

Πατριεπισκοπος ἡρεμῆχμῖ
ἡορθοδοξος
ἡτε ἡθωψ ετρωτπ ετсарнс



**The Coptic Orthodox
Diocese
Of the Southern USA**

Sunday School Curriculum

Grade 1







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PREFACE

The Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States, under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Youssef, felt the pressing need for a modified Sunday School Curriculum which would be better suited to address the problems and issues facing children both in America and the lands of immigration. Therefore, the efforts and time of many faithful servants have been dedicated to modify and improve the presently used English translation of the syllabus published by the Youth Services Committee of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate. This has resulted in the elimination of many existing lessons from this syllabus and the substitution with new lessons that are more appropriate for our youth in American society. These additional lessons give greater consideration to the differences in quality of life, education, media influence, cultural differences and the surrounding diversity of beliefs between Egyptian society and that of the west

We pray that God may bless this work for the spiritual growth of our children in the immigration countries. We also thank His Grace Bishop Youssef for his continued support, prayers and motivating guidance in this service.

May God reward every servant who offered time and effort toward the completion of this Sunday School Curriculum.

“Thus Far The Lord Has Helped Us”

(I Samuel 7:12)



INTRODUCTION

This grade 1 Sunday school curriculum has been modified by substituting 28 lessons from the previous curriculum published by the Youth Service Committee of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate with new lessons that are suitable for the children in America. The order of the lessons has also been changed to follow the major events in the church. This resulted in the following order assuming the starting date is the first week after the Coptic New Year celebration (El Nayrooz) on September 11:

- 3 lessons for the month of September
- 4 lessons for each of the months of October through January
- Variable number of filler lessons for the period between the beginning of February and Jonah's fast.
- 2 lessons, one before and one after Jonah's fast
- 7 lessons during the Great Fast
- 7 lessons for the period between Easter and the Feast of the Pentecost
- Variable number of filler lessons between the Feast of the Pentecost and the Apostles' Feast
- 3 lessons for the remainder of July after the Apostles' Feast
- 4 lessons for August
- 1 lesson for the first week of September

Please note that filler lessons can also be used for the occasional fifth Sunday in any month. These filler lessons are in the beginning of the book and it is preferable that they be used in sequence for the sake of unity in all the churches.

The Lesson

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. Do not underestimate the child in front of you. They are very observant and learn a lot from what they see and hear from the servant.

- ❖ Preparing audiovisual aids is the most important part of grade 1 lessons. Avoid teaching any lesson without visual aids at this grade.
- ❖ Give the children a chance to talk and participate with their questions and answers in an organized manner
- ❖ Involve the parents at home in spiritual activities for the children e.g. reading the Bible and praying with them.

- ❖ Always give prizes and gifts for homework or memorization well done
- ❖ Picnics, activities and crafts are very important to build their love for the church

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 the child to know how the Lord cares for him/her. Thus 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:

- ❖ Do not expect much from the children at this age. Give them support and encourage them to work in an atmosphere of love.
- ❖ Give a variety of activities and encourage the activity that is somewhat calm and peaceful.
- ❖ Bear it in mind that children have a short span of attention, unless they do manual work, and speak while working.
- ❖ Make use of the children's ideas and take what they love into consideration.
- ❖ Always encourage and support the children.
- ❖ Avoid changing facts or important dogmatic words when teaching this age. You are planting the seeds of the faith in them and they probably do not understand the full meaning of many words but they are learning them. For example, do not change the word blood and body of Jesus during communion for juice and bread...etc

In conclusion, the students of grade 1 enjoy stories with visual aids and different sounds. They particularly like stories with animals. The main theme to be conveyed at this age is the **love and care of God for them**. They also have a tremendous memory capacity at this age and this is a good opportunity to memorize as much as possible from the Bible and Psalms or prayers. This is also the age when respect to the church and behavior during the liturgy needs to be developed.

After all, this can still be considered as a preliminary modified curriculum for grade 1 that will require your feedback as a servant in order to continue the improvement process. Any inquiries or comments can be forwarded to **ssc100@juno.com**

May the Holy Spirit guide every servant using this curriculum.

FILLER LESSONS

These lessons are to be used for the fifth Sunday in a month and to fill the empty weeks due to the changing date of the Resurrection Feast.

1. Friends of Jesus Christ
2. Obedience: St. John the Short
3. The Five Loaves and the Two Fish
4. Ibrahim El Gohary
5. House Built on the Rock
6. David and His Friend Jonathan
7. St. Peter Raised Tabitha

1- Friends of Jesus Christ

Objective:

- ❖ To make Jesus Christ a friend to each child

Memory Verse:

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

Reference

- ❖ Luke 10

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Ask the children who is their best friend?
- ❖ Do you know if Jesus Christ had friends? Who are they?
- ❖ Would you like Jesus Christ to be your friend?

Lesson Outlines:

There were two sisters and a brother called Mary, Martha and Lazarus. They lived together in one house and they loved Jesus Christ very much. Jesus also loved them very much and they were very close friends.

Jesus Christ used to visit them frequently and he was always comfortable in their house. One day Jesus went to visit them and they made a big dinner for Him. Martha was very busy in the kitchen preparing the food, all kinds of tasty and delicious plates. But Mary her sister went and sat down at the feet of Jesus Christ to listen to what He said and His nice words. Martha became upset because Mary her sister was not helping her in the kitchen to prepare the food. So, Martha went to Jesus to complain about her sister. But Jesus wanted Martha to come and sit with them and listen to His words too. He really wanted Martha to spend time with them and chat with them. Jesus then told Martha: Martha...Martha, you are worried and busy with the food and the serving but you really need to come and sit with Me just like Mary did. Jesus wanted to spend time with His friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus and He wanted them to listen to His sweet words.

- ❖ What did Martha do for Christ?

- ❖ What did Mary do?
- ❖ What did Martha complain about?
- ❖ What did Jesus tell Martha?

Let us recite the verse.

Conclusion:

Jesus also is my friend and He wants me to spend time and listen to His words in church, Sunday School and when we read the Holy Bible at home with our parents or brothers and sisters.

Applications:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Explain to them that when they listen to the Bible is like when Jesus comes and visits them. Encourage the children to ask their parents to read the Bible for them.

2- Obedience: St. John the Short

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children the blessing of obedience.

Memory Verse:

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

References:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids: draw a black stick planted in the ground and a man carrying a jar of water watering it.
- ❖ Ask the children what is the meaning of obey? and whom should we obey?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a short man his name was John. So, everybody called him John the short. He was 18 years old when he went to the monastery to become a monk. Do you know what is a monk?. Explain to the children the meaning of a monk and show them pictures of monks. The abbot (the leader of the monk) 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 (the teacher can bring a dry branch to the class in a pot and water it to help the children understand). St. John the short watered the stick twice a day and returned to tell the abbot of what happened to the stick.

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

The water was far away from the stick and it was heavy to carry it all this distance (the servant can act carrying a heavy load on his back or shoulder). But St. John the short obeyed and did it every day for many many days. After some days, the stick started to become green and to bring green leaves. The branches became long and sweet fruit appeared. So St. John told his servant about that too and his servant went there to have a look and picked some of its fruit. He 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?

Conclusion:

If we obey God, our parents and people who are older and wiser than us, we get great blessings and we get good things coming and happening to us.

Applications:

- ❖ Obey your parents.
- ❖ The servant can give each student a seed to plant at home and water it every day for 2 weeks and then bring it to class as a small plant (e.g. fava bean, small onions....etc). The servant should choose something that grows fast.

3- The Five Loaves and the Two Fish

Objective:

- ❖ God takes care of all his children who follow him

Memory Verse:

“So they all ate and were filled” (Matthew 14:20)

Reference:

- ❖ Matthew 14:13-21

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse.....
- ❖ Who can tell me how it feels like when you are hungry? Does it feel good? Have you heard your stomach making noise, as if it is asking for food when you get too hungry?
- ❖ Can you imagine 5000 people all of them hungry? The noise of their stomach must have been so loud ☺...Let's see what Jesus did with all those hungry people.....

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ Once upon a time Jesus went to a ship and wanted to be alone for a while. However, the multitude always found him and followed him because they wanted to listen to His teachings. Jesus was not upset that they were following him everywhere, but he was actually compassionate and kind towards them and wanted to teach them.
- ❖ When it was evening, his disciples asked him to send the multitude again through the city, so they could find something to eat. They asked that because they knew that the place they were in did not have any food.
- ❖ Jesus said, no, they have been with me all day, you should give them something to eat.
- ❖ The disciples said that there is not enough food to feed all these people. They only had five loaves of bread and two fish.
- ❖ Jesus asked them to bring him those 5 loaves and 2 fish. He also asked his disciples to let the people sit in-groups of 50.
- ❖ Jesus prayed and blessed the food, and all of a sudden it was a lot more food, and enough to feed all those people. Everyone ate and was full.

- ❖ There was also more than what they needed, so Jesus told them to collect the remaining food and it filled 12 baskets.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ cares for all our needs. He gives us food to eat, cloth to wear and toys to play. But He also wants us to follow Him and listen to Him.

Application:

- ❖ Pray before you eat and pray for the people who are hungry that the Jesus may fill them
- ❖ Every time you eat, remember this miracle that Jesus performed, and remember that He can bless your food too.

4- Ibrahim El Gohary

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to do good to people who do bad things to us.

Memory Verse:

“Love your enemies” (Matthew 5:44)

References:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ 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.

Lesson Outlines:

Ibrahim El Gohary had an important position at work (a minister of the state). 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 will do something to make the man stop calling him names.

- ❖ What did Ibrahim El Gohary use to do?
- ❖ 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"

- ❖ How did Ibrahim El Gohary treat the man who insulted his brother?
- ❖ What did he send to him?

Conclusion:

Let us learn how to forgive those who do bad things to hurt us. When they call us names and insult us, we bless them and do good things to them.

Applications:

- ❖ He who insults us should be forgiven by us. We say to him, "May God forgive you".
- ❖ Sing a hymn about love e.g. love is patient and Kind [Praise the Lord Book, Page 36]

5- House Built on the Rock

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children the importance of obeying God's commandments

Memory verse:

"The LORD is my rock" (Psalm 18:2)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids: a small toy house, sand, rocks, and water
- ❖ Many times when Jesus wanted to tell His disciples and the people a message He would put it in a story so they might understand it. These stories are called parables....what are they called?

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ Many people wanted to walk with Jesus because they liked to see the miracles He does
- ❖ Jesus used to talk to the people about the things God wants us to do
- ❖ He taught them the commandments of His Father
- ❖ Jesus told the people they should follow the commandments of God if they want to enter the kingdom of heaven
- ❖ He told them that there was a man who wanted to build a house. He went and searched and found a big rock and he built his house on this rock
- ❖ Few days later a strong storm came and lots and lots of rain came down but his house did not fall because it was built on a strong and stable rock. Can you break a rock easily??
- ❖ Then a great flood came and many houses were swept away, but his house did not fall because it was built on the rock
- ❖ Then a great wind blew and kept beating on the house but the house did not fall because it was built on the rock

- ❖ And Jesus said that every man who hears the words He says and obey them is like this wise man who built his house on the rock nothing can make him fall
- ❖ Now there was another man who built his house on the sand and when the rain came down, the flood came and the winds blew and beat that house. So, it fell a great fall because sand is not as strong as a rock.
- ❖ Every man who hears the words of Jesus and do not do them is like this fool man who build his house on the sand.
 - ❖ Where did the first man build his house?
 - ❖ What happen to his house when flood came?
 - ❖ Where did the second man build his house?
 - ❖ What happened to his house when flood came?

Conclusion:

If we have strong faith like the rock, we would be like the man who built his house on the rock. So, no one can shack our faith and love to Jesus Christ just like the rain could not destroy the house on the rock.

Application:

- ❖ Draw picture of the house on the rock with rain and flood around it

6 - David and His Friend Jonathan

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to share things with friends and others

Memory Verse:

“Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David” (1Samuel 18:4)

Reference:

- ❖ 1 Samuel 17:22-18:5

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Ask the children if they share their things with their friends?
- ❖ What do you share with others?
- ❖ Prepare pictures for the lesson

Lesson Outlines:

David was a young shepherd boy and son of a poor family. David loved God very much and trusted in Him. Once, there was a giant man called Goliath and he was cursing the people of God. He also asked that one of the people of God to come and fight with him. Everybody was scared of Goliath because he was big and strong. David was the only one who was courageous and came out to fight Goliath. David picked 5 stones and his stick and went to fight Goliath. Goliath laughed at him because he was small and did not have any weapons with him. But David did not care because he knew that God is with him. David took one of his stones, turned it around and threw it at Goliath. It struck Goliath's head and dropped him to the floor. Thus David won the fight.

When Jonathan the son of king Saul saw the courage of David he loved him very much and they became very close friends. Jonathan and king Saul brought David to stay with them in their house. Jonathan and David were spending a lot of time together and played together. Jonathan wanted to show his love to David so he gave him his robe, his armor, and even his sword. Jonathan the son of the king was sharing everything with David the shepherd, even all their secrets.

Conclusion:

Sharing is a good thing to do with all people especially with our friends. We should share every thing like our food, toys and goodies with our friends.

Applications:

- ❖ Let two boys act as Jonathan and David sharing a robe, armor and sword prepared by the servant
- ❖ Ask the children to share their toys and food this week with their friends, brothers and sisters at home and school.

7 - St. Peter Raised Tabitha

Objective:

- ❖ God gives power to His children to do miracles

Memory Verse:

"With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

References:

- ❖ Acts 9

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Do you know how many disciples the Lord Jesus Christ had?
- ❖ Who was the oldest disciple of the Lord's? St. Peter the Apostle

Lesson Outlines:

In a city of Joppa, there was a follower of the Lord and her name was Tabitha. Tabitha was a very good woman and was very gentle to all people especially the poor. Everyone knew of her reputation that she was full of good works and charitable deeds. She used also sew garments and tunics.

It happened one day that Tabitha became very ill and there was no cure for her sickness that she died. All her family members were very sad and upset by her death. They heard St. Peter was in the area and so her family members immediately sent 2 men to look for St. Peter

St. Peter came to Tabitha's room and saw her laying there and also saw everyone weeping and crying for her. St. Peter asked everyone to leave the room and he knelt beside Tabitha and prayed to God. St. Peter asked for God's mercy and to perform this amazing miracle of bringing Tabitha back to life.

After St. Peter's prayers, he said to Tabitha "Tabitha, arise". She then opened her eyes and was alive again!! St. Peter took her and showed her to all the people in the house. Every one in the city

knew of the amazing miracle St. Peter performed. So, many people became Christians and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. because of this miracle.

- ❖ What kind of person was Tabitha?
- ❖ What happened to Tabitha?
- ❖ Who did they call?
- ❖ What did St. Peter do?
- ❖ When we hear someone is sick, what should we do?
- ❖ When we are upset or sick, who should we talk to?

Conclusion

St. Peter had strong faith and strong prayer therefore God used him to do a miracle and raised the beloved Tabitha again.

Application

- ❖ Visiting/Praying for the sick

Sometimes there are people that become sick or even our friends do not come to school or church because they are very sick or not feeling well. We should ask about these people and we should also pray, as St. Peter prayed, that God has mercy and heals them

- ❖ The Prayers of Priests

St. Peter is like the priest or bishop. It is very important that when we are sick or upset about something, we should talk to Abouna. Abouna is a servant of God and by speaking with him, he makes us feel better and when he prays for us, his prayers are heard by God.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
(Starting with the Coptic New Year)

Week 2- The Nyrouz- Martyrs in Heaven

Week 3- God Created the World

Week 4- Adam in Paradise

Week 2- The Nayrouz- Martyrs in Heaven

Objective:

- ❖ Teach children about the beauty of heaven

Memory Verse:

“Behold, I make all things new” {Revelation 21:5}

References

- ❖ Heaven by Anba Youanis
- ❖ Children illustrated stories series (The Glories of Martyrs) - Siliman Nesseem
- ❖ Revelation 21-22

Introduction:

- ❖ What is the best place you like to go too?
- ❖ Why you like to go there?
- ❖ What do you do when you go to this place?
- ❖ Is heaven a nice place to go to?
- ❖ Prepare a nice picture for the Lord in heaven or the saints in heaven as an illustration

Lesson Outlines:

Heaven is the most beautiful place that any one can see and go to. We all would like to go to heaven. This is because in heaven we can see Jesus Christ. We can also see all the saints who did good things and Jesus Christ was happy with them. They will all have crowns on their heads and will be dressed in very nice white cloth. Everybody is going to look like a princess or a prince. We can also see all the angels with all their kinds and shapes. Do you like to see the angels? Yes we will see hundreds and hundreds of them in heaven. We will also be with our good friends and family.

Heaven itself will be full of joy and nice things that would make us happy all the time. No one cries in heaven or feels bad, hurt or tired.

Everybody in heaven will be singing and happy. Every body will be having good time all the time. We also will be praying. But the best of all is that we will be with Jesus Christ Himself and will be able to see Him. This time it will be for real not just a picture like we see Him now.

But we have to be good boys and girls to go to heaven just like the saints.

- ❖ Do you know the name of a saint?
- ❖ What did he do?

Yes, all saints they did good things and were good children to Jesus Christ. They did what the Bible told them to do and Jesus Christ was very happy with them. So, they all went to heaven. So, if we want to go to heaven then we have to do like the saints. If you want to get a nice crown when you go to heaven you have to be a good boy or girl of Jesus Christ and do the things He wants us to do. Jesus tells us what He wants us to do in the Bible.

- ❖ So, what are the good things that Jesus wants us to do??

Conclusion:

We have to be good boys and girls. We have to behave like children of God and do what Jesus wants. This is what the saints did. The saints are now in heaven and one day I will be able to go to heaven like them.

Applications:

- ❖ Let every child decorate a crown of hard paper for himself like the crowns they will wear in heaven. Let them wear it on their way to home.
- ❖ Color a picture of a saint or an angel
- ❖ Show the children the cloth of prince and princess and tell them that we will look even nicer than them.

Week 3- God Created the World

Objective:

- ❖ God made the whole world for us

Memory Verse

“And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:25)

References

- ❖ Genesis 1: Interpretation of the Book of Genesis, Sporting

Introduction:

Review with the students the previous lesson and verse

Prepare the following visual aids:

- ❖ Different types of flowers with different colors, different kinds of stones, snails, sand, vegetables or fruit, and a cup of water.
- ❖ Pictures of animals or models of animals, fish or birds.
- ❖ Pictures of silver stars, sun, and moon.
- ❖ Films.
- ❖ A blackboard and chalk (white and colored) for drawing things.
- ❖ The Servant must mention the days of creation in their logical order. He should also use means of illustration that can draw creatures every day and explain what happened on each day in a simple way.

Ask the kids about what is in the pictures and their colors.

Then ask them who made all these beautiful things?

Lesson Outlines:

The Servant begins the lesson by saying that God exists... the earth was empty and there was nothing on it. There were no trees, no houses, no animals and no people. It was very dark and ugly. 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. I will make the moon and the stars to light us for Adam". 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, oranges, etc. (The Servant asks the children to complete the list of vegetables and fruits).

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).

God made the birds, the fish, etc.

On the sixth day: the last day the Lord said, "Everything is good". Then the Lord brought some mud 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". Adam saw everything and knew that everything was useful to him.

The servant should note the following:

- ❖ Concentrate on the Love of God for Adam.

Conclusion:

God created the whole world and Adam in six days and He rested on the seventh day.

Applications:

- ❖ We must thank God when we pray for the things he created for us such as the sun, plants and animals. 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.
- ❖ Color a picture of the creation, if the servant can find one to provide for coloring.

Week 4 - Adam in Paradise

Objective:

- ❖ God's care and love for us

Memory Verse

“God said: Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26)

References

- ❖ Genesis 1, 2: Interpretation of Genesis, Sporting

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson with the students using the same illustrations as the previous lesson.

- ❖ Of what use was each of the following to Adam: plants, animals, fish, the sky, etc.
- ❖ How did Adam enjoy the things God made for him?
- ❖ What would have happened if God had not created light for Adam: plants, animals, birds, etc.?

Lesson Outlines:

Adam was talking to God and God was talking to Adam all the time when Adam was in paradise. God told Adam that he can eat from all the trees in the garden except 2 trees in the middle of the paradise. So, Adam listened to God and was eating from the other trees except those two trees.

Adam was alone in the Garden. 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 under the tree and so on. He gave a name to each animal. Adam thanked God for this. But all the animals had company from their same type but Adam was alone and there was no one else who looked like Adam. Since God is kind, He saw that Adam was lonely. So,

He thought of making Eve to be a helper and a friend to Adam. Next lesson we will see how God made Eve to be a friend to Adam and make him happy.

Conclusion:

- ❖ God gave Adam authority over all animals and all of them, even the fierce ones, lived with Adam in peace.
- ❖ Adam was interested in all the animals and he treated them in a gentle way.

Applications:

- ❖ We have to be gentle to the animals like Adam was. If we play with a cat or a dog we must not hurt them.
- ❖ Draw a picture of your favorite animal that God created

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Week 1- The Creation of Eve

Week 2- The Serpent's Trick

Week 3- Noah in the Ark (I)

Week 4- Noah in the Ark (II)

Week 1 - The Creation of Eve

Objective:

- ❖ To know how Eve was created.

Memory Verse:

“It is not good that man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 2: 18-24

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Prepare a picture about the creation of Eve to show to the children.
- ❖ Ask the children what is the name of the first woman in the world? Show them Eve in the picture. Then ask the children who made Eve?

Lesson Outlines:

When God had created Adam from dust, he placed him in the Garden of Eden to take care of it. The Lord noticed how lonely it was for Adam in the garden all by himself. God created the animals of the earth and brought them to Adam to name them. Yet, after the animals had been named, Adam could not relate to any of them. God, then, caused Adam to fall soundly asleep as He took a rib from his side. From this rib, Eve was created and brought to Adam. Adam and Eve became husband and wife and lived in the garden together.

- ❖ Why God created Eve?
- ❖ How was Eve created?
- ❖ Who created Adam and Eve?
- ❖ Where are your ribs? Can you point to your ribs?

Conclusion:

God knows what we need and He always gives us good things. He gave Adam a friend and a wife to make him happy. He also wants us to be happy and He gives us the things we need to make us happy.

Application:

- ❖ Color the picture of Adam and Eve and bring it to the class next week
- ❖ Memorize the verse.

Week 2 - The Serpent's Trick

Objective:

- ❖ We have to listen and obey God

Memory Verse:

“Behold, man has become like one of us, to know good and evil.” (Genesis 3:22)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 3:1-13

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare pictures for today's story as visual aids
- ❖ Ask the children who knows what a snake looks like? How do they move? Do they have sound?

Lesson Outlines:

When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, God said that they could eat from any tree they liked EXCEPT the tree of knowledge and the tree of life which were in the middle of the paradise. The devil knew this and took the form of a serpent (snake) to try and trick Eve into eating from the tree of knowledge.

- ❖ Where was the tree of knowledge?

One day, the serpent came to Eve and talked to her about the tree of knowledge. The serpent planned a trick for Eve. He told her that if she were to eat from it, she would know good from bad and right from wrong and will become like God since He knows good from bad and right from wrong. Eve then, went to the tree and saw how nice the fruits looked, ate one and gave one to Adam who also ate it. Their eyes were suddenly open and they realized that they did something wrong. They did not listen to God when He told them not to eat from this tree. They also felt naked and tried to clothe themselves with fig leaves. When the Lord saw what had happened, he punished them by sending them out of the Garden of Eden. He also put an angel with a sword of fire in front of the door of the garden so no one can enter the garden again.

Conclusion:

Just because something looks nice, doesn't mean it's good for you. If God tells us to do or not to do something we have to listen to Him and do as He told us.

Application:

- ❖ Let one of the students tell the story again

Week 3- Noah in the Ark (I)

Objective:

- ❖ To show the students Noah's love for God and God's love and care for him.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord said to Noah: come into the Ark" (Genesis 7:1)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 6, 7

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids for this lesson
 - ❖ A model of a ship made of wood, paper or cloth, or a picture of a ship.
 - ❖ Pictures or models of different animals.
 - ❖ A picture of a raven and a dove or a model of them.
- ❖ Then ask the children the following questions:
 - ❖ What happens when heavy rain falls?
 - ❖ What happens when water falls for a long time?
 - ❖ Is it possible for ships to sink in the rain? Why?
- ❖ Give them an idea about rain and what happens if it continues to fall heavily and for a long time.
- ❖ Give the children an idea about the animals, which the Lord created. (Revision of the previous lesson).

Lesson Outlines:

You can remind the children of God's love for man. You can ask them, "What did the Lord do for Adam?". Although the Lord loves man, we see that people do bad things again and again. Describe people who sin and how they always call each other and one another bad names. They never pray. They lied and sward. But Noah was a good man. He loved God and did all he can do to make God happy. He obeyed God and followed Him. God loved Noah and He advised him to build up a huge

ship, which is closed all around and the rain can not enter it. This ship was called the Ark. What was the name of the ship?... 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” since it is new to them and it is difficult for them to imagine it.

God told Noah to tell the people to change the bad things they are doing. Noah tried to teach the 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 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... etc”. So, Noah did as God told him and started getting all the animals in the ark. So, let us see which animals went into the ark.....show them the pictures of the animals you prepared and ask them which animal was that. Then ask them if they can think of any more animals that were with Noah in the ark.....

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. Next lesson we will see what happened after they all went into the ark.

Conclusion:

The Lord saved Noah and kept him safe and Noah thanked the Lord who saved him. The Lord also saved all the animals, birds and plants inside the ark because it was all His creation and it was all good.

Applications:

- ❖ Make an ark at home and bring it to the class next week.
- ❖ Color picture of the animals in the Ark...
- ❖ Start memorizing the first third of the Lord’s prayer

Week 4 - Noah in the Ark (II)

Objective:

- ❖ God saves Noah His son but punished the bad people.

Memory Verse:

“The rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights” (Genesis 7:12)

References:

- ❖ Genesis 7,8

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students. Ask if anyone made an ark at home....
- ❖ Use the previous visual aids you prepared for last lesson
- ❖ Ask them where did we stop last time in the story of Noah and the ark.....

Lesson Outlines:

Heavy rain fell down from the sky, all the bad people outside of the ark 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 listening 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 you can land on”. 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. And God made a beautiful rainbow of all colors to appear on the earth as a sign that God will not destroy the earth again.

- ❖ What did the Lord ask Noah to do?
- ❖ What happened when rain fell?
- ❖ For how many days did the rain fall?
- ❖ Why did God make the rainbow?

- ❖ Who remembers the verse?

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.

Conclusion:

The Lord saved Noah because he was righteous and one of God's children. On the other hand, He destroyed the others because they were bad and wicked people.

Applications:

- ❖ Color a picture with a rainbow in it
- ❖ Continue memorizing the second third of the Lord's prayer. The servant should review the first third with the students.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Week 1- How to Pray

Week 2- Jesus Christ Walks on Water

Week 3- The Miracle of Catching Huge Amounts of Fish

Week 4- Healing the Sick Man of Bethesda

Week 1 – How to Pray

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children how to pray

Memory Verse:

“Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks” (1Thessalonian 5:16-17)

References

- ❖ Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Ask the children if they pray at home?
- ❖ How many times they pray every day?
- ❖ If they pray alone or someone prays with them?

Lesson Outlines:

It is very important that we pray every day. When we pray there are few things we have to do:

- ❖ We have to stand or kneel down
- ❖ We have to start and end with the sign of the cross. Do we all know how to make the sign of the cross? Let us see now how every body makes the sign of the cross. Let each student make the sign of the cross and make sure they know how.
- ❖ We have to concentrate in the prayer and not look to people around us or watch things to our right or left. The best thing is to close our eyes when we pray.
- ❖ If we are praying we have to pray with a clear voice. We can ask God for all the things we need but we have also to thank Him for all the things He gave us already. Can you think of one thing that God gave you?
- ❖ When someone else is praying and we are listening, we should be quiet and not talk to anyone else or make any sounds. Exactly like when we pray in the church during the liturgy we should listen to the priest and should not talk at all in church or make any noise because Jesus likes the children who respect His house.
- ❖ At the end of praying we have to say the Lord’s prayer. What is the Lord’s prayer? Can anyone tell me the Lord’s prayer alone?

- ❖ The servant should take the chance to teach those who do not know the Lord's prayer and help them to memorize it.
- ❖ Who taught us the Lord's prayer? Jesus Christ Himself told us the Lord's prayer in the gospel of St. Matthew. He told the people and His disciples that when you pray, you go to your room or a quiet place and you say the Lord's prayer every time you pray.
 - ❖ With what sign we start and end our prayer?
 - ❖ Can we skip a day without prayer?
 - ❖ What are we supposed to pray for?
 - ❖ What do we say and the end of each prayer?
 - ❖ Who taught us the Lord's prayer?
 - ❖ In which gospel did Jesus Christ teach us the Lord's prayer?

Conclusion:

We have to pray every day. We have to know that we are standing in front of God when we pray so, we pray with respect. We can ask God for all the things that we need and thank Him for all the things that He had given us.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children a picture of Jesus Christ praying e.g. in Gethemane or a picture of any of the saints praying.
- ❖ Encourage the children to pray for the needs of the church, their families and for their private needs.
- ❖ Continue memorizing the last third of the Lord's prayer. The servant should review what was memorized before with the students.
- ❖ The students who do not know the Lord's prayer, ask their parents to work with them at home to memorize it. Review it with them the following week.

Week 2 - Jesus Christ Walks on Water

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children the power and authority of God over nature.

Memory Verse:

“It is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27)

References:

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

Introduction

- ❖ Prepare a picture of the lesson
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Give an introduction about the Disciples of Christ...their numbers...their names...mention three or four names including St. Peter.
- ❖ Also give an idea about the sea, boats, fish and fishing.

Lesson Outlines:

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 the shore of the sea and the place was crowded with people. Night was about to fall, so Christ asked His disciples, and St. 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 away from the 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 the sea became very high...waves and storms. There was also 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 that this is Jesus Christ Himself. They thought they saw a ghost. St. Peter said, “We know that Christ is powerful”. He said to Christ, “Lord, if it is you, command me to 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.). St. Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water towards Jesus. He felt that the water was dry like the ground. Then Christ stretched out his hand to St. 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?” St. 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.

- ❖ We have to describe the image of the sea and wind and the confusion felt by the disciples. We have to bring the student 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.
- ❖ Some words are difficult so they must not be said during the lesson. These words are; Peter doubted the faith of the disciples.

Conclusion:

Christ was the disciples' friend and He loved them very much. He would not leave them alone in any trouble. He is also our friend and He is strong. He can control any thing and protect us from any danger.

Applications:

- ❖ The children should practice making the sign of the cross as this would protect them from fear and darkness.
- ❖ Pray with the children Psalm 23.

Week 3 - The Miracle of Catching Huge Amounts of Fish

Objective:

- ❖ Christ's power and ability to perform miracles
- ❖ Children should learn to cooperate and serve others

Memory Verse:

"At Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:15).

Or "What is impossible with men is possible with God" (Luke 18:27).

References

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review of the previous lesson and memory verse. Emphasize the authority of Christ over water and winds.
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ The same aids of the previous lessons plus the following.
 - ❖ A fishing hook with a paper fish joined to it.
 - ❖ A net of cloth or thread full of fish made out of paper.
 - ❖ A big picture about the story.
- ❖ Tell the students 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 outside the net in an attempt to go back to the water.
- ❖ Who of the disciples was a fisherman? St. Peter.

Lesson Outlines:

St. Peter took the other disciples to fish at night and go back home in the morning. They sold what they caught and they ate the fish. One day, they went to fish at night in two boats, as they would fill the two boats with fish.

They tried hard all the night to catch some fish but they couldn't. They did not sleep and they became tired. 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 the people. St. Peter and the disciples stood to listen to the words of Christ and forgot their toil. After 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". St. 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 St. 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. When they cooperated together, they raised it and found that it was filled with fish, big 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. St. 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. Describe their feeling and how they thanked Christ.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ can make many miracles. His miracles always bring joy and comfort for people. Also, if we cooperate we can do more things easier and faster like when the disciples cooperated in pulling the net full of fish.

Applications:

- ❖ Children should pray before they eat so that the Lord may bless the food.
- ❖ Let the children play with the net and fish and tell the story again.
- ❖ Let us cooperate with our parents at home in doing things.
- ❖ Help your brothers, sisters and friends whenever they need help.

Week 4 – Healing the Sick Man of Bethesda

Objective:

- ❖ Show the students the kindness of Jesus Christ to the disabled

Memory Verse:

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

References:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Revision of the previous lesson and verse, showing Christ’s authority over the wind, the water and fish.
- ❖ Prepare a picture of today’s lesson or prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ A plastic container to be filled with water to simulate the pool
 - ❖ Some toys to simulate people around the pool. Use them to simulate the sick people jumping into the pool
 - ❖ Prepare a picture of an angel that moves the water in the pool

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a pool of water called Bethesda. What was the name of the pool? The pool had five halls around it. The five halls were full of sick people. There were people who could not see, people who could not hear or people who could not walk. All kinds of sick people were staying around the pool continuously. Once every year, an angel used to come down and move the water of the pool. The first sick man who jumped into the pool after it was moved by the angel would become well. All these sick people were waiting for the angel to come down and move the water so they can jump into the pool immediately after the angel. Every one wanted to be the first to jump after the angel.

Jesus Christ came to the pool of Bethesda, there He found a man who was sick for 38 years. How many years was the man sick for? This man could not walk and he was living by the pool hoping that he can be the first to jump into the water after the angel. But every time the angel comes and moves

the water he could not beat others to the pool because he could not walk fast. He tried and tried for 38 years but he was never the first. So Jesus, who was kind and felt bad for this man, asked him if he wanted to become well and be able to walk again. The man told Jesus that he definitely wanted to be well. So, Jesus told him “Rise, take up your bed, and walk”. Immediately the man was able to get up on his legs and walk normal like all the others as if he was never sick before. He was very happy and excited that he became well again just by one word from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ What is the name of the pool?
- ❖ For how many years was the man sick?
- ❖ Who was kind to him?
- ❖ Let us repeat the verse together!

- ❖ Concentrate on the power of the miracle and the patient's joy when he was healed.
- ❖ Acting makes the story lively and stimulates the minds of the children.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ can do all kinds of miracles that no body else can do. He also has a very kind heart and always shows kindness to the sick and the disabled people.

Applications:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Always be kind to disabled and sick people just like Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Pray with the students again Psalm 23

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Week 1- Samson and the Lion

Week 2- Samson Losing Power

Week 3- The Angel Brings Good News to St. Mary

Week 4- The Angel and the Shepherds

Week 1- Samson and the Lion

Objectives:

- ❖ To understand that God is with us at all times and therefore we should never be afraid.
- ❖ God can turn bad situations into good ones.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord is the strength of my life of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

References:

- ❖ Judges 13-14

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare visual aid for today's lesson
- ❖ Ask each child about what makes them most fearful.
- ❖ Use their stories to show how God can take care of such situations.

Lesson Outlines:

There once was a young man named Samson. He was a very special person. His mother did not have any children and one day an angel appeared to her and told her that she would have a son and that he would be dedicated to God and would be very strong. In order to keep his strength he must never ever cut his hair, because all his strength would be in his hair. She then gave birth to Samson and he grew to be a very strong young man.

One day when Samson was walking to another town, a lion came roaring at him. But Samson was not afraid of the lion because God was with him and gave him so much strength that he was able to kill the lion with his bare hands! The next day when Samson was walking back to his home, he passed by the dead lion, and he expected to see flies and worms and a bad smell coming from the dead lion. But guess what did he find instead? (Let the kids try to guess and tell you what they think). Instead he found a swarm of bees and honey coming out of the mouth of the dead lion. He tasted the honey and it was very good, he even took some home to his family.

What can we learn from this lesson?

1. God is always with us even in times of danger and He always provides us with help, so we should never be afraid.
2. God always brings out good things even from bad things.
3. Just like Samson obeyed God and never cut his hair, we must obey God and our parents.

Conclusion:

Samson was very strong and was able to kill a big lion just with his hand because God gave him the power in his very long hair.

Applications:

- ❖ Let few of the kids tell the story again in class
- ❖ Bring honey to the glass and let the kids eat from it to remember the story.
- ❖ Give them if available a picture of the lesson or a picture of a lion for coloring

Week 2 - Samson Losing Power

Objective:

- ❖ God blesses every one of us with a gift

Memory Verse:

“The lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1)

Reference:

- ❖ Judges 16

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson about Samson and the lion with the students
- ❖ Ask them why Samson was strong? And where was his strength?
- ❖ Today’s story can be simulated on a doll or paper drawn to simulate Samson with his long hair and what happened to him when his hair was cut.
- ❖ Ask the students if they know a secret, what should they do?
- ❖ Are they supposed to tell a secret to someone else?

Lesson Outlines:

The strong Samson loved a lady whose name was Delilah. He thought that she loved him too but actually she did not. She made a deal with her people who were afraid from Samson because he was strong, that she would find out the secret behind Samson’s strength. Then she would tell them Samson’s secret, so they can get rid of him and his power.

So, Delilah every day asked Samson why are you so strong Samson? And Samson would not tell her. But she kept asking him and nagging him every day to tell her his secret. Samson was trying very hard not to tell the secret of his power. Till one day Delilah told him if you really love me you would tell me why are you so strong? Then, Samson told her that his is strong because of his long hair. If he cuts his hair he would be very weak. So, Delilah tricked him and went and told her people Samson’s secret of strength. One day when Samson was sleeping, one of Delilah’s people came and cut Samson’s hair and tied him with robes. When Samson woke up he was very weak and God has left

him. So, he could not get out of the robes he was tied with. They took him and put him in a prison. He was weak until his hair started to grow back and he started to become strong again.

Conclusion:

When we are with God and take care of the gifts He gives us we would be strong. But if we leave God then we become weak.

Applications:

- ❖ Tell the kids what you think is God's gift to them e.g. smart, cheerful, kind, quiet,...etc
- ❖ Give the students verses from Psalm 27 written in a paper to memorize at home with their parents. Review it again with them next lesson

Week 3 - The Angel Brings Good News to St. Mary

Objective:

- ❖ Rejoice with the church and cooperate with her in the preparations for Christmas

Memory Verse:

“Blessed are you among woman” (Luke 1:28)

References:

- ❖ Luke 1:26-38

Introductions:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ Bring two wings for a child to put on and play the part of an angel.
 - ❖ Choose a little girl to play the part of the Virgin.
 - ❖ The servant speaks about the angel while the children act.
 - ❖ 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).

Lesson Outlines:

One day the virgin saw a bright light around her. Suddenly, a beautiful Angel called Gabriel appeared to her. He said to her “Hail to you, highly favored one, the Lord is with you”. St. Mary was surprised and was wondering that she is looking at an angel. The angel Gabriel comforted her and told her that he is bringing a great message and good news. Then he told her that she is going to carry the baby Jesus Christ in her belly for nine months. He said that the Holy Spirit is going to fill her and she is going to be the Mother of God because of her simplicity and meekness. The Virgin believed the words of the angel and said: “I am the Lord’s handmaid”. This means I am the Lord’s servant. The Virgin rejoiced, knelt down in worship, and thanked the Lord. The angel also told her that her relative Elizabeth is also pregnant and has been carrying the baby John in her belly for six months. St. Mary was also very happy for her relative Elizabeth. After the angel Gabriel left St. Mary, she immediately went to her relative Elizabeth to help her during her pregnancy.

The story can be presented 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 then 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.

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.

Conclusion:

St. Mary was happy to hear the news of the baby Jesus and that she is going to be the mother of God. We also are happy that the baby Jesus came to earth and was like us.

Applications:

- ❖ Start making the Nativity cavern to be shown on Christmas, prepare all necessary things.
- ❖ Make sure that the students have memorized the following:

“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.

Week 4 – The Angel and the Shepherds

Objective:

- ❖ To feel the joy of nativity which fills the heaven and earth.

Memory 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)

Reference

- ❖ Luke 2:8-20

Introduction

- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - Wings -White clothes - a bright light.
 - Pictures of sheep or models of sheep. The Shepherd’s staff, broken wood, a jug of water.
 - A flute for singing hymns.
 - Make the manger from a brown paper and a box. Put the beautiful picture of Nativity in the box.
 - Prepare the procession of the feast (roses, candles, white shawls).
- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students.
- ❖ 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.

Lesson Outlines:

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: to Mary came Gabriel. 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 birth 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 and were very happy and full of joy.

- ❖ Where were the shepherds?
- ❖ What did they guard?
- ❖ What did they see?
- ❖ What did Samir give to the Child Jesus?
- ❖ What would you give to Christ?
- ❖ Who were with the child Jesus?
- ❖ What does the verse say?

Conclusion:

The angels brought the good news to the shepherds and they rejoiced and rushed to see the Baby Jesus in the manger. We also are happy with the Nativity feast and are preparing our hearts for the baby Jesus to come and be born in them.

Applications:

- ❖ The servant encourages the children to give some gifts to the poor on the day of the feast.
- ❖ Let the children participate in making the manger in their class

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Week 1- St. Joseph the Carpenter

Week 2- The Angel Guides Tobiah

Week 3- Elisha Protected by the Angels

Week 4- The Precious Pearl

Week 1 - St. Joseph the Carpenter

Objective:

- ❖ Teach the children about the role of St. Joseph in the Holy Family.

Memory verse:

“Out of Egypt I called My Son” (Hosea 11:1)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 1:20-25, 2:13, 2:19-20
- ❖ Luke 2:4-6, 2:33, 2:41-51

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Show an icon or a picture of the Holy Family and point to St Joseph
- ❖ St. Joseph is part of the family of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was like a father to Jesus and took care of Him and His mother St. Mary

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ St. Joseph was a carpenter. Explain to the students what does a carpenter do? He was ~~married~~ ~~to~~ taking care of St. Mary
- ❖ St. Joseph took St. Mary to Bethlehem because the king wanted to count all the people in all cities. Everyone had to go back to the place of his birth to be counted.
- ❖ St. Mary was pregnant and St. Joseph protected her on the journey to Bethlehem
- ❖ In Bethlehem St. Mary gave birth to the baby Jesus
- ❖ When the king Herod heard about the birth of Jesus Who will be a King, he was afraid of Him and wanted to kill Him.
- ❖ The king ordered all the children 2 years old to be killed.
- ❖ He knew that Jesus was somewhere in Bethlehem
- ❖ An angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph and told him to take St. Mary and Jesus and to flee to Egypt
- ❖ When the killing was over, the angel reappeared to St. Joseph in Egypt and told him that it was safe to go back.

- ❖ St. Joseph took St. Mary and Jesus to Nazareth where they lived together and there he worked as a carpenter.
- ❖ Every year St. Joseph used to take St. Mary and Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover.
- ❖ St. Joseph took care of the baby Jesus as He was growing up.
 - ❖ What kind of work did St. Joseph do?
 - ❖ Why did St. Joseph go to Bethlehem?
 - ❖ Where was Jesus born?
 - ❖ Who told St. Joseph to go to Egypt?
 - ❖ Who did St. Joseph take with him to Egypt?

Conclusion:

St. Joseph was very important to the Holy family and to the baby Jesus. He took Him away from danger. He was also taking care of St. Mary and was beside her in all times. He was kind and caring.

Applications:

- ❖ Color a picture of the Holy Family.
- ❖ The children start to memorize Psalm 150 hymn

Week 2 - The Angel Guides Tobiah

Objective:

- ❖ Make the children aware that angels guard us

Memory Verse:

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

Reference:

- ❖ The Book of Tobiah

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ An angel's wing made of silver paper, or white cardboard paper or cloth - a white dress.
 - ❖ A big plastic fish.
 - ❖ A pair of dark spectacles to present Tobiah's father as a blind man.
 - ❖ A big picture of the Guardian angel or the picture of the lesson.
- ❖ Then ask the students if they have seen a blind man before
- ❖ How can a blind man walk? How can he do things?

Lesson Outlines:

There was a king who did not know the Lord. He treated people bad. Tobiah, was a good man who loved God. He was kind to people, 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 bird poured its water on his eyes and he became blind. He was not able to work to get money, so his family became poor. Yet, he did not complain. He thought that although they are poor, the Lord will give us many good things. His wife sewed clothes. They had a son and called him Tobias too.

The father 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 not 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. However, the father asked him to go to Media with his son and when they 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 his dog with him and on the way he slept beside the sea. When he woke up, he went to the water to wash his feet. Then, all of a sudden a whale came out of the water and he was scared. 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. They continued their trip to Media and they got the money back to Tobiah the father. Tobiah also met his wife Sarah on this trip and got married. When they came back the dog was ahead of them and it barked loudly. His father rejoiced that his son came back home safe. The boy put a piece of the whale’s liver on the eyes of his father and he immediately was able to see again. They tried to reward the man who accompanied the boy, but the man said, “I am the Angel Raphael standing before the Lord... Peace be to you... Do not be afraid”. Tobiah’s father was very happy that his son was accompanied by the angel Raphael in his trip. He lived till he saw Tobiah’s sons and grandsons.

- ❖ What happened to Tobiah’s eyes?
- ❖ Who met young Tobiah when he went out of his house?
- ❖ What did Tobiah do to the whale?
- ❖ What should you do to please your guardian angel?

The servant should concentrate on the angel's good qualities and sweet face.

Conclusion:

Every one of us has a Guardian angel and they are helping and supporting us. They keep us safe from danger and guide us in everything we do.

Applications:

- ❖ Color a picture of the angel Raphael
- ❖ Give out the picture of the lesson to the students
- ❖ Continue memorizing Psalm 150 hymn

Week 3 - Elisha Protected by the Angels

Objective:

- ❖ God sends His angels to protect us when we are in trouble

Memory Verse:

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

or

“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2Kings 6:16)

References

- ❖ 2Kings 6: 8-18
- ❖ Synaxarium, Part 1, 12 Babah

Introduction

- ❖ Review questions about the work of angels given in the previous lesson.
- ❖ How did Angel Raphael guard Tobiah on his way to Media?
- ❖ How was his father healed?
- ❖ Describe his appearance and the color of his face.
- ❖ Where do angels dwell?
- ❖ Prepare visual aids: pictures of two kings, Elisha the prophet and a picture of many angels.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there were two kings, the king of Israel and the king of Syria. The king of Syria did a trick to capture the king of Israel. But God revealed to the prophet Elisha the trick, so he sent and warned the king of Israel. The king of Israel listened to Elisha because he was a man of God, so he was saved from the trick of the king of Syria. When the king of Syria's trick failed, he was very upset and wanted to know who was the reason behind this. He was told that God shows the prophet Elisha everything and that is why he knew about his trick. The king of Syria, furiously, sent many of his soldiers and army to go and bring Elisha to him.

The soldiers found out which city Elisha was in and they went there and surrounded it from all sides, so Elisha can not escape. Elisha's servant was scared and worried that all these soldiers came after Elisha. He ran to Elisha and told him what are we going to do we are surrounded by all these soldiers and there chariots. Yet, Elisha was very calm and was not scared at all. Elisha told his servant do not worry or be afraid because those who are with us are more that those who are with them. Let the children repeat again...those who are with usetc.

Elisha's servant did not understand what Elisha meant because he could see only Elisha and himself against all those soldiers. So, Elisha prayed and asked God to show his servant what he could see. Immediately God made the servant see what Elisha was seeing.

❖ What do you think Elisha was seeing?

The servant then saw thousand and thousands of angels and chariots of God filling the sky. They were surrounding Elisha from all sides and protecting him from the soldiers of the king of Syria. The servant then was comforted and was not afraid any more. And those soldiers of the king of Syria could not touch Elisha or his servant.

Conclusion:

God sends His angels to surround us and protect us from every harm. We also have to do good things so that the angels will keep our company. If we do bad things we will send the angel away from us.

Applications:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Sing the hymnWrite, white, white as ...
- ❖ Continue memorizing Psalm 150 hymn

Week 4 - The Precious Pearl

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children that we all like to go to heaven to be with Jesus Christ in His beautiful kingdom

Memory Verse:

“He had found one pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:46)

References:

- ❖ Matthew 13:45-46

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ A box full of fake jewelry
 - ❖ One big fake pearl or what looks like a pearl
 - ❖ Make a big shell from cardboard and hide the pearl inside it
- ❖ Ask the children what does a pearl look like?
- ❖ Is it cheap or expensive?
- ❖ Where does a pearl come from?

Lesson Outlines:

A pearl is very expensive because it is hard to find. A person looking for a pearl spends a great time to find one. The perfect pearl is found in the very deep sea hidden in a shell (show the kids your visual aids). So, it is even harder to find because it requires a person to go very deep in the water.

Once upon a time the Lord Jesus Christ was telling stories to his disciples and the people about His kingdom in heaven. So, He told them a story about a rich man who was buying and selling very expensive jewelry all the time. He collected so much of the pearls and jewelry of all kinds, necklaces, rings, bracelets of all kinds and all colors (use the fake jewelry to show the children). When he had a big treasure of all these expensive pearls and jewels he put it in a box and was keeping it in a safe

place. But he was still looking for the perfect pearl. So, he went everywhere and looked in all places till one day he found the most beautiful pearl (just like this one). It was big, white and very expensive. He was very happy that he finally found the perfect pearl he was looking for but it was very expensive that the money he had was not enough to buy it. He kept thinking what shall I do....what shall I do??? Where can I find enough money to buy this perfect pearl?

Ask the students if they have any ideas from where he can get the money?

Yes.....finally, he had a bright idea..... he decided to sell all the other jewelry he had and with the money he can buy this one big perfect pearl. So, he immediately took the box of jewelry from its safe place and went and sold all the jewels and small pearls that were in it. He had so much money then so, he ran to buy the perfect pearl before someone else would buy it. So, he paid all the money he had and got the beautiful perfect pearl for himself. He was so happy that he had the perfect pearl even when he gave all his money for it.

The Lord Jesus told us this story to teach us that going to heaven is just like this perfect pearl. We all would be very happy to go to heaven just like this man who was very happy to get the perfect pearl.

Conclusion:

We do not need money to get to heaven and be happy with God. We can go to heaven when we behave well, pray and read the Bible. We should always ask God to help us be with Him in heaven.

Application:

- ❖ Pray always that we be with Jesus Christ when we go to heaven so we would be happy.
- ❖ Ask one of the students to repeat the story in class for the rest of the students.

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY TILL JONAH'S FAST

Use Filler Lessons (placed at the beginning of the book) until the Sunday before Jonah's fast.

LESSONS FOR JONAH'S FAST

Jonah's fast comes two weeks before the Great Fast on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These lessons are for the Sunday before and the Sunday after Jonah's fast.

Week before the Fast: Jonah in the Belly of the Fish

Week after the Fast: Jonah and the Plant

Week before Fast - Jonah in the Belly of the Fish

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to obey God

Memory Verse:

“The Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited Jonah” (Jonah 2:10)

References:

- ❖ The book of Jonah 1,2

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare visual aids for the story of Jonah.
- ❖ Ask the children what does a fish look like?
- ❖ What is the biggest fish they know of?
- ❖ Can a big fish swallow a man?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a man called Jonah. God spoke one day to Jonah and told him to go to a city called Ninevah and to tell the people there that God is angry with them and if they do not change what they are doing He will destroy their city. But Jonah did not want to do what God told him to do and he wanted to run and hide from God. So, Jonah went on a ship going the opposite direction of the city Ninevah where God wanted him to go. Then, God sent a very strong wind on the sea and the ship started to rock and shake from one side to the other. The water also started to enter into the ship and every body was afraid and scared that the ship is going to sink. There was great panic on the ship and every body was trying to find out what did they do wrong that God send this great wind on the sea. Jonah was the only one sleeping in the middle of all this panic. So, the captain of the ship woke him up and asked him to pray to His God that He may stop the storm. Jonah told him that the storm is probably because of him because he was trying to run away from God. Jonah also told them if they throw him in the water the wind and the storm is probably going to stop. The people on the ship did as Jonah told them and they threw him in the sea. The sea immediately calmed

down and the wind stopped. God prepared a very big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days. How many days did Jonah stay in the fish belly?

Then Jonah prayed to God from inside the belly of the fish and asked for God's help. So, God listened to him and ordered the fish to vomit Jonah to a dry land. So, the fish immediately obeyed God and vomited Jonah on the land and Jonah was saved.

Conclusion:

We have to obey God in everything He asks us to do. We also know that when we are in trouble and pray to God He will save us.

Applications:

- ❖ Color a picture of Jonah inside the belly of the fish
- ❖ Ask the children to read the story from the Bible at home with their parents, preferably from Children's Bible.

Week after Jonah's Fast - Jonah and the Plant

Objective:

- ❖ To be kind to others

Memory Verse:

“You are a gracious and merciful God” (Jonah 4:2)

References:

- ❖ Jonah 3,4

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and memory verse.
- ❖ Prepare visual aids for today's lesson
- ❖ Ask the students where do you think Jonah went to after the fish vomited him?

1.

Lesson Outlines:

When God ordered the big fish to vomit Jonah, Jonah went straight to Ninevah the great city. He entered and walked through Ninevah and told the people there that God is upset with you because of your bad behavior. They were lying, swearing, stealing and doing many other bad things. He told them that God is going to destroy your city Ninevah in 40 days. But when the people of Ninevah heard what Jonah was saying they were scared and they decided to change and become good people with better behavior. So, they all fasted with out food and drink for three days even their king, children and animals. Every one in the city did not eat anything for three days. They all stopped the bad things they were doing and changed it with good things like love, kindness and politeness. When God saw that they became good people He forgave them and decided not to destroy their city. But Jonah was upset because he told the people that their city will be destroyed in 40 days and it was not because God forgave the people of Ninevah.

- ❖ Why God was upset with the people of Ninevah?
- ❖ What did Jonah tell the people of Ninevah?
- ❖ What did they do when they heard what Jonah said?

- ❖ What did God do when they fasted?

Jonah went out of Ninevah and was sad because what he said did not happen. So, God made a plant to grow over Jonah to protect him from the heat of the sun. The plant was nice and green and Jonah was happy with it and was covering himself under its shade. Then a worm ate the plant and Jonah lost his shade. Jonah was very upset that he lost the plant. God told Jonah you are upset because you lost the plant and I would have been very upset if I lost the people of Ninevah.

Conclusion:

God wants his children to change the bad thing they do with good things. He wants us to be better and better every day.

Applications:

- ❖ One of the students can repeat the story in class
- ❖ If we are doing anything bad then we have to change it with something good.

LESSONS FOR THE GREAT FAST PERIOD

Week 0: The Child Samuel

Week 1: The Sign of the Cross

Week 2: The Child David the Shepherd

Week 3: David Anointed King

Week 4: The Lost Sheep

Week 5: Healing the Blind

Week 6: Children Receive Christ

Week 7: (Palm's Sunday) - No lesson

Week 8: (Resurrection Sunday) – No Lesson

Week 0 - The Child Samuel

Objective:

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

Memory Verse:

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

References:

- ❖ 1 Samuel 1:1-28
- ❖ Explanation of the First Book of Samuel
- ❖ The Life of Samuel by F.B. Mayer

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ A big picture of Samuel praying.
 - ❖ Small white clothes, candles, and clothing for the new baby.
 - ❖ A shawl to be put on for acting the part of Hannah praying.
- ❖ 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.

Lesson Outlines:

There once was a lady named Hannah who was married to a man named Elkanah. They were very good people who loved God very much. But they didn't have any children and that made Hannah very sad. So she went to the temple one day and started to cry, asking and praying that God may give her a baby, in return she promised that she would dedicate the baby to God. God listened to her prayers and gave her a son and they named him Samuel. Hannah and Elkanah took Samuel to the temple to fulfill their promise to God, and Samuel lived and grew up in the temple.

One day while Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call his name, so he got up and ran to the priest thinking that he had called him. He said to the priest “Here I am” but the priest told him to go back to sleep because he hadn’t called him. So Samuel went back to sleep but he heard the voice calling him again, so he got up and ran to the priest and said to him “Here I am” but the priest told him to go back again because he hadn’t called him. This happened for the third time and when Samuel went to the priest again thinking that he had called him, the priest realized that God was trying to speak to Samuel. So he told Samuel to go back and when God calls him again he should say “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:9) and then he should listen carefully to what God wanted to tell him. So when Samuel heard the voice calling him again he said “Speak for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:10). Then God started to speak to Samuel and He told him that He was going to punish all the bad people in Israel because they weren’t listening to God.

What can we learn from Samuel?

- ❖ He was obedient – when he thought that the priest was calling him, he ran to him immediately to see what he wanted. He didn’t take his time or pretend not to hear him.
- ❖ God wanted to talk to Samuel even though he was a little boy because He loved him. God wants to talk to us too because He loves us no matter how small we are.
- ❖ Even though Samuel was a little boy, he served God and did good things. We too must do good and avoid doing bad things.

Conclusion:

We all should be like the child Samuel, obedient, love God and listen to God’s word in the Bible.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray in the morning and in the evening.
- ❖ Attend the liturgy always.

Week 1 - The Sign of the Cross

Objective:

- ❖ To teach the children the sign of the cross and its importance

Memory Verse:

“God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 6:14)

References:

- ❖ Coptic Synaxarium Vol III- The tenth day of Baramhat

Introduction:

- ❖ Prepare crosses of different shapes and colors of different materials. 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.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a queen her name was Queen Helena. She wanted to find the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, she asked her son King Constantine to let her go to Jerusalem where the Lord was crucified to find the cross. So, King Constantine gave her money and soldiers to go with her to Jerusalem and help her find the cross.

She went to Jerusalem and was looking everywhere for the cross but could not find it. She asked everybody about the cross of Jesus Christ but no one could tell her. Finally, she found an old man his name was Judas who told her where was the cross. The bad people were trying to hide the cross so they were covering it with papers and garbage. Queen Helena went and removed the big mountain of paper and finally found three crosses under it. Queen Helena did not know which one of the three crosses is the one the Jesus Christ was crucified on. So, she put each cross on a dead man, nothing happened with the first cross and second cross but when they put the third cross of Jesus Christ, the man woke up. They knew that this is the cross of our Lord. Queen Helena was very happy that she finally found the cross and she sent and told her son King Constantine about what she found. She built a big nice church and put the cross in it.

Conclusion:

The sign of the cross gives us strength, power and peace. The cross protects us from every evil and comforts us when we are afraid.

Application:

- ❖ Teach the children a part of the hymn:

When I pray I make the sign of the cross.

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

Week 2 - The Child David the Shepherd

Objective:

- ❖ God's care for David and David's love for God
- ❖ David expressed his love to God through his prayers and his psalms

Memory Verse:

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

References:

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and memory verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare visual aids to include a picture of David, the sheep Fufu, a lion and a bear.
 - ❖ Who went to the zoo before?
 - ❖ Have you seen a lion? How does it look like? What sound do they make?
 - ❖ Have you seen a bear? What color was it?
 - ❖ Who is stronger a lion or a sheep?
 - ❖ Who is stronger a bear or a sheep?

Lesson Outlines:

The child David and his love for prayer: He cared for his father's sheep. He loved those sheep and sang to them with the flute... and the sheep gathered around him. He had a staff not to strike the sheep 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 crying. 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 held the lion by the beard and killed him. 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.

Conclusion:

God gave David strength to save the little sheep from the lion and the bear. God also gives us strength to do good things all the time. God does not give us strength to hurt others.

Applications:

- ❖ Start memorizing Psalm 23 with the children.
- ❖ Give them a picture of David the shepherd to color

Week 3 - David Anointed King

Objective:

- ❖ God loved David because he had a pure heart not because he was big or strong

Memory Verse

“You anoint my head with oil” (Psalm 23:5)

References

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

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare the following visual aids:
 - ❖ Some oil in a bottle.
 - ❖ A crown that can be made of cardboard paper.
 - ❖ The picture of David from last lesson.
- ❖ Remind the children of who Samuel was. His service in the temple and God’s promise that he would be a great prophet who would teach people.

Lesson Outlines:

Samuel 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 because he was the smallest and the youngest. But David was kind, courageous, good-looking and God loved him. Samuel laid his hand upon David’s head, anointed him with oil and 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 his hymns and prayers.

Conclusion:

God loves the children who sing hymns, pray and love others. We all would like to be like David who prayed and sang the psalms to the Lord.

Applications:

- ❖ Act the story again in class and choose one of the kids to be crowned like king David.
- ❖ Encourage the children to study the hymns to be ordained deacons and to be prepared for this church order.
- ❖ Review with the students Psalm 23.

Week 4 - The Lost Sheep

Objective:

- ❖ God's love and care for us

Memory Verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Luke 15
- ❖ Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke

Introduction:

Prepare the following visual aids:

- ❖ A picture of a sheep or some sheep or a model of a small sheep.
- ❖ A shepherd's staff (stick). Some green plants as food. A flute for the shepherd for singing hymns.
- ❖ The picture of Christ, the good shepherd to be shown at the end of the story.
 - ❖ Who has seen a sheep?
 - ❖ How does it look like?
 - ❖ What does it eat?
 - ❖ How does he speak?

Lesson Outlines:

Give the children an idea about how sheep live. They live together in one place... they go out together every day to search for food, in any garden, and drink from any canal... they walk behind the good-hearted shepherd... who holds the staff in his hand to protect them from any dog or wolf... He holds some clover in his hand and they gather around him...

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 of

Foufou, 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 that naughty strange sheep to another 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”.

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 you are back safely”. 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?

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 rejoice with Christ Jesus when one lost man comes back.

Conclusion:

We are all much happier when we stay with our good shepherd Jesus Christ. There is nothing that we fear when we are with Him because He takes good care of us.

Applications:

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

Week 5 - Healing the Blind

Objective:

- ❖ To show Jesus Christ's healing power

Memory Verse:

"Your faith has made you well" (Mark 10:52)

References:

- ❖ The gospel of St. Mark 10:46-52
- ❖ The gospel of St. Luke 18:35-43

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Ask the children:
 - ❖ What is the meaning of blind?
 - ❖ Have you seen a blind man before?
 - ❖ What do they do? How do they wake and find things?
- ❖ The servant should act like a blind person to demonstrate to the children a blind's man behavior

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time Jesus Christ was walking surrounded by many many people near a city called Jericho. A blind bigger was setting and asking for money at the gate. His name was Bartemaeus. What was his name? He then heard the noise of the great crowd of people surrounding Jesus Christ passing by him. So, he asked what is happening? Why there is a great crowd of people since he could not see. The people told him that Jesus Christ is passing by surrounded by many people. When he heard that Jesus Christ is near, he started calling out with a loud voice "Son of David, have mercy on me". When the people heard Bartmaeus the blind calling on Jesus Christ, they tried to quiet him down and told him to shash....!!! And not to make noise. But Bartemaeus cried out even louder to make sure that Jesus Christ would hear him "Son of David, have mercy on me". When Jesus heard him, He asked where is that person who is calling me. The people told Bartemaeus, come to see Jesus He is asking about you. So, Bartemaeus the blind man was happy and asked the people to help him to get in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw him, He asked him what do you want me to do for you? Bartemaeus said: I would like to be able to see. Then Jesus touched his eyes and immediately he was

able to see (the servant should act this part to the students while telling the story). Bartemaeus was very very happy that he was able to see every body around him and Jesus Christ Himself in front of him. So, Jesus told him “your faith have saved you”. Bartemaeus then followed Jesus and was joyfully praising God and all the people around him were praising God too.

Conclusion:

If we are very sure that Jesus Christ can do things for us He will do it because Jesus Christ is strong and can do anything.

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children act the story again in class
- ❖ Give them two lines of the prayer at the end of each hour from Agpeya for memorization
....Have mercy on me O’Lord

Week 6 - Children Receive Christ

Objective:

- ❖ Learn to attend Palm Sunday starting early in the morning with the palm leaves

Memory Verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Luke 19:28-40
- ❖ John 12:12-18

Introduction:

- ❖ Teach the children the hymn of Hosanna in the Highest [Praise the a Lord, Page 25]
- ❖ Also show them a big picture, palm leaves, roses, and olive branches
- ❖ What do you know about palm leaves?
- ❖ Who is coming to church on Palm Sunday?
- ❖ What are you going to bring with you?

Lesson Outlines:

Christ was with his disciples on the mountain. He asked two of His disciples to bring a donkey for Him to ride on (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 and entered Jerusalem like a king. 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.

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. He was happy with the children who were singing and waiving the palm leaves for him.

Conclusion:

The people and all the children celebrated the entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem with joy and happiness. We too should be joyous and happy on Palm's Sunday and bring our palm leaves to celebrate in the church.

Applications:

- ❖ Review with the children the hymn – Hosanna in the highest
- ❖ Teach the children how to make crosses from the palm leaves
- ❖ Make a cross for each child in your class to give to your students on Palm Sunday

LESSONS FOR THE PENTECOST PERIOD
(Fifty days after Resurrection)

Week 1: The Angel Rolls the Stone

Week 2: St. Mark in Egypt

Week 3: Water from the Rock

Week 4: Crossing the Jordan

Week 5: The Parable of the Talents

Week 6: The Parable of the Leaven

Week 7: Four Men Carry the Paralytic

Week 1 - The Angel Rolls the Stone

Objectives:

- ❖ To know the story of the resurrection
- ❖ To know the power of Jesus Christ

Memory Verse:

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

References:

- ❖ Matthew 28:1-20
- ❖ Luke 24:1-12

Introduction:

- ❖ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Teach the children the greeting of Easter...Christ is risen....Truly He is risen and Ekristos Anisty...Alisos Anisty
- ❖ Prepare a picture of Christ rising from the dead, a tomb made of brown paper, a big stone in front of the tomb, and two angels

Lesson Outlines:

After Jesus died on the cross he was put in a new tomb like a cave inside a big rock. The door of the tomb was closed with a big stone so no one can enter. Very early Sunday morning, the Maries went to visit the tomb. But surprisingly they found that the stone was removed and two angels in shining cloth stood by the door. The Angels told the Maries, Jesus is not here anymore because He is risen. When the Maries heard this, they ran quickly to the disciples and told them the news. The disciples were confused when they first heard the news. But St. Peter and St. John, ran to the tomb and they two did not find the body of Jesus. So, they believed the Maries and were very joyful that Jesus Christ is risen.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the only one who was able to rise up from the died on His own. The angels told the good news to Maries. They were very happy that their Master Jesus Christ was strong and was able to rise up from the died on His own. So, they ran and told the disciples.

Application:

- ❖ 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”.
- ❖ Give the children a picture to color of the risen Christ
- ❖ Continue memorizing another part of the agpeya prayer ”Have mercy on me...O Lord..”

Week 2 - St. Mark in Egypt

Objective:

- ❖ How Christianity came to Egypt

Memory Verse:

“Preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15)

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 Nakhhl
- ❖ St. Mark, H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ An icon or a picture of St. Mark surrounded by lit candles
- ❖ Whose picture is this?
- ❖ Explain the meaning of the word “Preach”. It means tell the good news.
- ❖ Resort to acting whenever possible.

Lesson Outlines:

St. Mark is one of the seventy apostles whom the Lord Christ chose. He saw many of the miracles 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.

- ❖ Where did St. Mark go to preach Christianity?
- ❖ What was the first city St. Mark went to?

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 pierced 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.

- ❖ What did St. Mark do?
- ❖ What happened to the shoemaker?
- ❖ What is his name?
- ❖ 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. Subsequently, Christianity spread throughout Egypt and Christians grew in number.

- ❖ Why did Annianus believe?
- ❖ Speak about some miracle performed by Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

As the Lord was with St. Mark in his service and helped him because he was honest and sincere, the Lord will also be with us if we are honest and sincere.

Applications:

- ❖ Encourage the children to visit those who are absent and who have not come to Sunday School.
- ❖ You may sing a hymn of glorification for St. Mark and the children can walk in the procession (circuit) holding lit candles.
- ❖ Continue memorizing another part of the agpeya prayer "Have mercy on me...O Lord.."

Week 3 - Water from the Rock

Objective:

- ❖ God gives us our food, drink, cloth and everything we have and need.

Memory Verse:

“You shall strike the rock and water will come out of it” (Exodus 17:6)

References:

- ❖ Exodus 17:1-7

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Use the same rock made of brown paper for the tomb from previous lesson about the resurrection as a visual aid for this lesson. Hide a container of water inside the rock and get a rod similar to the one Moses used.
- ❖ Ask the children who gives us food to eat and drink to drink?
- ❖ Who provides us with everything we have?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time the people of God were traveling in the desert. Their Leader was Moses. Who was their leader?...They got to a place where there was very little water for all of them. They started to thirst and were very unhappy. There was not enough water for their children or animals too. So, they started to be angry with Moses because he brought them to a place where there is no water and because they were all very very thirsty. They asked him to give them water. But Moses did not know from where he can get water in this desert. So, Moses prayed and cried out to the Lord and asked Him what should I do Lord? God told Moses take your rod and some of the elders of the people and go to the rock in Horeb. You shall strike the rock with the rod and water will come out of it. This water is sweet and all the people may drink from it.

Moses did exactly as God told him...What did God tell Moses to do?

When Moses hit the rock with his rod immediately water came out of it (the servant can act this part with the visual aid) and every body drank and was not thirsty anymore.

Conclusion:

God is the provider of everything we need.

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children act the story and give the children to drink from the water inside the rock
- ❖ Review and memorize an additional part of the Agpeya prayer “Have mercy on me...O Lord”

Week 4 - Crossing the Jordan

Objective:

- ❖ God walks with us wherever we go

Memory Verse:

“Tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you” (Joshua 3:5)

Reference:

- ❖ Joshua 3:1-17

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Prepare picture, slides or video if available for the story.
- ❖ Ask the children what is a river?
- ❖ Have you seen a river before? Where?
- ❖ What can happen if you go into a river?

Lesson Outlines:

God told his people that I want to take you to a very nice place to live in. I will take you to a land where there are lots of good fruits, milk, honey and many other goodies. But you have to cross a river called Jordan River to get to this land.

- ❖ What did God want to give His people?
- ❖ What did the people of God have to cross?
- ❖ What was the name of the river?

So, God told Joshua, who became the new leader after Moses, in the morning I will help you cross the river. I want you to ask the priests to carry the ark (show the children a picture of the ark or a model of the ark) and walk in front of My people. Once they touch the water of the river with their feet the river will split open and they will cross on the land at the bottom of the river. The water will not touch them and none of them will even get wet.

So, Joshua did as God told him and asked the priests to carry the ark and walk in front of the people. Once their feet touched the Jordan River, the water was cut and moved far to the sides. In the middle of the water God made a dry road for them to cross over. The priests carrying the ark stood in the middle till all the people of God crossed over to the other side of the river to a dry land. Then, finally the priests with the ark came out to the other side of the river. Once they stepped out of the river the water came back and the road that God made for them disappeared. The people of God were happy that helped them to cross the river to come to the nice land with the many goodies that God chose for them.

Conclusion:

God always walks with His children and shows them the way they should walk in.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children a picture of the ark to color
- ❖ Review and continue memorizing an additional part from the Agpeya prayer

Week 5 – The Parable of the Talents

Objective:

- ❖ To encourage each child to look for his talent

Memory Verse:

“Well done good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23)

References:

- ❖ The book of St. Matthew 25: 14-30

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Bring coins with you to act the story of today's lesson
- ❖ Ask the children if God gave someone lots of money what should he do with the money?

Lesson Outlines:

When Jesus Christ was teaching the people, he told them stories to help them understand the word of God. He told them a story of a master and three servants. The master gave 5 talents (type of money) to the first servant, 2 talents to the second servant, and 1 talent to the third. He then left on a long journey. The first servant (with the 5 talents) used his money wisely and was able to get 5 more talents in return. The second servant (2 talents) did the same and was also able to receive 2 more talents. The third servant hid his money in the ground so he did not gain anything. When the master came back, each servant showed him what they had done. So, the first servants gave the master the original five talents and five more he gained. This makes 10 talents. Let us count on our fingers five plus five. The second servant gave the master the original 2 talents and the two he gained. This makes 4 talents. Let us count again on our fingers 2 plus 2 talents. The last lazy servant went back and dug his talent from the ground and gave it to the master. He did not gain any thing more than what the master gave him. The master was pleased with the first and second servants, but was very upset at the third servant and took the one talent he had and gave it to the first servant that he may profit (gain) from it.

God is our master when we meet Him again in heaven He will ask us what did we do with the nice things He gave us. For example, He will ask Mary (use names of the children in your class) what did

you do with your beautiful voice? Did you sing hymns? Also, He will ask David (again use names of the children in your class) what did you do with your strong muscles? Did you help the weak boys and girls? And so on.....

Conclusion:

God gave everyone a gift (a talent) to use (e.g. singing, writing, reading, speaking...) and we have to use it to help others and show our love for God.

Application:

- ❖ Act the story again with the coins that the servant brought. Help the children count the talents with each servant.
- ❖ Give the children a picture of Jesus Christ to color as our Master who gives us the talents.
- ❖ 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.

Week 6 - The Parable of the Leaven

Objective:

- ❖ To be good to people around us so they would imitate us

Memory Verse:

“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven” (Matthew 13:33)

Reference:

- ❖ Matthew 13:33

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare visual aids for the story:
Make real dough and bring it for the kids to play with in class to relate to the story. Alternatively, play dough can be used. Color small part of the dough to simulate the leaven and give it to the children to mix with the rest of the dough.
- ❖ Ask the students if they see their mothers when they are baking.
- ❖ What does Mommy use to make bread or cake at home?
- ❖ What happens to the bread or cake when Mommy puts it in the oven? Does it get bigger and higher? Why does this happen?
- ❖ Do you like cakes and bread?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time Jesus Christ was telling the people stories about heaven. Then he told them a story about a woman who was baking. He said that she was making bread with dough just like this dough. She was baking for three meals, so she made lots and lots of dough. She wanted the dough to be nice and puffy when it goes into the oven. So she added leaven to the dough. The leaven spread gradually into the whole dough. When she put the dough in the oven it was rising very quickly and made a very fluffy and big loaf of bread. The dough was enough for three meals because the leaven she added to the dough was of a very good.

- ❖ What did Jesus Christ tell the people?

- ❖ What was the woman making?
- ❖ How many meals was she baking?
- ❖ What makes the dough rise?
- ❖ Was the leaven good or bad?

Jesus Christ told the people this story because He wanted to tell them that if we were good boys and girls we would be like the good leaven. Our friends, brothers and sisters will see that we are good and they will imitate us to be good like us. This is like the good leaven that made the bread around it look good and taste good.

Conclusion:

If we are good children of God, our friends will try to be good like us. The more friends we have, the more people will become children of God like us.

Applications:

- ❖ We should be nice to our friends, brothers, and sisters.
- ❖ Help your mother when she is baking at home and tell her the story that Jesus Christ told to the people.

Week 7- Four Men Carry the Paralytic

Objectives:

- ❖ To love each other
- ❖ To learn the importance of cooperation

Memory Verse:

“Two are better than one” (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

Reference:

- ❖ St. Mark 2:1-12

Introduction

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare pictures for today’s lesson
- ❖ Ask a child to lift a chair up. He cannot of course. Ask two children to cooperate in lifting it up.

Lesson Outlines:

One day Jesus was in a village called Capernaum. He was in a house teaching the people. When people heard that Jesus was in that house, they all began to come. The house was full of people because everybody was eager to listen to Jesus.

A sick man was paralyzed meaning that he could not walk and had to be carried on his bed. He had four friends who cared about him. The four men heard that Jesus was preaching in that house, and they knew if Jesus would only lay his hand on their paralytic friend, he would be healed. So, the four men decided to carry the man together to Jesus Christ.

They began to go on their way, but when they arrived to the house, they saw that the house was full. They could not go through the door because people were standing in the way. They began to think together “what should we do?” Finally, by putting their heads together because “two are better than one”, they came up with an idea. They would send their paralytic friend through the roof. The

roof was of straw, so this idea was going to work. In order for them to send the man through the roof, they had to be careful. They all had to carry the man carefully and steady because “two are better than one.” So the men sent the man through the roof, two of them holding one end and the other two holding the other end. They had to cooperate together so the paralytic man would not fall off his bed.

Finally, the four men placed their paralytic friend in front of Jesus. And when Jesus saw that the four men had so much love for each other and so much faith. He also saw how they all co-operated together for Jesus knew that “two are better than one”, He placed his hands on the paralytic and said: “Son, your sins are forgiven you. I say to you, arise and take up your bed and go to your house.” And immediately the man arose and took his bed and walked home. All who saw this were amazed and said, “we never saw anything like this.”

- ❖ Where was Jesus preaching?
- ❖ Did a lot of people come and listen to Him? The house was full or empty?
- ❖ How many men were there with the paralytic man?
- ❖ What did they think of?
- ❖ When they arrived to the house, what did they find?
- ❖ What did they decide to do?
- ❖ How did they carry the man to Jesus?
- ❖ Why did Jesus decide to heal the man?
- ❖ What did Jesus say to the paralytic?

We cooperate together at church so the service can be easier. For example, during the Divine Liturgy, there are 2 or 3 deacons taking turns saying the parts of the Liturgy and thus this is cooperation. And in Sunday school, we can cooperate by helping each other to clean and organize the classes. We can also encourage each other to come to church. At church we cooperate together by helping clean the church, if everyone does a small part in the church, then the church would become cleaner faster instead of one person cleaning the church. Also, we cooperate together by keeping the church clean and quiet by throwing away trash in the trash can and by not talking in church.

Cooperation is not only done at church, but also at home and school. We cooperate and help our parents clean the house when guests come over, and at school we cooperate with the teacher by doing our homework and turning it in on time.

- ❖ What do we learn from this story?
- ❖ What is the verse?

We should all cooperate together because we are all part of the body of Christ and Christ loves us more when we work together. He promised us saying, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20).

Conclusion:

Jesus healed the man because He had compassion on him and because He saw that his four friends had love for their paralytic friend. We are all Christians and we should have love for one another. We show this love through our cooperation and obedience.

Application

- ❖ Cooperate in tidying and arranging your class after you finish from the lesson every Sunday
- ❖ Next Sunday we will check what did you cooperate in during the week at home and school.

THE APOSTLES' FAST PERIOD

Use Filler lessons (at the beginning of the book) between the feast of Pentecost and the second week of July.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Week 2: Esther Becomes A Queen (I)

Week 3: The Courage of Queen Esther (II)

Week 4: St. Abanoub

Week 2 - Esther Becomes A Queen (I)

Objective:

- ❖ Wives should obey their husbands

Memory Verse:

“Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her” (Esther 2:15)

Reference:

- ❖ The book of Esther chapters 1,2

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare some pictures of queens
- ❖ Ask the students if they know the name of a queen
- ❖ How does a queen dress?
- ❖ What do they put on their heads?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a great king his name was king Ahasueres. He had a beautiful wife her name was Queen Vashti. King Ahasueres had a big party for all the people working in his kingdom. During the party king Ahasueres served food and drinks in golden plates and cups in his wonderful palace. After all the people ate and drank and were very happy in the kings party, King Ahasueres asked his wife queen Vashti to dress in her pretty dress and shiny jewels and to come to show her beauty to all the visitors in his party. But queen Vashti refused to do what the king requested. The king became very angry and decided that she would not be queen anymore and that he will choose another beautiful girl to be queen instead of her.

So, it was announced that all the beautiful girls should come and prepare themselves to appear in front of the king. The king then will choose the most beautiful girl to be a queen. So, all the pretty girls came and one of them was Esther. Esther had no father or mother but she was very pretty. Her

uncle Mordecai took care of her and when he heard of the king's announcement, he brought her for the king's selection.

After 12 months of beauty preparation, each girl was brought in front of the king to see her and choose the one he likes the most. When Esther's turn came, she stood in front of the king and the king liked her the most. The king loved Esther more than all the other women and he placed the royal crown on her head. Then, the king made a great feast, the feast of Esther, and he proclaimed a holiday and gave gifts to the people. The king was very happy to find the beautiful and lovely Esther.

Conclusion:

God made Esther beautiful so that she can become a queen and help save her people from the tricks of their enemy.

Applications:

- ❖ Draw a picture of queen Esther with the crown on her head
- ❖ Let one of the student tell the story again to the rest of the class or let them act it.

Week 3 - The Courage of Queen Esther (II)

Objective:

- ❖ God protects His children

Memory Verse:

“Be of good courage” (Psalm 31:24)

Reference:

- ❖ The book of Esther chapters 3-7

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Why was Esther chosen as a queen?
- ❖ Who was her uncle?
- ❖ What did the king put on her head when she became a queen?

Prepare the following visual aids: a crown for Esther, Crown for the king and a golden staff to act the story at the end of the class

Lesson Outlines:

Esther was one of the people of God when she was chosen as a queen. However, one of the ministers of the king hated the people of God and he arranged a trick so that all the people of God in the kingdom of king Ahasuerus be killed. He convinced the king with his idea and got him to sign it. The king did not know that Esther was one of God's people at that time. When Mordecai, Esther's uncle, heard of this he sent to queen Esther to talk to the king and ask to change his mind since she is one of God's people. Esther then asked all God's people to fast for three days before she talks to the king. So, they all fasted for three days.

The king would not allow any one to meet him except the one that he calls for or the one that he extends his golden staff to. Esther was worried because she wanted to talk to the king but he did not call her. So she prayed and was courageous when she decided to go on her own to try to talk to the king. She dressed very nicely and went to the king's palace and waited to see if the king would

extent his golden staff to her. The king was happy to see Esther and he did extend his golden staff to her. Esther went in and talked to the king and invited him and his wicked minister (Haman) who hated the people of God to a party two days in a row.

The king was very happy at the party that Esther brought for him and asked her what she needed. He promised to give her anything she asked for up to half the kingdom. Then Esther asked him to get rid of the wicked minister Haman who planned the trick to get rid of all the people of God, her people. Then immediately the king listened to her and ordered that no one should touch or hurt the people of God and he got rid of Haman as well.

Conclusion:

The people of God were saved through the courage of Esther and protection of God.

Applications:

- ❖ Let the children act the story again by making one the king Ahasuerus and a girl as queen Esther and give the golden staff to the king to play the role of the king

Week 4 - St. Abanoub

Objective:

- ❖ To learn that no matter how young we are we can witness and have faith in the Lord.

Memory verse:

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12)

References:

- ❖ The Book of Saints Vol. 1

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Show the children a picture of St. Abanoub.
- ❖ St. Abanoub is one of the youngest martyrs of our church. He was only twelve years old when he was martyred. He was very courageous and through his sufferings he made many people believe in Christ

Lesson Outlines:

St. Abanoub was born of good Christian parents who died when he was a young child. At the age of twelve he heard the priest at the church asking the people to remain faithful to God during the persecution

St. Abanoub prayed to God to guide him to where he can tell about his faith in our Lord. He decided to go to a city called Samanoud on foot. On his way he saw Archangel Michael. He fell to the ground when he saw the Archangel but the Archangel raised him up and told him that he must suffer because he is christian in Samanoud and in other places

In Samanoud, St. Abanoub went to the Roman ruler and told him that he loves Jesus Christ. The ruler became mad and ordered the soldiers to whip him. Archangel Michael appeared to St. Abanoub and healed his wounds. The ruler then took St. Abanoub on a boat to a city called Atrib and on the way the soldiers and their ruler started drinking and dancing and hitting St. Abanoub on the face. Then unexpectedly the soldiers became blind and the ruler paralyzed. They cried to St Abanoub asking him to pray to God to heal them. St. Abanoub replied that this will only happen in Atrib so

that everyone there should know that there is no other God but Christ. When they arrived to Atrib St Abanoub prayed for them and they were all healed and they cried with joy “We are Christians we believe in the God of Abanoub.

The ruler of Atrib got very mad and asked the best magicians of the country to help him defeat St. Abanoub. The magicians suggested putting St. Abanoub in a cell with poisonous snakes that can kill two or three hundred men. So they put St. Abanoub in the cell with the snakes but God closed their mouth and they did not harm him. In the morning everyone was surprised to see St. Abanoub coming out of the cell alive. Suddenly one of the snakes crawled out of the cell and coiled itself around the ruler’s neck. The man started shaking and cried “In the name of Jesus your God be merciful to me and don’t let the snake harm me”. St. Abanoub who loved everyone even his enemies prayed for him and ordered the snake to come down and not hurt the ruler. On that day many people who were present including the magicians believed in Christ.

Finally one of the ruler’s advisers advised him to behead the saint. So the ruler ordered his soldiers to kill St Abanoub by the sword.

- ❖ Who healed St. Abanoub wounds?
- ❖ What did the magicians advice the ruler to do?
- ❖ How did God save St. Abanoub from the snakes?
- ❖ How old was St. Abanoub when he was martyred?

Conclusion:

Even young children can be saints and courageous just like St. Abanoub.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children the picture of St. Abanoub
- ❖ Tell them to tell their parents at home about St. Abanoub story.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Week 1: The Kind Ruth

Week 2: Balaam and His Donkey

Week 3: The Baby St. Mary

Week 4: Love for the Church

Week 1 - The Kind Ruth

Objective:

- ❖ To learn to be kind and respectful to the elderly

Memory Verse:

"Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness" (Ruth 3:10)

References:

- ❖ The book of Ruth

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ How many grand father and mother do you have?
- ❖ Do you help them out if they need help at home?

Lesson Outlines:

In the country of Moab, there lived a woman, Naomi, her husband and 2 sons. Her sons married Ruth and Orpah. After 10 years, Naomi's husband and sons died, leaving the women all alone. Naomi, who was getting old, sadly told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their families so that they could find other husbands and get married. But Ruth saw that Naomi would need help in her old age and insisted to stay with her to take care of her. They both went to Bethlehem to start a new life. Ruth started working in the fields collecting grain. One day, a rich man named Boaz noticed Ruth in one of his fields. He asked his servants about her and decided to invite her for supper. Boaz was impressed by how kind Ruth was for staying with Naomi instead of going back to her parents and how courageous she was for travelling to a land where she didn't know anyone. At the supper they ate and talked and Ruth, being the kind person she is, saved some of her plate for Naomi. Naomi later revealed to Ruth that Boaz was in fact a distant relative and eventually Ruth and Boaz got married. The Lord had blessed Kind Ruth with a rich husband who would take care of her and Naomi.

Conclusion:

We have to be kind to the old people and help them out when they need help. God loves the children that take care of the older people and gives them good rewards. We would like to be like Ruth who took care of her elder mother in law, Naomi

Applications:

- ❖ Help our grand parents at home when they need help
- ❖ Respect the elder people every where we meet them

Week 2 - Balaam and His Donkey

Objective:

- ❖ Kindness to animals

Memory Verse:

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

References

- ❖ Numbers chapter 22

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ The picture of the lesson if available or if the servant can draw it.
- ❖ Who saw a donkey before? Where?
- ❖ How does it look?
- ❖ Can you imitate the sound of a donkey?

Lesson Outlines:

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 the donkey severely three times and so it talked.

- ❖ 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 move 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.

- ❖ Can a donkey speak?
- ❖ Why then Balaam’s Donkey spoke?

Conclusion:

God made Balaam’s donkey speak because it saw the angel with the sword, which Balaam could not see.

Applications:

- ❖ Care of animals and birds.
- ❖ Do not insult others.

Week 3 - The Baby St. Mary

Objective:

- ❖ To know the story of birth of St. Mary
- ❖ St. Mary was chosen to be the mother of God before her birth

Memory Verse:

“Behold the maidservant of the Lord” (Luke 1:38)

Reference:

- ❖ Coptic Synaxarium Vol. III – first day of Bashans

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Prepare pictures for St. Mary to show to the children
- ❖ Teach the children the hymn “Through the intercession of the theotokos St. Mary....”
- ❖ Explain to the children the meaning of the word “Theotokos”, Mother of God

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a man called Joachim and his wife was called Anna. Joachim was sad because he did not have a child to give to God. One day Joachim went to the mountain to pray. While he was praying, he saw an angel sent to him from God.

- ❖ What does the angel look like?
- ❖ What was the name of the man?
- ❖ What was the name of his wife?
- ❖ Why were they sad?

The angel told Joachim do not be sad because God will give you children through them will be salvation to the whole world. Joachim was happy with what he saw and heard from the angel and he told Anna his wife. Anna was very happy when she heard the news and she promised God that the child she will get would serve God in the temple (church) all his/her life.

- ❖ Why Joachim and Anna were happy?

- ❖ What did Anna promise God?

Then Anna had a baby in her belly and delivered a beautiful baby and called her Mary. St. Mary was sweet, polite, obedient and humble and she loved God very much. Her mother Anna took her and left her in the temple as she promised God since she was a little girl. God has chosen St. Mary to become His mother as you see in these pictures.

Conclusion:

God loved St. Mary and chose her to be His mother because she grew up in the temple and she was a good girl who would do all that God wants.

Applications:

- ❖ Give the children pictures for St. Mary to color
- ❖ Review with them the hymn “ Through the intercessions of the Theotokos....”

Week 4 - Love for the Church

Objective:

- ❖ Encouraging the child to go to church

Memory Verse:

“I will come into Your house in the multitude of your mercy” (Psalm 5:7)

References:

- ❖ 1 Samuel 3:10, 1 Kings 8, Luke 2:46

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse
- ❖ Ask the children if they like to come to church or not?
- ❖ This lesson will depend on practical acting on how to enter and get out of the church and how to behave when we are in the altar waiting to receive communion
- ❖ A picture of Prophet Samuel.

Lesson Outlines:

- ❖ 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:

- ❖ Kneeling down before the sanctuary (study the verse)
- ❖ The holiness of the place and showing respect for it (take off your shoes before you enter the sanctuary and keep calm and silent).
- ❖ Almsgiving (in secret).
- ❖ Receiving benediction (water, Eulogia, kissing the cross).
- ❖ 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:

- ❖ The noise they make by going into the church and out of it a lot of times.
- ❖ Speaking to and playing with other children.
- ❖ Eating sweets or chewing gum.
- ❖ Eating an urban before the end of the Holy Mass.
- ❖ Running between the fathers or mothers during the mass.
- ❖ When you see a priest run to him, greet him, kiss his hand and ask him to pray for you.

Conclusion:

We love the church because it is the house of God. We behave politely in the church so that Jesus Christ would be happy with us.

Application:

- ❖ Stay quiet and listen to the prayers during the liturgy.
- ❖ Make sure you come early to the church next Sunday

LESSON OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER
Before the Coptic New Year

Week 1: The Angel Sets St. Peter Free

Week 1- The Angel Sets St. Peter Free

Objective:

- ❖ God loves us and answers our prayers

Memory Verse:

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

References

- ❖ Acts 12: 1-17

Introduction:

- ❖ Review the previous lesson and verse with the students
- ❖ Revision questions about the work of angels in the light of the previous lessons
- ❖ Prepare a big picture about the lesson: A wing of an angel and the picture of the lesson

Lesson Outlines:

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 the 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 St. Peter “O Lord, rescue Peter and bring him back to us”. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the 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 up. St. Peter opened his eyes and 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. St. Peter went out and followed the angel. They passed the first and second guard. Finally, 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 then the angel left him.

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

He told them how the Lord answered their prayers.

- ❖ What was St. Peter doing in prison?
- ❖ Who brought him out of prison?
- ❖ What was the church doing?

Let us say together: My angel goes before you.

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

Conclusion:

The Lord answers those who pray to him. He likes to hear us pray and talk to Him every day. He also misses us a lot if we do not talk to Him. He waits for us to pray and talk to him.

Applications:

- ❖ Pray and say: Thank you Lord because your angel always guards me.
- ❖ Make an angel at home and bring it to class next week
- ❖ Alternatively give the children a picture of an angel to color and bring to class.