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among woman (Luke 1:28), Lesson 17
12. Rise, take up your bed and walk (John 5:8), Lesson 12
13. The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. (Psalm 23 :1), Lessons 1,2,3,9
14. The things which are impossible with men are possible with God (Luke 18:27), Lesson 11

Texts or recitation studied in this period are:

“Our Father who art in heaven” and Psalm 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd”. The child has to study them and the Servant makes competitions to make sure the children have studied them.

THE SECOND PERIOD

(18) Christmas: The Angel and the Shepherds

Reference

+ Luke 2:8-20

To the Servant

1. The watching have become angels' friends and the Seraphim's companions.
2. The watching angels come joyfully to wake us. Adam brought us the sleep of death, and the angels came down to wake us up from the sleep of sin. That who doe not

watch in purity, his watching will be enmity to him “St. Ephraim the Syrian”.

The Lesson

Aim

Heaven and earth are happy to receive the good news of Nativity

Verse

- + “I bring you good tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10).
- + “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14)

Hymn

- + “O Shepherds...”
- + “O believers accompany us”
- + “Gabriel came to the Virgin” [Arabic Song]
- + Away in the Manger [Praise the Lord, Page 96]

Aids

1. Wings -White clothes - a bright light.
2. Pictures of sheep or models of sheep. The Shepherd’s staff, broken wood, a jug of water, anything got (hot milk).
3. A flute for singing hymns.
4. Make the manger from a card box paper box. Put the beautiful picture of Nativity in the box.
5. Prepare the procession of the feast (roses, candles, white shawls).

Introduction

1. Give an idea about the shepherds, their life and how they care for the sheep. They live in tents, they guard the sheep, and they light the broken pieces of wood for heat - the sheep’s love for the shepherd. They sleep in peace.
2. Joys of heaven. Christ comes down from heaven so heaven rejoices (Angels come down to tell the good news).

Items

1. The shepherds: caring for sheep, their watchfulness.
2. The appearance of the angel.
3. The angels appear and praise the Lord: Glory to God.
4. They were happy to see the newborn baby and they gave him gifts.

Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem: Different works in the village (farmers, carpenters, shepherds).

The shepherds go out every morning to the pastures (a place full of grass and water). They take the sheep with them. The sheep play and eat.

The shepherd with the sweet flute sang and said: Gabriel came to the Virgin. After all the sheep had slept. The shepherds said, “We cannot sleep and leave the sheep”. Somebody may come and

carry them away. Let's divide ourselves two of us sleep and two of us guard the sheep and they did so. During the night the shepherds thought when would Christ come? Where would he be born? Suddenly a bright light shone from the sky. The shepherds were afraid. They saw an angel. White like doves, bright like light. He said to them, "Do not be afraid, you sweet Shepherds. I am coming to tell you good news for all people. We rejoice in heaven for the Nativity of Christ and you too must rejoice. Go and see him and rejoice with us". The shepherds were happy. They asked the angel: "Where has Christ been born?" The angel said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and you will find the baby in the manger. There you will see Christ with his mother the Virgin and Joseph the carpenter.

The shepherds wanted to bring a gift for the heavenly babe. Samir the shepherd says; I have a white little sheep. The shepherds arrived at the inn... gave the gifts. The shepherds sang together in the manger.

Questions

1. Where were the shepherds?
2. What did they guard?
3. What did they see?
4. What did Samir give to the Child Jesus?
5. What would you give to Christ?
6. Who were with the child Jesus?
7. What does the verse say?

Homework

The Servant encourages the children to give some gifts to the poor on the day of the feast.

The Unit of God's Love to Children

(19) Christ's love for Children: He calls them

References

+ Matthew 19:13-15: Explanation of the Gospel of Matthew

To the Servant

1. Jesus has a different opinion about children other than ours. He knows childhood quite well.
2. Children means simplicity, loyalty, meekness and obedience, so he said about them: "For to such belongs the Kingdom of God". Let us go back like them and take their blessing and be on our guard so as not to stumble them.

The Lesson

Aim

Jesus' love for us and his call

Verse

“Let the children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:4)

Hymn

Our Lord...Our Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 137]

Aids

1. A picture about the lesson.
2. Small pieces of paper and a pen.

Introduction

1. The servant asks the children how much their parents love them and how much their brothers love them and the sort of this love then asks, “Is there anyone who loves them more?”
2. The Servant shows his children the picture of Christ and the children then asks: What can you see in this picture? Who used to walk with Christ? (Disciples, people, children) What did Christ do to help people and his disciples? Why do people love the disciples?

Items

1. People’s love for Christ and their yearning to see him and to sit with him.
2. Christ’s love for people and healing them.
3. The children’s attempts to see Christ, their meeting with him.
4. Christ’s love for children and a little story.

Lord Jesus heals, teaches and blesses every one and every house. Each invalid hopes to see him, as Christ will heal him. One day, Christ visited a small town. The children heard that Christ would come to their town. What did they do to welcome him? They cleaned the streets, made decorations, painted houses, put on clean clothes and roses, etc. They yearned to see him and receive his blessings when he laid his hand on the head of each one of them. How would they go to him? They agreed to pass between people’s legs. The place was crowded with people and Christ was there among his people.

In the morning all sick people came running in the streets shouting and thanking Christ who healed them. The children gathered together to see Christ and receive his blessing. They could meet Christ. They climbed trees and went up to the roofs of houses to see Him. They saw Christ, who was calm and meek, surrounded by people who loved Him and gathered around Him. The disciples told the children, “Wait a while till Christ sees the sick people and the old people”. The children were offended. Christ took the children to his bosom, carried a little boy named George who used to gather boys on Sundays and accompany them to Sunday School. He said to the boys “Children, listen to the story of George. One day George was coming down the stairs, his leg slipped and it ached. He wept, as he could not walk. His father heard his cries and put his leg into splint. George was grieved because he could not go to Sunday School and he could not gather children as he used to do. He prayed then he had a nice idea... He brought many pieces of paper and wrote: Do not forget Sunday School on Sunday He threw the papers out of the window that

was beside his bed. The pieces of paper were carried by the wind to the other houses and each house received the invitation and all the children went to Sunday School. George recovered his health and visited all the children and accompanied them to Sunday School. The children thanked Christ and went home happily as the Lord Christ blessed them.

Questions

1. What did George usually do on Sunday?
2. What did he do when he was sick?

Exercises

Give the children a letter and ask them to deliver the letters to a sick friend.

Instructions

Encourage the children to love the church as the Lord Jesus loves the children very much especially the children who sit politely in the church and who do not disturb others. Treat the children as if they were grown ups. The Lady Virgin was three years old when she served in the temple.

(20) The Child Joseph: His Childhood and His Dreams

References

- + Genesis 37:1-17
- + Explanation of Genesis – Fr. Tadrous Y. Malaty
- + The Life of Joseph by F.B. Mayer

To the Servant

1. What shall I say about this pious loving person who sacrificed many things as a sign of love.
2. O Lord help me to write about him and to follow his steps. O Lord help me to teach your children and to teach myself and to do what pleases you and glorifies your holy Name.

The Lesson

Aim

For the children to practice prayers especially before they go to bed

Verse

“Always ought to pray, and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1)

Hymn

- + The previous one

Aids

1. Bring a sheaf of wheat to clarify the dream of sheaves.

2. Candles to stand for the moon, sun and stars.

An introduction about Joseph's family: His obedience to his parents, his love for his brothers, and God's love for him. He prayed before he went to bed and related his dreams to his father and brothers. Those were heavenly dreams.

He relates the first dream. They were trying up sheaves of wheat. His sheaf got up and stood up straight. His brothers' sheaves formed a circle round his and bowed down to it. Joseph said the other dream to them: The sun, the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.

Questions

1. How many brothers did Joseph have?
2. When did he pray?
3. When do you pray?
4. Mention the first and the second dreams of Joseph.

Instruction

1. Two children stand with two candles in hand as if they were the sun and the moon. The Servant explains that planets go round the earth through acting. Eleven children stand to play the part of the eleven stars to bow down before the Child Joseph.
2. The Servant makes use of the sheaves of which he has brought and explains the first dream to enable the children to understand it.
3. You can say the dream and concentrate on Joseph's love for his brothers when he searched for them to give them food.
4. Do not concentrate on the envy Joseph's brothers had against him. Do no say that Jacob preferred Joseph to his brothers. The child must know nothing about these two points so that he may not notice them in his family.

(21) The Child Joseph: God cares for him

References

- + Genesis
- + The previous references

To the Servant

1. Many tribulations afflicted Joseph in his life. His envious brothers took him and threw him into the well and he did not speak.
2. They sold him to a group of Ishmaelite and he did not utter a word. Photiphar's wife accused him of something he did not commit and he was put in prison and he did not defend himself. However, the Lord rescued him and was with him all his life.

The Lesson

Aim

God cares for us

Verse

“For He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7)

Hymn

+ 1,2,3 Jesus loves Me

Aids

1. A rope - a small bucket or a jug.
2. A packet of wheat.

Joseph's love for his father and his obedience: The story of the colored robe, Joseph loved his brothers and he went to see if his brothers were safe and he brought them food.

His brothers envied him because of his colored robe although he was their younger brother. They envied him. They ripped off his colored robe and threw him into a well. There was no water in the well. They saw some people traveling. They sold Joseph to them and kept his robe (do not refer to the story of their return with the robe stained with blood so that the children may not be deeply affected).

God cared for Joseph in Egypt. He was successful in all that he did. Joseph became Prime Minister.

Joseph had wheat and a lot of good things. His brothers came to Egypt to buy wheat. They paid gold and money for the wheat and Joseph put their money back in their sacks. They returned once more and Joseph told them that he was their brother. They bowed down to him. He asked them to go and bring their father and their children and all their possessions to stay with him in Egypt.

Exercises

1. It is better to act some parts of the story.
2. The children repeat the expression: Forgive us God...forgive us all.

Instructions

1. Print Psalm 8 on cardboard papers and give it to the children. Help them to study it. This goes on the lesson 25.
2. Do not concentrate on Joseph's brothers' betrayal but concentrate on God's care of him so that children may have confidence that the Lord will guard him wherever he goes.
3. Concentrate on Joseph courage when his brothers sold him and when he went with the Ishmaelite to Photiphar, his love for the Lord, and how he became a minister or a governor of Egypt.

Recitation

Children begin to study Psalm 8 “O Lord, our Lord”. This should go on till lesson 25. It is one of the texts designed for schools for the children of the first grade.

(22) Stories about Love and Obedience

(A) The Rabbit and the Boy

Introduction

- + Who saw a rabbit?
- + What does it eat?
- + Who visited the zoo?
- + Who saw the lion?
- + What does it eat?
- + Why is it put in a very strong iron cage?

In a small burrow among the trees there lived an old mother rabbit with her four young rabbits: their color, their meekness, their love for their mother and their obedience to it. The youngest rabbit Lulu was white in color and beautiful. The mother went out every day to gather carrots for their young to eat.

Lulu grew up and asked his mother to allow him to go out to have a walk in the forest and to eat what he liked. The mother refused (do not mention the forest but refer to a big garden only) to allow it to go out as there was a big lion living in the forest and that might kill Lulu. The mother went out. Lulu's brothers were asleep and Lulu went out. He enjoyed eating carrots and looking at the trees.

A big lion appeared. When it saw Lulu it ran after it and Lulu also ran. Lulu found a small hole and it entered into it. The lion could not enter the small hole so it sat by the door of the hole waiting for Lulu to go out. Lulu wept. He was hungry and afraid of the dark. He repented.

When the mother came back, it did not find Lulu. It went out to search for its son. She called out to him in every part of the garden (the forest). It heard his voice in the small hole but she saw the lion sitting at the opening of the hole. She played before the lion. The lion ran after the mother and forgot little Lulu. Little Lulu went to his brothers. The lion ran after the mother rabbit but could not catch her. When the lion became tired, he stopped running and the mother rabbit went back to its children.

Lulu repented. He loved his mother. He promised never to go out alone without his mother and promised that he would obey her in the future.

Instructions

1. Let the children deduce the rabbit's mistake.
2. Give each child a picture of a rabbit drawn by letters and ask them to draw it.

Aids

1. A picture of a rabbit or a model.
2. Green grass or carrots.
3. A picture of a lion or a big animal.

4. A book of animals playing.

You can take the children on a journey to the nearest rabbit fold.

(B) The Girl and the Coat

Introduction

- + What do we wear in winter?
- + Has any of you seen a monkey?
- + What it is like?
- + What does it eat?

A girl named Samia had a beautiful red coat, which her mother bought for her. There was a big garden beside their house, where many monkeys live on the tree. Her mother warned her not to go to the garden as the monkeys annoy the people.

One day the mother went out. Samia's friend visited her on that day and persuaded her to accompany her to the garden and promised that they would come back quickly before her mother returns. Samia put on her coat. The swallows, which were playing on the streets, advised Samia not to go the garden. The monkeys saw Samia and her friend and came to shake their hands. After a while, Samia and her friend got tired and sat under a tree and slept. The monkeys came down again and this time they snatched the red coat and climbed back to the top of the tree. When Samia woke up, she didn't find her coat. When she looked up, she saw the monkeys holding unto her coat and laughing at her. She tried to climb the tree to get her coat, but she couldn't and her dress was torn. When the monkey saw her trying to climb the tree, they threw her into the muddy ground. Samia took the coat and went home, feeling sorry, apologizing for her Mom and promising not to disobey her Mom again. Her Mom forgave her.

Aids

A coat, a picture of a monkey or a model of it, a book about animals playing, a blackboard, chalk (white and colored) for drawing a tree, and a coat.

Instructions

Color your story with imagination. How the girl sleeps? How the monkey snatched the coat? How the girl asked the monkey to return it back?

(23) The Child Samuel: His Birth

References

- + 1 Samuel 1:1-28
- + Explanation of the First Book of Samuel

To the Servant

1. The Lord may deprive us of temporary matters. We may suffer from hunger, thirst and nakedness but his ears listen to our prayers.
2. After her prayers, Hannah went out and was no longer sad because she poured out her troubles to the Lord. So do not be anxious or disturbed especially after prayer.

The Lesson

Aim

God's love for Hannah (He answered her prayers for Samuel)

Verse

"My heart rejoices in the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:1)

Hymn

+ A way in the Manger [Praise the Lord, Page 96]

Aids

1. A big picture of Samuel praying.
2. Small white clothes, a child's bib (feeder), candles, and clothing for the new baby.
3. A shawl to be put on for acting the part of Hannah praying.

Instructions

- + What happens when a child is born?
- + What are the preparations for receiving a newborn baby?

The children give short answers then the Servant explains in detail using aids.

Items

1. Hannah and Perinnah.
2. Hannah's prayer.
3. The Lord answered her prayer and she was happy to see her newborn baby. Two women lived together in one house; Hannah and Perinnah. (Repeat the names)

Hannah: She served herself by herself. She was old and without children. She brought vegetables by herself. She was very sad because she had no children. She was also sad because the Lord Christ will not be her descendant.

Perinnah: She was happy as she had sweet children. Her children served and helped her and brought her all her needs. They read the Bible with her. They prayed with her. They played together. She helped them in their study and told them stories at night.

Hannah prayed every day. One day she went to the temple (do not explain what a Jewish temple is and do not say that she went to the church because at that time Christ did not come) as usual. She waited until the people went out. She knelt down and prayed and wept before the Lord. She spoke calmly and prayed silently, "O Lord give me a child to make me happy". She promised that she

would dedicate her son to the Lord. Eli the priest saw her and asked why she was weeping. She told him that she was without children and that she was praying the Lord to give her a child.

The Lord did not forget Hannah. The priest comforted her. Next year you will have a child. Hannah told the priest about her vow. The Lord fulfilled his promise. Samuel was born...he grew up...he prayed...he obeyed the Lord and loved the Lord. He accompanied his mother to the priest, thanked the Lord and received the blessing of the temple. Hannah rejoiced in the Lord and in Samuel.

Exercise

1. Hannah prayed to the Lord: Give me a son... and when we pray we say...
2. She thanked the Lord for his gift and we thank the Lord for all the things he gives us such as....

Notes

1. The Servant should emphasize that Hannah held fast to the Lord. She prayed and thanked God for his gift.
2. The Servant explains the happy atmosphere when Samuel was born. He can ask the children to describe how the birth of Samuel was celebrated.

(24) The Child Samuel: His Service in the Temple

References

- + 1 Samuel 2:18-21, 3:1-18
- + Explanation of 1 Samuel
- + The Life of Samuel by F.B. Meyer

To the Servant

1. How blessed you are Samuel! You deserve to be a child of the Lord and to serve his Holy Temple.
2. How blessed you are because you deserved to live for the Lord and dedicate your life to him as a chosen vessel to carry the Name of Christ among many people. How blessed you are Samuel because you deserved to listen to the voice of the Lord calling you out saying, "Samuel, Samuel!"
3. O Lord, open my ears not to listen to the voices of the disturbed world, not to listen to the voice of the devil who goes about searching for whom he can devour, but I ask you to open my ears to listen only to your voice.

The Lesson

Aim

To show how Samuel loved the Lord, how always prayed, and how honestly served in the temple

Verse

"Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9)

Hymn

- + When the light shone [Arabic Song]
- + I have decided to follow Jesus [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

Aids

1. A picture of Samuel praying.
2. Some tools and church clothes and how to keep them (in order, system, clean, mending, lights, candles, censer).

Introduction

- + What is the name of the lady who was praying and the Lord answered her prayer?
- + What did she ask?
- + What is the name of the priest?
- + What is the name of the newborn baby?

Items

1. The blessed childhood of Samuel.
2. His work in the Temple (His ideal service)
3. The Lord called him and spoke to him.

After giving birth to her baby Hannah met the priest and told him that she would keep her promise and send him to the temple when he grew up and knew how to eat, sleep, dress himself, pray without help from anyone. Samuel grew up and every day he went to the temple with his mother. In the temple he saw pictures, incense, and candles. He listened to prayers and was very happy to be in the Temple.

After he had learnt how to pray and love the church, his mother sent him to the temple and Eli the priest taught him what he ought to do. His mother brought him new clothes every year. Samuel served God honestly although Eli's sons were wicked. He cleaned the temple... turned off the lights when people went out... put everything in order... carpets... clothes... books, etc. He had his own private prayers... The priest loved him for his obedience and sincere service.

During the night, the Lord called Samuel three times, Eli rejoiced because the Lord spoke to Samuel and Samuel rejoiced in the word of the Lord who told him that 'he would be a prophet and high priest. The Lord would drive all the wicked people out of the temple. (This is the happy end of the story).

Exercise

1. Pray in the morning and in the evening.
2. Attend the Holy Mass.

Instructions

Explain that although Samuel was still a child, he loved the temple and kept it clean. He prayed solemnly and with submission without disturbing anybody so the Lord loved him and spoke to him.

(25) The Child David the Shepherd: His Prayers and Psalms

References

+ The Life of David - Translated by Archpriest Marcos David (1 Samuel 17:34-36)

The Lesson

Aim

God's care of David and David's love for God, his prayers and his psalms

Verse

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want

Hymn

+ We are the children of the shepherd [Arabic Song]

+ I love You Lord [Praise the Lord, Page 44]

Aids

1. A staff, a robe
2. A flute

The child David and his love for prayer: He cared for his father's sheep. He loved those sheep and sang the sheep's song with the flute... and the sheep gathered around him. He had a staff not to strike sheep with but to protect them. He cared for all.

A little sheep went out. Its name was Fufu. A lion and a bear took Fufu. David asked about Fufu but Fufu was absent...it was not among the sheep. He asked the sheep to pray for Fufu. David searched for it on the mountains... he prayed: O Lord guard Fufu.

David heard Fufu's cries. He found it with a lion and a bear. David prayed and asked for the power of the Lord to help him kill the lion.. He attacked the lion... He opened its mouth and cut it. He left the lion and went to the bear and he did the same thing with the bear. He saved the sheep Fufu and took it home. All said: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

Instructions

1. Emphasize that the cause of the death of both the lion and the bear was David's prayer.
2. At the beginning of the lesson, a child dressed in a robe can enter the class carrying a musical instrument and the Servant says to the children: This child is our guest. His name is David. Then he tells the story of David and his sheep. The child plays the flute as David did.

(26) The Child David: God's Love for him and his Anointment as King

References

- + First Book of Samuel, Chapter 16
- + The previous references

To the Servant

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. God is not partial. He does not look at the outward appearance but he looks on the depth of the soul, on the inner heart where evils hide themselves. O Lord, You said: My son, give me your heart and let your eyes observe my ways. Create in me a clean heart O Lord, and put a new and right spirit within me.

The Lesson

Aim

God's love for David. David was anointed king instead of Saul who aroused the Lord's anger

Verse

- + The previous one

Hymn

- + The previous one

Aids

1. Some oil in a bottle.
2. The wedding crown in the church. It can be made of cardboard silver paper.
3. Some of the aids used in the previous lessons -a staff and a flute.

Remind the children of Samuel. His service in the temple and God's promise that he would be a great prophet who would teach people. He went to the town where David lived to anoint him king. The people met Samuel. He was a reverend man valued by his people.

He went to the house of Jesse and the people were surprised to see him there. He asked them to pray. He met Jesse, David's father. He said to him "The Lord has chosen one of your sons to be king". The brothers of David came. This is tall... this is strong... this is a giant... Samuel did not look at the outward appearance.

At last he asked for David. David's father was surprised. Samuel laid his hand upon David's head... anointed him with oil, put the Royal Crown on his head. The people asked why the Lord chose David. Samuel said the Lord chose him for his love for the sheep and for his courage and for hymns and prayers.

Exercise

Encourage the children to study the hymns to be ordained deacons and to be prepared for this church order.

The Unit of Our Love For God

(27) The Biography of the Class Patron Saint or the Church Patron Saint

Most small classes are named after angels or the guardian angel. Here we shall give a story about how angels guard us.

To the Servant

1. How lovely the verse is “My angel will go before you”. Your angel O Lord is the guardian angel for every man. He is the angel who is always awake and watchful...he is the angel who serves all.
2. Since the dawn of creation O Lord, you have sent your angels to your children. Your angel O Lord was with Daniel the righteous man so the lions did not hurt him. It was your angel that brought Peter out of prison. “O Lord send your angel to go before me on my way. Let me always feel that you are with me”.

The Lesson

Aim

The Lord's care for us... He sends tile guardim1 angel to us when we are in trouble

Verse

- + “My angel will go before you” (Exodus 23:23)
- + “He shall give his angels charge concerning you” (Matthew 4:6)

Hymn

- + The angels' hymns
- + White, White, White [Praise the Lord, Page 145]
- + This is the day. This is the day [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

1. For the angels: two wings - a silver crown or a golden crown (one of the wedding crowns in the church - white dress - a bright light).
2. A bottle of medicine - a cup - a spoon.

Introduction

Describe the angels: What do they wear? White! What do they do? What did they do in the lesson about Tobiah? In the lesson about the guardian angel? Of course when the Lord sees his sweet children like you obey him and obey their parents at home, Jesus send them his sweet angels dressed in white to walk with them and protect them and keep them safe... the same as they did with Tobiah and the poor man.

Items

1. A gentle child of those who always go to Sunday School finds that his mother was ill.
2. The illness of his mother was severe and fatal. He prayed for her. He searched for a doctor then he searched for medicine.

3. The angel brought the medicine and healed her... all were happy.
4. The Child was good-hearted little boy. He always went to Sunday School.. He loved his mother very much. His mother fell ill. He was sad. He prayed for her.
5. She became very ill. He prayed earnestly for her. The doctors examined her but could not heal her because the medicine was in another city far away from them. The father went out to search for the medicine but in vain. The child went out and waited for his father at the door. He stood there and prayed.

An angel appeared before him. He carried him on his wing and flew to the town where the medicine was available. They brought the medicine and the angel brought him back home. The child asked him, "Who are you?" and the angel said that the Lord sent him to the boy because the Lord loved him as he loves all people who pray. The child carried the medicine to his father. He made the sign of the cross over the medicine. His mother recovered and all the members of his family were happy. Thank God.

(28) Hymn: When I pray I make the Sign of the Cross

It is impossible to spend the whole period studying the hymn so the Servant can tell them a short story while they are studying the hymn.

References

+ The Hymn Book

Verse

It is not necessary to study a verse this week and the children should be given a chance to study the hymn

Hymn

When I pray, I make the sign of the cross
 And the Lord my God hears my prayer
 Before I go to bed, I make the sign of the cross
 And the Lord my God guards me and helps me

Aids

The same aids used before in lesson 2 about the cross.

Crosses of different shapes and colors are made of different materials.

Introduction

Making the sign of the cross and the way of making it. It is better to give each child a cross.

In this lesson concentrate on the value of the cross and making the sign of the cross and how to make it. Study a part of the hymn: When I pray I make the sign of the cross.

Items

1. A man of great power was searching for a more powerful man to serve him.

2. After a long search he found the cross.
3. His love for the cross and his joy.

There was a very strong man named Acro. He was proud of his great strength. He made a vow that if he found a man stronger than him, he would be his servant.

One day he heard of a very powerful king who was unconquered. He went to his palace to meet him but the king said that he was afraid of another king who had a greater power than his. He went to the stronger king but that king said that he was afraid of the devil. He decided to serve the devil so he lived with him but he found out that the devil was afraid of the cross and he used to run away when he saw the cross.

He left the devil and went to serve the cross. There are many crosses in the churches. So he went to the churches and met the priests and asked how the cross was used. He knew that the cross was the most powerful thing in the world and he was happy to know this fact. He had a cross-tattooed on his hand. He prayed with the priests and thanked God.

Remarks

1. When Acro went to the devil... ask what they were doing (they were happy when people quarreled and when people called each other bad names). The devil ran away when he saw a cross on the top of a church.
2. Give some crosses of any kind to the children.

(29) Mary Sits Down at the Feet of Christ

Reference

+ Luke 10

Verse

“Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42)

The Lesson

Christ was in the house of Mary and Martha was distracted with much serving. She blamed Mary who chose the good portion.

+ What did Martha do for Christ?
+ What did Mary do?

Let recite say the verse.

Remarks

Discuss with the children how they should listen in the church during the Holy Mass and in Sunday School during the lesson. Children must not be distracted with playing and leave Christ.

(30) Palm Sunday: Children Receive Christ

Verse

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (John 12:13)

Hymn

Hosanna in the Highest [Praise the a Lord, Page 25]

Aids

A big picture, palm leaves, roses, and olive branches

Introduction

- + What do you know about palm leaves?
- + Who went to church this morning?
- + What did you see?
- + What did you say?

Christ was with his disciples on the mountain.

He ordered two disciples to bring the donkey (Describe the donkey, white in color, clean, calm, no one had ridden it before).

They met the owner of the donkey and talked to him as the Lord told them.

The people of Jerusalem knew that Christ was coming. What did they do? The women left their houses and did not cook. The children put on new clothes and went out to see Christ. Men shut the doors of their shops and went out to see Christ. They all carried roses, palm leaves and waited for Christ to come.

Christ rode the donkey. There was joy in heaven. The angels were happy.

People covered the ground with their clothes, they raised palm leaves, they shouted loudly and Children clapped hands.

Notes

Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine Christ entering Jerusalem then ask them to tell you what they saw.

Christ entered the temple, He was dressed in white, His face was bright, and He was smiling.

(31) Easter: The Angel Rolls The Stone

References

- + Matthew 28:1-20
- + Luke 24:1-12

Verse

“He is not here for He is risen” (Matthew 28:6)

Hymn

+ Christ is risen, Children [Arabic Song]

Aids

A picture of Christ rising from the dead, tambourine and a triangle

The Lesson

The Resurrection play - three girls play the part of the Maries (the many women named Mary). The rest of the children kneel down as if praying representing the disciples. The Maries go out to visit the tomb. After a while they come back. They are happy, they enter while the disciples end their prayers. They tell the good news of the Resurrection “EKhristos Anisty”, which means “Christ is risen”.

(32) Prayer: How To Pray

References

+ Matthew 6:9-13

The Lesson

One day Rafael was in need of a pair of shoes. He said, “I shall pray to the Lord and he will give me the pair of shoes. Rafael entered his sleeping room, knelt down on his knees and prayed saying: “My heavenly father, you know that my shoes are torn and in a very bad condition and now I walk barefooted. Please help me to get a new pair of shoes”. Some days later a certain man visited Rafael and asked him to help him in his work. He gave him his wages in advance. Rafael was happy. He took the money and bought a new pair of shoes. Before he went to bed that night, Rafael knelt down and prayed to God and said, “Thank you, Jesus, my Lord because you helped me buy the new pair of shoes”. Rafael said, “I love to pray and be with God”.

Homework

Underline the words you want to pray for (a blanket, a sick boy, friends, money, clothes, food).

Instructions

Encourage the children to pray for the needs of the church, their families and for their private needs.

(33) Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer - I

References

+ Matthew 6:9-13

To the Servant

In this lesson make sure that all the children have studied the Lord's Prayer. You may give an additional story about prayer.

Introduction

- + When do we pray?
- + Why do we pray?
- + What should I do when I am tired or ill?
- + Who can recite the Lord's Prayer?

The Lesson

1. There was a rich family of a woman, her husband and five children.
2. They used to pray every day.
3. The father fell ill and the children prayed for him.
4. They spent all their money on doctors. They became poor and hungry.
5. The children went to church. They waited till the people went out. They wept before the sanctuary and prayed earnestly to the Lord. They left their address to the Lord and prayed him to send them food and clothes.
6. A rich woman was standing in a corner and heard their prayers and was deeply affected.
7. she bought many things (flour, rice, fruit, etc.) and went to their house and gave them money to buy their needs.
8. The father was healed and thanked God for his care of them.

Aids

A picture of Samuel the Prophet while he is praying or a picture of Christ when he is praying in the garden.

Instructions

Teach the children to thank the Lord for every thing, such as food -clothes -books etc.

(34) Prayer: The Lord's Prayer - II

Make sure that the children have studied the Lord's Prayer. You may give them an additional story to teach them not to swear.

Verse

“Do not swear at all” (Matthew 5:34)

The Lesson

Mary and Nadia are two sisters who loved each other. They always pray before they go to bed. Nadia stood before the Lord to pray with a feeling of awe. But Mary prayed where her eyes were open and looking at all things around her. She always swore.

Mary said to Nadia, "Why do you take a long time praying and why do I end my prayer quickly?" Nadia said, "When I close my eyes I see the angels and Christ among the saints". Mary was surprised, as she herself never saw such wonderful scenes. Nadia said to her, "It seems that Christ is not pleased with you".

The two sisters slept. Mary saw a dream that night. The Heaven was open; a wonderful angel came down, and drew near her while she was still asleep. He said to her, "Mary, Christ loves you but he is not pleased with you because you always swear. For this reason, you will not be able to speak from now on till you stop swearing". Then the angel disappeared.

Mary tried to speak but she could not. She wept bitterly, and prayed silently so that the Lord might forgive her and heal her tongue. One night the angel came to her and told her that the Lord answered her prayers. He touched her tongue and healed her. She knelt down and thanked Christ. She promised the Lord that she would never swear.

In the morning, Mary told Nadia about her dream. She learned to pray with a feeling of awe.

The Verses Studied during this period are:

1. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want (Psalm 23:1), Lessons 25,26.
2. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14), Lesson 18.
3. I bring you good tidings of great joy (Luke 2:10), Lesson 18.
4. Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (John 12: 13), Lesson 30.
5. Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears (1 Samuel 3:9), Lesson 24.
6. Let the children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:14), Lesson 19.
7. Mary has chosen that good part which will not be taken away from her (Luke 10:42), Lesson 29.
8. My heart rejoices in the Lord (1 Samuel 2:1), Lesson 23.
9. Do not swear at all (Matthew 5:34), Lesson 34.
10. Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7), Lesson 21.
11. He is not here; for He is risen (Matthew 28:6), Lesson 31.
12. For My angel will go before you (Exodus 23:23), Lesson 27.
13. Always ought to pray, and not lose heart (Luke 18:1), Lesson 20.
14. He shall give His angels charge concerning you (Matthew 4:6), Lesson 27.

Texts for recitation for this period: Revision of the first period texts for recitation. Psalm 8, one of the School religion lessons.

THE THIRD PERIOD

(35) The Feast of St. Mark the Apostle: St. Mark in Egypt

References

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part 1
- + The Story of the Coptic Church, Iris El Massry
- + The history of the church in the first three centuries, Guiza
- + St. Mark, the Evangelist who evangelized Egypt, Kamel Nakhla
- + St. Mark, H.H. Pope Shenouda III

To the Servant

1. May we have such service full of love, sacrifice and this zeal of St. Mark and of all the holy men of the church!
2. As the Lord was with St. Mark in his service and helped him to endure all pains and sufferings because he was honest and sincere, the Lord will also be with us if we are honest and sincere in our service.

Remark

The Servant gives the main events in St. Mark's life briefly, his martyrdom and how Christianity came to Egypt.

The Lesson

Aim

How Christianity came to Egypt

Verse

"Preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15)

Hymn

+ St. Mark...St. Mark...

Aids

An icon or a picture of St. Mark surrounded by lit candles

Introduction

1. Whose picture is this?
2. Why do we draw a lion beside him?
3. Where was he born? (In the city of Cyrene in Pentapolis)
4. How was he martyred? Where?

St. Mark is one of the seventy apostles whom the Lord Christ chose. He witnessed the miraculous deeds of Christ such as healing the sick and raising the dead.

After Christ's resurrection and Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, St. mark came to Egypt to speak to the Egyptians about Christ -The first city he went to was Alexandria.

1. Where did St. mark go to preach Christianity?

2. When did St. Mark go to Alexandria?

In Alexandria he prayed for his mission and message. He walked in the streets of the city till his sandals were torn.

Annianus the shoemaker mended St. Mark's sandal but the needle pierce his hand while mending the sandal and he cried "O God the One". The apostle put some mud on his finger and he was healed at once.

1. What did St. Mark do?
2. What happened to the shoemaker?
3. What is his name?
4. How did St. mark heal him?

The shoemaker was amazed to hear St. mark speaking about Christ and to be healed by the power of Christ. St. Mark told him about many miracles performed by Christ. The shoemaker and his household believed and Annianus was ordained a bishop and Christianity spread and Christians grew in number.

1. Why did Annianus believe?
2. Speak about some miracle performed by Lord Jesus Christ.

Exercise

Encourage the children to visit those who are absent and who have not come to Sunday School.

Instructions

1. Explain the meaning of the word "Preach". It means tell the good news.
2. Resort to acting whenever possible.
3. You may sing a hymn of glorification for St. Mark and the children can walk in the procession (circuit) holding lit candles.

The Unit of Our Love for People and Animals

(36) Almsgiving: Elijah and the Widow

References

- + 1 Kings 17
- + The Life of Elijah, Translated by Archpriest Marcos Daoud
- + Practical Contemplations on the life of Elijah of Tishbe

To the Servant

When the widow gave Elijah (a handful of flour - a small loaf), the Lord blessed the flour. May we be always ready to offer the most precious thing we have to the Lord!

The Lesson

Aim

+ Offering help to the needy; giving alms in the church

Verse

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Hymn

+ Bless the Lord O my Soul [Arabic Song]

+ Jesus loves the little children [Praise the Lord, Page 49]

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Introduction

1. How many loaves can we make of a handful of flour?
2. There was a prophet named Elijah (A prophet is a man of God who delivers the words of God to people).
3. This prophet lived at a time long before the coming of Christ.
4. The sky did not rain so the land was dry and there was no wheat, no maize, etc. So there was a severe famine in the whole land.
5. The Lord does not let his children go without food. The Lord said to Elijah, “Go to the town of Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow who lives there to feed you”.

Questions

+ Why did the land become dry?

+ What did the Lord say to Elijah?

When Elijah came to the gate of the town, he saw a widow gathering firewood. He said to her, “Please, bring me some bread to eat”. The widow said, “I haven’t gotten any bread. All I have is a handful of flour in a bowl and a drop of oil in a jar. I’ll prepare what little I have for my son and me”. Elijah said to her, “Go ahead and prepare your meal. But first make a small loaf from what you have and bring it to me, for the bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil. She believed him and did as he asked her to do and found that the bowl did not run out of flour nor did the jar run out of oil. The Lord blessed her house.

+ What did Elijah tell the widow to do?

+ What was the widow’s reply?

+ What happened to the bowl of flour and the jar of oil?

Exercise

Encourage the children to practice almsgiving.

Recitation

+ Children begin to study Psalm 117: Praise the Lord till lesson 38.

- + The Servant encourages them through competitions.

(37) Almsgiving: The Pastry Feast

Reference

2 Corinthians 9:7

To the Servant

Contemplate: Saints and martyrs reached a high level of almsgiving. They even offered themselves and their souls to the Lord Jesus. Can we reach the lowest levels of these high spiritual levels?

Instructions

The Servant explains how to give alms calmly.

The Lesson

Aim

Helping others

Verse

The previous one

Hymn

The previous one

Aids

A pie to be divided and distributed among the children

Introduction

1. What did we learn in the previous lesson?
2. Who gave alms to a poor man?

Girgis and Hanna are two school friends. They agreed to attend the Holy Christmas Mass in the church together. When the Eve of Christmas came, Girgis heard the church bells ringing. When his mother told him that it was the Christmas day, he remembered his agreement with Hanna so he went quickly to the church. Girgis and Hanna went to church.

Question

- + What are the names of the two boys?
- + Where have they gone today?
- + Who attended the Divine Mass this week?

On their way to church Girgis asked Hanna, his friend, Girgis: Do you have a pastry like ours to eat after the Mass?

Hanna: No,

Girgis: Why?

Hanna: We are poor. We cannot bake a pastry.

Girgis: Have you bought new clothes?

Hanna: No, I celebrate the feast in my ordinary clothes.

+ Why didn't Hanna's mother make a pastry?

+ What does your mother make on feast days?

Girgis was deeply affected by these words and he was busy thinking about these matters during the Mass. When he went back home, he told his parents about it. Girgis suggested that they should send half the pastry to Hanna's house. The mother said that the suggestion was wonderful but if they could make another pastry and send it to them, this would be lovelier. Girgis suggested giving some of his new clothes to Hanna. Girgis was happy because: God loves a cheerful giver. On the feast day, Girgis went to his friend's house and gave him the pastry and the new clothes as a present on the occasion of the feast. The two friends were happy.

+ What did Girgis give his friend?

+ What do you yourself give to the poor?

+ What does the verse say?

Exercise

Give a simple present to one of your poor friends.

(38) Serving Others: The Good Samaritan

References

Luke 10:30-37

To the Servant (Contemplate)

As Christ gave himself for us, we should also give ourselves for others and serve them. Have you tested labor in service as an expression of your love for others.

Instructions

The Servant should explain the difference between the Old Testament priest and the New Testament priest, and the difference between a Levite and a deacon.

Aim

Love for others -helping and serving others.

Verse

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).

Hymn

+ The Good Samaritan [Praise the Lord, Page 35]

Aids

The picture of the lesson

The Lesson

A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. The road was rough and there was neither vegetation nor water. Robbers attacked the travelers. They beat him, stripped him, wounded him, and took all his money and left him half dead.

- + Who met that man on the road?
- + What did they do to him?

A priest was going down that road; when he saw the man he walked on by, on the other side. A Levite also came there, looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. A certain Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon him. This Samaritan loved to serve others and help the needy. When he saw the man, he went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them, and then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. He gave money to the innkeeper and asked him to take care of him till he recovered.

- + What did the priest do?
- + What did the Levite do?
- + What did the Samaritan man do?
- + Which of the three was kind to the wounded man?

Exercise

When you see a blind man crossing the street, help him to cross the street.

(39) Indulgence: Ibrahim El Gohary

References

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part 2
- + The genius and famous Copts of the 19th Century

To the Servant

Let us learn how to forgive those who do wrong for us and to us... when they insult us, we bless them.

Aim

Indulgence

Verse

“Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44)

Hymn

- + All Your Children O my Lord [Arabic Song]
- + Love is patient and Kind [Praise the Lord, Page 36]

Introduction

- + What would you do if someone called you bad names?

One can punish the person who does wrong to him but one can also do him good instead of punishing him.

The Lesson

Ibrahim el Gohary was a minister of the state in the 18th Century. He loved the Lord and always prayed and went to church. He was kind to the poor and always forgave people who did wrong. He had a brother named Girgis el Gohary .A certain man used to call him bad names and annoy him, and throw stones at him whenever he met him in the street -Girgis was sad and told his brother about it and asked him to send that man to prison... Ibrahim comforted his brother and promised that he would cut off the man's tongue.

- + What was the job of Ibrahim El Gohary?
- + What happened to his brother?
- + What was his name?
- + What did he ask his brother to do?
- + What was Ibrahim's answer?

Ibrahim sent presents to the wicked man (butter, honey, cheese, clothes, etc.) with one of his servants. The man was deeply affected and wept. When he met Girgis he welcomed him and bowed down before him and apologized to him.

Girgis was surprised at that change in the man's conduct. He went straight to his brother's house and asked him what was the reason behind that change. He said to him “I have overcome evil with good, so the man has respected you”

Questions

- + How did Ibrahim El Gohary treat the man who insulted his brother?

Exercise

He who insults us should be forgiven by us. We say to him, “May God forgive you”.

Recitation

Psalm 150

(40) Cooperation: The Disciples Cooperate in Catching Fish

Reference

+ Luke 5:1-11

To the Servant

1. Do we, as Servants and ministers co-operate together to raise the standard of our service and develop it?
2. Do we cooperate in the different kinds of activity? Do we stand as one man to solve the problems that face us?

Aim

Children should learn to co-operate and serve others

Introduction

Bring three-fold woven string and ask one of them to try to cut it. They will not be able to do so. Separate the strings and they will find that it is easy to cut.

Ask a child to lift a chair up. He cannot of course. Ask two children to cooperate in lifting it up.

The Lesson

Peter spent all the night trying to fish but he could not. He became tired. The Lord Jesus said to him “Push the boat further to the deep water, and let your nets down”. Peter said, “we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will let down the nets”. Peter obeyed and let down his nets.

- + What was Peter doing?
- + Where was Jesus at that time?
- + What did he say to Peter?
- + What did Peter do?

Peter could not bring the net out by himself because it caught a big amount of fish so he called his partners in the other boat. Peter and his partners cooperated and drew out the net full of huge amounts of fish

- + What happened?
- + Who cooperated with Peter?

The *Verse* says: A Threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Exercise

Let us co-operate with our parents in buying what we need.
Help your brother in his homework.

(41) Cooperation: The Blind and the Crippled

References

+ Tales for Children by Al-Kilani

To the Servant

Do you share and cooperate with others? Do you raise prayers together for the motherland and the Church?

Aim

The previous one

Verse

The previous one or “Love one another; as I have loved you” (John 13:34)

Hymn

The previous one.

Aids

The picture of the lesson and acting.

Introduction

- + Have you seen a blind man?
- + How does he walk?
- + Have you seen a crippled man?
- + How does he walk?

The Lesson

There was a certain blind man who could not see but he could walk without feeling tired. There was another man who was crippled. He could not walk but he could see. The two men were disabled. They were standing by the door of the church begging. Their problem was that there was no man to take them home. The first one needed a man to lead him by the hand. The Lord inspired them to live together in one house. They agreed to cooperate together. The blind man carried the crippled on his shoulders and the crippled man guided him to the left and to the right. Thus through co-operation they were able to solve their problem.

Questions

1. Why was the blind man annoyed?
2. Why was the crippled man annoyed?
3. What did the blind and the crippled men do to solve their problem?
4. Let us say the verse together: Love one another: as I have loved you.

Homework

What are the things you can do this week to help others? Do them this week.

(42) Satisfaction: The Jar Of Bonbons

References

+ Tales for Children by Al-Kilany

To the Servant

If we teach the children the virtue of satisfaction and being satisfied with what we have and not to be greedy, we have to contemplate the life of monasticism and abstinence. The apostle says “And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:8).

Note

The Servant should choose a name other than Peter when he tells the story if there is a boy with that name in the class so that the story may not have a bad effect on him.

Aim

To be content

Verse

“Take heed and beware of covetousness” (Luke 12:15)

Hymn

+ Bless the Lord O my Soul [Arabic Song]

+ This is the day that the Lord has made [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Aids

The picture of the lesson: a jar with a narrow head (top), a child can put his hand through it, some bonbons and sweets.

Introduction

Ask a child to put his hand into the jar and then get it out... Put some bonbons in the jar and let the boy put his hand into it and hold some bonbons then ask him to get his hand out.

The Lesson

Peter, Youssif and Mary are three young brothers and sisters. They are children in the Elementary school. They used to pray the time they get up and before they go to bed. Those children loved sweets so their father brought them some bonbons and put them in a jar like this one. Each morning their mother gave each three bonbons, and the children were very happy.

+ When did the three children pray?

+ When do you yourself pray?

+ What did their father bring them?

One day Peter followed his mother without being seen by anyone and saw the jar of bonbons. He got his hand through the jar and took a handful of bonbons. He tried to get his hand out but he

could not. He drew his hand violently out but his hand got hold to the jar. This is because of his greed.

- + What did Peter do?
- + What happened to him as a result of this?

Peter suffered great pains. He cried and wept. His mother ran to him. His father ran to him. His brother and sister ran to him to see what happened. When his father understood what happened, he said to him, "Move your fingers and let the bonbons fall down". When Peter did that, he could get his hand out. His mother said to him, "When you want anything ask me or ask your father and do not do that again". Peter said, "I am sorry. I shall never be greedy" as the verse says: Beware of covetousness.

- + When could Peter get his hand out?

Let us say the verse together: Beware of covetousness.

Exercise

When we got to the Sunday School let us not take more than one picture and at home let us take our portion, which should be exactly the same as our brother's portions. If we need anything let us ask our father and mother to give us what we want and say, "Thank you" and we must not say, "Why do you give my brother more than you give me?"

(43) The Fox And Indigestion

To the Servant

When we pray we always repeat the statement "Give us this day our daily bread". How do we apply these words to our life? Read Hebrews 13:5, and Philippians 4: 11.

Note

The Servant explains that the great amount of food the fox ate and that he was unable to go back through the opening was because of his greed.

Aim

The previous one

Verse

The previous one

Aid

- + The picture of the lesson. Review questions about the previous lesson.
- + What did Peter do without telling anybody?
- + When could he get his hand out of the jar?
- + Who remembers the verse? Beware of covetousness.

A certain gardener cared very much for his garden. There were many trees in his garden; fig, guava, orange, grapes, roses, flowers of different colors and kinds. He made a fountain in his garden and the garden was beautiful. To keep the garden clean and beautiful, he built a high wall around it to keep dogs and foxes away.

- + What did the gardener plant in his garden?
- + What did he do to guard it against dogs and foxes?

One day, the gardener was away. He was not present. A slim fox got into the garden to eat. He got into the garden through a narrow opening, which the gardener forgot to block. He ate a lot of food; grapes, figs, etc. His belly grew in size because of the huge amount of food he ate.

- + How did the fox enter the garden?
- + What did he eat?

Suddenly, the gardener came. When the fox felt it, he searched for the opening to go out through it. He found the opening but could not pass through it because its belly was full of food (he was greedy). The fox was annoyed and he hid himself behind a tree. He fasted three days till his body became little again. After three days, he could get out but he was sad because he was hungry when he entered the garden and he was also hungry when he went outside it. That is why the Lord says: Beware of covetousness.

- + What did the fox do to get out of the garden?
- + Why could not he get out at first?
- + What does the verse say?

Exercise

Divide your portion of sweets between you and the poor.

(44) Obedience: St. John The Short

References

- + Sinaxarium, Part 1 (20th of Babah)
- + The Paradise of the Monks

To the Servant

We all do not know the true obedience. So let us stand before the Lord and pray to him asking to have it, as the Lord obeyed till death.

Have you tested the blessing of obedience?

Aim

Obedience.

Verse

“Children, obey your parents” (Colossians 3:20)

Hymn

- + Thanks to God Who redeemed us.
- + Holy is our Church

Aids

On a white sheet of paper draw a black stick planted in the ground and a man carrying a jar of water watering it.

The Lesson

When John the short was 18 years old, he went to the monastery to be ordained monk. The abbot refused him because he was still young but he was accepted at last... He became a disciple to one of the monks in the wilderness of Scetis. The abbot wanted to test John's ability to obey so he said to him, “John, take this dry stick and plant it”. John looked at the abbot and said, “All right my father”. And John took the stick and did as he was told. He watered the stick twice a day and returned to tell the abbot of what happened to the stick.

- + Why did John go to the wilderness?
- + Who examined him?
- + Why?
- + What did John do with the stick?

The water was far away from the stick but John obeyed. After some days, the stick gave forth green leaves and the branches became long and sweet fruit appeared so John told his Servant about that too and his Servant went there to have a look and picked some of its fruit and went back to the monastery where he gathered the monks and said to them, “My sons this is the fruit of obedience” and the verse says “Children, obey your parents”.

- + What is the name of the saint?
- + What did he plant?
- + What did the stick give forth?
- + What is the name of the fruit?

Homework

Obey your parents and your brothers.

(45) The Feast Of The Apostles: Peter Heals The Lame Man

References

- + Acts 3

To the Servant

Peter healed the lame man because he stretched his hand to him. And you my dear brother, you

have to stretch your hand to the Lord so that he may rescue you from sin. Go now and offer your hand and he is ready to take hold of it.

Aim

The healing power of God

Verse

“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (Acts 3:6).

Hymn

- + I was sick and slim
- + When I feel tired [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Questions

- + Who of you has ever seen a lame man, a blind man, or a crippled man?
- + If we send these people to the doctor, can he heal them?

Peter and John were Christ’s disciples and they were friends. They went together to the church. They used to pray silently on their way to the church.

- + What are the names of the two disciples?
- + Where did they go?
- + What did they do?

By the door of the church they found a man begging for money. He was a lame man. He stretched his hand to Peter. Peter looked straight at him and said. “I have neither money nor silver but I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”.

- + Who was sitting by the Temple gate?
- + What did he want?
- + What did Peter do?

At once the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around. He sang a hymn: I was sick and weak... and Peter said to me “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk”. The people were surprised and praised God.

- + What does the verse say?

Homework

Write the word Jesus three times in big letters.

(46) Kindness to Animals: Balaam and his Donkey

References

+ Numbers 22

To the Servant

Read Deuteronomy 25:4, Proverbs 27:23, Isaiah 1:3; 43:20, Matthew 12:11; 15:27, Luke 14:5; 15:5 and Numbers 22.

Aim

Kindness to animals

Verse

“Having compassion for one another” (1 Peter 3:8).

Hymn

- + Heard the cock crowing [Arabic Song]
- + If I were a butterfly [Praise the Lord, Page 54]

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Questions

Balaam had a nice young donkey. Whenever he went out to do anything, he rode it and took it with him. One day Balaam wanted to go out to curse the children of God. He rode his little donkey and went on his way.

- + What is the name of the man?
- + What did he have?
- + What did he want to do?

The donkey saw an angel with a sword. The angel was standing on the road. He prevented it to go on its way... Balaam struck it severely and so it wept.

- + What did the donkey see?
- + Why did Balaam strike it?

The donkey was tired and it fell to the ground and Balaam fell over it. The donkey said, “Why do you strike me? What have I done?” Balaam answered saying, “Because you did not make speed so that I may go and curse those people”. The donkey said, “I always obey you, I have never done what I have done just now”.

Only at that moment Balaam saw the angel holding a sword and dressed in white. Balaam knelt down before the angel and realized that he had made a mistake because he wanted to curse others. He apologized to the donkey and brought it some clover and water and the donkey became happy and forgave Balaam and they went happily back home.

Homework

1. Care of animals and birds.
2. Do not insult others.

The Unit Of Love For The Church

(47) Love For the Church and Rules of Behavior Among Believers in The Church

References

+ 1 Samuel 3:10, I Kings 8, Luke 2:46

To the Servant

My dear brother, let us behave when we are in the church and when we attend spiritual meetings
There is a difference between the minister and the ordinary man.

Aim

Encouraging the child to go to church

Verse

“I will come into Your house in the multitude of your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple” (Psalm 5:7).

Hymn

- + In your house...in your house
- + Holy is our Church [Praise the Lord, Page 124]

Aids

1. Practical acting on how to enter and get out of the church.
2. A picture of Prophet Samuel.

The Lesson

When the Lord Christ saw some people in the temple selling and buying things without showing respect for the House of God, He drove them out.

The Lord becomes pleased with you and gives you what you need when you show respect for the church.

Items that should be dealt with:

1. Kneeling down before the sanctuary (study the verse)
2. The holiness of the place and showing respect for it (take off your shoes before you enter the sanctuary and keep calm and silent).
3. Almsgiving (in secret).
4. Receiving benediction (water, Eulogia, kissing the cross).
5. Behaving well on feast days, wedding parties, etc., according to what is fit within the

Christian atmosphere. Try to change the bad customs spread among the children when they are in the church such as:

- a. The noise they make by going into the church and out of it a lot of times.
- b. Speaking to and playing with other children.
- c. Eating sweets or chewing gum.
- d. Eating an urban before the end of the Holy Mass.
- e. Running to their fathers or mothers during the mass.

Homework

Make the sign of the cross when you enter the church and recite the Lord's Prayer.

(48) Showing reverence for our Fathers the Priest

References

- + The Seven Sacraments of the Church and the Holy Orders
- + Matthew 10:40 and Matthew 28:28
- + John 20:21-23
- + Ephesians 4:11
- + John 15:16
- + Luke 10:10,16

To the Servant

The priest is the image of God on earth so we have to show reverence for him. As a man he may make mistakes but we should not judge him as God judges all. We must not doubt the effectiveness of the Holy Sacraments even if the priest who performed them is a sinner, as his sins have no effect at all on the holiness of the Sacraments.

Aim

Showing reverence to the priest and kissing his hands on seeing him

Verse

“He who receives you receives Me” (Matthew 10:40)

Hymn

- + I love Abouna the priest

Aids

Our father the priest

Introduction

- + Who baptizes children in the church?
- + Who ministers the Communion?
- + What does a priest wear?
- + Where does he stand?
- + What does he do inside the sanctuary?

- + Who met out father the priest this week and greeted him?

The Lesson

A holy monk was granted the gift of seeing his guardian angel. The angel used to walk before him wherever he went and protected him from any evil deed. This holy man was ordained priest. When he went out of the church he did not see his guardian angel in front of him as usual. He feared that the angel might have forsaken him. When he looked around he saw his angel following him, so he asked him why he followed him instead of guiding him. The angel said, "You have attained the order of priesthood which is greater than the order of angels".

- + What order did the priest attain?
- + Where was the angel when the priest searched for him?
- + What should you do to please your guardian angel?

Homework

When you see a priest run to him, greet him, kiss his hand and ask him to pray for you.

(49) Christ Among the Jewish Servants

References

- + Luke 2:41-52
- + Stories for Children: Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Part II, Beirut

To the Servant

May you test being a disciple and not to lose the spirit of disciples no matter how old you are?
Be a disciple to your confessor.

Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your bearers.

Aim

Love for the church, showing reverence to the church, and perpetual going to church

Verse

- + Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord forever.
- + Psalm 93:5
- + I must be about my Father's business?
- + Luke 2:49

Hymn

- + Into your house, into your house, he happily enter...
- + Holy is our Church [Praise the Lord, Page 124].

Aids

The picture of the lesson

Introduction

The feast, the joys of the feast, going to church on feast days.

The Lesson

Virgin Mary and Joseph the Carpenter used to go to Jerusalem. When Jesus was 12 years old, he went with them to Jerusalem. When they went back, Jesus remained in the Temple. His parents did not know this. They thought that he was with the group.

- + Where did Joseph go with Mary and Jesus?
- + How old was Jesus?

Virgin Mary and Joseph the Carpenter started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find Him. On the third day they found Him in the Temple sitting with Jewish Servants listening to them and answering their questions. His parents were amazed when they saw him -Mary asked him to go back with them and he obeyed her.

Homework

1. When you enter the church make the sign of the cross and sit calmly and politely.
2. Always attend the Holy Mass and listen attentively to prayers.

(50) Hymn: Ring O Bells

To the Servant

1. It is written “My son give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways”. Have we given our hearts to the Lord?
2. Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Aim

The acceptable almsgiving

Verse

“God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Hymn

+ Ring O bells

Aids

+ A picture of a church towers, bells, surrounded with angels.

The Lesson

A big church with high (tall) towers and big bells: The angels come down to ring its bells every feast. Many feast days came and the angels did not ring bells. The people tried to know the reason for that.

+ What did the angels do?

The king offered his crown to the church so that the bells might ring but the angels did not come down to ring the bells. The minister also did the same thing. He offered a lot of money but the bells did not ring because the king and the minister were proud of what they did.

+ What did the king offer the church?

+ What did the minister offer the church?

But a poor sick woman gave her two sons two coins; one coin each; as she could not go to the church she asked her sons to take the two coins to the church and put them in the plate. The boys went to church. On their way they met a starving poor man who was about to die and he was very cold. They took him to their house. They gave him a coin and left him and went to church. They bowed down before the sanctuary and silently put the other small coin in the church plate. The bells rang declaring their love for the two boys who loved the Lord.

+ What did the poor woman give to her sons?

+ Why did the church bells ring this time?

Exercise

When you offer your alms, let this be done in secret.

Instructions

1. Do not concentrate only on almsgiving or prayer but emphasize the sons' love for the Lord.
2. The Servant should draw the children's attention to the fact that the Lord is pleased with his children, specially the little ones and he is pleased with their prayers.

(51) Review

Review lesson that were given to the children and the Servant should encourage the children to study them. He should encourage those who haven't studied them to study them and use them in their prayers in the church and at home.

Make sure that the children have studied the hymns, the verses and the texts for recitation and encourage the children to do so.

Choose some children to act some parts of some lessons.

Questions for revision... Here are some of them:

1. What must you do when you enter the church?
2. What must you do when you meet our father the priest?
3. Why do bells ring in the church?
4. What do you give to the dog and the cat that live in your house?
5. How could Ibrahim make the man who insulted his brother stop calling him bad names?
6. What should you do when you see a blind man trying to cross the street?
7. Who prays at home using Psalm Praise the Lord, and Praise God?

The Verses of the third Period:

1. Love your enemies, Matthew 5:44, Lesson 39.
2. I will come into Your house...in the fear of You I will worship toward Your Holy Temple, Psalm 5:7, Lesson 47.
3. Preach the gospel, Mark 16:15, Lesson 35.
4. A threefold cord is not quickly broken, Ecclesiastes 4:12, Lesson 40.
5. God loves a cheerful giver, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Lessons 36,37,50.
6. Children, obey your parents, Colossians 3:20, Lesson 24.
7. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk, Acts 3:6, Lesson 45.
8. Holiness adorns your house, O Lord, Psalm 93:5, Lesson 49.
9. You shall love your neighbor as yourself, Mark 12:31, Lesson 38.
10. Love one another, John 13:34, Lesson 41.
11. Beware of all covetousness, Luke 12:15, Lessons 42,43.
12. Having compassion for one another, 1 Peter 3:8, Lesson 46.
13. He who receives you receives me, Matthew 10:40, Lesson 48.
14. I must be about My Father's business, Luke 2:49, Lesson 49.

Texts for Recitation for this period are:

Psalm 117: Praise the Lord all Nations.

Psalm 150: Praise the Lord...Praise God in his sanctuary.