



**THE COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRICHARCAE  
ST. GEORGE AND ST. RUEISS CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**GRADE TWO**

Revised Edition 2005

**PREPARATION AND WRITING**

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**SAINT MARK**



**H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III**

Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate

FROM H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

Deir Anba Ruciss, Ramses Avenue, ABBASSIYA,

CAIRO, EGYPT.

CABLE : ELANBARUEISS, CAIRO.



+

الى الابن المبارك القمصان القديس مرقس الياس عبد المسيح  
والذين تادرس بتقوى ملهى

سلام ورحمة وبركة

يا ربى ابنا د. محفوظ وسعه المنهج القترح لدارس  
التربية الكنسية بالمهجر. وقد درست معه الخطوط الأساسية  
للمنهج، ودره الدخول فى التفاصيل. وأبدت له بعض ملاحظات  
من جهة مناهج هذه العقيدة والحق. وفى الواقع أنه الجهد المبذول  
جهد كبير جداً يستحق الشكر. ومع ذلك تحتاج دروس الكتاب  
المقدم الى زيادة. وسأرسل لكم ملاحظات اخبر بالتفصيل بمحيطة  
الرب.

فليبارك الرب كل ما قام به ابنا محفوظ من جهود فى إعداد  
المنهج، وفى جميع المادة، وفى عمل الترجمة. وليبارك الرب  
أيضاً كل ما اشتركوا فى العمل، وفى المراجعة  
ويمكنه صدقنا هو ما نستطيع الوصول اليه من كان على قدر  
امكاننا ابنا. ويمكنه تزويد المنهج أيضاً بالصورة المناسبة والتي  
تقرها كنيسة النواحي العقيدية والطقسية والتاريخية  
الرب معكم. كوفنا بخير

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١٩٨٦/٨/٢٤  
سيد القديس محفوظ



Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate

FROM H.H. POPE SHENOUDA III

Deir Anba Ruciss, Ramses Avenue, ABBASSIYA,

CAIRO, EGYPT.

CABLE : ELANBARUEISS, CAIRO.



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To my blessed two sons: Hegomain Fr. Marcous Elias Abdel Massih and Hegomain Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty.

Peace and love be with you.

Dr. Mahfouz has visited me and brought with him the suggested Sunday school curriculum for the land of immigration. I have studied with him the basic topics of the curriculum without getting into details. Although that I have pointed out some concerns on the doctrine and dogma curriculum, it is clear that the amount of work spent on preparing the curriculum is huge and worth thanking. Nonetheless, the Bible study part of the curriculum needs to be increased. God willing, I will also send you additional details on this curriculum.

May the Lord bless all the effort that our son Mahfouz has done in preparing the Sunday school curriculum, in collecting the relevant topics, and in performing the translation of subjects. May the Lord also bless all those who have joined him in preparing this project and those who revised the topics.

Let our goal be performing our best to try and arrive at perfection given what we have from abilities. Lastly, I would also suggest the addition of different recognized pictures according to our doctrine, dogma and history to the Sunday school curriculum.

May the Lord be with you. Be in peace.

Signed

*Pope Shenouda III*

22 August 1986

The feast of St. Mary

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## **INTRODUCTION TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

### **Principal Goal of Christian Up-Bringing.**

The child had and still has, first as a person and second as a child, a special importance to our Lord Jesus Christ. He called the children and considered them models of perfection, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:3-5).

Therefore, children are beloved ones to Christ and are His friends with their simplicity and purity of heart. Christ called them, blessed them and asked His Disciples and Apostles after Him to take care of bringing up children and prepare the suitable environment for their spiritual growth.

St. Paul advises parents saying, "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged", (Colossians 3:21). From a Christian point of view, the general principal goal of religious up - bringing is the formation of the perfect man of God who is following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). Also, our Lord said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

Hence, a Christian up-bringing is not merely an education to be given or a curriculum to be taught, but it is rather a life that is given through example and behavior through teaching and discipleship. The saintly Fathers of the church have emphasized this fact. St. John said about his practice of life with the Lord "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).

The same fact was emphasized by St. Paul when he was talking to his disciple Timothy "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose,

faith, long-suffering, love, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium ... But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:10-15). Also in the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern". Therefore, the principal goal of the Christian up-bringing is to change the life of our children to the life of Christ in them, i.e. to a life based on the work of Christ in them as true Christians and not just religious persons who fear God but deny Him.

### **The Starting Point in Achieving the Goal of Religious Upbringing.**

The teacher should not start with the student from power Zero. The student comes equipped with many social and religious experiences. His religious experience, although it is limited, it has a strong basis that is ready for spiritual growth. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the student has already obtained the spiritual birth i.e. he became spiritually re-born. After his baptism he was anointed with the Holy Myron (Chrism) and the Holy Spirit dwelt in him. St. John said "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you; and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him" (1 John 2:27).

Therefore, by obtaining these two Holy Sacraments and the Sacrament of Eucharist, the student becomes a member in the body of the Lord and a living part of the body of the Holy Church. This means that religious up-bringing is not something foreign with respect to the student. The student is a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in him. This means that it is not the teacher who makes the student live a life for Christ, but it is the inside work of the Holy Spirit that makes the whole difference. The role of the teacher is to make the student aware of the effect and the work of the Spirit. In this sense the student becomes aware of the secret grace inside him and as a result the divine word inside him grows as the seed grows inside the earth.

### **The Difference Between Religious Education and Religious Upbringing.**

We should not aim at providing lessons in the form of giving information, i.e. a mere religious education. In this case religious experience will never exceed the circle of the mind and will never affect the heart and practice of the student. If we



consider religious education as an element in religious bringing-up, we are in this case following Christ's plan in the development and building of the Christian personality. Christ with His example and His perfection gave us a model which should be followed and achieved. As for His teachings, they are meant to clear the way for us in order to follow them as examples and models.

### **The Need of our Church for a Coptic Orthodox Sunday School Program.**

There is one basic difference between Eastern and Western theology; the latter depends on study, analysis and using scientific means, whereas Eastern theology is based on experience and depth which is mainly lead to true Christian life. The Eastern Church respects the role of the mind but it works under the supervision of faith.

The majority of recent Western Sunday School programs follow a pure analytical way of explaining the Bible. For example, miracles are explained through psychological and scientific factors. The man of God must accept miracles and believe them as they are. St. Athanasius said, "Our knowledge must not control (or have authority over) the word, but the word itself must have the control and authority over the mind".

Another basic difference is that our traditional Church uses the rites in education as a key in the process of living what is being taught.

Over and above what was mentioned before in relation to the basic differences in religious education between Eastern and Western churches, there are also basic differences in the various beliefs and the way Christianity is lived by in actual life.

We, as parents, teachers and clergy, are responsible in front of God to bring up our children according to the same spiritual Orthodox principles that we received from our saintly Fathers who shed their blood to perpetuate the perfect Orthodox faith. Therefore, our children must learn from the same source from which we learned before them.

The Sunday School program in your hands is a fruit of love granted by our Lord Jesus Christ to our children and a gift from Him to them. This program is purely Coptic Orthodox. All its references without exception are Coptic Orthodox (please review the reference list at the end of the book. In this manner all the information that is in this book (as well as all the books in this series) can be used with total confidence as it is devised according to our glorified church. The spirit of the lessons is indeed the same spirit of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## **About the Books in Your Hands.**

These books in your hands are integrated series of books which were written for children from age 4 to 18. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, if the child at age 4 follows this series of lessons until age 18, he will obtain an all-rounded spiritual background. The books (covering the teachings from pre-schoolers to grade 12) cover a study of most of the major Biblical subjects of the Old and New Testaments, the celebrations of the church of our Master's feasts, the life of the Saints and their feasts, the divine liturgy with its rites and spirituality, the true Christian life and Christian behavior, church sacraments, fasting, prayers, the creed and its explanation, the Ecumenical Councils, the difference between the various major Christian sects, the Christian family, the history of our church, the major personalities in the Holy Bible, ... etc. The program is indeed comprehensive and it covers all the key areas of our Orthodox church. If these lessons were given in the spiritual way that was emphasized before, great results will be expected with the work of the Holy Spirit.

## **General Rules and Principles to be Followed by the Sunday School Teachers.**

- 1) The teacher must know the stage and the characteristics of growth of the children that he or she is teaching. A child who is 12 years old is different than a child who is 8 years old. The teacher must know the level of his/her students, their abilities to receive information that he/she is giving and the differences between the various abilities in the same class.
- 2) The positive participation of the students is very important during the lesson and the effectiveness of teaching. One of the key incentives for the student is to give importance to the lesson and have an effective communication with the teacher and, above all, to define clearly the purpose behind it and present the lesson in the form of problems that attract their attention.
- 3) The teacher must follow a psychological order of the facts he is presenting. Our Lord Jesus Christ used effectively the psychological method of teaching through His parables. The parables in their simplicity are drawn from the daily life of the people. We must emphasize here that the psychological method is not the only method of spiritual teaching. We should mention this method as one of the methods used. It is quite important to note that spiritual teaching must be imparted with certain goals in mind which are connected with the life of the children and related to the problems they face. We should provide guidance that is mostly needed for them.

- 4) The teacher must present the lesson and illustrate it with relevant information and present it as a coherent unity without ambiguity or contradiction. He may use illustrations to help him explain what he means.
- 5) Application of Christian principles to the actual social life must be emphasized in every lesson. The teacher should use stories (from the Old or New Testaments or from church history or church books) to attract the attention of the students and show the Christian principle in an applied manner. The teacher also may divide the subject into stages or small subjects. A good practice is to summarize the lesson or better still, ask the students themselves to summarize it.
- 6) The manner of expressing the lesson to the students is also very important. A teacher who is living by what he/she teaches will definitely be more effective in giving his/her message across. A teacher who is teaching under spiritual influence with compatible emotions to what he/she teaches will be definitely more effective than a teacher who is giving information.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of the Coptic Orthodox children and youth, who are going to benefit a great deal from this revised Sunday School Program, I would like to express a word of appreciation and gratitude to:

### **His Holiness Pope Shenouda III**

This program leans quite heavily on the writings of His Holiness Pope Shenouda III. The majority of the contents of the lessons and their attachments are based on His Holiness' writings. This is a very bright and important aspect of this program. In 1986, during the time in which there was no Coptic Orthodox Sunday School program in the land of immigration, His Holiness reviewed the general contents of the program, commented and modified many key subjects, and then authorized the use of this program in all churches outside of Egypt, on a preliminary basis.

I can safely say that, if it was not for His Holiness Pope Shenouda III's support, wisdom, and writings, this book would not exist. The whole generation is in debt to His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, not only because of his great teachings and writings, but also because of his love and leadership.

### **His Grace Bishop Reweiss**

His Grace Bishop Reweiss has been behind us all the way with his love and guidance. He wrote the forward for our previous version of the program in 1986.

### **His Grace Bishop Moussa**

His Grace Bishop Moussa has provided constant support and encouragement in the completion of the previous program. Of course, His Grace's writings for the youth have been utilized in all the subjects directed towards the youth, in this book.

### **Fr. Tadros Malaty and Fr. Marcos Marcos**

These Beloved Fathers reviewed thoroughly all of the contents of the first six books of the previous version of the program. Their dedication, experience, and wisdom have been an important factor in the quality of all the material. They contributed greatly towards setting up the lessons, in that sense. Father Tadros Malaty's deep writings, without any doubt, have been a key reference in the majority of the lessons. His latest advice to revise and enhance the previous version of the program has been held in the highest regards.

Dr. Fayek M. Ishak

Dr. Fayek Ishak (head of the English Department at Lakehead University) reviewed the first six books of the previous version of the program. He contributed, immensely, towards the setup of the lessons.

Fr. Gawargious Michael and Fr. Mikhael Armanios

These two beloved priests chose the proper songs to match the subjects of the lessons. They also arranged the proof-reading of all the books with a chosen group of youth.

Fr. Makary Silwanis

This beloved priest made all of the arrangements for revising the previous Sunday School Program. He single-handedly arranged to have the new program available online. His computer skills were a key factor in all areas.

Tassoni Ragaa

The continuous support and encouragement of Tassoni Ragaa played an essential role in the write-up of the previous version of the program, as well as in this revision. One of the aspects that kept this program centered and on track was her continuous reminder that this program is for generations to come and every effort is worthwhile for the sake of the upbringing of the children and youth.

The Youth of St. George and St. Rueiss Coptic Orthodox Church

There was a key participation from Heba Khattas in this revised version. She in total love and joy contributed with great efforts in typing, checking, proof reading and commenting. All these things by her own initiative despite all the other responsibilities that she had to do towards her family, her work and her study.

There was a key contribution from Marian Awad in this revised version. She proposed that the lessons for Grades 11 and 12 be totally redone in order to prepare the youth to face the challenges at the university level. This idea resulted in a huge change in the curriculum for these two grades, as well as in the writing of the "Contemporary Issues" book.

Ninette Bishay sang over 100 songs in order to make sure that all the lessons were accompanied by beautiful songs in a great language and tone.

Caroline Yassa typed many lessons for the author, mostly dictated over the phone, at times when his eyes were very sore from reading. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Comments and proof-readings of many of the youth are greatly appreciated.

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Angela Salama	Margaret Massoud	Martha Tawadrous
Mina Gindi	Nancy Bishay	Samih Kalilian
Fady Dawood	Nagat Yassa	Emad Iskander
Lillian Ibrahim	Christina Habib	Paul Tadros
Mariam Tawadrous	Donna Hanna	Dina Ayoub
Joseph Bishay	Dina George	Timothy Gindi
Sameh Barsoum	Marianna Nasralla	Samy Messiha
Sherin Ishak	Angy Hinis	Mariana Ramzy
Michael Malak	Monica Sourial	Nivin Bishay
Michael Kalilian	Mira Henis	Kamilia Beshara
Viola Iskander	Sarah Deif	Marina Mouharib
Hany Matta	Peter Gobran	Georgina Rizk
Marline Ayoub	Michael Abadir	John Hanna
Christina Salama	George Hanna	Irini Gad
Steven Messiha	Rasha Michael	Mohib Tawfik
Marilyn Yassa	Mina Elkatib	Nadir Deif
Sandra Eleigizy	Sherrine Fidal	Hidra Bastawrous

Fr. Rueiss Awad

## **TEACHER'S GUIDELINES:**

### **HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM?**

1. The teacher should realize that each lesson has been prepared to cover a specific point; starting from the title of the lesson to the end of it.
2. The teacher should read all the materials referred to in the lesson (i.e. the Holy Bible as well as any articles attached to the lesson), and then proceed by emphasizing all the points.
3. The teacher should enlarge the picture ahead of each lesson and use it as a visual aid as he or she is teaching the lesson.
4. The teacher should discuss the practical applications as he or she proceeds with the lesson.
5. The teacher should summarize the main points of the lesson with the students and give prizes.

## **FEATURES OF THIS SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM A COMPREHENSIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

1. This Sunday School program was the very first program to be written in the lands of immigration. This work was initiated in 1974, and the first version was published in 1986. We thank our heavenly Father, Who has given us the opportunity to extensively revise and improve it, in 2005.
2. In this version of the program, any repetition that was in the previous program, has been removed, all lessons were upgraded in both coverage and depth. Moreover, a whole new book, on contemporary issues, has been added.
3. The contemporary issues book covers subjects that are important for children and youth in today's world. These lessons are optional. For churches with regular youth group meetings, these issues would best be discussed during those meetings. On the other hand, for churches that do not hold regular youth group meetings, those issues could be discussed as part of the Sunday School program.
4. This version of the program also includes lessons, which form a basis for a missionary service, a service that should in the ideal situation be practised by every member of our congregation. The objective is that each child, every youth, and in the long run each Coptic individual can behave and act in a way, which is an embodiment of the teaching and tradition of the Coptic Orthodox Church. In other words, our congregation would become role models in their communities, who attract people to our Lord Jesus Christ through their good practices: sincerity, commitment, hard work and dedication, tolerance, forgiveness, and all the other good qualities that differentiate a good practising Christian from those who merely have a Christian education.
5. In this Sunday School Program, we depended heavily on the writings of H.H. Pope Shenouda III as a reference for most of the presented material.

6. The lessons in this version of the program have already been tried in Sunday School classes, reviewed, improved and tried again. This ensures that the lessons are relevant and suit the level of the students.
7. In this version of the program, efforts were put forth to ensure that every aspect of the Christian life in the Coptic Orthodox Church is covered.
8. This Sunday School Program is not merely about giving specific education on Christianity to our children and youth but it is rather an attempt to deeply affect their feelings and spirituality. It is believed that such an approach will facilitate the practical application of the various aspects involved so that Christianity becomes a way of life for the individual, with deeply rooted Christian values, that are manifested as behaviour and attitude.
9. All copyrights of other Sunday School programs, and other writers, have been fully respected.
10. In this version, each lesson comes complete with pictures and songs that are suitable for the lesson.
11. This Sunday School program comes in various formats, for convenience. In addition to being available on this website for widespread use, it is also available, upon request, in hard copy format or on CD.
12. It is our strong belief that this Sunday School program will play a vital role in the spiritual upbringing of our children. May the Lord bless this Sunday School program and all other programs, for the growth of His Kingdom in us.

# THE PREPARATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

## A. What is a Sunday School Lesson?

1. It is not a record of events that we convey to the students with the hopes of appearing to satisfy the required preparation process in front of other people. Neither is it a lecture that we deliver to our audience or student regardless of their interest in the matter.
2. However, it is, on one hand, a fruit of the live reaction between the servant and the lesson and, on the other hand, between the servant and the students. The Holy Spirit matures this fruit and directs this service towards the salvation of the students and towards the glory of God.

For if the servant who teaches the people does not teach himself, the voice of the Lord rebukes him saying, " You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself ? " (Romans 2:21), and again in James 3: 1: "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment."

Therefore, the servant should engage himself in the lesson through prayers, relevant spiritual readings, and practical application, so that when the servant speaks with his students from experience and true knowledge, he says, with St. John the Beloved, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-" (1 John 1:1)

If a servant is not aware of the spiritual level of his students, he may burden them with instructions and lessons which they cannot handle nor apply and this, in turn, may cause the students to go astray and lose their eternal life. Therefore, it is crucial for the servant to establish a healthy, trustworthy, and fruitful relationship with his students, as well as to share in their joys and cheers, and their sadness and fears, all towards Jesus Christ. This is what St. Paul refers to in his epistle to the Galatians when he says, "My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you..." (Galatians 4:19). This close relationship with the students allows the servant to choose the most appropriate lesson that applies to their needs.

### **Hence a Sunday School lesson is:**

A live mixture between the personal lives of the servants and the students through the lesson; the Holy Spirit creates this mixture and allows it to result in the bearing of fruit.

## **B. The Requirements for Sunday School Lessons**

### **1. Humility in prayer before God.**

God said, "...for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

My beloved brethren, sit down in peace and tranquility with the Lord and talk to Him about your personal need for Him in your service. Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and pray saying, " Guide me dear God. What would you like my students and I to learn this week ? " Be obedient to His voice. It would be suitable to maintain a prayer time which equals that of the lesson.

### **2. Accurate knowledge of the meanings contained within the lesson.**

This is achieved through:

- a) Occupying yourself throughout the week with understanding the new lesson, beginning from the end of the previous lesson until the beginning of the new one. It is wise to use your free time, time before sleep, and time with fellow servants to increase and enhance your understanding of the lesson.
- b) Resorting to spiritual and religious references and literature to help you develop the right understanding and concepts behind the lines.
- c) Resorting to general educational references and literature to embody this understanding and these concepts, making them clear in the minds of your students.

### **3. Aids of presentation.**

It is important that you transform your understanding of the lesson into a simple and clear presentation. It has been stated and proved that 85% of knowledge acquired is acquired through the sense of sight and visual learning as opposed to the 10% that is acquired through the sense of hearing. The rest of the knowledge acquired is done so through the other three senses.

In reality, the least effective way of transmitting knowledge to others is by merely talking; this has the weakest influence on the students. In contrast, the most effective way to teach is to use the "Learning by Doing" method, which requires enough time as well as sound experience.

What differentiate between the effectiveness of the two means of presentation are the tools used in the presentation. These tools aid the



students in effectively understanding and retaining the purpose of the lesson by engaging both senses of sight and sound. These tools may include audio-visual devices such as pictures and movies, spiritual trips and outings, role playing during class, intellectually stimulating games, etc.

### **C. Recording the lesson.**

It is recommended that the servant records the following during the preparation of the lesson:

- Date of the preparation of the lesson.
- Date of the delivery of the lesson.
- Title of the lesson.
- Purpose of the lesson.
- References.
- Preface.
- Lesson.
- Inference.
- Bible verse.
- Homework.
- Aids of presentation.
- Other points for memory.
- Songs.
- Personal reflections of the servant.

### **Purpose of the lesson:**

It is necessary for the servant to clearly understand the purpose of the lesson at the beginning of his preparation. It is also necessary that the purpose of the lesson should agree with the maturity level of the students. For example, it is more appropriate for children to learn about God's love; on the other hand, learning about the power of God in their lives and in the lives of the saints is more appropriate subject matter for youth. As for young adults, learning about Christian virtues and spiritual practices is most appropriate.

Most importantly, the purpose of the lessons should agree with Coptic Orthodox Christian teachings, whether in specific occasions or in general.

### **References:**

References could include:

- a. Stories, examples, verses, etc. from the Holy Bible.
- b. Spiritual books and literature.
- c. General educational books and literature.

Recording the references is very useful for the servant because it helps the servant to refer back to them, if forgotten.

### **Preface:**

The preface is the background of the lesson. It cultivates the thoughts of the students and directs their thoughts towards the lesson. This allows the lesson to be implanted in their minds and to, eventually, bear fruit.

It is important that the preface remain simple, short, and concise. The introduction could be in the form of focused questions, but should not be in the form of stories. Several stories in one lesson may deteriorate its effectiveness.

### **The Lesson:**

The lesson could be divided into the following sections:

1. Introduction - it should be quick and concise and related to the preface. It should introduce the lesson smoothly without interrupting the chain of thoughts.
2. Body of the lesson - it contains the principle subject of the lesson, and follows these guidelines:

- a. You must be accurate and careful when explaining theological concepts.
  - b. You must be careful when relating events and examples to elucidate the subject of the lesson, in order to properly guide the students' imagination without restricting it.
  - c. You must diligently expose the Coptic Orthodox doctrine in the lesson.
  - d. You should not use more than one story during the lesson and the story used should be relevant to the subject matter.
3. Focal Point - the point during the lesson at which the purpose of the lesson is clearly defined. (Examples: The Lord responds to the prayers of a needy person, or the angels come to give the saints their heavenly crowns and take them to heaven after many trials and persecutions.)
4. Conclusion - it should be, like the introduction, short and concise. It can summarize the purpose of the lesson, without introducing any new concepts.

### **Inferences:**

Inference is a method used to determine how much the students have absorbed and retained from the lesson. It should be in the form of questions with the following guidelines:

- a. They should clearly show the purpose of the lesson.
- b. They should suit the maturity of the students.
- c. They should be simple and direct.
- d. They should link to each other.
- e. They should not be 'Yes' or 'No' questions.
- f. They should each have one correct answer.

### **Bible Verse:**

The memorization of a Bible verse is an excellent way to help the students remember the purpose of the lesson. The chosen Bible verse should meet the following guidelines:

- a. It should show the purpose of the lesson clearly.
- b. It should be short which allows it to be easily memorized.
- c. Children can easily memorize, as well as understand it.

### **Homework:**

The height of your diligence in preparing the lesson is in choosing the proper and effective homework or application. The homework should have the following characteristics:

- a. It should contain practical applications that apply to everyday life.
- b. It should suit the maturity level of the students.
- c. It should help in mastering the comprehension and retention of the lesson.
- d. It should not include more than one instruction, in order to simplify the application of the lesson.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Teaching in Grade 2 (ages 7 to 8 years)**

1. This age range is characterized by an important mental developmental stage. A sense of cause and effect is developed, as well as an ability to organize and classify, and an interest in simple planning and carrying out a plan. We can see this reflected in their daily life.
2. There is now a far clearer consciousness of “justice” compared with previous experiences. The instinct of ownership was already present at an earlier age, but now there is a fairly clearer understanding of what is “mine” and “not mine”. Along with the sense of “law” and the conscious of “law breaking”, there is a growth, a development of finer feelings, compassion, the desire to protect someone weaker than oneself, and acceptance of certain moral standards.
3. Children at these ages will show interest in cause and effect, and, upon listening to Bible stories, will show interest in God’s plan for the world.
4. The story must be given without too many comments. Lessons should be accompanied by relevant hymns and class activities such as colouring, cutting and pasting pictures, etc.
5. Though it is too early to discuss with children the problem of suffering, and especially the sufferings of the innocent, it is sometimes unavoidable. We can establish in their minds the image of the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who was innocent and accepted suffering, but His suffering and death were not the end, because He rose from the dead. If the children have really assimilated the Passion and the Resurrection, we would have provided them with a basis for a Christian approach to the problem of suffering. They will have to deal intellectually with it at a later age.
6. In addition to all the above, the teacher should start with the simplest known facts, to lead the children discover the unknown. Children will end up loving the teacher, the class, the lessons and come eagerly to class.





**SEPTEMBER  
FIRST SUNDAY  
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Please read Mathew 6:9-15 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

To make sure that the whole class knows the "Lord's Prayer" by heart.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"Our Father who art in heaven" Matthew 6:9*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Lord Jesus used to pray on the mountaintop. The Disciples noticed that His prayers were different from those of the Pharisees. The latter wanted to pray in public to get recognition from the people.
- † The Disciples asked Jesus, "Lord teach us how to pray". They wanted to learn the spiritual way of praying.
- † Do we all know the "Lord's Prayer" by heart? Please go around the class and ask some children to recite it, ask them if they also know it in Arabic.
- † The Lord's Prayer starts with "Our Father who art in Heaven". God is our heavenly Father. He loves us. He looks after us. He guards us and provides us with all our needs. We must feel and believe that God is our Father. Please fully emphasize this point in class. David said, "The Lord is my shepherd".
- † The Lord's prayer is the most important prayer. It is the beginning of all the

personal prayers or prayers at home with the family and prayers in the church.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Always include “The Lord’s Prayer” at the beginning of every prayer.
2. Pray slowly.
3. Think carefully about what we are saying.

### **COLOURING**

#### **Songs**

#### **O MY CHILDREN**

*“Let the little Children come to Me, and do not forbid them: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 19:14)*

O my little  
You are so precious

dear children  
come to me.

Dear Lord Jesus  
We love You and praise you

Our God  
Our Lord.

I hear you praising  
My eyes upon you

and bless you  
all the time.

#### **Recitation Curriculum:**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



## NOTES

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*Jesus talks with the pharisees in the temple of Jerusalem*



**SEPTEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE LORD JESUS OBEYED HIS PARENTS**

**Please read Luke 2:41-52 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**Purpose of the lesson**

To learn that we should obey our parents as the Lord Jesus did.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“And He was subject to them” Luke 2:51*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † St. Mary, St. Joseph and the Lord Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It is the greatest feast for the Jews. Jesus was left behind among a crowd of people. After three days His worried parents found Him in the temple, discussing with some Pharisees. Jesus obediently left the temple and followed His parents to Nazareth.
- † Jesus is God, yet He wants to teach us a lesson by example. We must obey our parents.

**Why should we obey our parents?**

- † Because they love us. Whatever they ask us to do is for our benefit even if we do not understand it at first.
- † Because God told us to obey and honour our parents.

- † Because when we obey our parents, we receive God's blessings. Isaac obeyed Abraham when he told him to carry wood for the offering. Isaac did not know where they were going or what the offering was for, but he obeyed. Hence, he deserved to get the blessing of his father Abraham.
- † Ask the children if any one of them has disobeyed their parents even once. If they say they have always obeyed and never disobeyed their parents, verify if indeed they are telling the truth. If one of them admits to disobeying their parents sometimes, the teacher should praise that student for being truthful.
- † The consequence of disobedience is that we lose hope in God's help.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We must take the Lord Jesus as our example in everything that we do. As He was obedient to His parents, so we should be to ours.



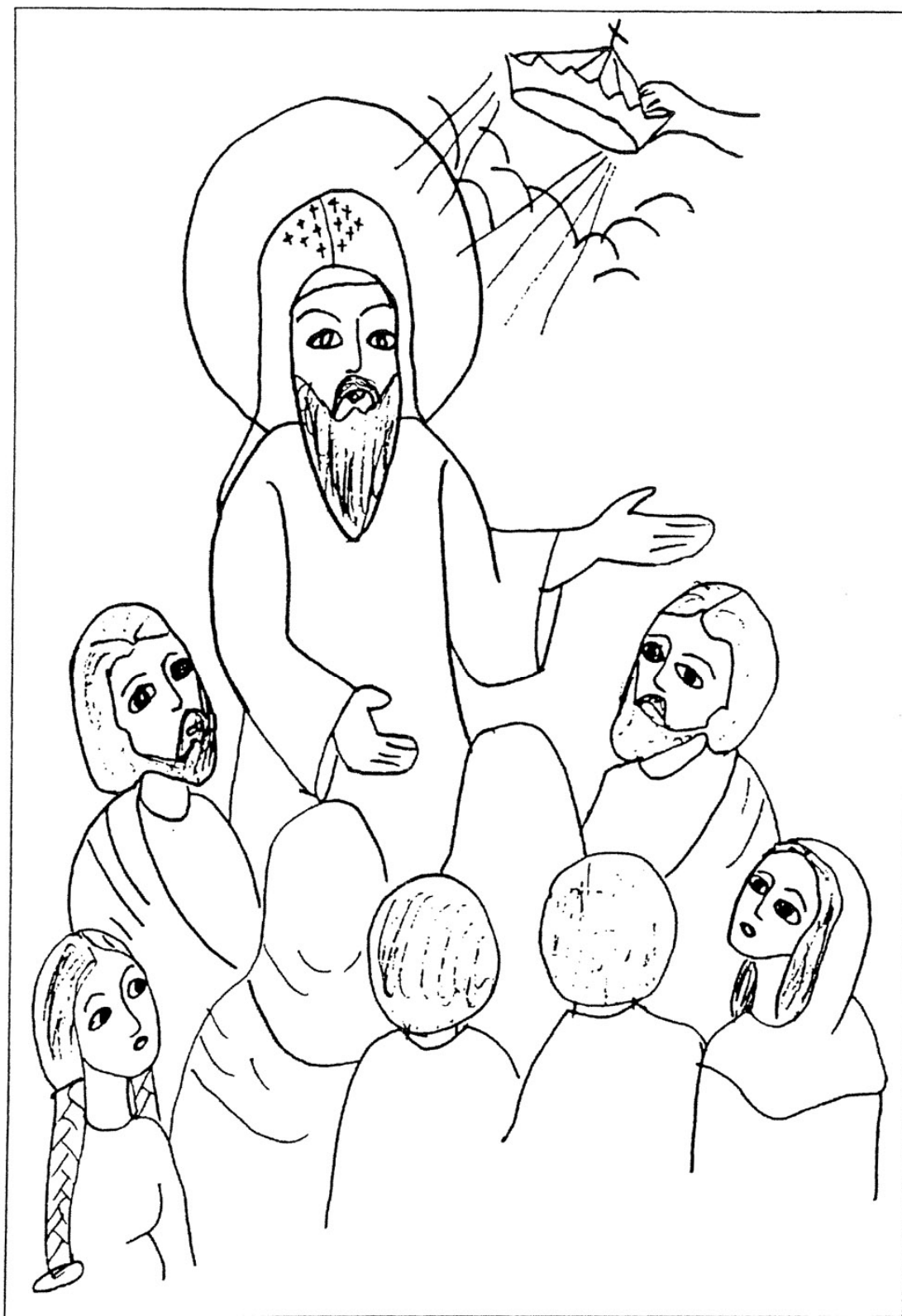
*St. Dolag with her children*



*Eriana, a pagan ruler, enters Esna to kill all the Christians there*



*El-Rashida tells Eriana where the Christians are*

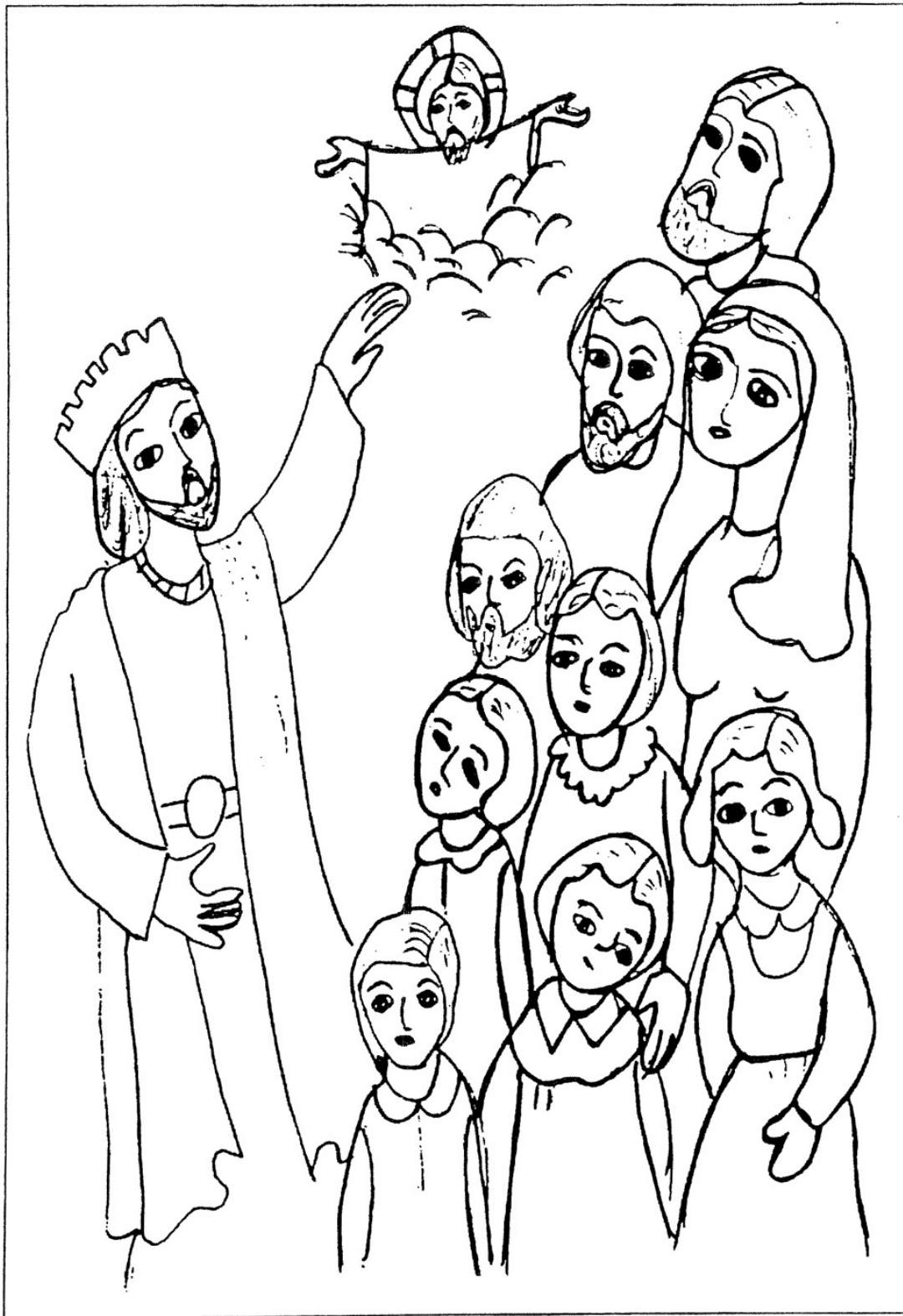


*Abba Ammonius, bishop of Esna, urges people to martyrdom*





*A soldier being offered food, later converts to Christianity*



*The Christians welcome the ruler as Christ receives their souls*

## **Songs**

### **AM A CHRISTIAN**

*“ And they shall reign forever and ever.”*

I am a C.  
I am a C.H.  
I am a C.H.R.I.T.I.A.N.  
And I have C.H.R.I.S.T  
In my H.E.A.R.T.  
And I will L.I.V.E. E.T.E.R.N.A.L.L.Y.

### **Recitation Curriculum:**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*St. Dolag encourages her children to die in the name of Christ*



**SEPTEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**EL-NAYROUZ FEAST - “ESNA” AND ST. DOLAGY**

**Please read the attached material entitled “In Memory of our Martyrs”. Please take also the colouring story, “Esna”, with you to the class and provide copies to the children to colour at home and bring it back the next class.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

To know the history of celebrating the new year called the “Coptic year”, in memory of all the people who loved the Lord Jesus and sacrificed everything for Him.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Blessed is Egypt My people” Isaiah 19:25*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Julian calendar has 12 months. The Coptic year (Nayrouz) has 13 months, and starts in September or about the beginning of the school year.
- † Tell the children the story of Esna and let them colour the pictures.
- † Several things happened in Esna - a city in Egypt- that showed that the people loved God and had faith. They wanted to earn the crown of martyrdom.
- † The most important thing for us is to have a place in heaven. We learn from the martyrs that we must be ready to obey all the commandments to maintain our place in heaven.

## WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. We must love our Christianity and our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. . Even if the whole world wants us to abandon our Christianity and our faith, we must say NO.

## Colouring

## Songs

### AM A CHRISTIAN

*“ And they shall reign forever and ever.”*

I am a C.

I am a C.H.

I am a C.H.R.I.T.I.A.N.

And I have C.H.R.I.S.T

In my H.E.A.R.T.

And I will L.I.V.E. E.T.E.R.N.A.L.L.Y.

### Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

## **In Memory of Our Martyrs**

The El Nayrouz Feast is the beginning of the Egyptian year, which is a very old one. The ancient pharaohs created this system 5000 years before the birth of Jesus, naming its months after the names of their ancient Egyptian gods. The Egyptian year has 13 months, namely: Tout, Baba, Hatour, Kyahk, Toubas, Amsheer, Baramhat, Baramouda, Bashense, Baouna, Abib, Messra and El-Nassey. Each month is 30 days in length, except for the last one, El-Nassey, which is only 5 days long.

Until now, the Egyptian farmers use the Coptic year system in their time frames for agricultural activities.

Egypt only used the Egyptian year system until the French came to Egypt in the era of Ismail Pasha. They introduced the Western year system (January February...). In the years of Diocletian, the numbers of martyrs increased tremendously. The year 284 A.D., in which over 200,000 Copts received the crown of martyrdom, was called "Anno Martiri", or "Martyrs' year".

Today the church celebrates this special period "NAYROUZ FEAST," which is also the MARTYRS' FEAST. . This celebration goes on for 17 days until the "Feast of the Cross". During the Coptic year (which is the Egyptian year), the church system, e.g., the feasts, fasting, and readings, are divided into the following rounds:

### **ROUND #1**

This is the Nayrouz round in which the church celebrates the memory of the martyrs who established the church on the basis of their faith and blood (Tout).

### **ROUND #2**

The church celebrates the mystery of the birth of Jesus, from our Lady St. Mary (Kyahk). This ends at Christmas.

### **ROUND #3**

The Baptism of Jesus and the unity of the Holy Trinity Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Tout).

**ROUND #4**

**The Younan Feast and the preparation for the holy forty-day fast (Touba).**

**ROUND #5**

The Holy Fast (Amsheer-Baramhat).

**ROUND #6**

The Easter celebration (Baramouda- Bashense).

**ROUND #7**

Mission month and the Disciples' fast (Abib).

**ROUND #8**

St. Mary's Fast (Messra).

**ROUND #9**

The short month (El-Nassey), and all the readings in the church in this month are about the end of the world.

I hope you are constantly aware of these occasions as the church celebrates these nine rounds during the year. Live in the system; remember it, learn from it and get its blessings.



## NOTES

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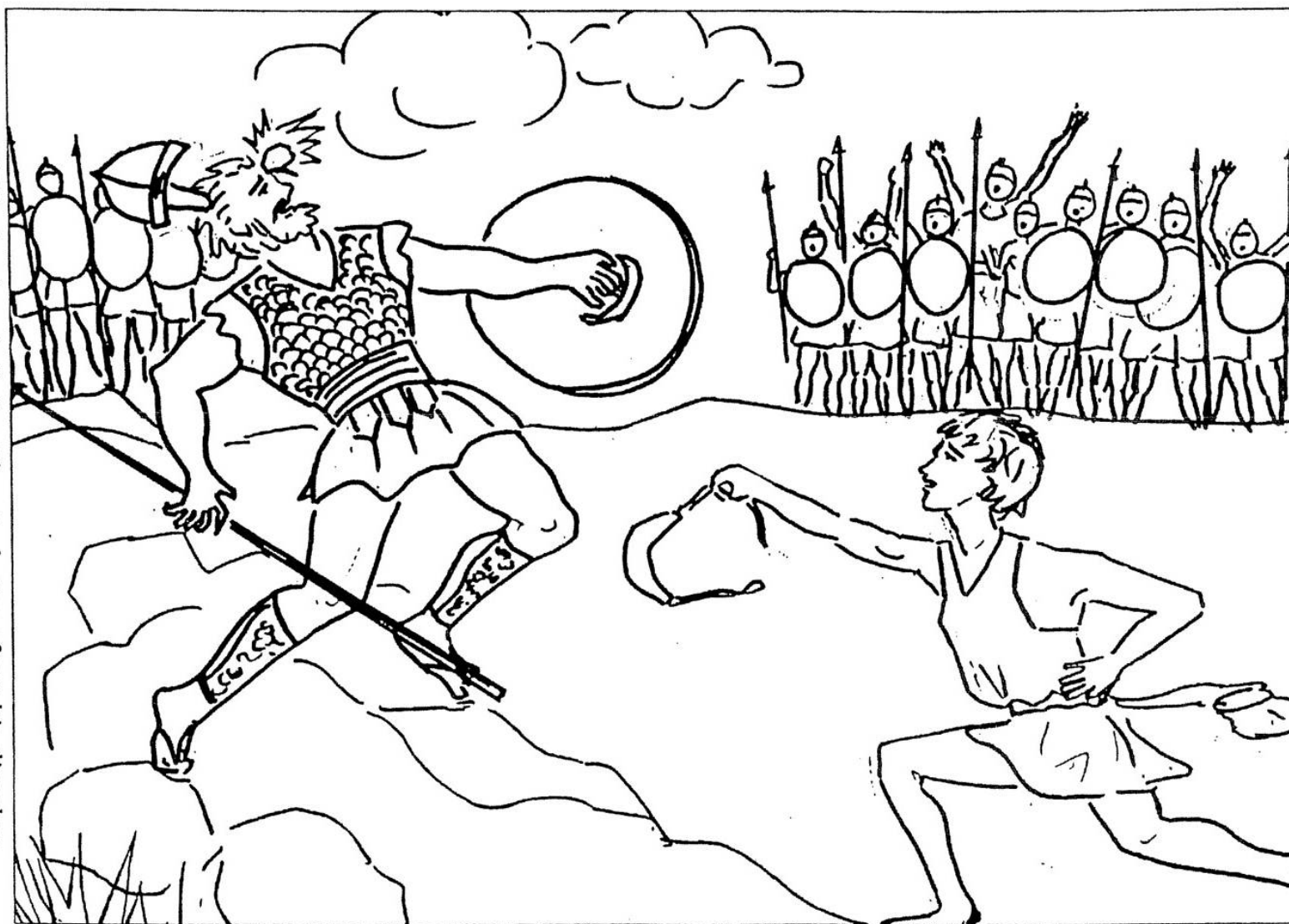
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*David kills the giant Goliath with a single stone from his slingshot*





**SEPTEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**"DAVID AND GOLIATH"**

**Please read 1 Samuel 17:26-50 and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

To know that God gives strength to every one of us.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“You came to me with a sword, a spear and a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts” 1 Samuel 17:45*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Tell the story of David in detail as described in the Bible. Emphasize that David took five stones from the valley and only one of them was enough to destroy Goliath. He kept the rest as a reminder of God’s support for him and for all the believers.
- † Goliath was very strong in the eyes of all people. He posed a big problem for King Saul because no one could out-power the giant. Goliath insulted the people of God and challenged all of God’s believers to fight him.
- † There were a lot of people in King Saul’s camp who were bigger, stronger and older than David. However, David relied completely on the arm of God.

**Who was fighting Goliath?**

David was fighting with the strength and the help of God. If it were not for God’s help, it would have been impossible for David to defeat Goliath.

David was a prophet and also became king of Israel. He was a man of prayer and he wrote the Psalms.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. There is nothing too difficult for us to do if we ask the help of God. We only have to pray and take the proper steps as He guides us.
2. As God helped David, He can help us against the devil.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **GOD IS DWELLING IN MY HEART**

*“For our heart shall rejoice in Him because we have trusted in His holy name.” (Ps 33:21)*

#### **REFRAIN**

God is dwelling in my heart  
All His joy He gives to me

He and I are one  
through Christ his Son.

And with Jesus in my heart  
For He is the Son of God

what have I to fear?  
in my heart, He is near.

Christians who are baptized  
The great mystery

have you ever realized  
God dwells in you and me.

This joy God gave to you  
Show them that God is love

share it then with others too  
lift their hearts above.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## NOTES

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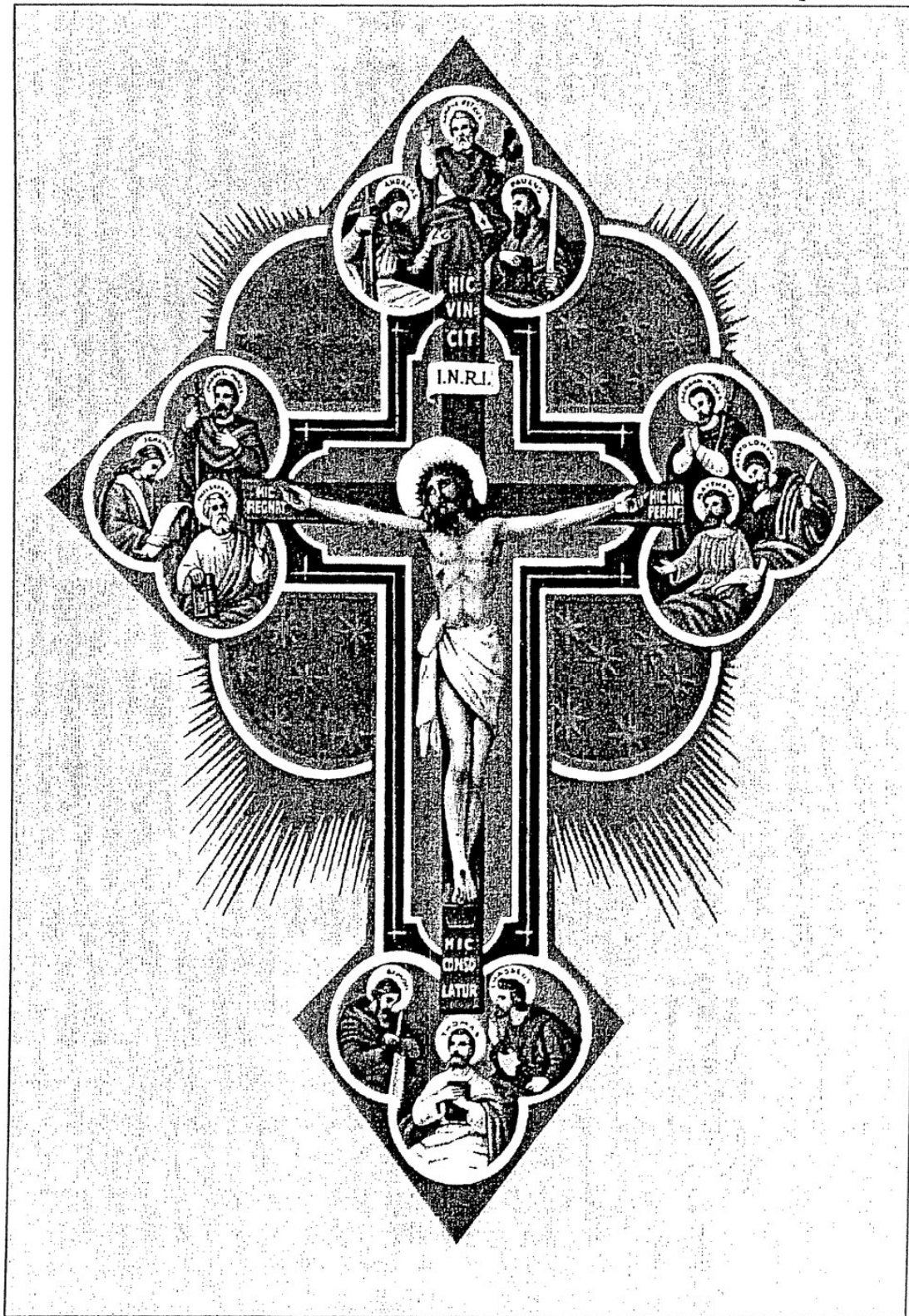
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*Jesus died on the cross to save mankind*



**SEPTEMBER  
FIFTH SUNDAY**

**"THE FEAST OF THE CROSS" - WE ARE THANKFUL TO BE  
CHRISTIANS**

**Please read the attached material, and give the lesson with the emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

1. To familiarize the children with the finding and the celebration of the Cross.
2. To realize the power of crossing ourselves.

**MEMORY STATEMENT**

*My Lord Jesus keep me near the cross*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ The miracles made through the Cross appearance in the sky.
- ✝ Crossing ourselves  
We cross ourselves in our prayers and in the Holy Sacraments of the church because it is very beneficial to us and agrees with what is mentioned in the Holy Bible.
- ✝ The Cross is the subject of glory  
(Galatians 6:14), "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ".
- ✝ The Cross is the subject of strength  
(1 Corinthians 1:18) "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God".  
St. Paul mentioned here that only "the word of the Cross" is the power of

God. Therefore, when we mention the word of the cross, or cross ourselves, we are filling ourselves with strength. The sign of the Cross is the shield of the soul.

- ✝ The devil is very scared of the sign of the Cross  
Every time we cross ourselves the devil becomes very afraid because he remembers that on the Cross, Jesus Christ defeated him and gave salvation to His people. The devil then escapes from the Sign of the Cross.
- ✝ The Cross-Day Feast in the Coptic Church  
The Coptic Church observes two feasts in honour of the Holy Cross of Christ. . The first feast is celebrated, on 17th Toot (about 28th Sept.), and it commemorates the consecration of the Church of the Holy Cross which was built by the Empress Helena, the mother of Constantine.  
The second feast is celebrated, on 10th Baramhaat (about the 19th of March), to commemorate the discovery of the Holy Cross by the same empress.
- ✝ STORY:  
One time the bad people caught St. George and they wanted him to worship the idols. He refused and made the sign of the cross on these idols and they fell down in pieces. So they gave him a drink filled with poison, he made the sign of the cross on it and drank it. No harm came upon him. Then they tied his hands at his back and gave him a bad drink filled with poison to kill him. St. George made the sign of the cross on the drink with his head and drank. Once again he was unharmed.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We are thankful to be Christians, to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Cross.
2. We love the Lord Jesus who died for us on the Cross and rose from the dead making the cross always a source of strength for us.
3. We must always make the sign of the cross on ourselves before we sleep and after we get up in the morning... etc.



## Colouring

## Songs

### MY CROSS

My cross, my cross my  
I place you on my bosom

glory is in you!  
and in my bedroom too.

### REFRAIN

My cross, my cross  
But in my heart, my cross

you're made of lowly wood  
you're more precious than gold

My cross, my cross  
I sign you every morning

is with me everywhere  
and whenever I fear

My cross, my cross  
the pledge of my success

My victory's in you  
in whatever I do

### Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

### **THE CROSS' APPEARANCE**

The Cross' appearance happened three times, as follows:

First time, when it appeared in the sky for Emperor Constantine the Great, to give him encouragement before he went to the war. He and his officers saw it as a pillar of light in the sky surrounded by the following words: "With it (the Cross) you will conquer. Constantine was encouraged, became a Christian, went to the war, and was victorious.

The second time, the Cross appeared for Aelius Caesar at the doors of the city of Natakia. It appeared in the east like a pillar of light, which startled all those who saw it.

The third time, the Cross appeared to all the people of Jerusalem. This happened in the sacred days of the Fifties' Feast, on the 8th of May in the year 351 A.D. at the third hour (about 9 a.m.). The Cross appeared in the sky on Golgotha stretching up to the Mountain of Olives. It was very clear and seen by all the people of the city. It stayed many hours shining brighter than the sun's rays. All the city people, old and young, men and women of all ages, Christians and non-Christians from all places, came out to see the apparition. They were astounded and even scared. However, they felt great joy witnessing that heavenly apparition and every one of them praised Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **THE FEAST OF THE CROSS**

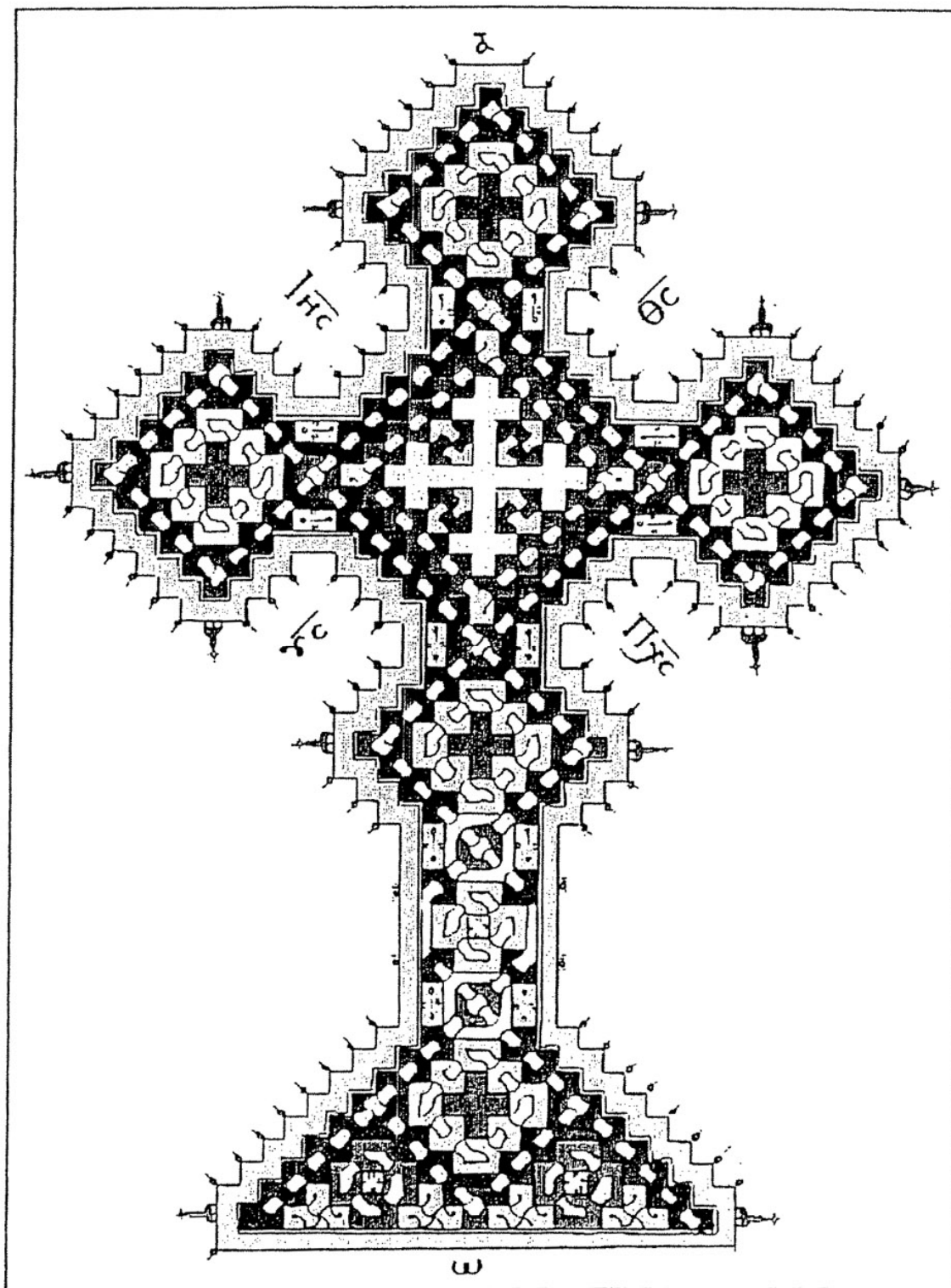
On the Feast of the Cross we remember the appearance of the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Jews got angry because of the large number of miracles performed by Jesus. They asked everyone in the Jewish country to collect waste matter and put it on top of Golgotha, where Jesus died on the Cross. The Jewish people continued to do that for over 200 years until it formed a very large pile of dirt.

St Helena went to the place the Jews put the garbage, which used to be called Golgotha, and where our Lord Jesus was crucified in the same time with two evil doers. St. Helena had brought a big bag of gold coins. She then asked her servants to find some people who will be willing to dig in the pile of dirt for her. Her servants found some people who- for some gold- accepted to do the work. They started to dig and the story goes that deeper they dug more money they asked for. They found three crosses and they brought them to St. Helena. The crosses looked more or less the same. St. Helena did not know which one was the Lord Jesus' cross.

It is said that at precisely that moment a burial convey was passing by, and a young man, the only son of a widow, was to be buried.

St. Helena inspired by the Holy Spirit, asked the widow for permission to touch only the casket with the crosses. They received permission and the servants holding each cross touched the margin of the casket. Only when they touched the casket's margin with the third cross, the young man who was dead was raised from the death. St. Helena then knew which cross was Jesus' and she took it with her.

St. Helena did that because she loved the Lord Jesus Christ and believed in the power of the Cross. It appeared to her and to King Constantine before he went to the war, which he won.





**OCTOBER  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE LORD LOVES US -  
“ THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON ”**

**Please read Luke 15:11-32, and give the lesson with the emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

To realize that if we did something wrong and came back to God, He joyfully accepts us back. But we have to be quick to say sorry and repent whenever we do something bad.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“I will arise and go to my father” Luke 15:18*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please act out the parable of the prodigal son in class. Try to tell it in an expressive, dramatic way.
- † The Lord Jesus taught the people using parables. What is a parable? It is an illustration of an idea in a way that people will easily understand.
- † Let us clarify the role of every person in the parable:  
**The father** represents God. He is kind. He loves His children. He wants His children to be near Him all the time. The father is also very rich.

**The young son** wanted money, pleasure and desired to live on his own. He did not listen to his father. He went away and committed many sins. After some time, he starved and his life was in danger. He came back immediately (see memory verse).

**The elder son** thought only of himself. He did not appreciate the return of his brother, who was dead in sin but alive in the flesh. Do we love our brothers and sisters? Let us not do as the older son did. Let us care for our brothers and sisters.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Our Lord Jesus loves us. When we do something bad we must ask for forgiveness from Him, confess to Abouna and then Jesus will accept us back and bless us. Do not delay repentance. The effect of sin on us is very severe. It makes us miserable. But living with God will make us very peaceful and happy.
2. We must learn to say sorry whenever we do any mistake to anyone



*The prodigal son feels miserable after leaving his father's home*

## **Songs**

### **O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES**

*“The lamp of the body is the eyes. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.” (Mat 6:22)*

O be careful little eyes what you see (2)  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
So be careful little eyes what you see.

O be careful little mouth what you say (2)  
For the Father up above is looking down in love  
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### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**





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in the class



*Peter, the jewelry maker, accepts a ring to be fixed at his shop*



**OCTOBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**“THE LORD LOVES US”  
“THE STORY OF PETER, THE JEWELRY MAKER”**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

To learn that God loves us and protects us from bad things. Hence, we should glorify the name of the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Praise the Lord for His mighty acts” Ps. 150:2*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Lord loves every one of us. We must correct our notion of the Lord. He does not want or like to punish us. He is our heavenly Father who wants us to be with Him. He protects us from all evil powers.
- † Peter, the jewelry maker who was saved by his wife’s strong faith.
- † There was a good Christian man named Peter. He worked as a jewelry maker. He made chains, crosses, and a lot of other things. He used to go to church regularly. He loved God and took communion every Sunday.
- † There was a bad man who worshipped idols. He hated Peter and wanted to hurt him because Peter loved God. That bad man was the secretary of one of the ministers of the government. The minister wanted to add a top to his ring. He gave it to his secretary (the bad man). The man thought, “This is a good chance to do a trick and get rid of Peter, the jewelry maker”.

- ✝ He went to Peter and gave him the ring and told him that it belonged to the government minister and that Peter had to do it well and fast. . Peter took the ring and put it on the desk. While Peter was talking to other customers, the bad man stole the ring and left the shop. He then threw the ring into the river. When Peter found out the ring was gone he became very upset and worried of what the minister's reaction might be. He closed the shop and went home.
- ✝ He told his wife about what had happened. She told him the power of the Lord was with them and told him not to be afraid. The next day, he went to his shop but he was too distraught to do any work. A man who sold fish regularly came by Peter's shop to sell him fish. Peter said, "No, not today". The fisherman told him he had good fish and insisted Peter should buy some. Peter refused again. The fisherman went to Peter's house and sold the fish to his wife. When she opened up the first fish something was shining inside of it. It was a ring! When her husband came home from the shop he could not believe what happened. God had saved his life!

The power of God protects us. So let us praise His name for His mighty acts.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. God looks from up above and watches over us to protect us and nothing can hurt us if we belong to Him.
2. The bad people cannot hurt the church because the "gates of Hades" cannot over-power us or the church congregation.

## **Songs**

### **O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES**

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### **Recitation Curriculum :**

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**OCTOBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD -  
"ST. JOHN THE DWARF AND THE FRUIT OF OBEDIENCE"**

**Please read the attached material entitled "St. John the Dwarf".**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about obedience from St. John the Dwarf as our church celebrates his departure on the 20th of Baba. If we love God we must obey his commandments.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"I will praise you, Oh Lord my God, with all my heart" Ps. 86:12*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✝ At the age of eighteen St. John the Dwarf wanted to live all his life with God. He loved God very much. Do we love God? How do we show our love for God? (Let the children answer).
- ✝ He went to Abba Ammos who, at first, did not accept him as a disciple. One time Abba Ammos gave John a stick and told him to plant and water it. Can a stick really bear fruit? Of course not. But John obeyed anyhow. He took the stick and did what Abba Ammos told him to do. After three years the stick became a tree and brought forth fruit. Abba Ammos picked some fruit and showed it to the people saying, "This is the fruit of obedience".
- ✝ Can we obey our parents even if we do not agree with or understand them sometimes? We should learn to do that. We can discuss matters with our parents but we must also obey them.

✝ St. John the Dwarf performed several miracles. When he was ordained a priest a voice came from heaven saying: “Axios, Axios, Axios,” which means “he deserves, he deserves, he deserves”. He knew when he was giving communion to people who deserved it and who did not.

✝ One very hot day the monks entered his room. There they found three angels blowing some cold air on John.

✝ When God already wanted St. John to leave this world, He sent to him St. Anthony and St. Paul to comfort and assure him of having a life with Jesus, who is waiting for him. May His blessings be with us.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. If we love God we must listen to His commandments. He asked us, for our own benefits, to be obedient.
2. God gave us His commandments out of His love. He does not want to give us orders. He cares only about our benefits.



## **Songs**

### **O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES**

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### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **ST. JOHN THE DWARF**

John the Dwarf, son of poor parents in Tesse, was born around 389 A.D. This story tells us about his youth at home before he became a monk, while he was living with his family. At the age of eighteen he went to Scetis and was trained by Abba Ammos for twelve years. Being one of the most visible characters in the desert, he attracted many disciples. In order to preserve his solitude he dug a cave for himself. After he was ordained priest, a number of his sayings, recorded and preserved showed how important he was to his disciples. After 407 A.D. he went to Suez and to the mountain of Anthony.

Abba John the Dwarf was known to be withdrawn from public life and lived in the desert at Scetis with an old man of Thebes. His Abba, taking a piece of dry wood, planted it and said to him, "Nourish it everyday with a bottle of water until it bears fruit".

The water source was so far away that he had to leave in the evening and return the following morning. At the end of three years the wood came to life and bore fruit. The old man then took some of the fruit and carried it to the church, saying to the brethren, "Take and eat of the fruit of obedience".

Abba John the Dwarf was also known to have one day said to his elder brother, "I would like to be free of all care, like the angels who do not work, but ceaselessly worship God". So he took off his cloak and went away into the desert.

After a week he came back to his brother. When he knocked on the door, he heard his brother saying from inside, "Who are you?" He said, "I am John, your brother," but the brother replied, "John has become an angel, and henceforth he is no longer among men. Then John begged him, saying, "It is I". However, his brother did not let him in, but left him outside, forlorn, until morning.

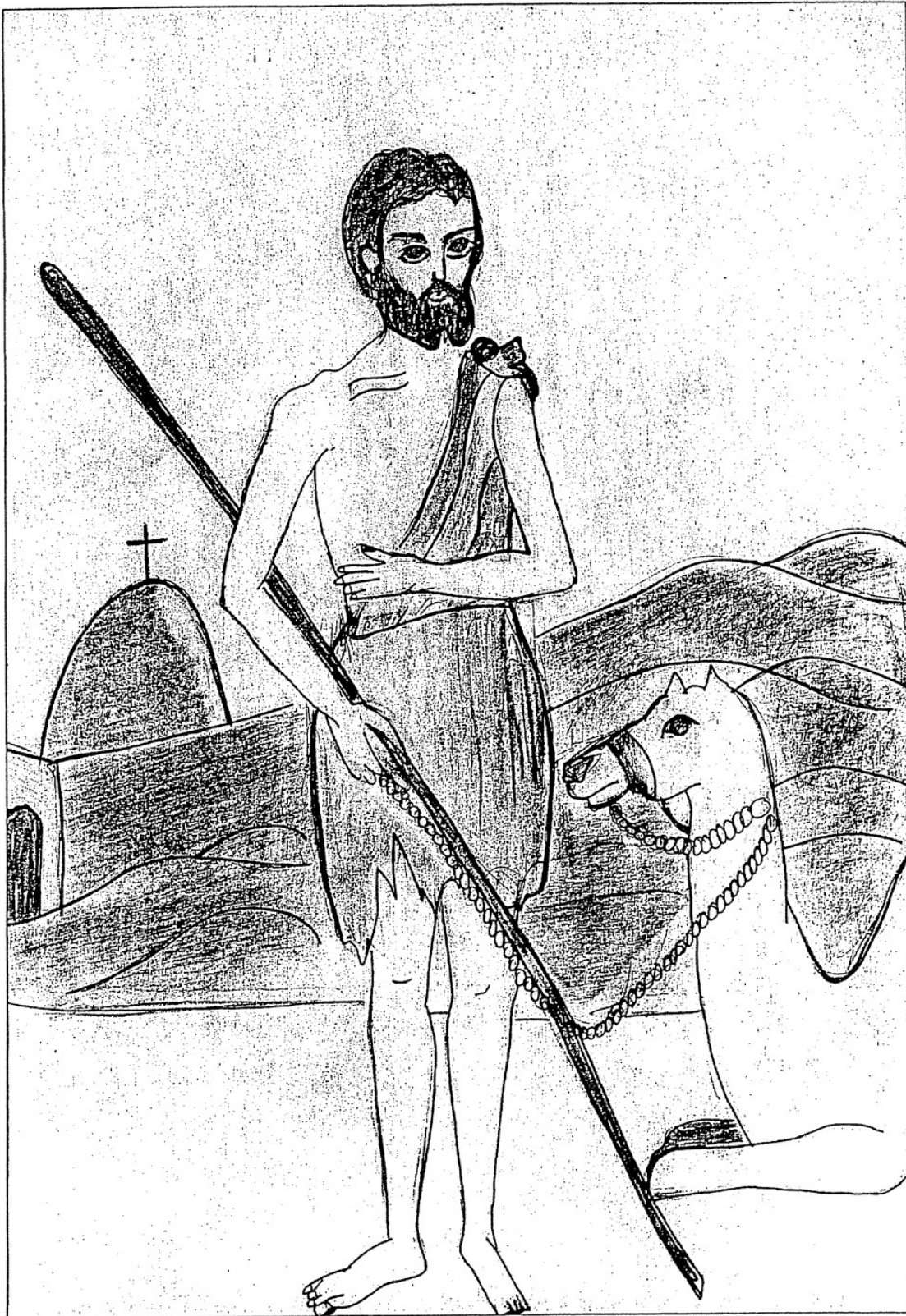
Opening the door that morning, the brother told John, "You are a man and you must once again work in order to eat". Then John lay prostrate before his brother, begging for his forgiveness.

Some old men were entertaining themselves at Scetis by having a meal together. Abba John was one of them. A venerable priest got up to offer a drink, but nobody, except John the Dwarf, accepted it from him. Surprised, they said to him, "How is it that you, the youngest, dared to let yourself be served by the priest?"

He replied to them, "When I got up to offer a drink, I am glad when everyone accepts it. That is the reason why I accepted it, so the priest also might gain his reward and not grieve by seeing no one accept anything from him". When they

heard this, they were filled with wonder at Abba John's discretion.

Abba Poemen told Abba John the Dwarf that he had prayed to God to take Abba John's passions away from him so that he might become free from care. Abba John then went and told an old man this: "I find myself in peace, without an enemy". The old man said to him, "Go beseech God to stir up warfare so that you may regain the affliction and humility that you used to have, for it is by warfare that the soul makes progress". So Abba John beseeched God and, when warfare came, he no longer prayed that it might be taken away, but said, "Lord give me strength for the fight".



*Abba Rueiss with his faithful camel, which he also named Rueiss*



**OCTOBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD -  
"THE LIFE OF ABBA RUEISS"**

**Please read the attached material entitled “Abba Rueiss”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn that we must not ask for too many things; Abba Rueiss had nothing. If we truly love God we must not fall in love with materialistic things.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“The Lord will strengthen him” Ps. 41:3*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

† Abba Rueiss had a very simple life. He was born in a village in Egypt. His parents called him Freig. He owned a camel on which he used to carry salt to sell. He named his camel Rueiss. The camel obeyed him and was loyal to him. The saint humbly called himself by the name of his camel.

† He traveled on foot to Cairo from his village because he was very poor. When he became tired, two angels came and carried him to a church in Cairo where he was given communion.

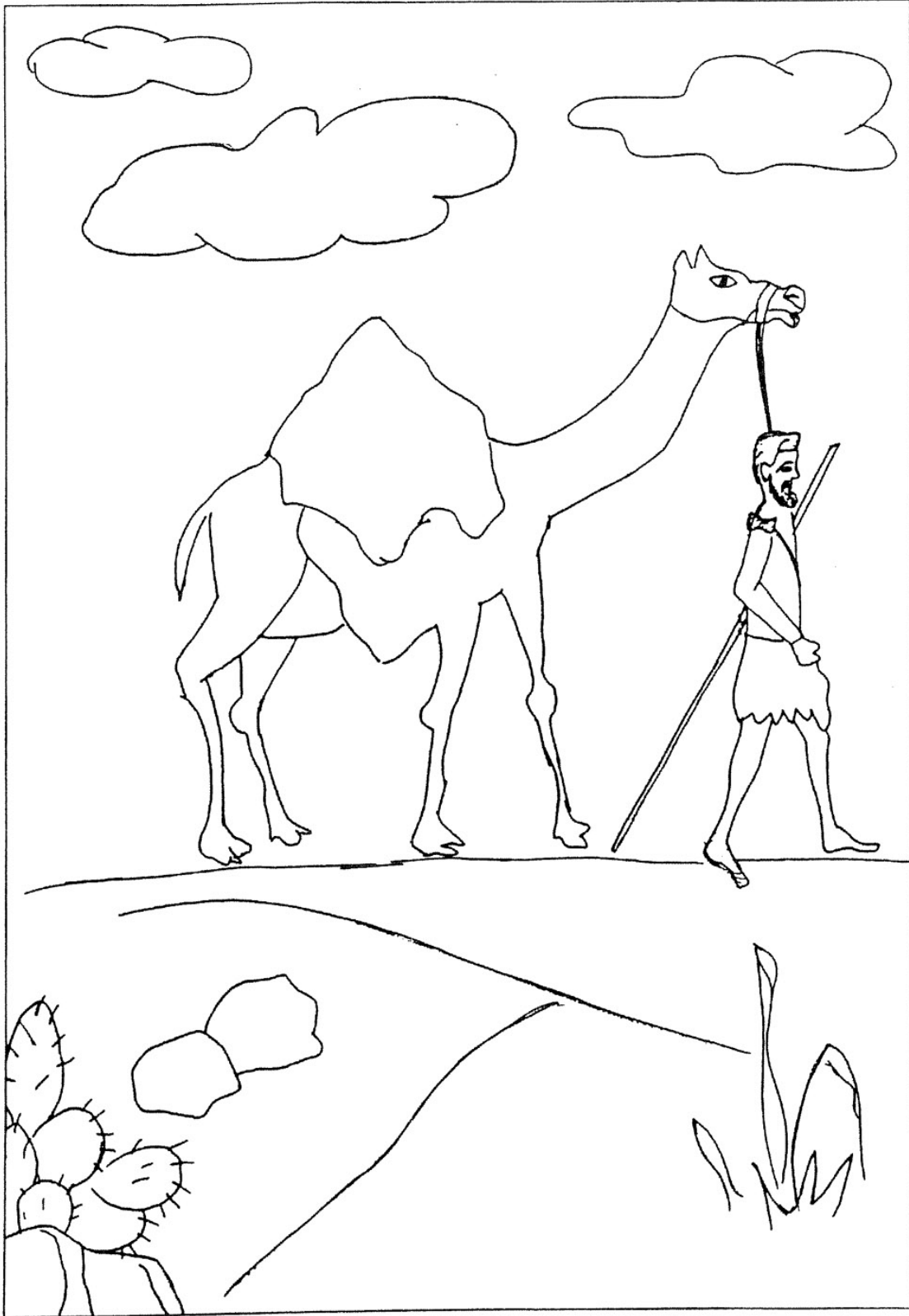
† He had two goals in life: to dedicate his life to God whom he loved and to strengthen the faith of the harassed Copts. At the same time he worked with his hands, as he was very poor. He was very careful in taking communion. He always felt unworthy to take

communion. Who is worthy in this class to take communion? None. We must be pure in order to be worthy to take the Body and Blood of Jesus inside us. We must be very careful before taking communion.

- ✝ Some people stoned Abba Rueiss but he remained still. Why? He wanted to do as Jesus did. Do we hit back when we are hit by people? We must never hit back as God is always there to save and protect us. But we must avoid this kind of people who can hit us.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Even if the whole world gives first priority to money and possessions, we must give first priority to our spiritual life as Abba Rueiss did.
2. We must not be demanding a lot of toys, clothes, candy, etc. from our parents.



*Abba Rueiss travels with his camel to sell salt*

## **Songs**

### **O BE CAREFUL LITTLE EYES**

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### **Recitation Curriculum :**

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### **Abba Rueiss**

Abba Rueiss was born in the village of Miniest Yamin (130 km north of Cairo). His parents named him Freig. Because they had a very frugal and simple life, he had to labour at his tender age. At times he tilled the earth, at others he carried the harvest. . He owned a small camel on which he used to carry salt to sell. A touching friendship linked him to his camel, because it responded to him by bowing its head. He called it Rueiss, meaning a small head. The camel used to put its head against Freig's cheek as if kissing him. Later on the saint, in his humility, took the name of his camel. It is the name by which he is now known.

Early in Abba Rueiss' life, persecution was so rampant that many Copts weakened and denounced their religion. Among them was Freig's father. This greatly saddened Freig. He kept praying for his father with groaning and tears until his father repented with much remorse. Freig was twenty then, and decided to flee to Cairo. Being poor, he journeyed on foot. After walking two days, at the end, he felt so weary that he lay on the ground and slept. He had a dazzling dream: two men in shining clothes carried him up to heaven and entered into a church filled with celestial beings.

He heard a voice telling him, "You are hungry. Come, eat of the food of life". His two luminous guides led him to the altar, and he partook of the Holy Eucharist. . Thus refreshed, his friends brought him back to earth.

When he woke up, he decided to travel south. For several years he moved from town to town and from village to village in the Upper Egypt. He had two objectives: To free himself from blood ties, and to struggle and strengthen the faith of the harassed Copts. At the same time, he worked with his hands. Thus, like his Lord, he had nowhere to lay his head on, and like St. Paul he earned his living through the sweat of his labour. He satisfied himself with very little food and spent his wages on others, oftentimes sending some of them to his father. Also, he was like John the Baptist in that he only covered his loins. He went about bareheaded and barefoot with a naked trunk. In his extreme asceticism, he trained himself in abstinence, to the extent of being able to live without food for twenty-six days in a row.

He was faithful in partaking of the Holy Eucharist although he was filled with awe as he approached the altar. The administering priest used to see him go back a step or two before coming forward to partake of the Eucharist. On being asked, he admitted that he was unworthy of this perfect food that he also could see the angel with outstretched wings watching over the offering.

One day as he stood beside a priest who was baptizing a baby, he exclaimed, “Worthy indeed”, for he saw the Seraphim and the Cherubim hovering over the baptismal pool. Soon his sanctity became known to all as he settled at Deir El-Khandaq (Cairo). Many disciples gathered around him, and some of them followed him wherever he went. Often the rabbi threw stones at him because of his outward appearance. But he had trained himself to be silent in the face of any disdain.

One day while on an errand, some evil people stoned Abba Rueiss. As usual he remained silent. Mistaking him for being dead the stoners, so they left him lying wounded on the ground. His disciples found him and carried him to a nearby store to care for him. As they were tending to him, they saw a fire in one corner of the store and were frightened. He smothered away their fears, saying, “Think not of it as a fire, it is the Light of our Lord Jesus Christ who appeared now because it is said, “The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing.” PS (4 1:3)”.

The Almighty God also endowed Abba Rueiss with another very rare talent, that of being able to transport himself from one place to another, transcending time and space. One day the wife of Frisee Mintash’s secretary was worried over her husband’s travel delay. He had gone with the prince to Syria, and had to stay more than the time he had told her he was going to be gone for. In her worry she went to the man of God and said, “I am very upset because my husband should have come home days ago from Syria I have had no word from him”. He stood up to pray and seemed in a deep trance. A whole hour passed. Then he came and said to the woman, “Be at peace, your husband was in danger but is safe now”. She went home feeling reassured.

When her husband came back, she asked him what had happened. He said, “On our way back, the prince went ahead of us. The soldiers, knowing that the prince had entrusted me with his money wanted to take it from me, threatening to kill me. Suddenly I saw a man bareheaded and barefoot with only a goat skin on his shoulder, come to my rescue with his men. They surrounded me and accompanied me until we arrived at the gates of Cairo, then, they disappeared even before I had a moment to thank them or know who they were”. The woman said with joy, “I know him, come with me that we may thank him together”. As soon as the man saw Abba Rueiss, he exclaimed, “Indeed this was my rescuer!” They offered him some money after thanking him, but he said, “Keep your money for yourself. Be assured that the Sultan will appoint you in his dismay for six years”. His words came true. When Prince Sadon tyrannized Abba Matheous, he went to Abba

Rueiss and questioned him on his life and works, but received no answer. So he ordered his soldiers to beat him with four hundred lashes. As usual he kept absolute silence. Sadon, infuriated by his silence, ordered the men to stop, tie him to a camel's back after dressing him up as a clown, and parade him through the streets of Cairo, abusing him and throwing bad eggs and pebbles at him. In spite of all that abuse, Abba Rueiss remained silent. The abusers, finding him almost unconscious, untied him and threw him in prison with one of his disciples. But the Lord of Glory appeared to him and healed him.

Abba Rueiss found eighty Copts in prison. They had been there for months. Seeing the saint, they fell at his feet and implored him to pray for their delivery from bondage. He lifted up his eyes toward heaven and prayed in secret. Hardly had he said Amen", when Abba Matheous came in bringing them the order of release.

When the patriarch of St. Mark's Church himself was in prison, Abba Rueiss was at the time in his usual retreat. One of the Patriarch's disciples went to reproach him, saying, "What are you doing, O man of God, when the Father Patriarch is in jail? Are you not praying for him?" At these words, the saint stood up, lifted his eyes up to heaven and said in a whisper.

"Our Blessed Lady will save him". At that instant, the disciple saw a cross of light in the sky from which a white dove emerged and spread her wings over the head of Abba Matheous. He also heard Abba Rueiss saying, "O Matheous, rest assured that the Beautiful Dove, whom you serve has gone out to save you". The disciple went to prison and related to the patriarch all that he had seen and heard. Even while he was yet speaking, a prince who was antagonistic to Sodom broke open the prison gate and released Abba Matheous and all those who were with him. They all went straight to the church of the Blessed Virgin and offered their prayer of thanksgiving.

Abba Rueiss did not only foretell the Patriarch's release, but he was able to foretell many other things as well. One of the incidents he foretold was famine. Had the people not believed him and not stored enough seeds on time, the famine would have been fatal for them.

Abba Rueiss' protective care showed itself in his spiritual gift of curing the sick and comforting the troubled. Among many, he regained was a youth called Fakhr ad-Daola ibn Motamen or "Pride of the state, son of the trustworthy". This youth was both handsome and prominent. The Sultan tempted him with wealth and marriage. Consequently he renounced Christ, married a princess and lived the

life of ease and luxury in the Sultan's palace.

A year later, he felt as if he were being entangled in a mesh. Remorse filled his soul. In his anguish he went to Abba Rueiss and confessed to him, ending with the words, "O man of God! Have mercy on me, for the evil one has vanquished me and I do not know how to free myself". The saint replied, "Fear not, for he shall have no sway over you. I have seen you wrestling with him and overthrowing him. Therefore, I support you and wrestle with you until your final triumph. Go live in the monastery of St. Anthony and I shall implore God to make the Sultan forget you". Fakhr ad Duola obeyed with confidence. He strove valiantly to gain spiritual perfection. When the youth heard of the Sultan's death he went and thanked Abba Rueiss. He then returned to the monastery where he lived in peace until his last breath.

Providence gave Abba Rueiss a long life in spite of all the beatings and sufferings he sustained and the hardships he endured. The last nine years of his life, however, were spent lying on the ground because of his weakness. But the people continued to flock around him seeking his comforting words, his counsel or healing prayers, which he continued to give without hesitation. He was both a solicitous father and a sympathetic doctor.

When he saw the approach of his death, Abba Rueiss called his disciples and advised them to love and serve one another. Then he rested in the peace of the Lord and was buried in Dia.

Such was the love of Abba Rueiss for his disciples that they felt his care for them even after his death. One of them, named Soliman, was particularly attached to him and used to go with him to church at dawn. After his teacher passed away, he got up at dawn as usual, went to church, knocked at its door and said, "O man of god, open the door for me please and the door was opened for him promptly".

Abba Rueiss spent the rest of his life in the region, which had originally been known as Doir al Kadq, but came to be known as the Abba Rueiss Ground.

When Djawhec was building Cairo, the Copts had a monastery, which used to be known as the Monastery of the Saints because several Saints were buried in it. The plot of land, on which it stood, lay within the circumference of the inland plan of the city's builders. Djawhec drove them out of it and built on it the Husseiny Mosque. But, wanting to be just, he compensated them by giving them another plot of land on which they built the Monastery of Khandaq. Thus, that land came into the possession of the Copts ten centuries ago.

Three hundred years after Djawhec had given the land to the Copts, eleven churches stood within its boundaries. These churches remained standing for over a century but were destroyed in 1341 during the reign of the Sultan.

The Copts built two churches; one named after the Archangel Gabriel and the other after St. Mercurious. The latter became known as the Abba Rueiss Church after his burial in it. The Archangel Church was destroyed in 1313 A.D. and was replaced by a new one named after the Holy Virgin.

As the years sped by, the church ground was used mainly as a cemetery. When Cairo's population grew- and the inhabited sections extended beyond the original spot -the Egyptian government asked the Coptic Patriarch at the time to stop using it as a cemetery. And it offered the Copts the plot of land known as Al Gabel al Abram in the desert outskirts of the city to serve that purpose. The government also asked that the bodies of those buried be removed and the ground leveled.

After that the government presumed that the spot should belong to it. The Coptic patriarch asserted his right and, in 1937, Habib El Masri (chief lay leader then) registered the defense of the church's right. From 1937 to 1943, he continued his defense: he wrote three memoranda, one to the Prime Minister, one to the Minister of Public Health and the third to the Minister of interior. After discussing all the documents proving the Copts' right of possession, the government agreed that it could be used for public service. As a result, the Higher University for Coptic studies was built in 1953, comprising a hall, which held nine hundred people. Then in 1962 the new Theological seminary was completed: it now stands next to the institute bearing the name of Abba Kirillos VI (16th Patriarch).



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## NOVEMBER FIRST SUNDAY

### “JESUS CALMS A STORM; HE IS GOD”

Please read Mark 4:35-41, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

#### PURPOSE OF THE LESSON

- To know that the Lord Jesus is capable of saving us from every danger; we must have faith. The Lord Jesus is God who came to our world to bless us.

#### MEMORY VERSE

*“Then He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “peace, be still”, and the wind ceased” Mark 4:39*

#### PLEASE EMPHASIZE:

- ✠ After Jesus taught the people from the ship, He took His disciples in the ship to the other side of the lake.
- ✠ As they were sailing along in the dark, the wind became so strong and the water started to fill the ship. They were about to get drowned.
- ✠ The disciples went to Jesus, who was sleeping at the rear of the ship, and said to Him, “Don’t you care about us? We are drowning.
- ✠ Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea “Peace be still!” The wind stopped immediately and the danger of drowning disappeared.
- ✠ Jesus criticized His disciples because they did not have enough faith in His ability to save them..

## **How Come You Are Afraid? Do You Not Have Faith?**

- ✠ If we have faith in God, we must not worry about anything. He takes care of us.
- ✠ If we have faith in God, we must ask for help because we know that He can help us and that He loves us.
- ✠ The faith of the Disciples increased after this and other miracles. They were able to accept any kind of suffering for the name of Jesus, and they did not care. They reached that level of faith that enabled them to put all their trust in Jesus.

## **What do we learn from this lesson?**

1. As long as God is in the ship of our lives, we should not care about anything in this life. He takes care of us and we should not fear anything.
2. The Lord Jesus is God. He tells the wind to stop and it does.

## **Songs**

### **King of Kings**

*“And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)*

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

## **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



## NOTES

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**NOVEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**“JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN; HE IS GOD”**

**Please read Mark 2:1-12, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To acknowledge Jesus’ healing of the Paralytic. The Lord Jesus is God who came to our world to heal us. He is Christ the healer.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“Arise, take up your bed and walk” Mark 2:9**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Describe this miracle in detail explaining-in a story-like fashion- every item in it, verse by verse.
- † There was a great multitude of people around and inside the house where Jesus was. They came for various reasons. Some came to hear His word and benefit from it, some to catch Him with a word to complain about Him and some to see Him perform a miracle.
- † What is a paralytic? A paralytic is a person who cannot move some or all parts of his body. He needs help on a daily basis.
- † There were four men who were kind enough to care about one such man. They loved him enough to exert all those efforts for his sake.
- † When they arrived at the place where Jesus was, they could not find a way to

get in. The four men showed that they had complete faith by transcending all the difficulties that faced them. They removed part of the ceiling and lowered the paralytic in front of Jesus from the top of the ceiling.

- † Do we have faith? If we have faith we must show it through actions. First, we must trust all of what Jesus tells us in the Bible without questioning it. Then we must love God and ask Him to supply our needs, making sure that whatever He does will be for our pure benefit.
- † These four men represent the saints in our church who present to Jesus the people who have various afflictions that only Jesus can heal.
- † Jesus wanted to heal the paralytic, first from the inside where the real cause of his sickness lay. It was sin that caused him to be sick, and Jesus healed him both in body and spirit.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

The Lord Jesus is God. He can heal any sickness we may have. We must be helpful to others who are suffering.

## **Songs**

### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

*“for there are three bear witness in heaven: the father, the word, and the holy spirit, and these three are one.” (1Jn 5:7)*

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**





**NOVEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**“THE HEALING AT THE POOL; JESUS IS GOD”**

**Please read John 5:1-18, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know that the Lord Jesus is the true healer in our life, because He is God who created us and who loves us very much.

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please read the story of the miracle at the pool and explain it verse by verse to the children as you go along.
- † A man was sick for 38 years. Every time he wanted to go into the pool to be healed, he missed his chance because another person got in ahead of him. But the Lord Jesus is so kind. He is God. He can heal without the need to put the sick into the water when the angel comes to move the water. Jesus can heal a sick person just by His word. The Lord Jesus is God.
- † I find that Jesus has a special look suited for every situation in life. When I am searching for my salvation, as Zachious did, Jesus looks at me and says, “I will be at your house today”. He encourages me.
- † When I am repenting, He observes me with a loving eye and hugs me as the father did with his prodigal son.

- ✝ When I deny Jesus, as Peter did once, He looks at me so that I can remember my Lord and cry for forgiveness.
- ✝ The Lord Jesus Christ asked the sick man by the pool, “Do you want to be healed?” Jesus did not want to talk to him about his sins, nor his sickness but started to talk to him about his healing.
- ✝ The sick man said, “I have no one” Many people around us need our help. We must help one another. We must pray for other people, the needy, the sick, the oppressed, and the orphans. Praying and helping will help us acquire a treasure in heaven.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord Jesus is God, who came to our world to show us clearly the love, power and kindness of God.
2. The Lord Jesus is our true healer.



## **Songs**

### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

*“for there are three bear witness in heaven: the father, the word, and the holy spirit, and these three are one.” (1Jn 5:7)*

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*Archangel Michael fights with the devil and wins*



**NOVEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE FEAST OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**

**Please read Joshua 5:13, and Joshua 6:2, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know some of the miracles that Archangel Michael performed as we celebrate his feast.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“ .. As commander of the army of the Lord” Joshua 5:14*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

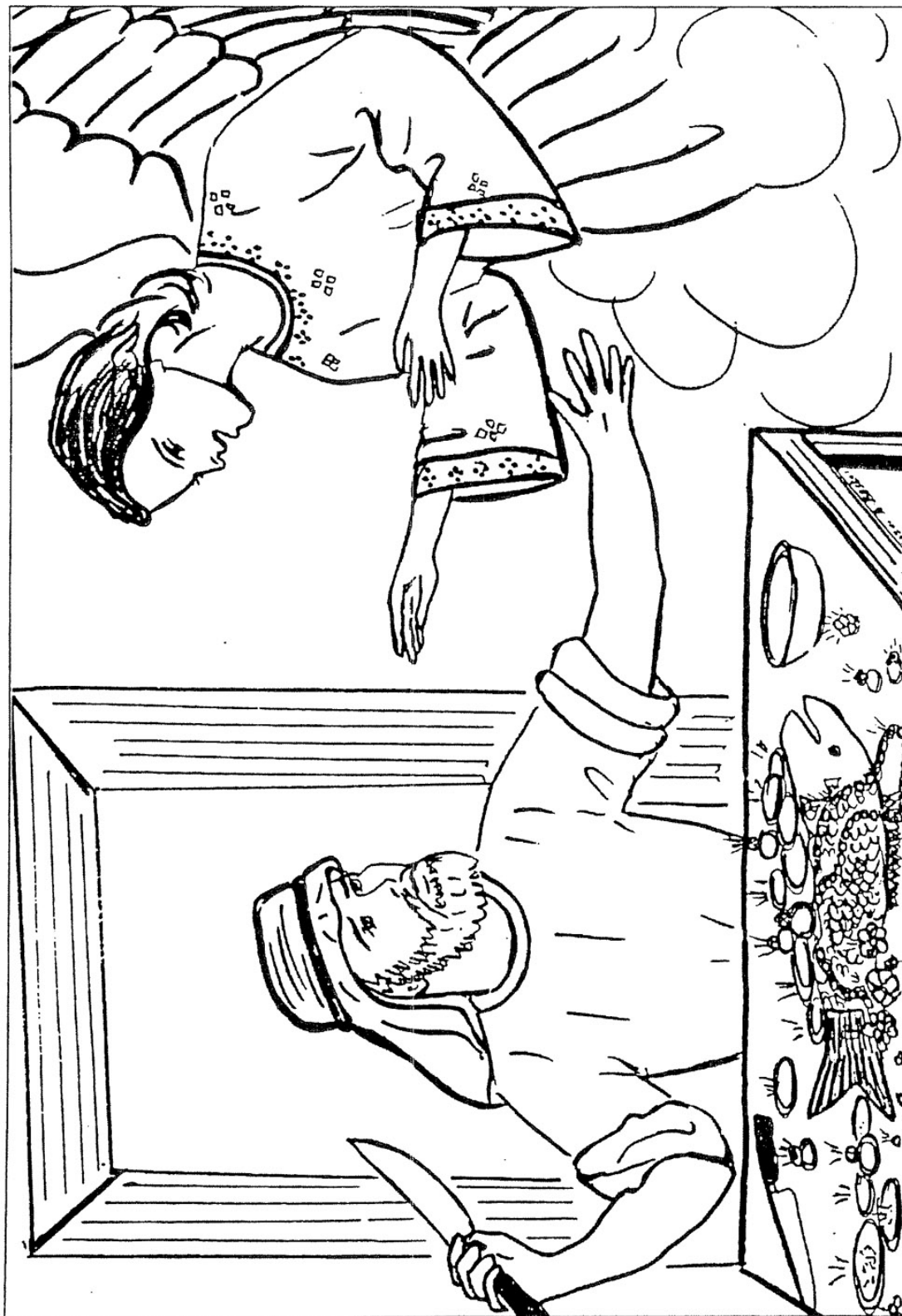
- † On the 12th of Hatour our church celebrates the feast of Archangel Michael. He is always standing in front of God interceding on our behalf.
- † Please mention – in a story-fashion - his help to Joshua as referred to above.
- † He helped so many saints until they received their place in the eternal life.
- † **One of the many miracles that he performed**  
There was a man and his wife who were good believers in God. They loved the poor and they used to invite some of them as well as their friends to eat in their house to celebrate Easter. One year they did not have enough money to celebrate.
- † They were just about to sell their clothes to buy something for the poor and

celebrate the feast, Archangel Michael appeared to the man and told him not to do it. He told him to go and get a loan to be paid later. Using the money that he got from the loan, he bought fish and some flour. Archangel Michael also told the man not to open the mouth of the fish until he was told to do so.

- ✝ The man invited the people as usual. When he entered his kitchen he found everything was well prepared and it was better than usual. After the poor people ate and were satisfied, they went home.
- ✝ Archangel Michael appeared to the man again and told him to open the fish. He found in it 300 Dinar (dollars), a lot of gold indeed! Archangel Michael told him to pay back all that he had borrowed.
- ✝ Archangel Michael told the man that since he was a nice man who cared for the poor, he would never need anything anymore.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The angels are spirits who are sent by God, who love us, and help us in difficult circumstances.
2. We should celebrate with the church the feasts of the angels and saints and seek their intercession on our behalf.



*Archangel Michael tells a poor man to open up a fish with money in it*

## Songs

### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

*“for there are three bear witness in heaven: the father, the word, and the holy spirit, and these three are one.” (1Jn 5:7)*

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

# HOLY BIBLE

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



*The angel Gabriel tells Zachariah the good news of Elizabeth bearing a child*





**DECEMBER  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**ARCHANGEL GABRIEL AND ZECHARIAH**

**Please read Luke 1:5-25, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To illustrate the preparation for the birth of the Lord Jesus through the birth of St. John the Baptist. Let us rejoice and praise the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“To make ready, a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † John the Baptist was to be born first before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. His role was to tell the people that Jesus was coming and that He is the Son of God.
- † Describe the circumstances involving Zechariah and Elizabeth. They were old, he was a priest and they did not have children, whom they kept praying for. Then at the right time the Lord sent His angel, Gabriel, to give them the good news.
- † Describe the vision at the altar  
Archangel Gabriel was the first angel in the New Testament to come with good news. This was the start of a series of happy news. Elizabeth hid herself for five months, saying, “Thus, the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked at me to take away my reproach among people.”

Please explain the above to the children.

- ✚ The personality of John the Baptist is described in Luke 1:15-17. List all his personal characteristics and let the children know them by heart.  
Ask two or three children to repeat the story.
- ✚ Describe what Zechariah was doing at the altar  
St. Mark started his Gospel by saying, “Behold. I send my messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way. The voice of one crying in the wilderness prepares the way for the Lord.” Mark 1:2-3.
- ✚ There is always a preparation for everything that is important. If you had a birthday party, you would prepare for it. It was very important to prepare the way for the birth of Jesus, the God incarnate, who came to save us.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The birth of John the Baptist was announced, bringing with it the good news for the preparation for the birth of the Messiah, our Saviour who came to save us.
2. Let us sing for the Lord Jesus and praise God’s name.

## Songs

### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

*“for there are three bear witness in heaven: the father, the word, and the holy spirit, and these three are one.” (1Jn 5:7)*

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*Archangel Gabriel tells Virgin Mary that her son was to be named Jesus*



**DECEMBER  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS ANNOUNCED**

**Please read Luke 1:26-38, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To show that we are rejoicing today because of this happy meeting between Archangel Gabriel and St. Mary.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Rejoice, highly-favoured one...” Luke 1:28*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † First tell the story of the birth of the Virgin Mary from her parents, Hanna and Youakim. Then describe the story of St. Mary and Joseph. The Virgin Mary used to see angels during her prayers, but one time she was troubled by an angel’s greeting. “Rejoice, highly-favoured one” Luke 1:28.
- † One of the main characteristics of the Virgin Mary is her obedience to the message of God. For example, “Love one another, honour your father and your mother”.
- † The difference between Jesus’ date of birth and St. John the Baptist’s is six months. Please explain why.
- † If possible, let the children act out the conversation between the angel and the Virgin Mary.  
The angel told the Virgin Mary that the baby was to be named “Jesus,”

which means, “He is our Saviour”.

The angel left the Virgin Mary after she replied humbly “I am the handmaid of the Lord”. Please explain this statement.

- ✠ Hundreds of years before Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah said, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and His name shall be called Emmanuel” Isaiah 7:14. Explain that the prophets in the Old Testament predicted everything about Jesus before His coming.
- ✠ We are proud of St. Mary. In her meeting with Archangel Gabriel she represented the whole world. She succeeded in accepting the good news from the Archangel in full trust, happiness and obedience.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We should obey and say “YES” to God, to our parents and to our father of confession. On the other hand, we should say “NO” to the devil and all his bad ideas.
2. We must be happy with St. Mary and proud of her. She is our spiritual mother.

## Songs

### A GIOS O THEOS

**“ Holy , Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts the whole earth is full of His glory”  
(Isa 6:3)**

Agios O theos  
Agios Athanatos

Agios Ees-shiros  
Amen. Alleluia

Holy, God, Holy  
Holy, Immortal, Holy

Holy, Mighty, Holy  
Amen. Alleluia

Alleluia is a word  
Everywhere it is heard

that means praise ye the Lord  
Amen. Alleluia

In all the universe  
They praise Him with this verse

in heaven and on earth  
Amen. Alleluia

Michael and Gabriel  
They all praise Him as well

Raphael and Souriel  
Amen. Alleluia

The heavenly Cherubim  
They too glorify Him

and the mighty Seraphim  
Amen. Alleluia

And the twenty four priests  
And the four incorporeal Beasts

seated on golden seats  
Amen. Alleluia

And all of God's  
Animals and vegetation

from every race and nation  
Amen. Alleluia

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



St. Mary visits St. Elizabeth





**DECEMBER  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE VISITS OF THE SAINTS: ST. MARY'S VISIT TO ST. ELIZABETH**

**Please read Luke 1:39-56, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know that the visit of the saints to one another brings great joy. Our visits to one-another must be filled with love and joy.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"The baby in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:44*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Describe the loving visit that St. Mary paid to St. Elizabeth to help her out, and the happy conversation that took place between them. Also describe St. Mary's song of praise.
- † **Describe the feelings of the following**  
In this visit we can see the love and respect between St. Mary and St. Elizabeth. Love and respect also prevail in our visits to one another.
- † In this visit there was no judgment of other people or lies or fights. They were very nice to each other. Our visits to one another should also be nice with no fights or lies or judgment of other people.
- † In this visit when St. Elizabeth started to praise St. Mary, she interrupted her and changed the praise and glory to God. We must also give all the praise to God.

## WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. When good Christians visit one another, they enjoy true happiness together and love between them prevails.
2. We must be very happy these days because we are going to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## COLOURING

### Songs

### A GIOS O THEOS

**“ Holy , Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts the whole earth is full of His glory”  
(Isa 6:3)**

Agios O theos  
Agios Athanatos

Agios Ees-shiros  
Amen. Alleluia

Holy, God, Holy  
Holy, Immortal, Holy

Holy, Mighty, Holy  
Amen. Alleluia

Alleluia is a word  
Everywhere it is heard

that means praise ye the Lord  
Amen. Alleluia

In all the universe  
They praise Him with this verse

in heaven and on earth  
Amen. Alleluia

Michael and Gabriel  
They all praise Him as well

Raphael and Souriel  
Amen. Alleluia

The heavenly Cherubim  
They too glorify Him

and the mighty Seraphim  
Amen. Alleluia

And the twenty four priests  
And the four incorporeal Beasts

seated on golden seats  
Amen. Alleluia

And all of God's  
Animals and vegetation

from every race and nation  
Amen. Alleluia

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## NOTES

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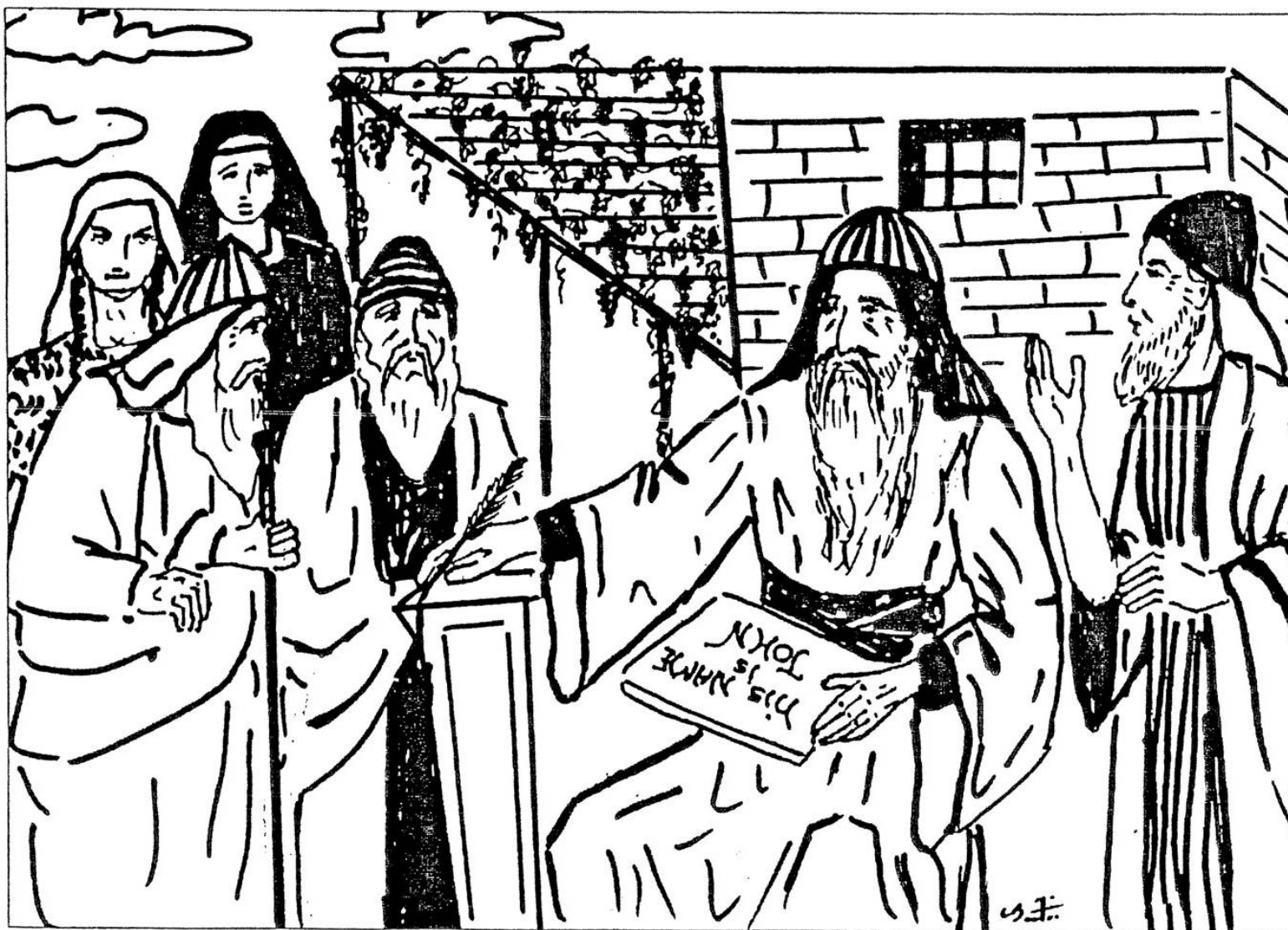
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*Zechariah, deaf at that time, writes the name of his new-born son, John*





**DECEMBER  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
AND THE START OF HAPPINESS**

**Please read Luke 1:57-66, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- The birth of St. John the Baptist as a messenger of Christ, was the start of the people's happiness. The best results are achieved through prayers.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“When her neighbour and relatives heard the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.” Luke 1:58*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Describe the circumstances involving St. John's parents before his birth. The mother was happy, anxious and thankful. Remember that the mother received a visit from St. Mary. The father could not speak, yet he had a promise from God that he would speak again after the child was born. The father was happy, anxious and content, and he turned into a stronger believer.
- † When St. John was born the neighbours considered this as a great miracle, for an old lady and an old man were able to bring a son into this world. It was indeed a miracle but there is nothing impossible with God.
- † The birth of St. John the Baptist is a result of answering the prayers of his parents. Always the result of prayers is the best. St. John the Baptist was a great Saint.

- ✚ On the 8th day of the birth of a child, people then used to give him a name. In the case of St. John another miracle happened. The neighbours proposed the name to be Zecharia similar to his father's name. His mother said, "His name is to be John". They reminded her of the custom at that time, saying, "No one in the family has ever been named that. "Zechariah took a writing tablet and wrote "John." Take note that until this instant Zechariah could not hear anything.
- ✚ The third miracle was the father's mouth was opened immediately and was able to hear and talk again.  
The neighbours were very happy for their friend Elizabeth.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord always fulfills His promises to us as He did to Zechariah and Elizabeth. We must also fulfill our promises to God and to one another.
2. A Christian family is a happy family similar to that of Zechariah and Elizabeth, because the Lord grants it the gift of peace and happiness.
3. The Lord answered the prayers of Zachariah and Elizabeth and He is ready to answer our prayers too. When we get something from the Hands of God as a result of our prayers, it is always the best.

## Songs

### A GIOS O THEOS

*“Holy , Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts the whole earth is full of His glory” (Isa 6:3)*

Agios O theos  
Agios Athanatos

Agios Ees-shiros  
Amen. Alleluia

Holy, God, Holy  
Holy, Immortal, Holy

Holy, Mighty, Holy  
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Alleluia is a word  
Everywhere it is heard

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In all the universe  
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Amen. Alleluia

Michael and Gabriel  
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They too glorify Him

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And the twenty four priests  
And the four incorporeal Beasts

seated on golden seats  
Amen. Alleluia

And all of God's  
Animals and vegetation

from every race and nation  
Amen. Alleluia

### Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

*The shepherds visit Jesus after He was born in a manger*







## **JANUARY FIRST SUNDAY**

### **LESSONS BENEFITED FROM THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Please read Luke 2:4-20 and Matthew 1:18-33, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know that the Lord Jesus came because He loves us and wants to be with us in our daily lives. We benefit a lot when we let the Lord Jesus be with us in everything we do.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”  
Luke 2:14*

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please start by reading from St. Matthew chapter 1:18-33.  
The Lord Jesus means the Saviour because He saved His people from their sins. Emmanuel means God is with us.
- † **From these two names for our Lord we could learn that**
  1. He loves us and came for our salvation.
  2. He is with us in our daily lives.

Because of His love for us, He came in the form of a servant, born in a manger.  
“For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.” John 3:16  
So loved...He gave.... means, because God loved us, He came for us.

- ✠ Sing here the song, “He came for us...with His tender love.”  
When Jesus came to our world He wanted to stay with us, live in our hearts and give us peace and love in our lives.  
Tell the story of the shepherds, the visit to Jesus. They were very happy when they heard the news from the angel.
- ✠ The teacher may ask the children to act out what happened by the Jordan River, the conversation between the Lord Jesus and John the Baptist and the Baptism of our Lord Jesus.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. If someone loves you that much, that Jesus does, what do you have to do? You must love Him in return.
2. We must live our daily lives with God because He is with us. Let God study with us, bless our food, heal us when we are sick and lead all our actions in our daily life.
3. God did not create us with the intention to leave us in isolation from Him. He wanted to develop an intimate relationship with us as a Father, and a friend.

## Songs

### I AM GLAD

**“Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people”  
(Lk 2:10)**

I am glad, I am glad  
With Your peace and Your love

that You came to our land  
we will go hand in hand

#### REFRAIN

He came for us  
Our God, our God

with His tender love  
came to save us our God

Saint Mary was pleased  
He told her you will bear

when she heard Gabriel  
our Lord Emmanuel

The angels in the sky  
Glory to God in the highest

praised the Lord for His birth  
and peace be on earth

A bright star far in the east  
It lead them to the manger

appeared to the three wise men  
in the city of Bethlehem

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

***Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.***



*St. John the Baptist baptises Jesus in the Jordan River*



**JANUARY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**LESSONS BENEFITED FROM THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY**

**Please read Matthew 3:13-17, the attached material entitled “What is Epiphany?”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn from the Lord Jesus to be extra nice with people. We also learn from St. John the Baptist to be obedient to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Let it be so now.” Matthew 3:15*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please describe the events that happened when Jesus was baptized: John came before Jesus to baptize the people in the Jordan River. The people came confessing their sins. Among them was Jesus who has not committed even a single sin.
- † When John saw Jesus, he said, “I’m sorry I cannot baptize you because I need to be baptized by *You*.”  
Jesus is the Son of God, and John was a prophet. But Jesus told John, “Let it be so now.” This means Jesus was seeking John’s permission.  
Jesus was very polite and courteous when He was responding to John. He told him, “Let it be *so* now.”
- † Are we nice to other people? Do we say “please” or “thank you” to them? Do we say sorry whenever we do anything bad to someone?

- ✝ Jesus offered Himself as an example for us in our lives. When we say “thank you” it should not only be mere words, we must truly be thankful. Also, when we say “please” we must feel that we are asking somebody’s permission. We must always mean what we say, as Jesus does.
- ✝ John obeyed Jesus and baptized him. When Jesus asks us to do something, do we do it as John did?
- ✝ What is the main thing that Jesus is asking us to do? He wants us to love Him as well as other people.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We have to be nice to people, as Jesus was to John the Baptist. When we say “thank you” or “please” or “sorry” we should mean it.
2. Even if some people are not nice to us, we must pray for them, stay calm and never be aggressive with them
3. Obey Jesus as John did when Jesus said to him, “Let it be so now.
4. The Lord Jesus was baptized by immersion in the Jordan River. Therefore all of us were baptized by immersion.

## Songs

### I AM GLAD

**“ Behold , I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people”  
(Lk 2:10)**

I am glad, I am glad  
With Your peace and Your love

that You came to our land  
we will go hand in hand

#### REFRAIN

He came for us  
Our God, our God

with His tender love  
came to save us our God

Saint Mary was pleased  
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It lead them to the manger

appeared to the three wise men  
in the city of Bethlehem

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **WHAT IS EPIPHANY?**

Epiphany is when Jesus was baptized. Jesus did not need to be baptized because He is free of sins. But why was He baptized? He was baptized to teach us to follow His example. Imagine Jesus bowing His head under the hand of John the Baptist, although He is St. John's Creator! Doesn't this teach us a lesson in humility?

At first, John refused to baptize Jesus, telling Him, "I need to be baptized by You and You come to me?" Jesus told him, "If you please." Jesus was so courteous and polite in responding to John. Are we courteous and polite in dealing with others? Do we say "please" and "thank you" to them?

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Trinity was manifested. The Father was heard from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". The Son was in the Jordan River, and the Holy Spirit appeared there in the form of a dove.

Jesus was baptized to teach us that we should be baptized. But why should we be baptized?

You certainly would not remember the day when you were baptized. You were just a tiny baby then. But you probably have seen one of your brothers, sisters, or relatives being baptized. Do you know what happened on the day of your baptism?

The priest immersed you three times in the water, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This had a great meaning. This was the most important day of your life! On that day all your sins inherited from Adam were washed away, and you became a child of God. What a great honour and privilege it is!

Do you know what it means to become God's child? Your Heavenly Father is God Himself, the King of Kings. If you were the son or daughter of an earthly king, you surely would feel secure because many guards will protect you. When you become the son or daughter of the Heavenly King, you would feel secure because He would always protect you by His angels. Whenever you are in trouble, whether you are sick or faced with a hard challenge, He will surely be there to help you. He watches over you even when you are sleeping. He wants you to be happy in life, saying, "I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly". (John 10:10).



When you became God's child on your baptism, you did not only have rights as God's child, but also responsibilities. A king's child has to conduct himself in a respectable manner. It will be a shame if a king's child behaves inappropriately. If you are the child of the King of Kings, you have to behave in a Christian way, to reflect your Father's image. You have to behave differently in school, even if your schoolmates make fun of you. You are a special person, the child of the Great King, our God.

Never forget the most important day of your life, the day of your baptism, the day you became a child of God.



*Simeon sees baby Jesus*



**JANUARY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**GOD'S PROMISE TO SIMEON  
WAS FULFILLED WHEN BABY JESUS CAME TO THE ALTER**

**Please read Luke 2:22-35, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To show that God always keeps His promises to us. We also must keep our promises.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"He would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Luke 2:26*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † St. Mary obeyed the laws of Moses as the Lord Jesus did. Forty days after she gave birth to Jesus, she went with Joseph and Jesus to offer their gifts to God. They were poor, so they could only offer two young pigeons instead of the customary lamb offering.  
There was a good old man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He was waiting for the promise of God to be fulfilled.
- † **God's Promise to Simeon**  
Simeon was translating the book of Isaiah until he reached chapter 7:14, which talks about a virgin who was going to give birth to Jesus Christ our God. As we know a woman needs a man (husband) to have a baby. St. Mary did not have a husband and she gave birth to the Lord Jesus the Son of God by the Holy Spirit.

- ✝ He did not agree with the word “virgin,” so God sent a voice to him saying, “Write down what you read and you will not die until you see this happening.” Then God’s promise was fulfilled. Simeon lived for a long time. He was led by the spirit to the altar and he saw Baby Jesus with His mother, the Virgin Mary. Without anyone telling him, Simeon knew, through the Holy Spirit inside of him, that Jesus is the Son of God, who was born from a virgin as it was prophesied in the Bible that he was translating.
  
- ✝ Then Simeon said, “Let your servant depart in peace”. This meant that the promise of God was totally fulfilled to Simeon, and he could finally leave this world.
  
- ✝ Remember God’s promise to Abraham to give him and his wife, Sarah, a son in their old age. Remember God’s promise to the church, that the devil will not be able to destroy it the church.

#### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The lord loves us and He promised to take care of us. Let us trust His promise. Let us also learn from God to fulfill our promises to other people.
  
2. The birth of the Lord Jesus from St. Mary the Virgin is very unique. The Lord Jesus is the Son of God.

## **Songs**

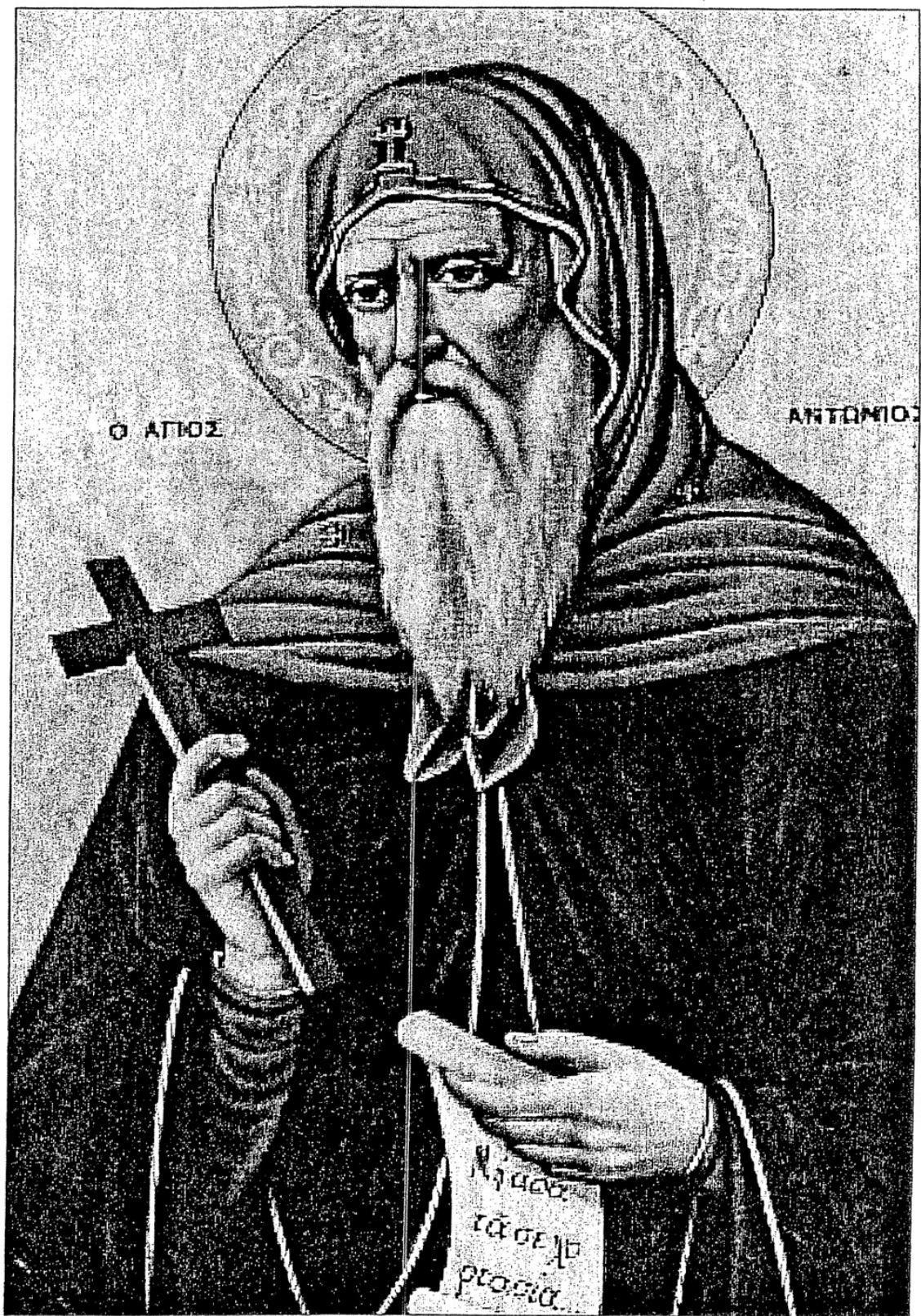
### **AWAY IN A MANGER**

**“..and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger” (Lk 2:7)**

Away in a manger	no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus	lay down His sweet head
The stars in the sky	look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus	asleep on the hay
The cattle are lowing	the Baby awakes
The little Lord Jesus	no crying He makes
I love You Lord Jesus	look down from the sky
And stay by my side	till morning is nigh

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*St. Anthony*



**JANUARY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT**

**Please read the attached material entitled “St. Anthony the Great”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn from St. Anthony to listen, with our hearts and minds to the Bible, and to promptly apply its teachings in our lives.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“He who says, I know him but does not keep His commandments, is a liar.” 1John 2:4*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † At the beginning of the lesson ask the children what do they know about monks and nuns. The monks are people living alone in the desert dedicating their lives completely to God.
- † A monk does not get married. He does not work in a factory or any other company. He spends the majority of his time praying, and the rest of the time doing useful things for the church, writing and translating spiritual books and teaching hymns to the deacons and lay people.
- † Who is the first monk? St. Anthony (sometimes we write it as St. Anthony) is the first monk.
- † St. Anthony came from a rich family. When his father passed away, St. Anthony inherited a large sum of money. He then pondered on what to do with all his money.  
He went to church to pray, took communion, and listened to the Gospel

reading, and got the answer to his dilemma. The answer came from the Gospel reading, “If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give it to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven. Then, come and follow me” (Mathew 19:21).

- ✠ St. Anthony believed that this was the voice of God sent to him. He knew God and loved Him. Hence, he obeyed the voice of God. Please see the memory verse and make the children know it by heart. As mentioned earlier, St. Anthony gave all his money to the poor, and because of his love for God, he forsook all and followed Him. He left the city with all its noise and people, and went to live his life for God alone.
- ✠ When St. Anthony went to the desert he prayed, read the scriptures, and performed miracles. One time he had to cross a river with his disciple named Theodore, he latter was able to swim to the other side of the river. However, St. Anthony did not want to take off his clothes to swim to the other side. So God took him there by flying him to the other shore.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We must ask our parents to read the Bible with us everyday. After we listen to the Bible reading, we must apply its lessons in our daily lives.
2. When we go to church we must pay attention to the readings and not be playing, talking or getting distracted by anything.
3. To pray to enjoy conversation with God, get heavenly blessings from Him and lead a true Christian life.

### **Songs**

#### **INTO MY HEART**

**“Today, if you His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7)**

Into my heart	into my heart
Come into my heart	Lord Jesus
Into my heart	into my heart
Come into my heart	Lord Jesus

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



## **ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT**

As mentioned in today's Gospel reading: unless we become like children, we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. The essence of childhood is the simplicity of heart and thought, and the possibility of having visionary perception. A child is more prone for having visions than an adult does. Visions open the threshold leading to the kingdom of heaven. Unfortunately, we lose them as we grow up. The challenge lies in how we can regain these lost visions.

The church fathers see the possibility of regaining our lost vision through prayers, fasting, spiritual exercises, and personal self-discipline. These are mostly practiced in monasteries, most particularly the desert monasteries of Egypt.

One of the best life examples ever was known in the history of Christianity is the laborious life of St. Anthony the Great, who is known as the Star of the Desert. Since his childhood this great saint led a simple life in his home in Cama.

St. Anthony was about nineteen when he heard in church the Gospel reading, "If you want, be perfect, go sell all that you have, and give to the poor and come, follow me and you will have treasure in heaven (Matt 19:21). He immediately left the church and gave all his possessions, including 207 acres of land, to the poor.

St. Anthony then went to the desert, where he lived in self-denial, and had love toward his fellow men. The people who live in the surrounding areas of Cama call him "God's friend". He used to spend all night in the prayers and reading the Scriptures. All he ate was bread and salt, and he only drank water.

One night he saw a beam of light above his cell between heaven and earth, and a heavenly vision illuminated the whole cell. From then, he started predicting the occurrence of certain events before they took place. But he cautioned us that we should not pray in order to know the future, nor should we ask for this as a reward for our prayers. We should instead ask the Lord to be our partner in achieving victory over the devil.

St. Anthony was blessed with the ability to perform miracles. When he was trying to cross the river with his clothes on, his disciple Theodore was very dumbfounded about the saint's clothes being completely dry. Although St. Anthony was reluctant to tell his disciple what had happened, through the latter's insistence, he explained that he actually flew to the other bank of the river!

St. Anthony implored the multitudes coming not to admire him for his miraculous powers to praise the Lord instead for making all these miracles possible. He urged the people to marvel at the Lord's ability to cure the sick and soothe those who are suffering from incurable diseases. This was a manifestation of deep faith in action and the recognition that Jesus Christ as our God and Saviour.

In reality, the visions predictions and the ability to cure diseases, are granted by our Lord to the monks as a compensation for their life's hardships in the desert, their constant prayers, night vigils, and long periods of fasting. The contention behind all this is to silence the calls of the body and give the soul the chance to develop spiritually.

This occurrence is always associated with spiritual maturity and wisdom. Therefore, it is possible to regain our lost vision, and to mature in our perceptions of heavenly wisdom. St. Anthony's relentless advice -to those who came to visit him, was not to grow lazy or put off for tomorrow what can be done today.

St. Anthony went to visit another monk in the desert. His name was Abba Boula or St. Paul, father of the wandering hermits. While the two saints were talking, a raven dropped a full loaf of bread in front of Abba Boula's cave. He said to St. Anthony, "This raven used to give me half a loaf for the last sixty years, but today because you are here we are having a full loaf". Grace be to the Lord who cares for those who depend entirely on Him.

May the blessings of St. Anthony and St. Boula be with us and our families, including those in our motherland who have recently been suffering from severe tribulations. May a life of visions dawn upon those who cause disasters, disorders and unrest. We should also pray for those who have died in our country of origin and those who are about to depart to the other world. May the Lord be with them and grant them a heavenly reward.

## NOTES

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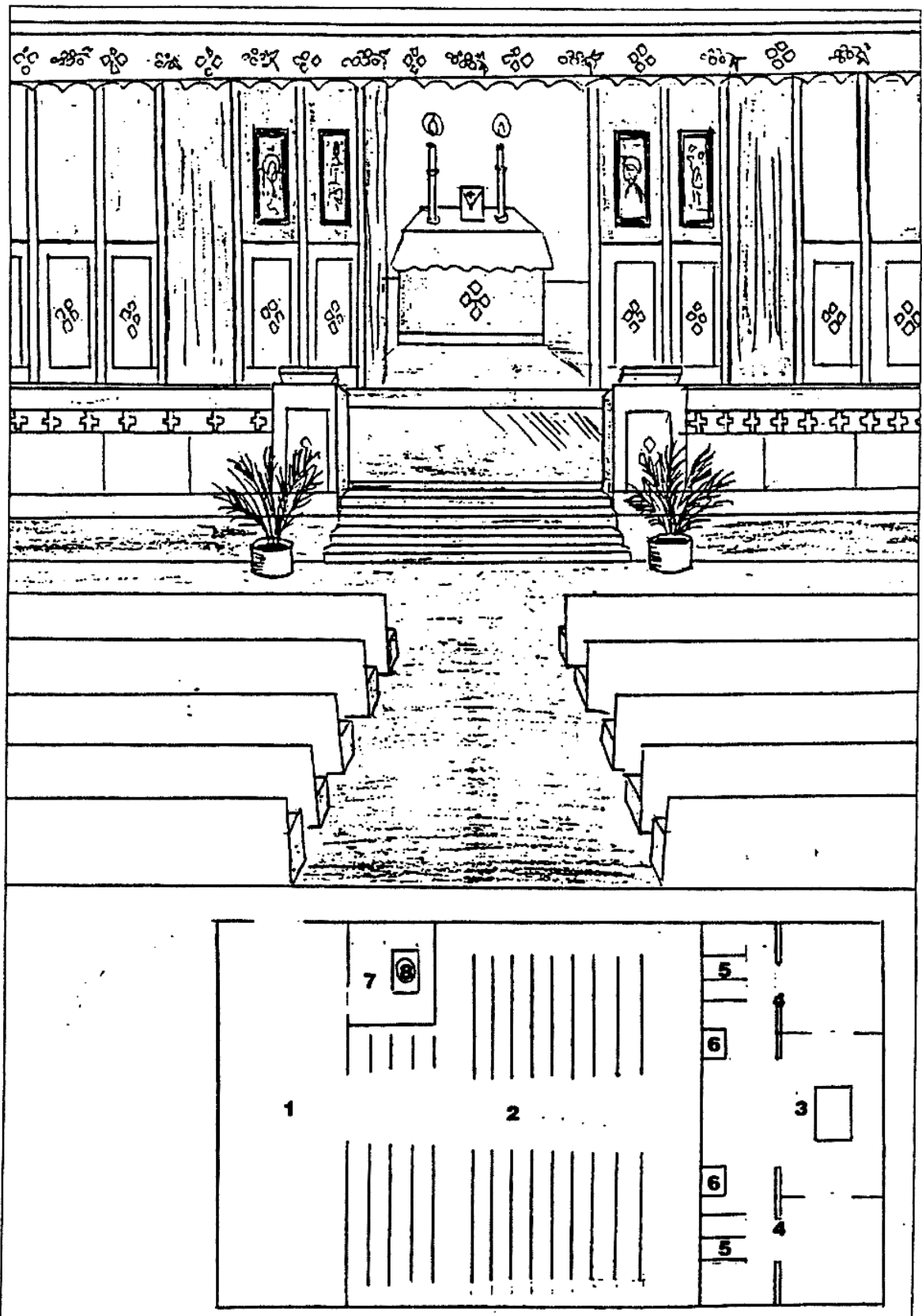
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## **FEBRUARY FIRST SUNDAY**

### **THE CHURCH (PART I) - THE CHURCH BUILDING**

**Please read the attached material entitled “The Church”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about what the church consists of. This would deepen our knowledge, love and respect towards the church.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”  
Matthew 18:20*

#### **PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Introduce the word *church* to the children as both a building and a *congregation*. The church is more than just a building. It is God’s people meeting together.

#### **VARIOUS MEANINGS OF THE WORD “CHURCH”**

Building: wherein believers meet

God’s people: like you and me

Bride of Christ: as the Bible says, referring to the congregation whom Christ loves

Mother of the believers: because when we were baptized we were born again.

House of God: because every time we come to church we actually pay God a visit.

- ✠ Describe the various things you find inside the church and explain what they are for. Teach the children what these words mean:
  - ✠ Nave

- † Sanctuary
- † Domes Iconostasis
- † Chancel Mendatum Tank
- † Altar
- † Katamarous

✠ Let the children colour the pictures, take them to the church and show them things inside the church.

✠ The word nave means ship. The church is like the Ark of Noah, which was a ship. The ark was God's way of saving Noah and his people, as the church ruled by God likewise saves people.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We should learn the various meanings of the word "church". We should also learn the meanings of things found inside the church.
2. When we understand the significance of these things, we can enjoy the services more, deepen our knowledge, and strengthen our faith.

## **Songs**

### **A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE**

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat 7:24)*

A wise man built his house upon the rock (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the rock stood firm.

A foolish man built his house upon the sand (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the sand went down.

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (3)  
And the blessings will come upon you.  
As the blessing come down the prayers go up (3)  
And the house in the Lord stands firm.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

## THE CHURCH

We often think of the church as a building wherein we meet to worship God. But the church is more than just a building; it is God's *people meeting together*. The church is the *Bride of Christ*. Christ loves His bride so much that He even died for her

The church is the *mother of the believers*. When we were baptized we were born again as children of the church.

The church is also the *house of God*. Every time we come to church we actually pay God a visit in His own House.

## INSIDE THE CHURCH

When we first enter the church, we find ourselves in an area where an icon has candles burning in front of it. Sometimes we hang our coats in a corner of this area. This is the vestibule.

A door leads us into the main body of the church where pews or chairs are placed. This is the nave. The word nave means a ship (like navy). The church is likened to Noah's Ark, which was a ship. Do you know why we liken the Church to the Ark of Noah?

As we look towards the front, we can see the other end of the church, the sanctuary. This is where the priest and the deacons celebrate the Eucharist. The sanctuary is separated from the nave by a partition carrying the *icons*, This is the iconostasis or icon carrier.

The part of the nave closest to the iconostasis is called the chancel. This is where the choir stands. There are usually two lecterns in this area to hold the Katamarous. Do you know what the Katamarous is?

Every church must have a baptistry. This is usually situated in the north west corner of the church.

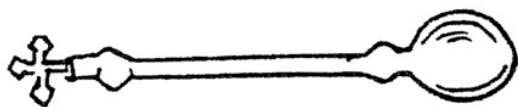
Some churches have a small tank built on the ground and covered by a board. This is the mandatum tank. It is used in the celebration of the blessing of water on the epiphany, Maundy Thursday, and Feast of the Apostles.



Some churches have a dome on top of the building; some have even three or five domes!

Some churches have a *tower* with a bell in it. The bell is usually rung during the offertory. Do you know what the offertory is?

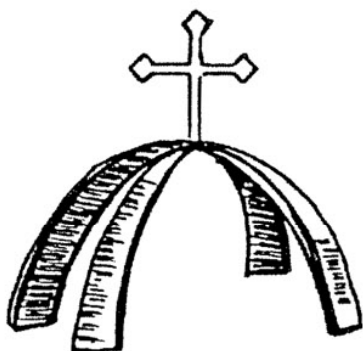
Bells are also rung on feast days. Sometimes bells are rung when a member of the church goes up to heaven.



**The spoon**



**The ark**



**The asterisk**



**The chalice**



**The paten**



**FEBRUARY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE CHURCH (PART II) - THE SACRED VESSELS**

Please read the attached material entitled “The Sanctuary”, “The Sacred Vessels”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about the sacred vessels at the altar.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“Left up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.” Ps 134:2**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ In the New Testament, the church consecrates several special vessels and other sacred objects to be used in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The bishops consecrate these vessels through prayers and the Word of God. Also by signing them with the chrism (holy oil) in the shape of the cross.
- ✠ There are five sacred vessels at the top of the altar:
  - The ark: The box that holds the chalice.
  - The chalice: The cup that has wine mixed with water, which becomes the blood of Jesus.
  - The paten: A flat circular dish, which represents the manger in which Jesus was born.
  - The asterisk: It represents the shape of the tomb of the Lord Jesus.
  - The spoon: It is used to give the blood of Jesus to the people.
- ✠ At the top of these five sacred vessels we put the “eprospherin,” which is the white linen used to cover the ark and the paten during the celebration of the

Divine Liturgy.

✠ Can we ourselves hold these sacred vessels? No, we can not, Only Abouna can.

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

There are things that are consecrated and made holy by special prayers of the bishop. These are the five sacred vessels on top of the altar.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE**

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat 7:24)*

A wise man built his house upon the rock (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the rock stood firm.

A foolish man built his house upon the sand (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the sand went down.

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (3)  
And the blessings will come upon you.  
As the blessing come down the prayers go up (3)  
And the house in the Lord stands firm.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **THE SANCTUARY**

*“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord” (Ps 134:2)*

In our church, the sanctuary is always situated towards the east. This reminds us of two things: first, that Christ our Saviour is the light of the world (light from the sun comes to us from the east). This also reminds us of the paradise, which God created in the east to be the home of Adam and Eve. We should always think of this paradise as our real home.

The eastern wall of the sanctuary is usually curved. This area is called the niche. On the niche is painted an icon of our Lord Jesus Christ sitting on the throne of His glory surrounded by the holy angels.

In the middle of the sanctuary we find a square table. This is the altar. No one is allowed to touch the altar except the priest and the deacons. Some churches have more than one altar. On it is a small piece of wood carved with a cross and the two letters, “α” and “ω” (alpha and omega). This is the altar hoard. It is consecrated and, without it, the priest cannot celebrate the Liturgy.

On the two sides of the altar, we see two candle sticks inside candleholders. These are symbols of the two angels that appeared when Christ rose from the dead.

In the middle of the altar there is a wooden box with a top that flips open. This is called the arc and it is used to hold the chalice.

Here is a drawing of a chalice. Do you know what it is used for?

The paten is a small round tray, which is used to carry bread that is consecrated into the Body of Christ during the Liturgy.

### **Deacon Supplements**

The asterisk is made of two arched bands forming the shape of a cross. It supports the covering placed over the paten.

The cruets are two little vessels used to hold the wine and the water used in the service.

The ciborium is a small box used to carry the body and blood of Christ in order to give communion to a sick person at home.

The gospel is an ordinary Gospel covered with a case of silver or gold, decorated with icons.

The censor is a symbol of the Virgin Mary and its three chains are a symbol of the Holy Trinity.

### **Homework**

Try to go to church early on Sunday, watch Abouna while he prepares the altar, then make a drawing of the altar and the things on it.

## **THE SACRED VESSELS**

In the New Testament, the church consecrates several special vessels and other sacred objects to be used in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The bishops consecrate these vessels through prayers and the Word of God. Also, by signing them with the chrism in the shape of the cross.

### **The Ark**

A box cubicle at the front, about 12 inches in height and 9 inches in width, with a round hole at the top. The top of the ark is closed with hinged flaps. The sides have paintings on them, the common subjects being the Last Supper, the Virgin Mary, an angel, and the saints to whom the church is dedicated. After the chalice has been prepared at the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, it is placed in the ark and remains there until the time of the Holy Communion.

### **The Chalice**

It is a goblet-shaped vessel whose bowl should be small and nearly straight-sided about 4 inches in diameter. The long stem, about 1 inch in diameter, has a knob about two thirds of the way down. The base is circular and usually has a donative inscription on it. It is normally made of silver. During the Divine Liturgy, the chalice contains the wine mixed with water, which is consecrated into the Blood of Jesus Christ. The Lord Himself used the chalice, and the apostles followed His example. St. Paul called it “The Cup of Blessing” and “The Cup of the Lord.”

The eprospherin used to cover the ark and the paten during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, is rectangular in shape, 2 yards by 1.5 yards, and is made of red or white linen. Embroidered on its centre, is a cross. Floral designs are also embroidered all around its edges.

Source: *Father T. Y. Malaty, the Church, House of God*

### **The Paten**

A flat circular dish, about 9 inches in diameter and 1 inch deep, usually made of silver. The paten holds the bread or “The Lamb”, which is consecrated into the Body of Christ during the Divine Liturgy. The paten represents the manger or the tomb of our Lord.

### **The Asterisk**

It consists of two arched banks, crossed at right angles and riveted together. It is about 5 inches in height, usually with a cross on top of it. It represents the shape of the tomb of the Lord.

### **The Spoon**

The spoon has a straight handle on which there is often a donative description. It is about 8 inches in length and is used for administering the precious Blood of Christ.

“Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness and let thy saints shout with joy.”  
(Ps 132:9)



## NOTES

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*The two vestments of abouna*



**FEBRUARY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE CHURCH (PART III) - THE VESTMENTS**

**Please read Exodus 28:1-4, the attached material entitled “The Vestments”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To show that priests and deacons as servants of God, the King of Kings, must have special uniforms.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother.” Exodus 28:2*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✙ Abouna has two vestments: one while he is serving the Divine Liturgy at the altar (white) and one for other occasions (black).  
If one is serving a king, he must have a special uniform. Our king is God, and Abouna and the deacons are serving God.
- ✙ The deacons wear tunics, which are white robes. They also wear stoles that go around the waist and form a cross on the back. The stole is sometimes called the epitachelion.  
Deacons can only put their tunics on before the Divine Liturgy starts, when Abouna crosses them three times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ✙ Are the deacons allowed to take their tunics off before the service is finished? No, they are not.

- ✠ Young deacons are not allowed to go in and out of the church unless it is truly necessary. They are not allowed to talk or laugh. Why? It is because they are serving the King of Kings who is the Creator

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We must respect the servants of God and appreciate the vestments they wear.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE**

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat 7:24)*

A wise man built his house upon the rock (3)  
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So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (3)  
And the blessings will come upon you.  
As the blessing come down the prayers go up (3)  
And the house in the Lord stands firm.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## THE VESTMENTS

Look at the figures on the left: how many persons do you see?

If you say two, then you're wrong for this is only one person. He is Abouna; the priest. In this figure to the left he is wearing his altar vestment. This is what Abouna wears when he celebrates the Liturgy. In this figure to the right, he is wearing his casual vestment. This is what he wears when he visits people or goes somewhere. As you can see, Abouna wears a black robe, which is called a cassock. He also wears a black cap.

On the day when the Liturgy is celebrated, Abouna and his helpers, the deacons wear special clothes.

God ordered Moses to make special clothes for Aaron, the priest, and also for his sons. Aaron was the first priest to serve God. His sons were priests, too (Ex 28:1-4).

If someone is serving a king, he must wear special clothes. Likewise, because the priest and the deacons are serving the King of Kings, they must wear special clothes.

Before the Liturgy starts, Abouna wears a white robe adorned with crosses. This is called the tunic. The deacons wear similar tunics. If you look at the left figure, you will see Abouna covering his head with a mitre. This is a hat shaped like a triangle. Sometimes the mitre has a long piece of cloth covering the back. Abouna also wears a stole, which goes around the neck and covers the front. It is usually yellow or red. During the Pascha it is black or dark blue.

The deacons wear stoles of a different kind; they go around the waist and form a cross on the back. The stole is sometimes called the epitrachelion.

### Deacon Supplements

Deacons are not allowed to put on their vestments except after Abouna crosses them three times; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Deacons coming late cannot dress as deacons.

Similarly, deacons are not allowed to take off their vestments before Abouna does the same, except if he gives them permission to do so.

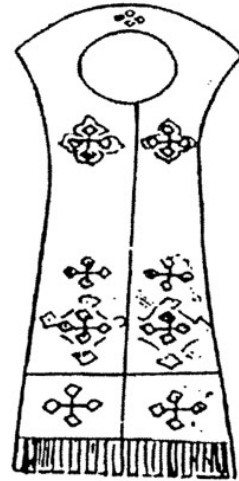
On the festive days, Abouna wears three additional *vestments* cuffs, a girdle, and a cape which covers the whole body.

### Homework

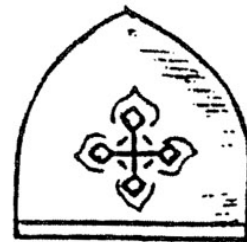
Examine the following figures and try to figure out the names of the various *vestments* you see in it. Please write them down.



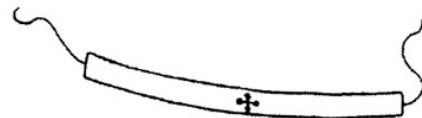
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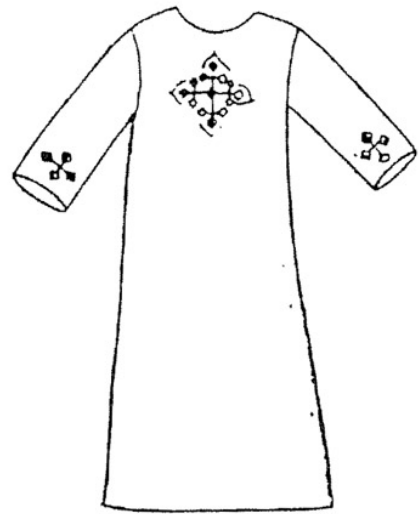
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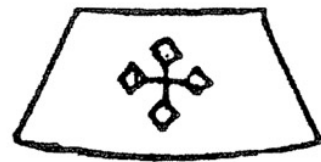
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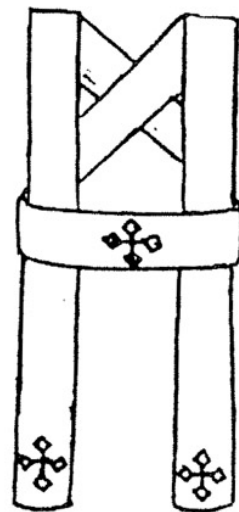
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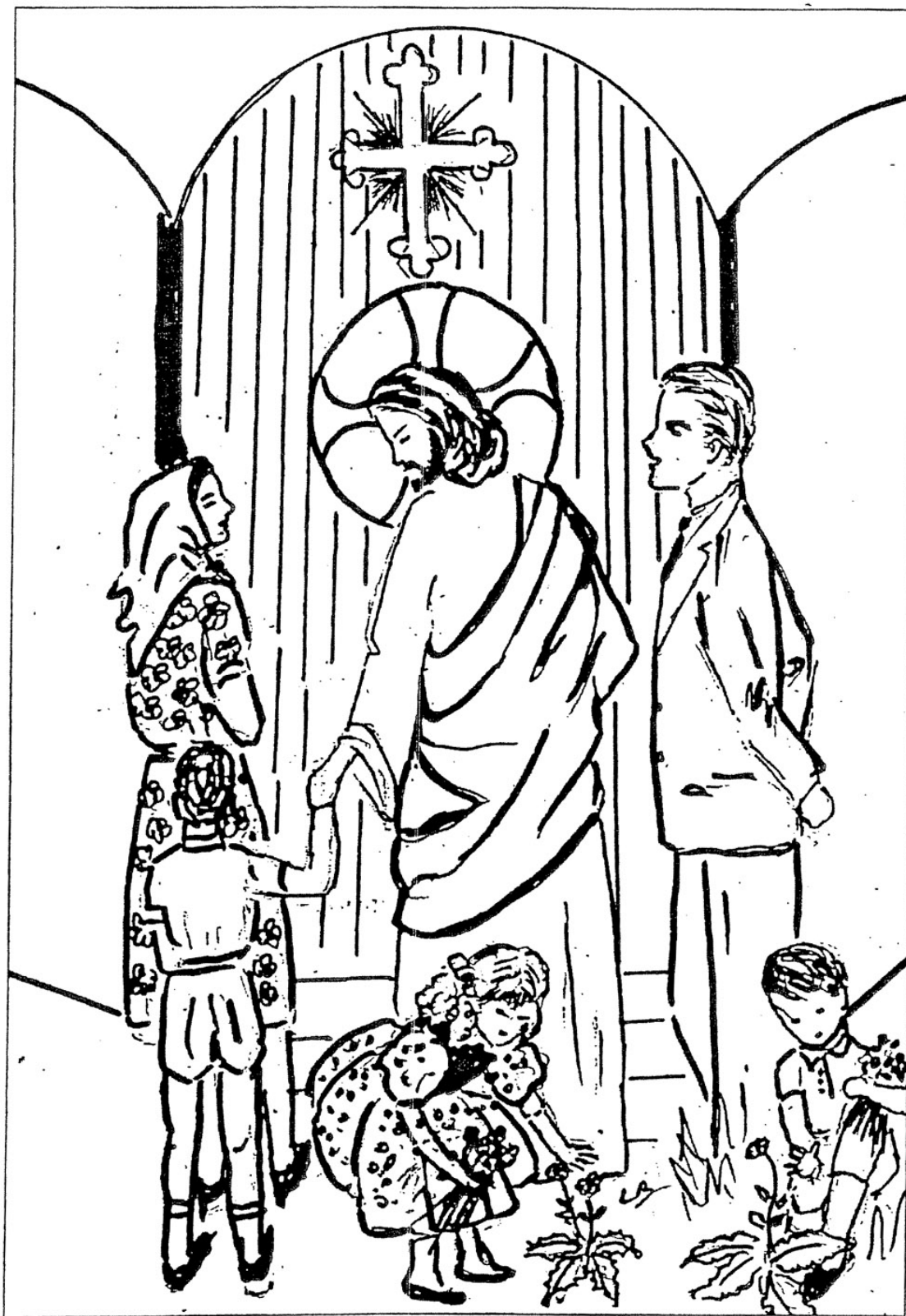
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*A family goes to church*





**FEBRUARY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE CHURCH (PART IV) - GOING TO CHURCH**

**Please read the attached material entitled “Going to church”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn the good manners required in attending church.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“Holiness adorns Your house, Oh Lord, forever.” Ps 93:5**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

† Start by asking the children, “Suppose your parents tell you tomorrow we are going to visit a king in his palace, what would you do?” Try to lead the discussion into the necessity of wearing appropriate clothing and behaving properly in the presence of the king, etc. Then develop the analogy of visiting Christ, the King of Kings, in His own house, the church.

† The Ten Golden Rules

Get into the ten golden rules and discuss them with the children.

- † Come early. Go and wake Mom and Dad up, telling them to let you and the whole family go and see Jesus early.
- † Bow before the sanctuary as soon as you come in. You can do that especially if you come early.
- † Never run around inside the church.

- † If you enter the church and find that the Gospel is being read, stand still where you are until it is finished. Why? Because every attention and respect is due to the Word of God.
- † Do not speak to anyone else. Concentrate on praying to God.
- † Do not laugh, be serious.
- † When the Gospel is being read, we have to stand up because we must respect the Word of God.
- † Sing with the deacons and the congregation.
- † Take communion regularly to grow. Communion helps us to grow in Christ. Taking communion also requires preparation.
- † Never leave before the service is finished because the Lord Jesus is there, and nothing outside is more important.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

The house of God is different from all other places in the world, e.g. schools, hospitals, etc. We must honour and respect the house of God.

## **Songs**

### **A WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE**

**“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Mat 7:24)**

A wise man built his house upon the rock (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the rock stood firm.

A foolish man built his house upon the sand (3)  
And the rain came tumbling down.  
The rain came down and floods went up (3)  
And the house on the sand went down.

So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (3)  
And the blessings will come upon you.  
As the blessing come down the prayers go up (3)  
And the house in the Lord stands firm.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **Going To Church**

- ✝ Come early
- ✝ As soon as you enter the church, bow down before the Lord in front of the Holy Sanctuary
- ✝ Walk quietly to your place.
- ✝ If upon entering church you hear the Gospel being read, stand still in your place until the Gospel reading is finished, then proceed quietly to your place
- ✝ Do not speak with your seat-mate.
- ✝ Do not laugh in church.
- ✝ Always stand when the Gospel is being read.
- ✝ Participate in singing the responses and the hymns, even if you do not belong to the choir.
- ✝ Be sure to have communion regularly.
- ✝ Never leave church before Abouna gives the blessing.

## **Deacon Supplements**

### **The Seven Pearls**

- ✝ A deacon should be an example to the people through good behaviour
- ✝ A deacon should be humble and obedient
- ✝ A deacon should come to church fasting and ready for communion
- ✝ A deacon should be clean in body, clothing, and heart
- ✝ A deacon should make peace with all before coming to church
- ✝ A deacon should sing hymns in a low voice, and should wait for the senior deacon to lead
- ✝ A deacon should never enter the Sanctuary unnecessarily, unless he is one of the altar deacons, or he is told to go there by Abouna or the senior deacons.

The deacons, especially the altar deacon, should come to church very early. They have certain duties to do. They should learn how to sing the Canticles of Praise, and be in church early to participate in them. Then continue with the prayer and hymns of the offering of incense.

## **Special Duties of the Altar Deacon**

- ✝ Make sure that the altar and icon candles are lit. Icon candles are called *labpada*. They are oil candles (not wax). In Arabic they are called *quandil* (from candle).
- ✝ Prepare the oblation bread on a special tray - 3, 5 or 7 loaves are usually used. Each loaf has 12 crosses imprinted on its face. It also has 5 holes, 3 holes on one side and 2 holes on the other side. The oblation bread should be covered with a veil.
- ✝ Fill the cruets with wine and water.
- ✝ Put coal in the cense whenever necessary.

### **Homework**

Come early to church to watch Abouna preparing the altar. Describe below the order in which he puts the vessels in place.

At the end of the service, before eating your korbana, study it to be familiar with its shape.

### **In-Class Activity**

Read the following five verses from your Bible, one by one, then try to place each verse in the appropriate place. Ps. 95:6, Ps. 150:6, Ps. 7:18, Habakkuk 2:20, John 6:54,

#### **The Lord teaches us**

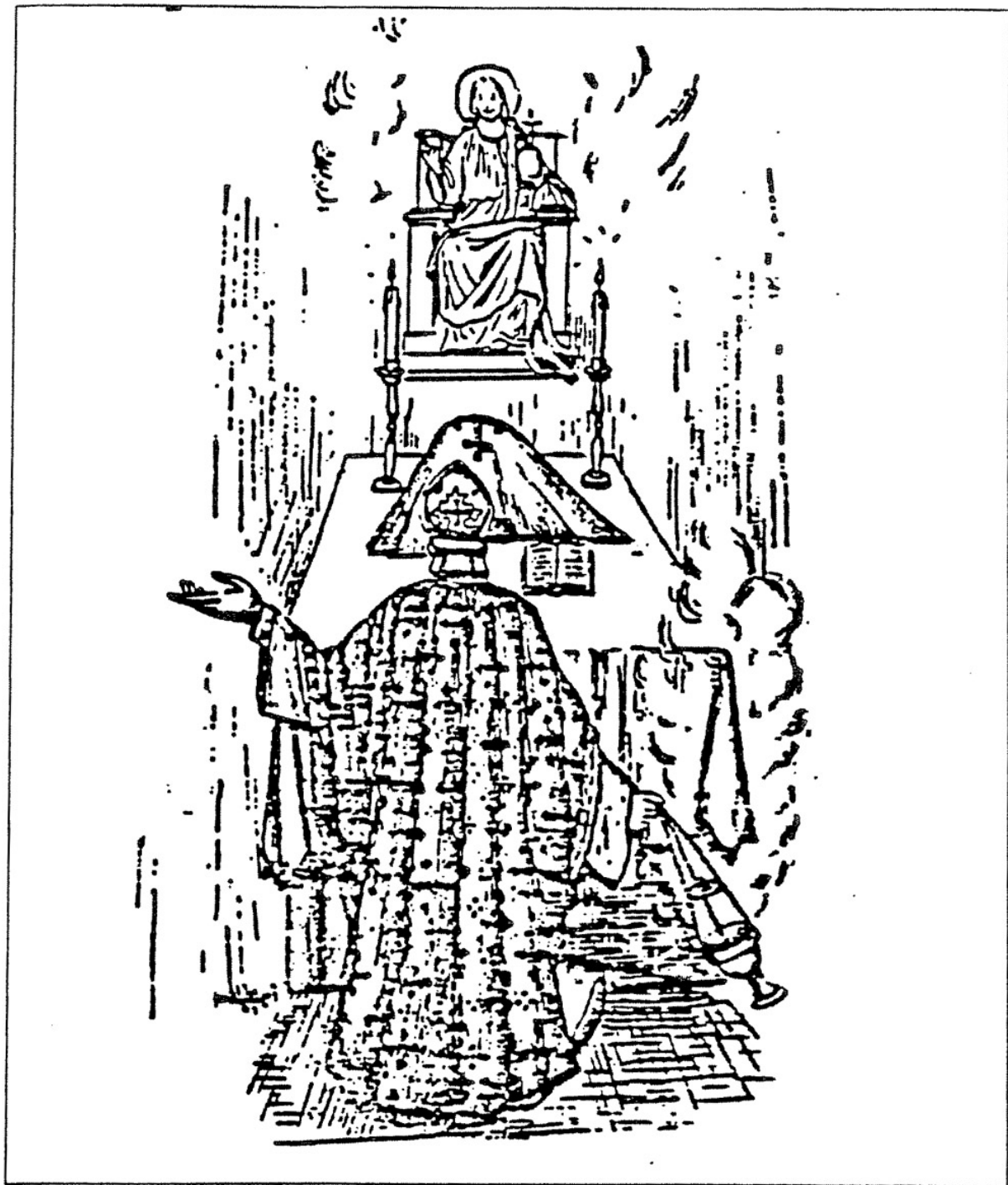
- ✝ To be silent in church.
- ✝ To come early to church.
- ✝ To participate in singing hymns.
- ✝ The importance of having communion regularly.
- ✝ To bow before the Lord.

**Review for the previous four lessons (The Church parts 1, 11, 111 and IV)**

**Fill in the spaces:**

This is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_. In the center of the picture, there is a square table. This is the \_\_\_\_\_. The person in the picture is \_\_\_\_\_. He is wearing a \_\_\_\_\_, which covers his whole body. He is also wearing \_\_\_\_\_ on his head. He is holding a \_\_\_\_\_ in his right hand. He is offering.

Upon the \_\_\_\_\_. Across from Abouna there is a curved wall. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ on which is painted an \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ sitting on the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_.





*In preparing ourselves for the divine liturgy we read the Bible.*





**MARCH  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE CHURCH (PART V)  
THE PREPARATION FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

**Please read the attached material entitled “The Preparation”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To prepare ourselves for the Divine Liturgy to receive Christ inside us when we take the Holy Communion.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.”  
John 6:56*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Introduce this lesson with the story of John the Baptist coming before Christ, to prepare the way for Him (Mark 1); to make ready, a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:5-17). Then go back to the theme that Christ is the King of Kings and certain preparations are needed both for us and for the altar to receive Him.
- † Some of the words we will learn:  
Canticles of Praise: Psalms of David in hymns from the Psalmody book.  
Veils: Square pieces of cloth adorned with crosses.  
Rubric: The orderly way in which things are done in the service.
- † **Steps of Preparation**

- † Start from Saturday evening with vespers and the offering of incense.
- † On Sunday morning the Canticles of Praise and morning offering of incense.
  
- † Abouna and the deacons put on their vestments, then Abouna goes to prepare the altar. He prays to God to help him, dresses the altar with veils, puts the vessels in their place, and makes sure everything is available for the service.
  
- † Abouna and the deacons follow the rubric of the church as given to us by the apostles.
  
- † The altar is now ready and we continue with the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, then take communion.

## WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?

1. Everything should be done in good order.
2. Worshipping God must be done with full respect, following the rubric of the church.

## Colouring

## Songs

### INTO MY HEART

*“Today, if you His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Heb 4:7)*

Into my heart  
Come into my heart

into my heart  
Lord Jesus

Into my heart  
Come into my heart

into my heart  
Lord Jesus

## Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

## THE PREPARATION

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight” (Mar 1:3).

The preparation for meeting the King of Kings starts on Saturday evening when we pray the vespers. This is followed by the evening offering of incense.

On Sunday morning, we sing the Canticles of Praise and participate in the morning offering of incense. All these prayers and hymns are necessary as they prepare us for meeting the King of Kings.

Abouna and the deacons put on their vestments, but only after Abouna blesses the latter.

Then Abouna goes to prepare the altar. First, he prays to God to help him during the service, then he starts dressing the altar with veils, which are square pieces of cloth adorned with crosses. Abouna then carefully puts the vessels in their places. In our church, everything is to be done in an orderly manner.

The orderly way in which things are done during the various services is called the rubric. The word rubric means written in red, because these rules used to be printed in red ink! *Rubric* is very important in our church. Everyone (especially deacons) should learn and respect the various rubric.

When the preparation of the altar is finished, Abouna bows down before the Lord and kisses His altar.

Everything is now ready for receiving the King of Kings!

Soon Christ will come and be with us on the altar. Whenever we partake of the communion, Christ comes and lives in our hearts (please read John 6:56 and try to memorise it).

Now you know what *preparation* is all about: the preparation of both the altar and our hearts for receiving the King of Kings.



*Our father Jacob sends Joseph to look for his brothers.*



**MARCH  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH AND HE WAS A SUCCESSFUL MAN  
(PART I)**

**Please read Genesis 37:1-36, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- In this lesson we learn how God saved Joseph and made him successful because he loved his brother and obeyed his father.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man.” Genesis 39:2**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Joseph was the Son of Jacob and Rachel. Jacob had two wives and had sons from them. Joseph’s brothers hated him because their father favoured him and gave him a coloured shirt.
- † One time Jacob sent Joseph to look for his brothers who were tending to the sheep. Joseph obeyed his father and went to look for his brothers who were already late. He lost his way but was so anxious to see his brothers that God sent him a man to lead him to them.  
When the brothers saw Joseph, they wanted to kill him because of his dreams, and the coloured shirt. One of his brothers instructed the others to put Joseph in a dry well instead.
- † After a while they took him out and sold him as a slave for 20 silver coins to some traders going to Egypt.

- † Instead of being killed because of his brothers' hatred towards him, God saved Joseph's life. He was a part of God's plan to save his family from the famine that was going to happen.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. God saved Joseph from his evil brothers. We must not do as they did to Joseph. We must love our brothers and sisters, help them out and pray for them.
2. We must obey our parents as Joseph did. We are going to gain special blessings from God and He will save us from any harm as He did with Joseph.



*St. Joseph is being sold by his brothers*

## Songs

### **CHRISTIAN LOVE**

*“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”  
(1Cor 13:13)*

In Christianity, the A-B-C's  
First Corinthians thirteen

spell L-O-V-E.  
tells us what love really means.

Love is patient, love is kind  
Love is humble, love is meek

looks not for mistakes to find  
love will never self seek.

Does envy, never selfish  
Is not jealous, is not rude

never proud nor snobbish  
love rejoices in the truth.

Bears all things  
Hopes all things  
Now remains faith, hope and love

believes all things  
endures all things  
but the greatest of these is love

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**





For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

# HOLY BIBLE

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



*Joseph, the ruler of Egypt, receives his brothers*



**MARCH**  
**THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH AND HE WAS A SUCCESSFUL MAN  
(PART II)**

**Please read Genesis 41:25-44, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn how Joseph became the second most important man in Egypt. He was so honest.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man.” Genesis 39:2*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † In Genesis chapter 39 we see that Joseph was sold in Egypt to one of the pharaoh’s officers whose name was Potiphar. Joseph did well and Potiphar made him the head of his house. But Potiphar’s wife was bad and caused Joseph to go to jail.
- † In jail Joseph met with the butler and the baker of the pharaoh who were also jailed because they committed a sin against the pharaoh.
- † From Genesis chapters 39 and 40 we learn that both men had dreams, and Joseph told them what those dreams meant. The latter soon came true.
- † Two years after Joseph’s interpretation of their dreams, the butler and the baker were set free but Joseph was still in jail. The pharaoh then had two

dreams featuring seven fat cows followed by seven ugly cows, and seven beautiful heads of grains followed by seven thin heads of grains.

- ✠ The chief butler remembered what Joseph did two years before that, and advised the pharaoh to call Joseph. Joseph likewise interpreted the pharaoh's dreams as Egypt experiencing seven good years followed by seven bad years, with a severe shortage of food, and that everyone had to get ready.
- ✠ The pharaoh was very pleased and made Joseph the second most powerful man in the country after him.
- ✠ Joseph looked after Egypt extremely well. He was successful because God was with him.

#### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We have to seek God's will in all our endeavours, Joseph waited in the prison two more years because the chief butler forgot about him. But he went on to become the second most powerful man in Egypt
2. We should never lose hope or faith and should stick to God.

## Songs

### **CHRISTIAN LOVE**

*“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”  
(1Cor 13:13)*

In Christianity, the A-B-C's  
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spell L-O-V-E.  
tells us what love really means.

Love is patient, love is kind  
Love is humble, love is meek

looks not for mistakes to find  
love will never self seek.

Does envy, never selfish  
Is not jealous, is not rude

never proud nor snobbish  
love rejoices in the truth.

Bears all things  
Hopes all things  
Now remains faith, hope and love

believes all things  
endures all things  
but the greatest of these is love





**MARCH  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**PALM SUNDAY;  
“BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD”**

**Please read Matthew 21:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know that the Lord’s Disciples and some of the people in Jerusalem received Him with great joy. They declared in their greetings who the Lord Jesus is.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” Genesis 39:2*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Describe in detail the entrance of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem as mentioned in Matthew 21:1-11. The Disciples of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ did everything as He told them to do.
- † They brought the colt, put their clothes on it and Jesus sat on it as they joyfully sang, “Hosanna, blessed the King who comes in the Name of the Lord” (Luke 19:38).
- † “Hosanna” means “save us”. In this statement it means, “glory to God our Saviour.” The Lord put in the mouth of the people who greeted Him to declare His personality by saying “King of Israel”, “The Saviour”, “Son of God”.

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. There are many things that can bring joy to an individual, like getting good marks, nice presents. .etc. But the deepest thing that brings joy to an individual is receiving the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in their heart.
2. When we take communion we receive the Lord Jesus Himself. We have to be very happy, humble and feel at peace when we receive Jesus in our hearts. We have to be extra careful when we take communion and trust Jesus as our Saviour, singing praises to Him.
3. Let us all come early on Palm Sunday with palm in our hands. Let us sing with the rest of the congregation “Hosanna in the Highest, this is the King of Israel”
4. Let the children repeat several times the titles of the Lord Jesus: “King of Kings”, “The saviour”, “Son of God” and the “King of Israel”.



## Songs

### **THE HYMN OF PALM SUNDAY**

*“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the lord! The King of Israel” (Jn 12:13)*

He Who is above the Cherubim  
With great glory riding a colt

today appeared in Jerusalem  
surrounded by ranks of ni-angelos.

#### **REFRAIN**

Oussana khi ni - et – chocee  
Ef-es-maró- enjevi-ethni-yo

fai pe epouro empi - Israel  
khen efran em epchoice ente nigom.

On the way they spread garments  
With joy and praise they did sing

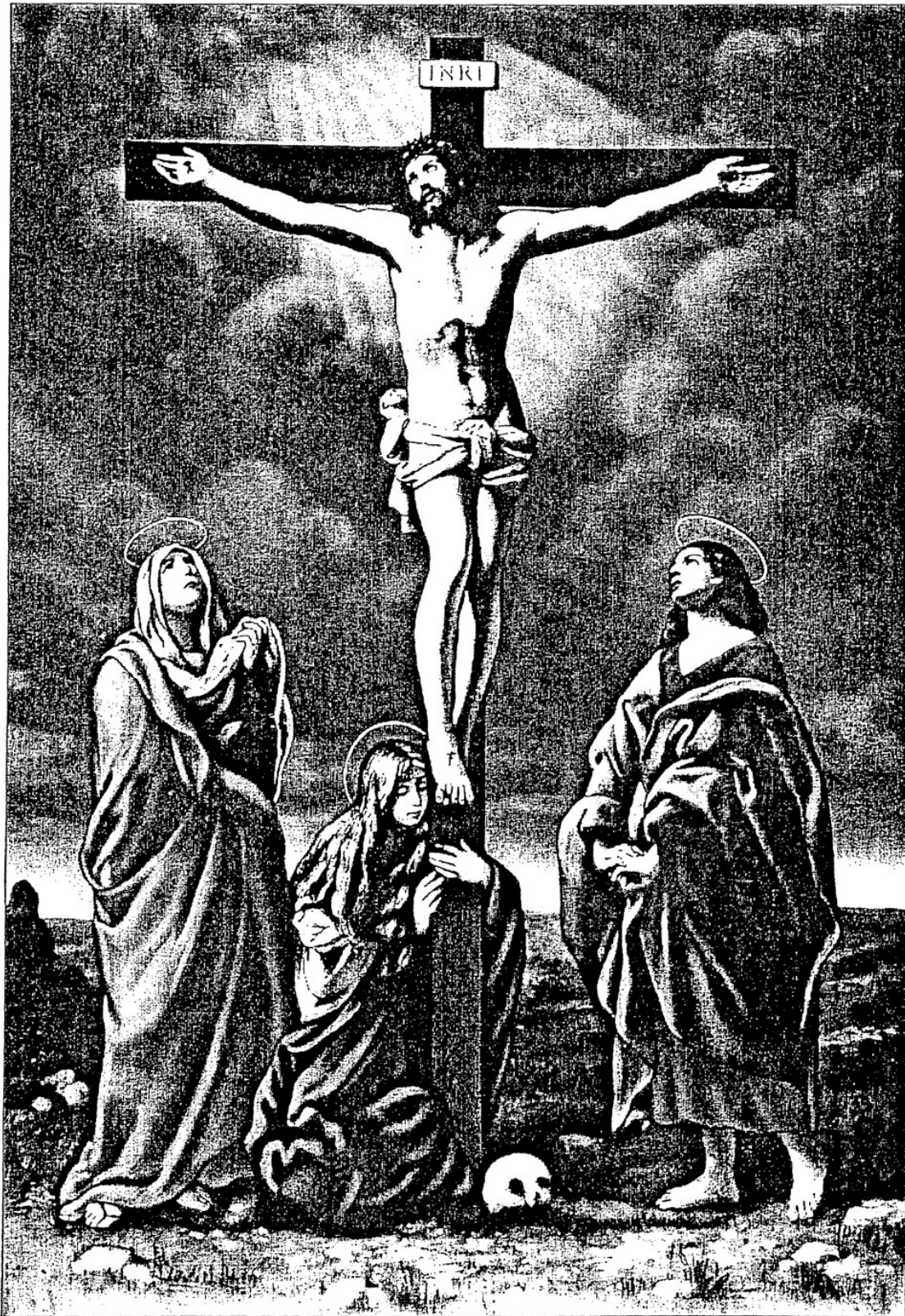
from the trees they cut branches  
Hosanna to the Son of David.

Today God fulfilled many words  
As Zachariah prophesied

the prophecies and the proverbs  
this prediction of Jesus Christ.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*Jesus Christ was nailed to the Cross to save us*



**APRIL  
FIRST SUNDAY  
THE HOLY WEEK-“THE PASCHA”**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn from the events of the Paschal week. In this week we celebrate the salvation which the Lord Christ achieved for us through His sufferings. He suffered by His own free will.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

This week is called the Paschal week. The word “Pascha” is a Hebrew word which means “Passover”. The sequence of events for this week, which is the last week in the life of Christ on earth in the flesh as our church celebrates it, is as follows:

**Saturday**

Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover (John 12:1).

He ate supper in Bethany at Mary and Martha’s house. Then Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with costly ointment, wiped them with her hair and the house was filled with the beautiful odour of the ointment (Matthew 26:2-13, Mark 14:5-9, John 12:2-11).

**Sunday: “Palm Sunday”**

This is the victorious entry of Jesus, riding a donkey, into Jerusalem. Please refer to the lesson on “Palm Sunday”

**Monday: Jesus Curses the Fig Tree**

“On His way back to the city the next morning, Jesus felt hungry. He saw a fig tree by the side of the road but He found nothing on it except leaves. So He said to the tree, you will never bear fruit again. At once the fig tree dried up (Matthew 21:18-19, Mark 11:12-14). This fig tree represented the Jewish nation, which had the appearance from outside but no life from inside.

**Tuesday**

The lessons learned by the Disciples from the fig tree and the lessons of faith are found in Matthew 21:20-22 and Mark 11:20-22.

Synagogue authorities questioned Jesus’ actions, miracles and authorities, Matthew 21:23-32, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 2:1-8.

**Wednesday**

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve Apostles, went to the chief priest to betray Jesus (Mark 14:10-16).

The preparation for the last supper (Mark 14:10-16).

**Thursday: “The Last Supper”**

“He that dipped his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me” (Matthew 26:20-25, Luke 22:41).

Jesus washes the Disciples’ feet (John 13:3-8).

**Friday: the Good Friday”**

The concentration is of sufferings of the Lord Jesus until His crucifixion. Everything was by His own free will to complete our salvation.

**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We should attend church services during the Paschal week, participate in the hymns, and follow all the events and learn from them.
2. In the paschal week we pray in the sad tune because of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus, which were real sufferings. But the words are glorifying Him “Thine is the glory and the power and the strength...”

## Songs

### MY CROSS

My cross, my cross  
I place you on my bosom

my glory is in you!  
and in my bedroom too.

#### REFRAIN

My cross, my cross  
But in my heart, my cross

you're made of lowly wood  
you're more precious than gold

My cross, my cross  
I sign you every morning

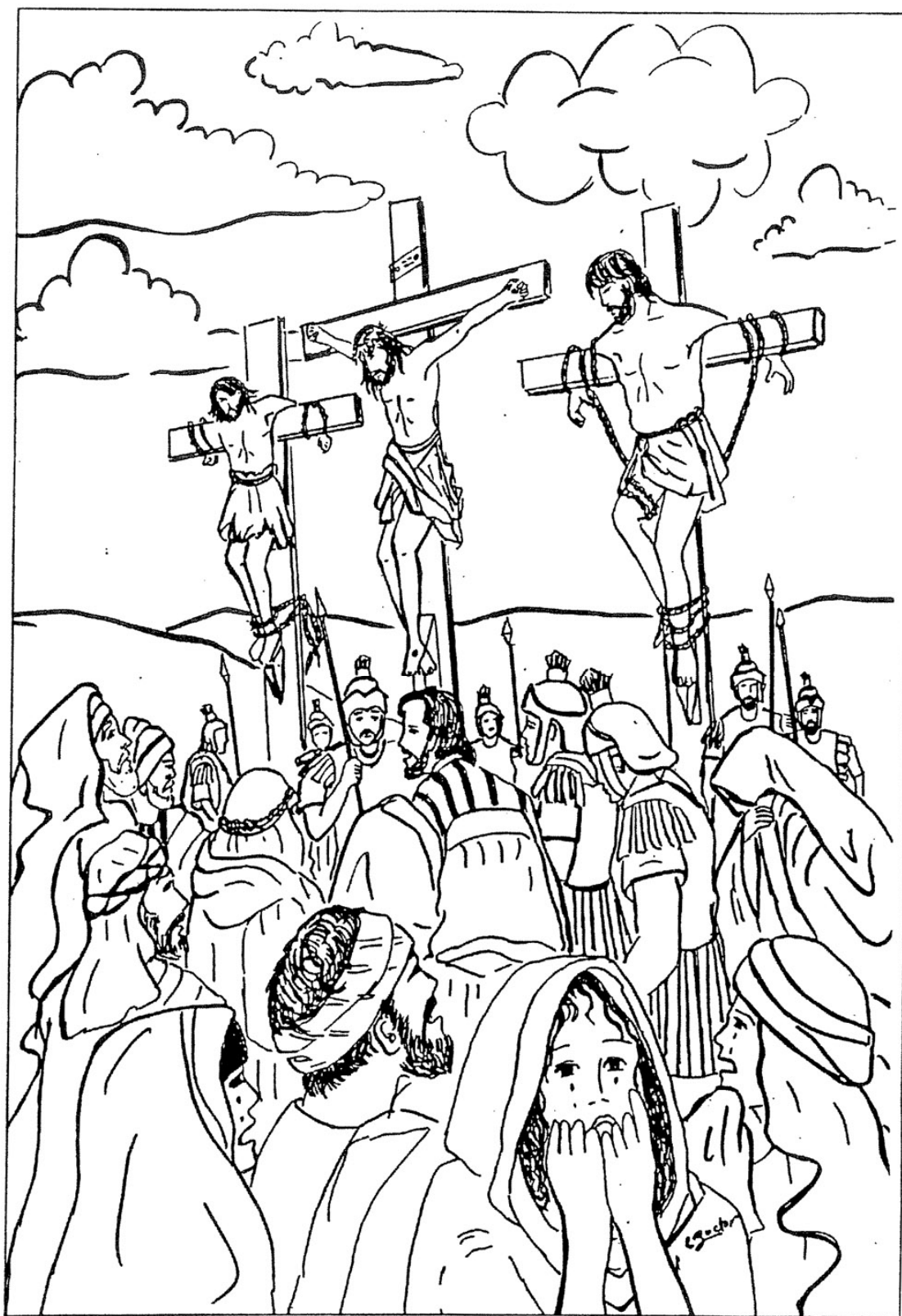
is with me everywhere  
and whenever I fear

My cross, my cross  
the pledge of my success

My victory's in you  
in whatever I do

#### Recitation Curriculum :

Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.



*The people grieve over Jesus' death on the cross*



**APRIL  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE CENTURION SAID, “TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD”**

**Please read Matthew 27:45-56, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is Son of God. Even the centurion testified that He was the Son of God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Truly this was the Son of God.” Matthew 27:54*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Please read with the children Matthew 27:45-56. Let us list together these heavenly powers that the Lord Jesus showed while on the Cross. (These powers showed that Jesus is Son of God).
1. There was darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour all over the world.
  2. When someone dies he or she becomes very weak. But Jesus cried out with a loud voice before he died.
  3. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
  4. The earth quaked and the rocks were split.
  5. The graves were opened and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, and they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

6. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly saying, “truly this was the Son of God”.
7. There was darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour all over the world.
8. When someone dies he or she becomes very weak. But Jesus cried out with a loud voice before he died.
9. The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
10. The earth quaked and the rocks were split.
11. The graves were opened and many bodies of the Saints who had fallen asleep were raised and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, and they went into the holy city and appeared to many.
12. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly saying, “truly this was the Son of God”.

#### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord Jesus is God who came and died for us by His own free will. Even on the Cross, He had full authority over everything. He is God.
2. Every time we look at the cross we remember God’s love, kindness and power.
3. The Centurion said, “Truly He was the Son of God”. What do you say about the Lord Jesus. Describe.



## Songs

### MY CROSS

My cross, my cross  
I place you on my bosom

my glory is in you!  
and in my bedroom too.

#### **REFRAIN**

My cross, my cross  
But in my heart, my cross

you're made of lowly wood  
you're more precious than gold

My cross, my cross  
I sign you every morning

is with me everywhere  
and whenever I fear

My cross, my cross  
the pledge of my success

My victory's in you  
in whatever I do

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*An angel makes an announcement of Jesus' rising from the dead*



**APRIL  
THIRD SUNDAY  
THE EASTER EGGS**

**Please read Luke 21:1-12, the attached material entitled “The Egg and Chick”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To know the events of the Lord’s resurrection and its joy that eliminate all the sadness and the suffering on the Cross. We learn also why Christians eat eggs in Easter.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“Jesus said to her I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Lord Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, on a Sunday, early in the morning.  
He first appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to His Disciples.  
Mary Magdalene was crying because she could not find Jesus in the tomb.  
When Mary found out that Jesus arose from the dead she ran to tell the rest of the Disciples.
- † Jesus arose from the dead on His own. He did not need an angel to remove the stone from the door of the tomb. The angel only came to make the announcement, but Jesus arose from the dead with the stone at the door of the tomb.
- † Every Sunday is a celebration of the memory of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. We cannot understand the meaning of the cross and the

suffering of the Lord Jesus, except through His resurrection. Then we can be so sure that He died on the cross by His own free will, in order to save us. He rose from the dead to defeat Satan as well as death, for our sake.

**Let us greet one another: Christ is risen, He is indeed risen.**

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord Jesus is God. As He changed the sadness of Mary Magdalene into joy through His resurrection, He will also fill our hearts with joy.
2. When we celebrate Easter, we are not celebrating things that happened in the past and that is it. We are celebrating our victory over death, which the Lord started for us. So we will defeat death as He did also.

## **COLOURING**

### **Songs**

#### **GENTLE JESUS RISEN LORD**

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the lord’s death till He comes.” (1Cor 11:26)*

Gentle Jesus risen Lord  
With our hearts so full of joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

#### **REFRAIN**

we come, we come

we come to Your table

Bringing gifts of all we are  
Gifts of life and love and joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we find life  
Life You gave for us to share

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we are one  
One with You and one another

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST \***

“Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen. Remember how I spoke unto you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified and on the third day rise again?” (Luke 24).

References: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-6

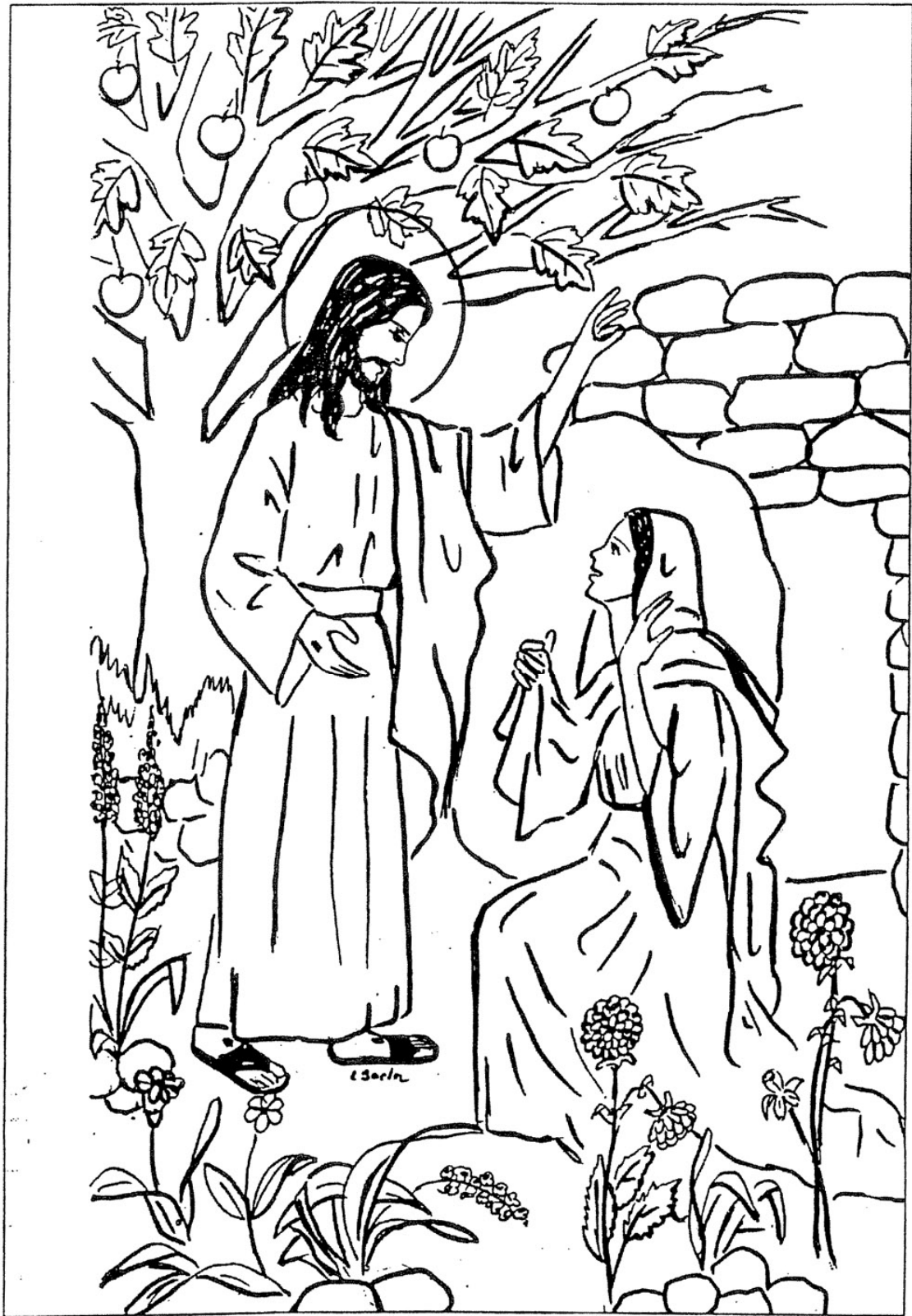
## **THE EGG AND THE CHICK \***

Christians all over the world used to eat eggs during the feast of the resurrection. This goes back to the apostles' years. Christians related the coming out of the baby chick from an egg to the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

It is known that Mary Magdalene, during her preaching, went to the king of Rome and told him about the resurrection of Christ. He did not believe what she said and insulted her. She then brought an egg to him and said, “How can you believe that the chick comes out of here and do not believe that the creator of the world was able to conquer death and rise from the dead? It was only then that he believed.

Ekchristos Anesti ... Alithos Anesti  
Christ is risen ... Truly He is Risen

**\* Note:** This article is taken from "Sout El – Rahi" magazine – St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt, May 1975



*St. Mary Magdalene is happy to see Jesus alive*



**APRIL  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ANNOUNCED THE RESURRECTION OF THE  
LORD**

**Please read Matthew 28:1-20, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- In this lesson, we would like to review the joyful events of the Resurrection. We also like to emphasise that the Lord Christ rose from the dead by Himself while the tomb was sealed. Archangel Michael came only to roll the stone from the gate of the tomb.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“He is not here for He is risen.” Matt 8:6*

**Please emphasize:**

- † After the bad people crucified the Lord Christ, He rose up from the dead after three days. The Lord Christ is the Son of God. He accepted to die by His own free will. He was able to rise up from the dead by His own power.
- † The Lord Christ rose from the dead while the gate of the tomb was sealed. Remember He is the Son of God and can do anything. Can you go out from a room while the door is shut? No one can. But the Lord Jesus came out from the tomb while the gate was sealed and the guards were around because the Lord Jesus is the Son of God.
- † We know that angels come to announce the Good News for us. Remember Archangel Gabriel when he came to announce to St. Mary the Virgin about

the birth of the Lord Christ from her. Now we see Archangel Michael coming to announce the resurrection of the Lord Christ from the dead to the Marys. Therefore angels are nice.

- ✝ In our Coptic Orthodox Church Easter (i.e. the Resurrection of the Lord Christ) is the largest feast of the year.
- ✝ On Easter we greet each other saying, “Christ is risen ...truly He is risen”  
Ekhristos Anesti... Alisos Anesti

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He died on the cross for us and rose from the dead. So when we have faith in Him we will not die and we will have eternal life.
2. When we need anything we must ask God to give it to us because He can do everything and He loves us as well.
3. Christianity is a religion of joy because even death cannot defeat us.



## **Songs**

### **GENTLE JESUS RISEN LORD**

*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the lord’s death till He comes.” (1Cor 11:26)*

Gentle Jesus risen Lord  
With our hearts so full of joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

### **REFRAIN**

we come, we come

we come to Your table

Bringing gifts of all we are  
Gifts of life and love and joy

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we find life  
Life You gave for us to share

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

In your body we are one  
One with You and one another

we come to Your table  
we come to Your table

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*St. George rides his horse and slays a dragon*



**MAY  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**ST. GEORGE'S ICON**

**Please read the attached material entitled “St. George’s Icon”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn that the sons and daughters of God defeat the devil as St. George did.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“I make your enemies under your footstool.” Luke 20:43**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

**† St. George’s life**

St. George is one of the most popular and beloved saints to all the Copts. He was born in the second half of the third century AD. He belonged to a noble family in the city called Cappadocia in Asia Minor. The saint acquired a good education, joined the army and became one of its outstanding soldiers. He was well known for his courage.

St. George had strong faith in God, and after losing his parents, he sold all his belongings and gave everything he had to the poor.

**† St. George’s Witnessing for Jesus**

One day while riding his horse in the streets of Alexandria, he saw a post proclamation condemning the Christian religion and its followers.

With great zeal the hero tore it down saying, “How dare you make such a proclamation against the religion of Christ, the true religion?” He was asked to worship idols but he refused. The bad people threatened to kill him, but he was not afraid. God gave him strength to endure all sufferings.

### **✠ St George’s Icons**

In our church we call him “Mari Guirguis”. Two possible interpretations of St. George’s icon are:

He is portrayed as a handsome officer riding a white horse and stabbing the dragon representing the devil. The maiden is the church watching her son defeating the devil.

Tell them the story of the city and the dragon that was threatening to harm all the people of the city. St. George saved with his own hand the girl whom the people gave to the dragon. He killed the dragon and the people were happy, became Christians, and got baptized.

### **✠ St George’s Churches**

There are many churches all over the world named after St. George. The church celebrates two feasts for St. George: one for his martyrdom and one for the consecration of the first church named after him in Palestine.

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Be kind to the poor and in need people as St. George was.
2. We must be good Christians as St. George was.
3. We ask for the prayers of St. George on our behalf.



*St. George rides his horse and slays a dragon*

## Songs

### SAINT GEORGE

**"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us lay aside every weight." (Heb 12:1)**

I will tell you a story Known to us all	of great martyr as St. George
He was a soldier Of the king who's name	in the army was Diocletian
The king ordered him And worship idols	to deny our Lord or else be killed
He was put in jail And a paving stone	where they tied his feet was put on his chest
Every day in jail 'My Only God	he prayed in faith is Jesus Christ"
When a poisoned drink He made the sign	was offered to him of the cross over it
When he drank from the cup And the pagans believed	he was not hurt in our God
It's the life-giving cross That saved St. George	of our Saviour glory be to God.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **ST GEORGE'S ICONS**

The Saint is portrayed as a young, handsome officer, riding his white horse and valiantly stabbing the evil dragon. In the background, a beautiful young maiden stands from a distance, happily watching the hero.

The story of St. George is represented in this picture in a symbolic way. The dragon represents the devil that moved Diocletian to go against the Christians. The maiden is the church, watching her sons defending their faith and dying for her sake. The saint's martyrdom, which is a defeat of the devil, is represented in the act of stabbing the dragon.

There is another interpretation of this icon, which is more of a legend than a true story. It is said that St. George was a Christian knight born in Cappadocia. One day he chanced upon a city called Sylene, which was a marshy swamp, in the province of Libya.

There lived a dragon whose poison threatened to wipe out the entire population. The people mustered enough strength to attack and kill the dragon but its breath was so terrible that everybody fled from it.

To prevent the dragon from coming closer the people supplied it every day with two sheep. When the sheep grew scarce, however, a human victim was selected by lot, and the lot eventually fell on the king's own daughter.

No one was willing to take the poor maiden's place, so she was taken, dressed as a bride, to meet her doom. Then St. George coming upon the scene attacked the dragon and transfixed it with his lance. He then borrowed the maiden's girdle, fastened it around the dragon's neck, and she led the monster into the city. The dragon followed her as if it was a meek, tamed beast.

The people felt terrified and were about to take flight, but St. George told them not to be afraid. If only they would believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized, he would slay the dragon.

The king and all his subjects readily consented. The dragon was killed and four x-carts were needed to carry the carcass to a safe distance. It is said that about 15,000 men were baptized, not counting the women and children. The king offered St. George a great treasure, but the saint asked him to give it to the poor instead. All he wanted was for the king to maintain churches, honour the priests,

show compassion to the poor, and attend religious services.

At the time Diocletian came to power, great persecution against the Christians began, which eventually led to the martyrdom of the valiant hero after years of suffering.

Another icon is adorning the entrance of the saint's church in Sporting, Alexandria. The icon shows St. George on his horse with a young maiden holding on to his back while he was violently stabbing the dragon. The maiden on this icon probably refers to the woman who was sent to tempt St. George while he was in prison. Instead of her defeating him with her charm, he won her over with his chastity and faith. Painting her on the horse with him shows how the saint succeeded in lifting her up from the claws of evil and sin as represented by the dragon.

### **The Saint's first church**

The first church after the saint's name is in Lydda, Palestine, and was built by King Constantine. The saint's head is buried under the altar while his body is kept in a golden casket inside the temple.

### **Feasts of St. George**

1. His martyrdom: 23rd Baraouda, 1st of May.
2. Consecrating his church in Palestine: 7th Hatour, 16th November. This date also coincides with the churches built after the saint's name, such as the churches in Fit Damsia, Berma and other places.



## NOTES

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*St. Mark, the Apostle, who established Christianity in Egypt*



**MAY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**ST. MARK THE APOSTLE**

**Please see the attached colouring material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about St. Mark and his love of God. We are proud to be Coptic Orthodox Christians and belong to our beautiful church.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Therefore be followers of God as dear children and walk in love.” Eph. 5:12*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

✝ St. Mark and his parents left Africa and went to Jerusalem. St. Mark’s house became the first place for Jesus and His disciples to meet at. In there the Lord Jesus celebrated the Passover and established in the Last Supper the sacrament of the Holy Communion.

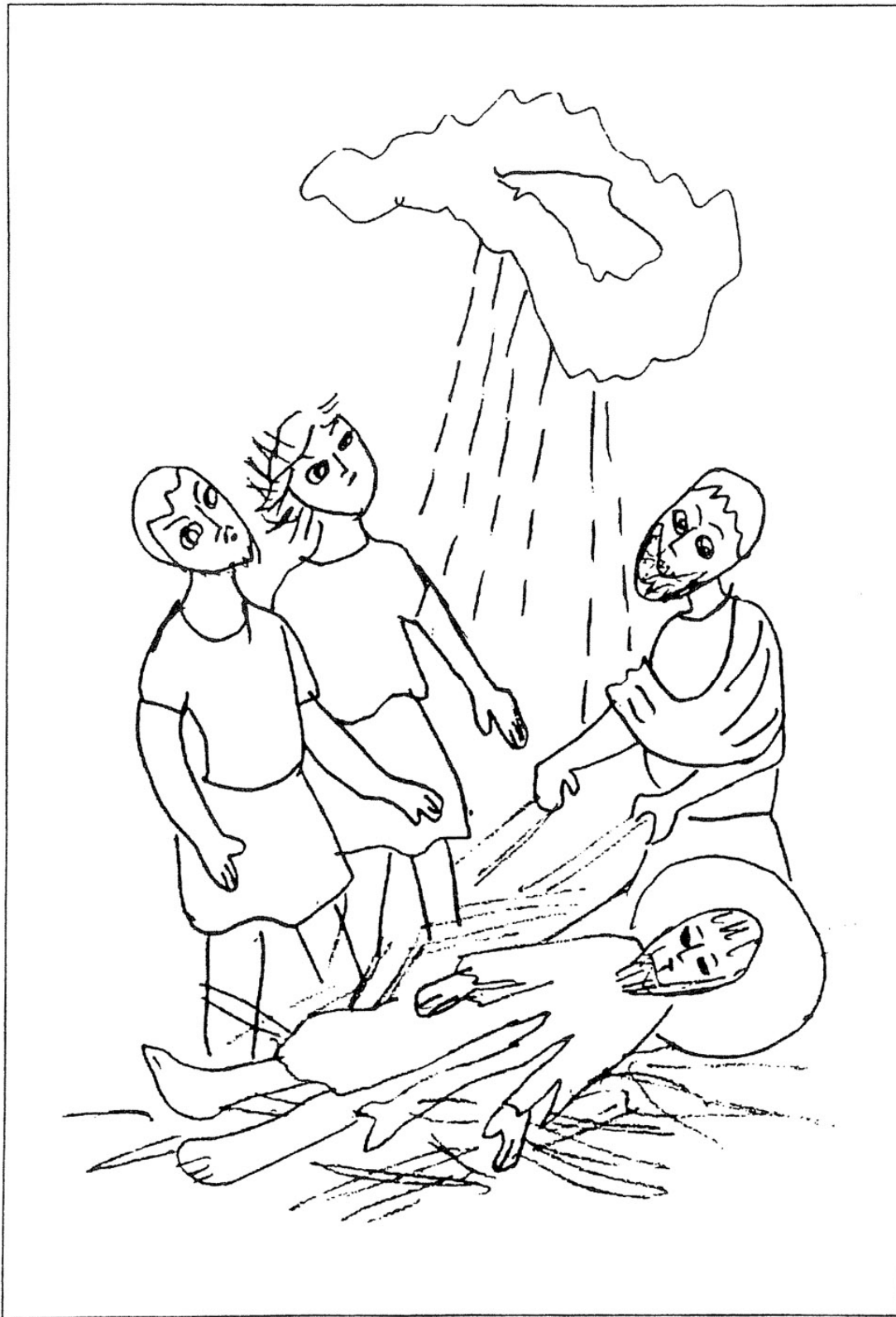
✝ St. Mark went to a shoemaker in Alexandria, named Annianus to fix his sandals. Annianus cut his hand in the process, and St. Mark healed it for him. Annianus and all his family then believed in God and were baptized by St. Mark in the name of Jesus. Other people in Alexandria likewise became Christians.

✝ St. Mark ordained Annianus as Bishop of Alexandria before he left Egypt. On St. Mark’s second visit to Alexandria, the number of Christians increased a great deal. Hence, he built three more churches for them. The pagans captured St. Mark because they were afraid of him and of Christianity in Egypt. They put him in jail and later on dragged him to Alexandria where they

killed him. St. Mark was not afraid because he was going to go to heaven, see Jesus and receive the crown of martyrdom from Him.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

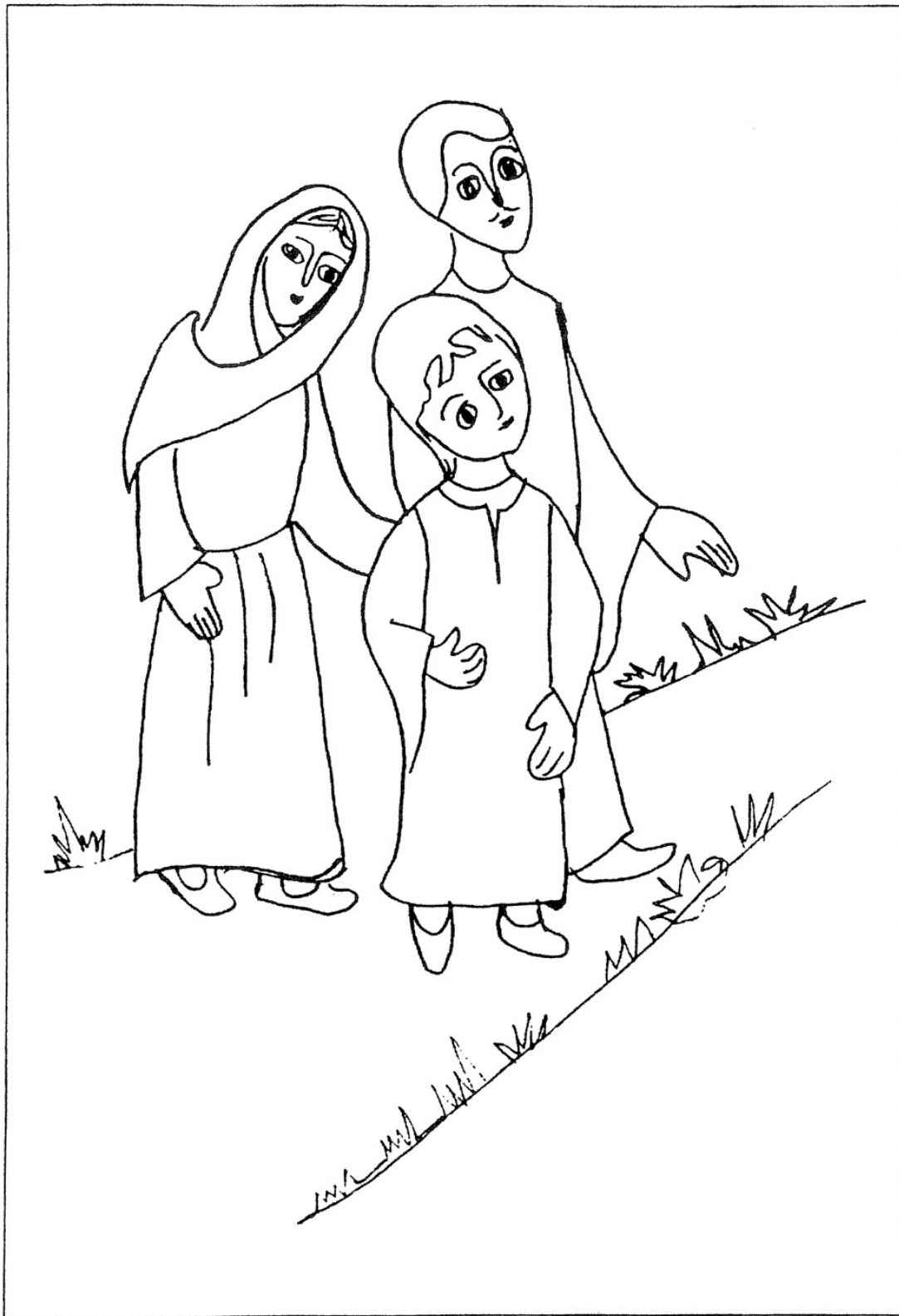
St. Mark established Christianity in Egypt. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ from the bottom of his heart. In return, the Lord Jesus supported him, and gave him peace, power and the crown of martyrdom..



*The pagans as they prepare to cremate St. Mark's body, but the rain stops them*



*St. Mark*

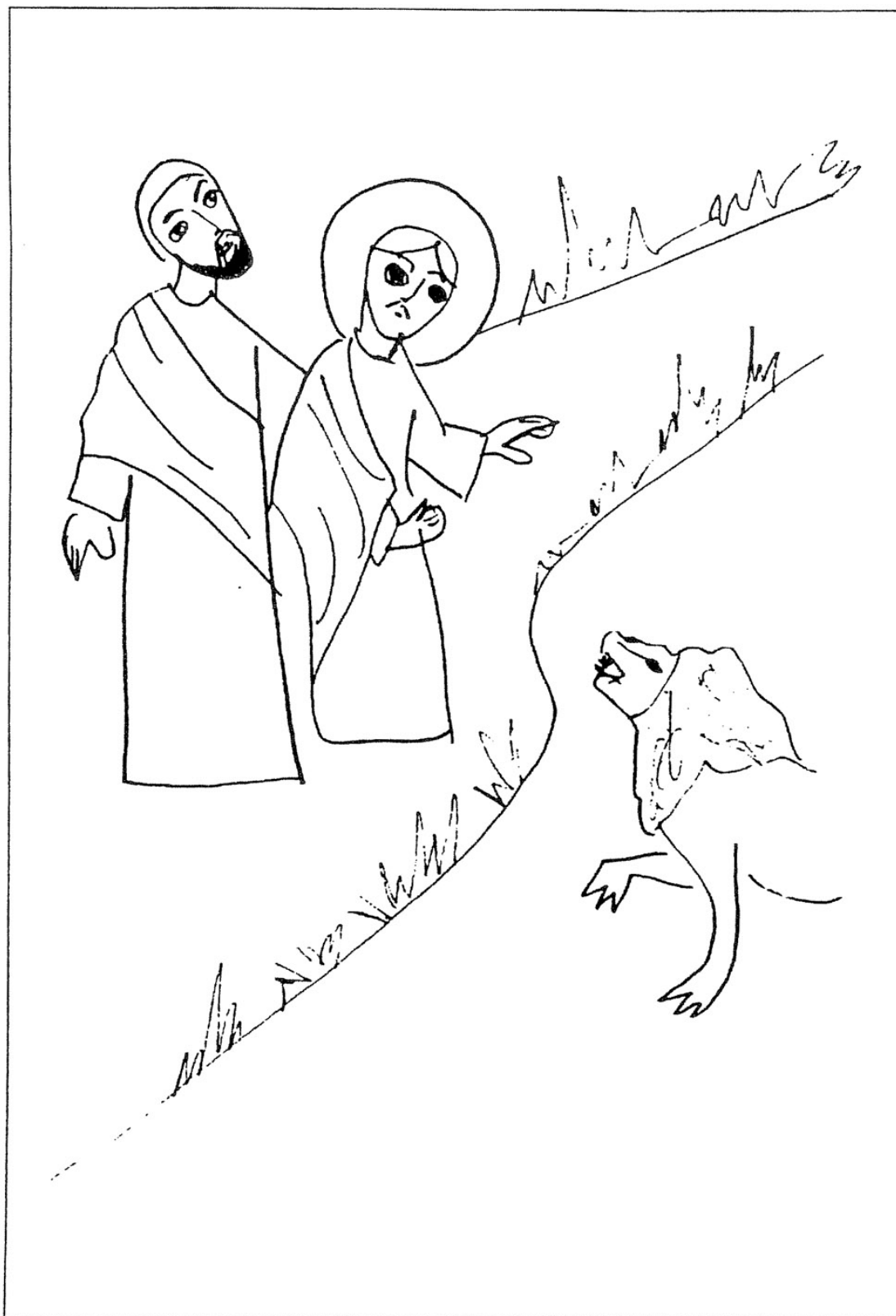


*The child, John Mark, and his Jewish parents move from Africa to Jerusalem*



*St. Mark prepares his mother's upper room for the celebration of the Pascha*

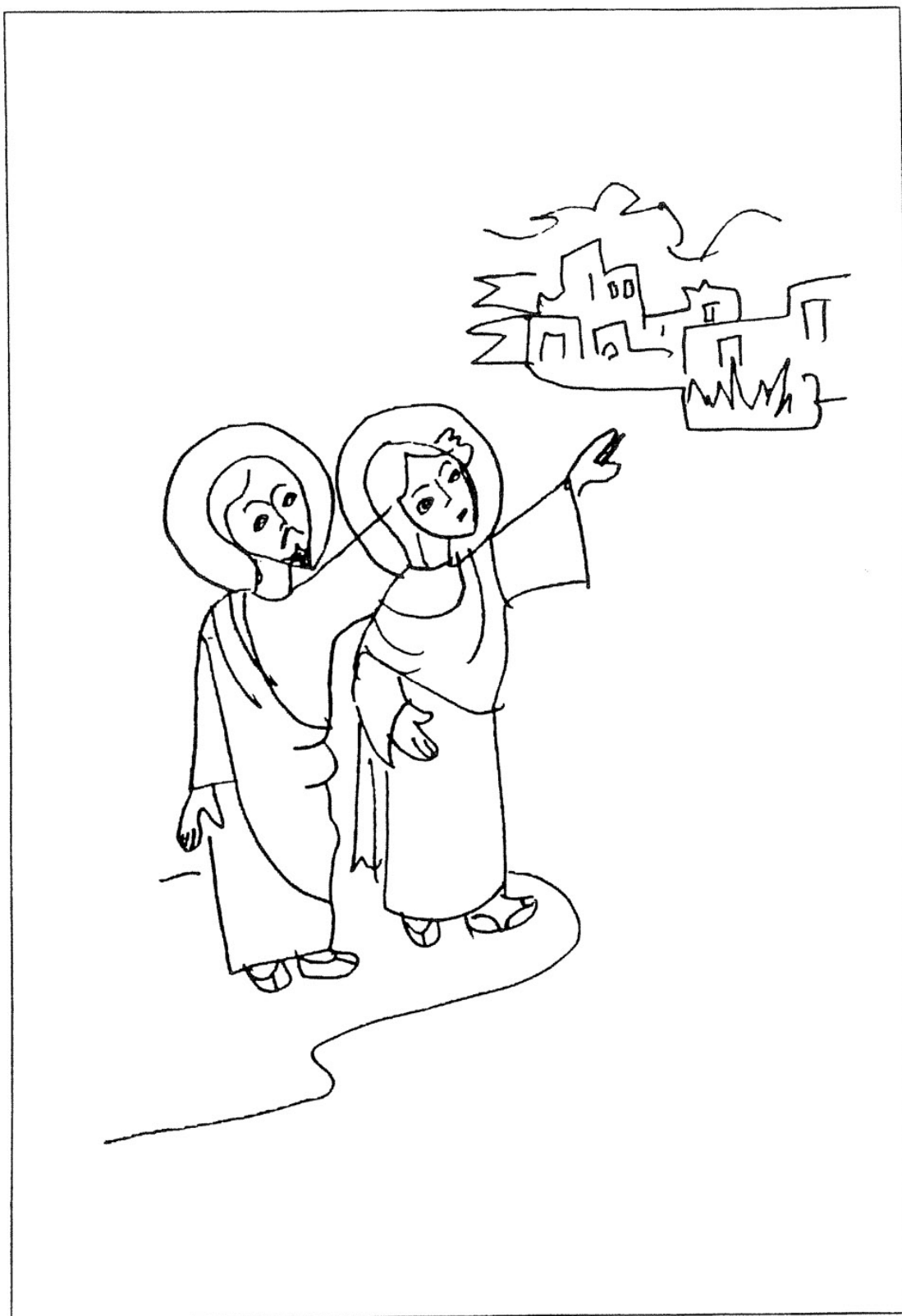




*St. Mark prays to God to save him and his father, Atostalis, from the lion*



*St. Mark goes with St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey*



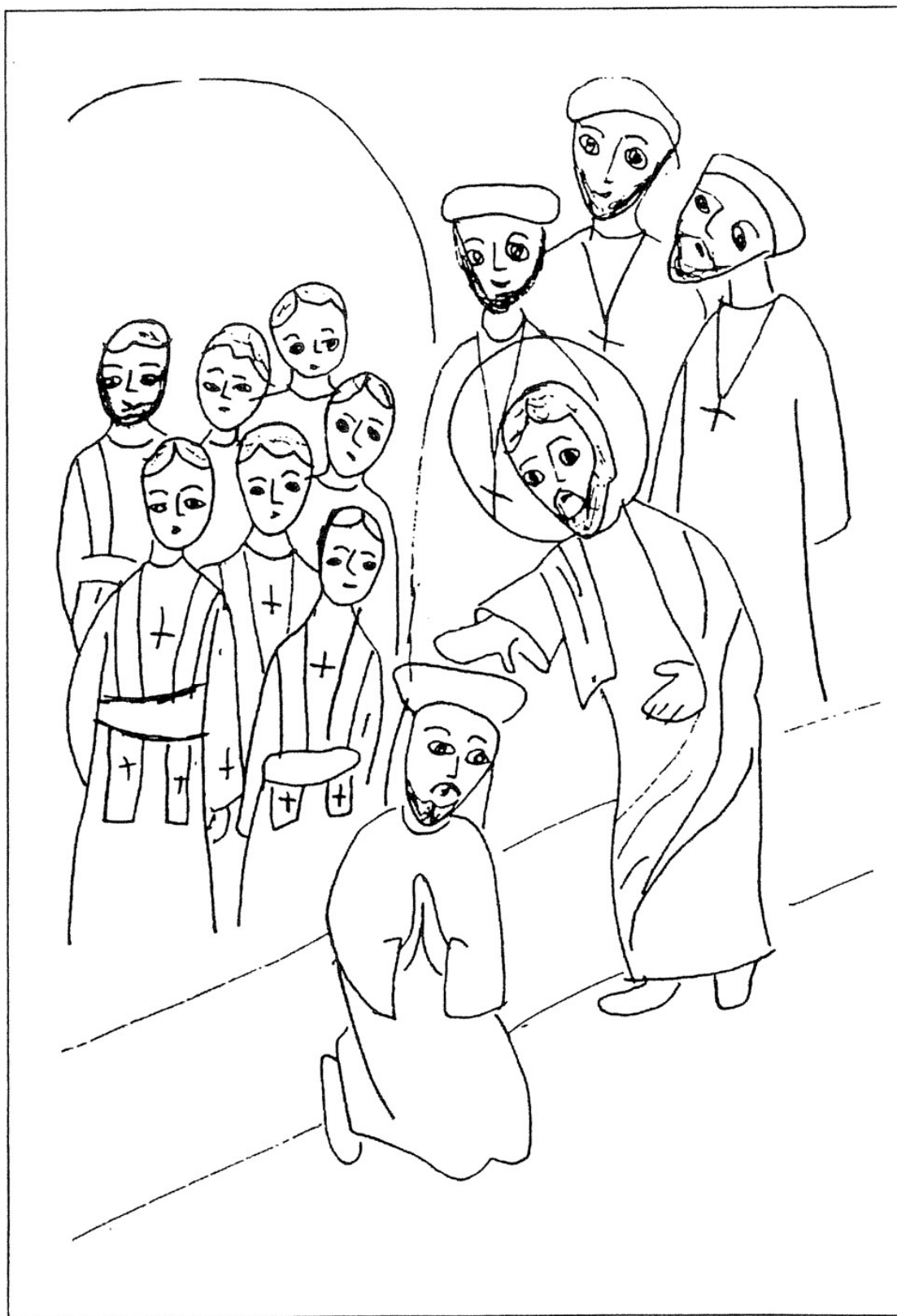
*St. Mark goes with St. Barnabas in preaching in Cyprus*



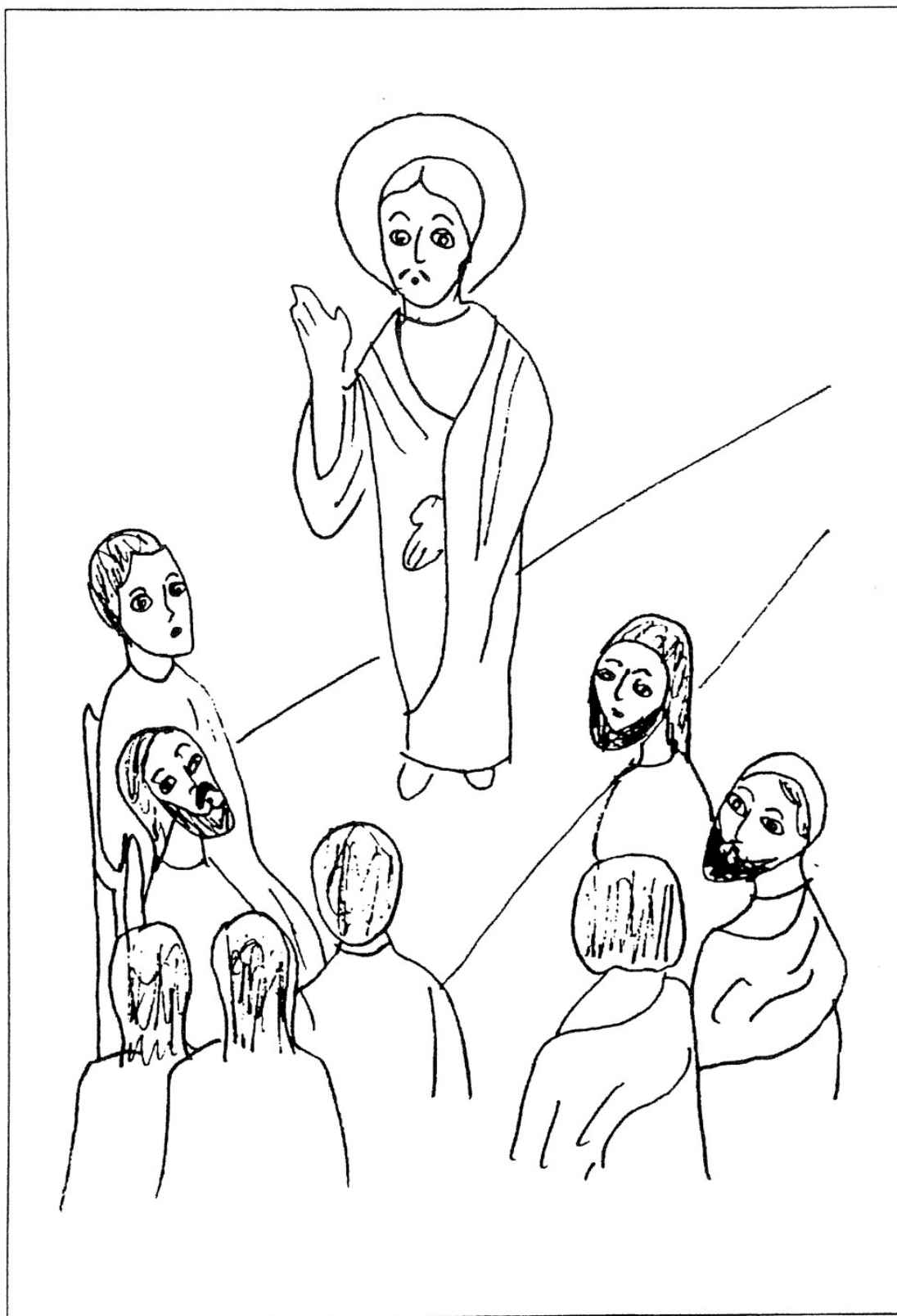
*St. Marks heals the hand of a cobbler, Annanias*



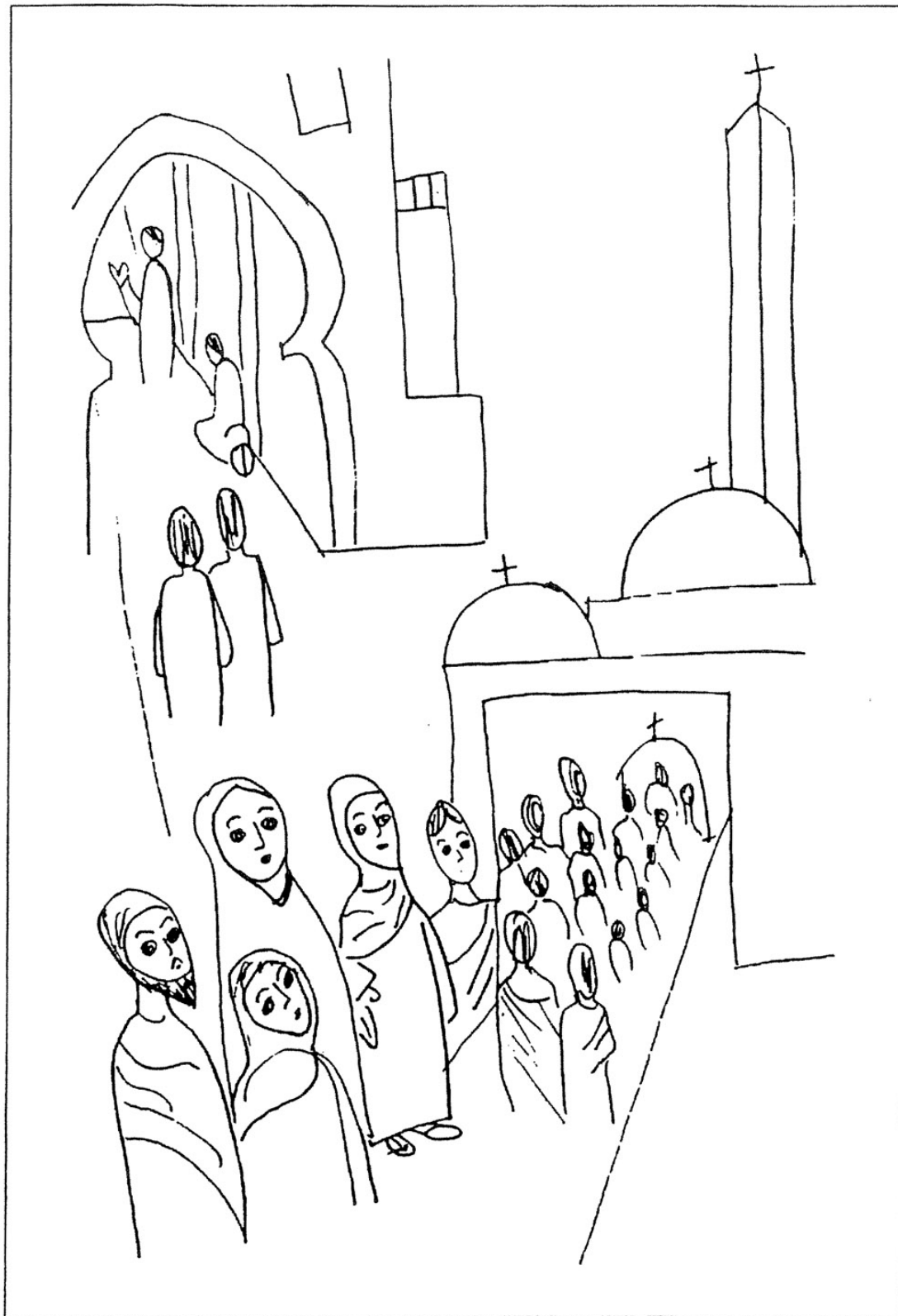
*St. Mark preaches to Annanius' family*



*St. Mark ordains Annanias as Bishop of Alexandria*



*St. Mark establishes the Christian school of Alexandria*

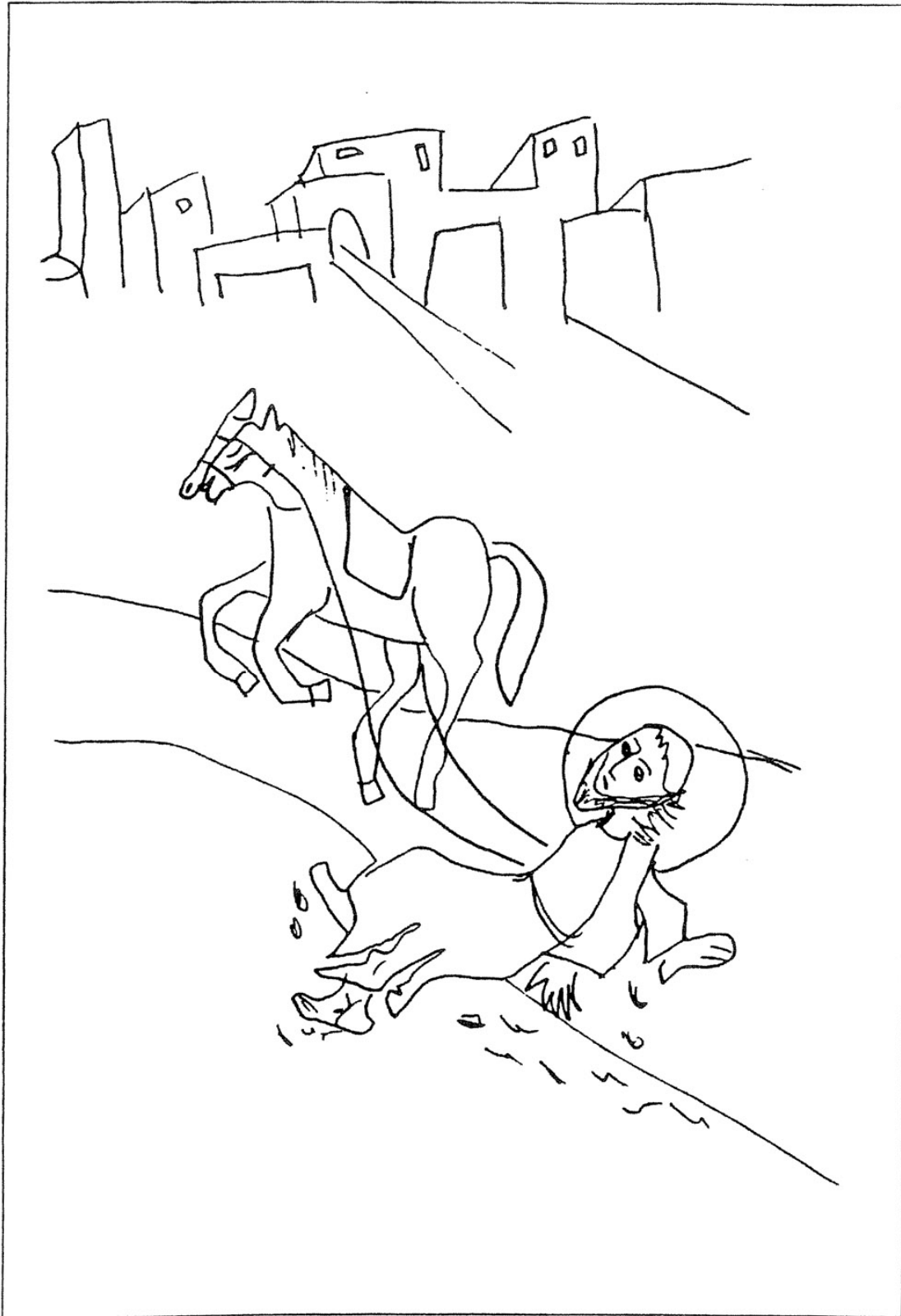


*On Easter, the church was crowded while the Temple of Serapis was empty*





*Jesus appears to St. Mark in prison*



*St. Mark being dragged around Alexandria, his flesh torn and bloodied*

## Songs

### SAINT MARK DOXOLOGY

**In this day there will be an alter to the Lord in the midst of the Land of Egypt,  
and a pillar to the Lord at its border." (Isa 19:19)**

Hail to you Saint mark Who preached the name of Isos	the son of Arostopolos Markos piapostolos.
You were born in Cyrene The land of the Divine	and fled to Palestine Markos .....
You followed Jesus Christ While He was in your midst	from the east to the west Markos .....
When the lions attacked So immediately they died	you and your father prayed Markos .....
Our Lord sent Peter In the house of your father	to prepare the Passover Markos .....
You were carrying a pitcher They followed till you entered And the Lord said For you it is shed	that was full of water Markos ..... this is My body and blood Markos .....
To the garden you followed You fled from naked	the men of you laid hold Markos .....
In your house the Comforter God answered your prayer	descended like fire Markos .....
With tongues you spoke to men About the resurrection	from every nation Markos .....
You brought us the good news And ordained Anianos	about Piekhrestos Markos .....
You wrote the first witness Describing His Holiness	about Jesus' greatness Markos .....

In Alexandria you built  
Many popes graduated from it

a school that was the first  
Markos .....

And when you were martyred  
God ordered and it rained

your body was not burned  
Markos .....

You and God's beholder  
Remember us in your prayer

and our intercessor  
Markos .....

**Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

# HOLY BIBLE

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



*St. Athanasius, the Apostolic*



**MAY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**ST. ATHANASIUS, THE APOSTOLIC**

**Please see the attached colouring material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn from the life of St. Athanasius: His love of God and his great faith in God..

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“The world is against you”, they said to St. Athanasius, and he replied “and I am against the world.”*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † St. Athanasius was the 20th Pope of Alexandria. Pope Shenouda the III is the 117th Pope of Alexandria. Please tell the whole lesson in a story fashion.
- † St. Athanasius was born from parents who worshipped idols. One time Pope Alexandros (the 19th Pope) was looking out the window and found children playing by a little lake. The boy Athanasius was among them and he was baptizing the other children. Pope Alexandros prophesied that this boy Athanasius would someday become an important person in the church.
- † St. Athanasius became a Christian and was baptized by Pope Alexandros. The saint then went to the desert and became a disciple of St. Anthony the Great.

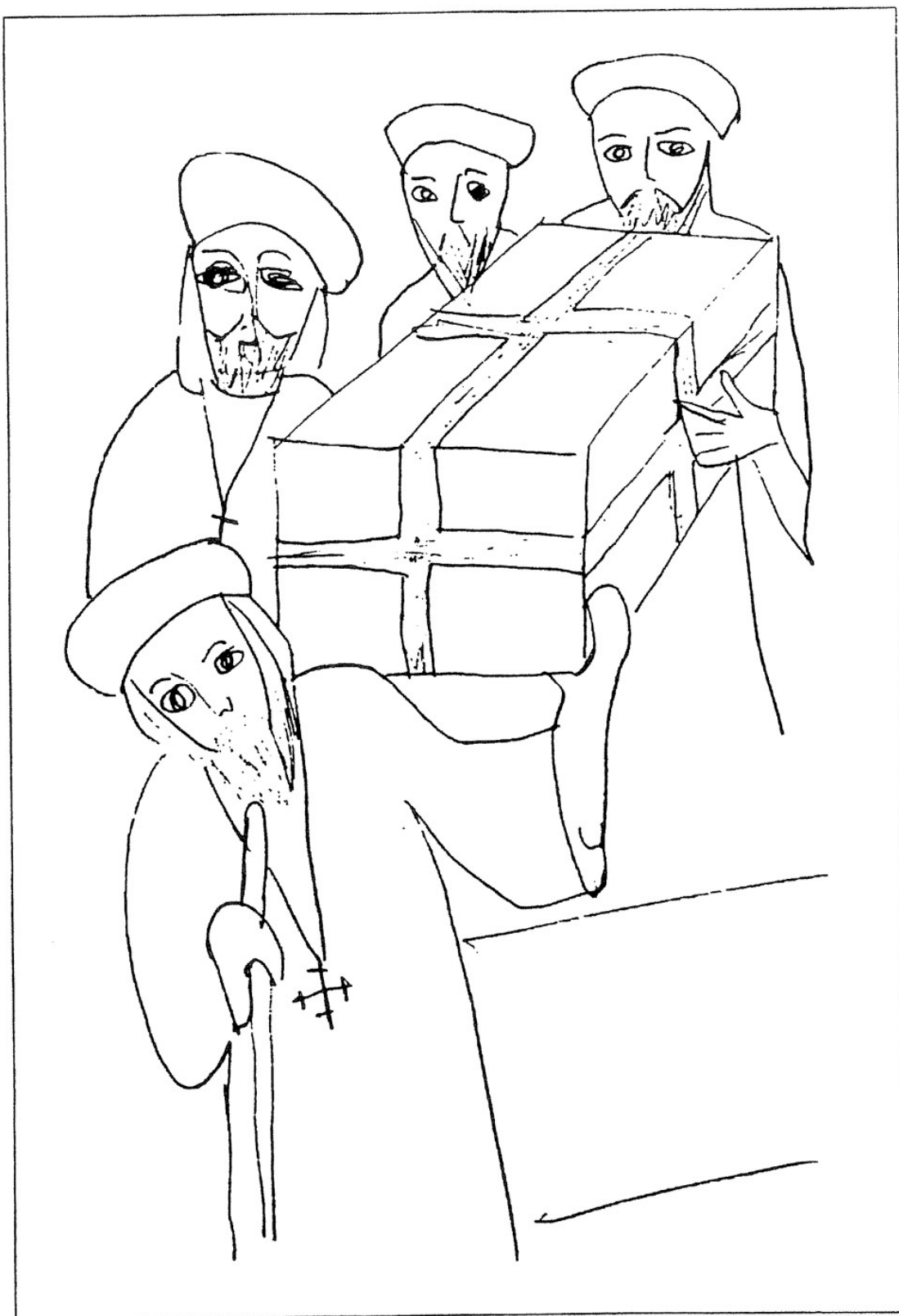
St. Athanasius defeated Arius, who did not believe in the Lord Jesus as the Son of God. St. Athanasius was very strong in his faith and his resistance to the Anianis.

Because of this, he was exiled and sent away from his papacy chair five times. He, however, still defended the faith and preserved it. This is why he was called the Apostle.

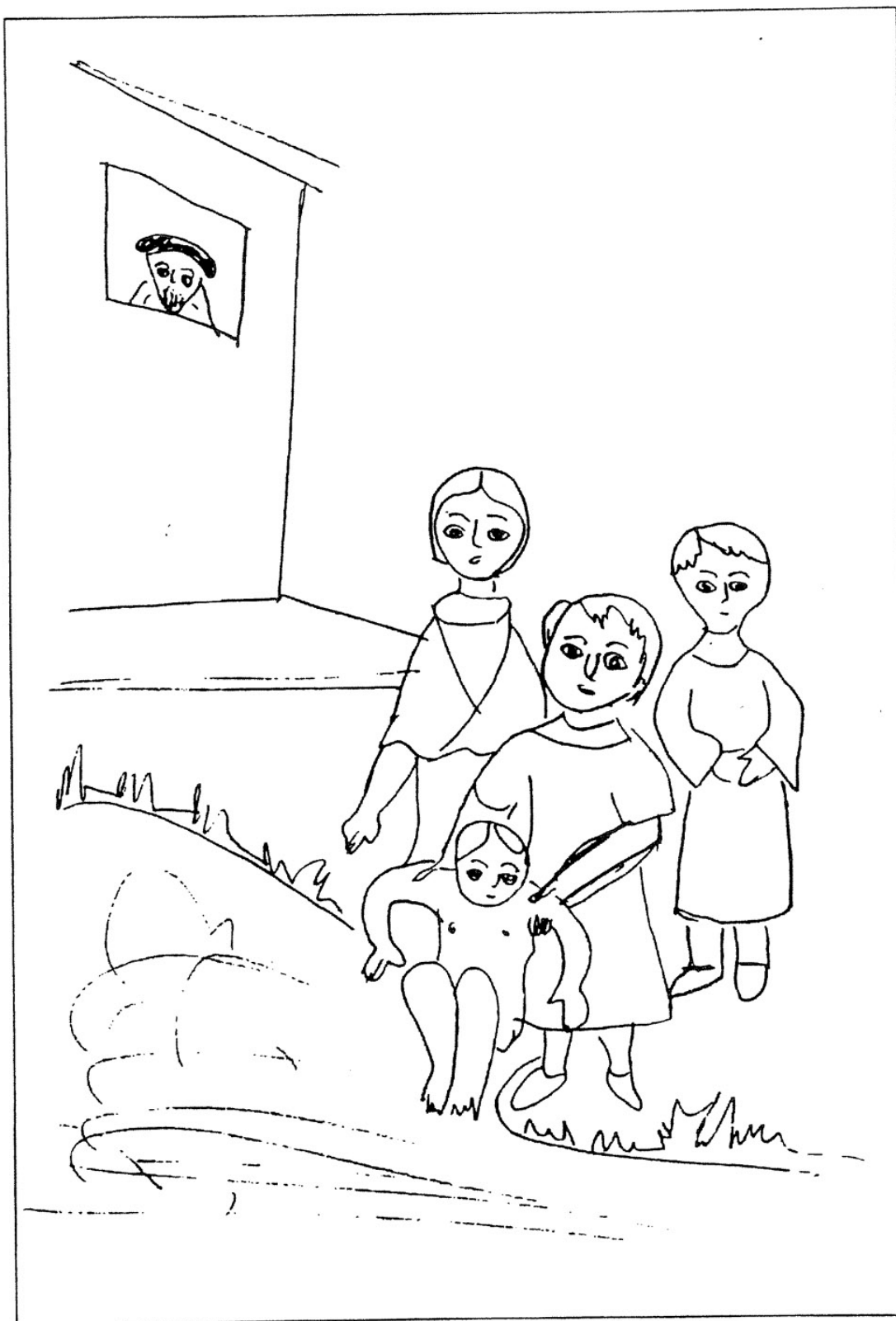
### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We have to be strong, defend our faith and stand up for what we believe in, as St. Athanasius did.
2. We will always be victorious in everything we do as St. Athanasius was, if we maintain our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.





*In 1973 Pope Shenouda brought the relics of Pope Athanasius to Cairo*



*The child Athanasius baptises his friends in front of the Patriarchate*



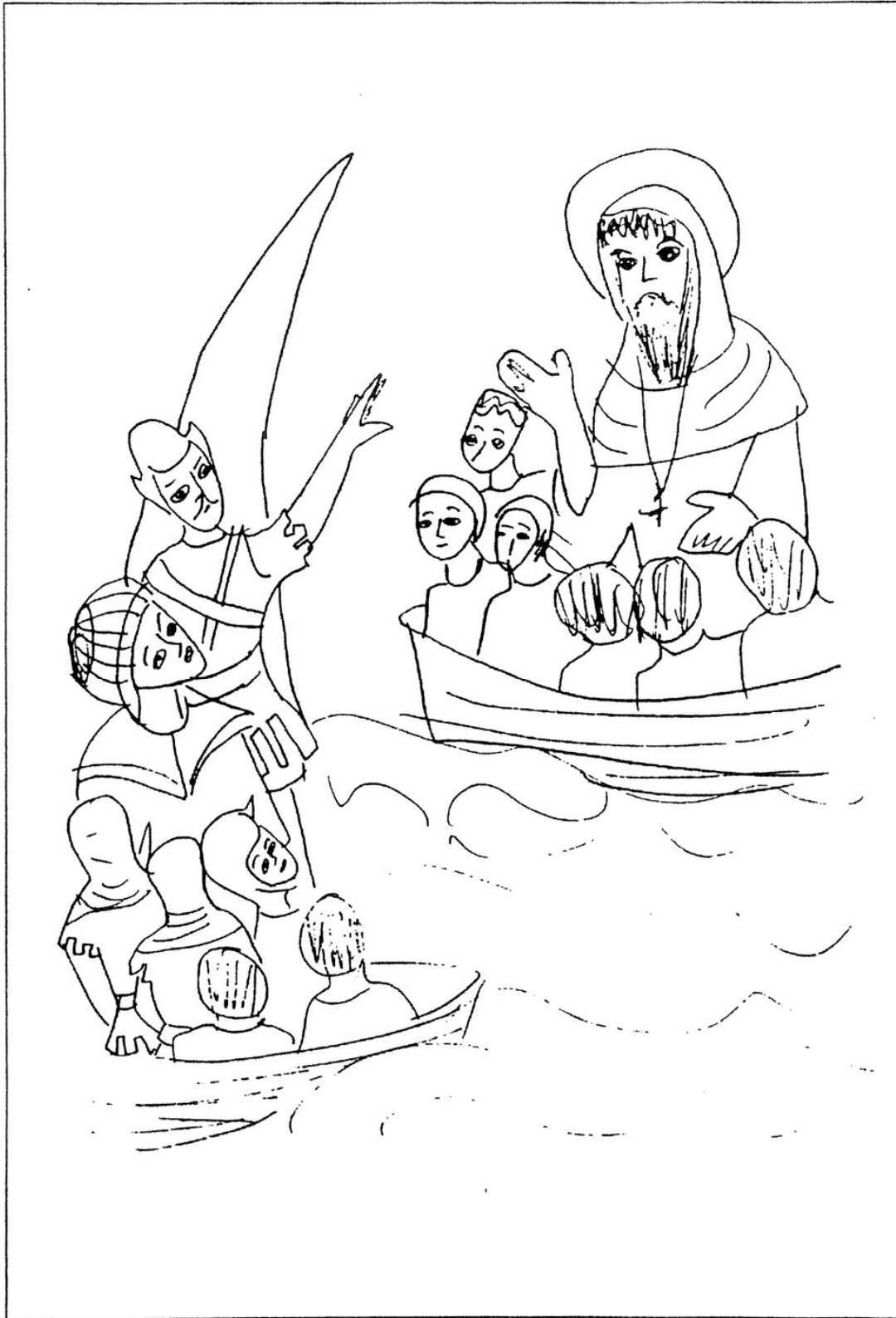
*St. Alexander, the Pope of Alexandria, kindly speaks to the child Athanasius*



*St. Athanasius lives in the desert for years, guided by St. Anthony the Great*



*At the Council of Nicea, Athanasius conquered the wicked Arius in 318*



*Pope Athanasius was obliged to leave the sea five times because of Arius*



*Pope Athanasius bravely stops the imperial chariot to speak to Constantine*

## Songs

### *I AM A CHRISTIAN*

*“ And they shall reign forever and ever.”*

I am a C.

I am a C.H.

I am a C.H.R.I.T.I.A.N.

And I have C.H.R.I.S.T

In my H.E.A.R.T.

And I will L.I.V.E. E.T.E.R.N.A.L.L.Y.

### *Recitation Curriculum :*

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*



## NOTES

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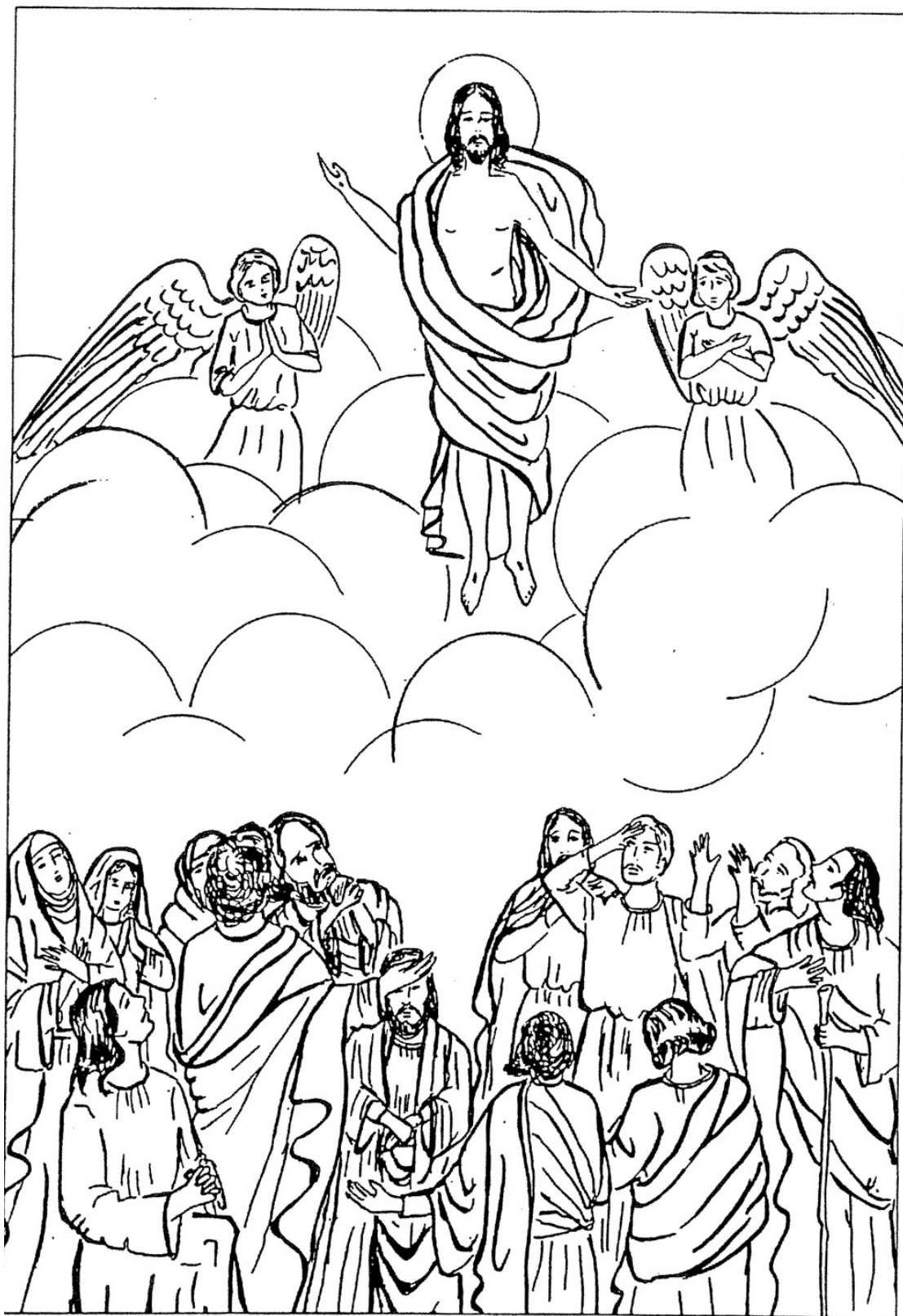
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*Jesus ascends to heaven*



**MAY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**ASCENSION IS THE ROAD TO GOD**

**Please read Acts 1:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- In this lesson we would like to illustrate the meaning of the feast of ascension.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Our beloved Lord ascended to heaven forty days after His resurrection. His resurrection happened on early Sunday morning. So His ascension feast always comes on a Thursday (because five weeks is 35 days plus five days). During these forty days before His ascension He appeared to His disciples as well as few other people in various places at various times.
- ✠ God is everywhere and is not in heavens only. He is in heaven and earth. But heaven is the place for His throne and the angels are with Him. When the Lord Christ ascended to heaven, He ascended with the body, which He took from St. Mary the Virgin, crucified with it, resurrected with it and ascended with it. So, He opened the door for us to follow His footsteps and have a place in heaven. As He went up to heaven, He taught us the Way to go up to heaven.
- ✠ God gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us, teach us, and help us in our daily

life. Now we can realize that ascension to us is the road to God. When we pray, we lift up our hands towards heaven. When we pray we lift up our eyes towards heaven. When we are in need of something we don't look down but we look up and arise our hands to God seeking His help. He will indeed help us with heavenly blessings.

✝ “The heavens declare the glory of God...” Psalm 19:1. Every time we look up to heaven and see how beautiful this heaven is we can glorify God's name who created all things that are so beautiful around us. Can you describe by your own words how beautiful is heaven as you look up to it? Please let very child in the class say something about his or her description of how beautiful is heaven. God created all these things glory be to Him.

✝ As the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven He will come again on the clouds with His angels and will take us with Him to His beautiful heavenly kingdom.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Our beloved Lord Jesus ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us there. He taught us how to behave as mentioned in the Holy Bible, and gave us the Holy Spirit to support us so that we also know our way to God and to heaven.
2. We have to learn to look up to heaven when we pray and we raise our hands toward heaven so that we get all our needs from God who loves us and cares for us.

## **Songs**

### **King of Kings**

**“ And His name will be called...Prince of Peace.” (Isa 9:6)**

King of kings and Lord of Lords  
Glory, Alleluia.

Jesus, Prince of Peace  
Glory, Alleluia.

### ***Recitation Curriculum :***

***Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.***



*St. Mary with the disciples as the Holy Spirit descended upon them*



**JUNE  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**PENTECOST: THE START OF THE WORK OF THE CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

**Please read Acts chapter 2, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- In this lesson we would like to show the importance of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Disciples so that they were able to start the Christian church and their missionary work. The Holy Spirit is very important in our life and the work of the church.

**MEMORY VERSE**

***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.” Acts 1:8***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Pentecost is the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of the Lord. When the Disciples were in St. Mark’s house, a strong wind came. Fire came with the wind like little tongues. Every Disciple had a tongue of fire setting on him. This was the Holy Spirit that looked like little tongues of fire. Then they were able to speak different language. So every one heard the Disciples speak his or her language. This made all those who gathered in Jerusalem understand the words for the disciples. The Disciples were telling them about the Lord Jesus. So, they all believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and became Christians. This is why we say the feast of the Pentecost is considered the start of the work of the Christian church, its history and its

spread all over the world.

The Lord Christ started to form the church when He called the twelve Disciples and sent them to preach (Matt 10:1-16). Then He chose another seventy apostles and sent them to preach (Luke 10:1-20). This was a small scale preaching allowed by the Lord Jesus Christ. However He only allowed them to start preaching, after the descent of the Holy Spirit on them. So this action became the great turning point to start the large scale preaching in the Christian church. Therefore the Holy Spirit is the One who gave the power needed for the large scale preaching in the church.

✝ The Lord Jesus taught His disciples, showed them His miracles, and gave them faith. However, they still needed one thing. What was it? It was the descent of the Holy Spirit on them on Pentecost to support them, to guide them and to speak on their tongues to the people so that they can believe in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

✝ When St. Peter received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost he talked to the people about the Lord Jesus. Immediately three thousand people became Christians. (Please tell the story in details to the children.)

When we put the sign of the cross on ourselves we say in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is called the Holy Trinity.

We all received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized and got anointed with the Mayroun oil. The Holy Spirit who helped the disciples can help us now to be good Christians, to help us to pray and to help us to tell others about the Lord Jesus who is our savior.

## **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. The Holy Spirit was very important for the disciples to start their work in the church and to preach Christianity to others.
2. The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of God is still working in our church and in each Christian.
3. We thank the Lord because He is so generous and He gave us His spirit to be in us and guide our lives.



## Songs

### **FATHER I ADORE YOU**

*“for there are three bear witness in heaven: the father, the word, and the holy spirit, and these three are one.” (1Jn 5:7)*

Father I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Jesus I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Spirit I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

Three in one I adore you  
Lay my life before You  
How I love You.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



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of the lessons and in  
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**JUNE  
SECOND SUNDAY  
CONTROL YOUR TONGUE**

**Please read James 3:1-12, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn to control our tongue and not to say anything unless it is necessary. Never say a bad word.

**MEMORY VERSE**

***“If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man.” James 3:2***

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † How do we know that a person is good or bad? From their words, from the way they speak and from the way they listen and pay attention to others. If someone is saying bad words, it means his heart is not pure with God, because the tongue expresses what is inside the heart. When you love someone, you say loving words to him or her and vice versa.
- † We must learn to control our tongue. The tongue is similar to the rudder of a ship. If the pilot left the rudder on and did not control it, the ship would sink. Similarly, we must learn to think and then speak of good things. See the memory verse.
- † Let the children know the memory verse by heart.
- † Why do we sometimes pray and mention the name of God with our tongue and at other times we say bad words? We must refrain from doing that. Can

a tree bear olive and fig fruits be at the same time? Can we get different types of fruits from one tree? If we want to remain in good standing with God, we must stop saying bad words.

- ✝ We also must not talk too much. When we speak more than necessary, we tend to say more wrong things.
- ✝ Listen to other people when they speak to you in order to understand what they mean. If they asked you something you can then reply based on a clear understanding.
- ✝ We must pray that God protects our tongue so that we do not say bad words. Please read Ps. 14:1-3.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. As we use our tongue to speak to God who is Holy, we must stop using the same tongue to say bad words.
2. We must only speak when it is necessary to speak. Then be careful in what to say.

## Songs

### *Mary and Martha*

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

of Mary and Martha  
to fix him something to eat

Mary stayed in the ground  
Opening her heart and ear

kneeling at Jesus’ feet  
in Him she found peace

Martha was quite upset  
And she started complaining

at Mary she threw a fit  
that Mary was not caring

Jesus praised Mary  
But He was not really pleased

what she did was really neat  
with Martha’s great big Feast

When Jesus is anywhere  
We should always be right there

talking and preaching  
listening and learning

Also when we go to church  
We should always be quite

with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

### *Recitation Curriculum :*

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*



*St. Kathrin*



**JUNE  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**LESSONS BENEFITED  
FROM THE LIFE OF ST. KATHRYN**

**Please read the attached material entitled “St. Kathryn”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn to love one another, based on the life of St. Kathryn.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you.”  
John 15:12*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

† **The upbringing of St. Kathryn**

St. Kathryn was from a good Christian family living in Alexandria, Egypt, who taught her to pray and to love God and other people.

† **Her baptism**

She saw a vision of St. Mary with our Lord Jesus. He did not want to look at her because she was not baptized. After she got baptized Jesus looked at her. This teaches us that through baptism we enter the kingdom of God and we become His Sons and daughters.

† **Her education.**

She did very well in school. She always listened to her teachers who loved her.

### † **The Emperor**

The non-Christian emperor ordered that all people worship the idols, otherwise he would kill anyone who did not.

Some of the Christians were so scared of the emperor that so many of them fell in the sin of worshipping the idols. St. Kathryn came to Alexandria because of her love for the Christians, whom she gave encouragement to. She stood against the emperor and talked to him about the true God of heaven and earth. She told him that there is no salvation without the blood of Jesus.

### † **Kathryn in prison**

The emperor put her in jail. He hurt her body but he could not hurt her feelings. She was always happy, praising the Lord and waiting anxiously to meet Jesus.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. As St. Kathryn loved people and encouraged them, we must also love one another.
2. When someone is passing through some weakness we have to encourage him or her.



## Songs

### **MARY AND MARTHA**

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

of Mary and Martha  
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with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## **ST. KATHRYN**

### **Her Upbringing**

She belonged to a rich and well-known family, which was of royal descent, and lived in Alexandria Egypt. The father used to love his home as Jesus loves the church. Both parents rejoiced in visiting the sick and encouraging those who were unjustly imprisoned. They had family devotions daily in a corner of the house set especially for that purpose. Her mother brought her up in the love and fear of the Lord, consecrating her life to God. She nursed her with the spirit of love for others, humility and meekness. She sent her to the best schools to acquire the most up to date contemporary knowledge.

### **Her Baptism and Betrothal to Jesus**

Kathryn persevered in reading the Holy Bible and meditated upon the life of Jesus Christ. . As she grew up, her love for Jesus and attachment to Him grew stronger. However, she was not yet baptized. One night she had a dream, which troubled her. She saw the Holy Virgin carrying the Infant Jesus and heard her say to Him, “Look at my daughter Kathryn”. But He turned His head away and did not give her any attention. He told his mother, “She is not beautiful because she is not yet baptized”. Kathryn related her dream to her mother, and soon she got baptized”.

The night of her baptism Kathryn had another dream. The Lord Jesus appeared to her again with His Virgin Mother and host of angels, and declared to her that she has become His bride. He put a ring on her finger, and that was when she understood that she had a true vision. She then firmly committed to devoting her life to Jesus and even to having her blood shed for His sake.

### **Her High Education**

She was very intelligent and fortunate. She lived in Alexandria where there was this famous school which had taught the greatest philosophers and theologians.

There she learnt Philosophy and Theology and dwelt in them. She was 18 years old when she used her knowledge to defend the Christian faith and to spread it among the people. She believed that faith without witnessing had no value.

## **The Emperor's Decree**

As Christianity spread widely in Egypt, the emperor ordered that everyone should go to the temple to present offerings to the gods. Then he organized a great festival and asked that 20 calves be offered as sacrifice to the gods and made a decree that everyone who does not participate in that festival should be killed. Persecution started to rage again at the orders of the ruthless emperor Diocletian.

### **St Kathryn's encouragement to the Christians.**

Kathryn felt that fear had begun to find its way into the hearts of Christians. She set herself to walk out daily in the streets of Alexandria and call the Christians to special meetings to encourage them and strengthen their faith. Her name became known to every Christian in Alexandria, and the Christians began to prepare for the day when they would offer themselves a sacrifice to their beloved God.

### **St. Kathrin's defense of Christianity in the Emperor's Presence**

To set a good example of courage, Kathryn decided to face the emperor on the day of the festival and reason with him. She went up bravely to the emperor's guards and asked to meet him. She was granted permission and was led in. She walked straight to the emperor who was seated and surrounded by the ministers, captains, officers and idolatry priestess. Kathryn felt encouraged by Jesus. She saluted the emperor and began to speak calmly stating that sound philosophy based on logic cannot admit the presence of but one God, creator of heaven and earth. She delivered a long speech about Jesus Christ, showing His divinity and that He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, that He was incarnated and has saved mankind through His sufferings and death.

Kathryn cited the sayings of the prophets in the Old Testament and what was found in their idolatry prophetic books, which the emperor and his learned men approved. She related those sayings to what the New Testament tells about the life of Christ, the Saviour, and His death. She compared their god Apollo to Him, and she confessed to them that it was the power from above that had guided her and placed every word in her mouth.

With God's inspiration and with her good knowledge, she won the admiration of her listeners. But the emperor was strongly upset and asked the philosophers and

learned men to defend the official religion. They told him with great respect that the young girl had told the truth, and they were convinced by it. From then on they believed in Jesus Christ and worshipped Him as the true and only God.

The emperor grew terribly angry and gave orders that they heat up the furnace and throw those philosophers and learned men into it. The latter asked Kathryn to pray for them, and she assured them that heaven was open to them.

### **Whipped and prisoned**

The next day the emperor asked Kathryn to offer him a sacrifice with which he would win his god's satisfaction, but she refused. She was determined to lose her life rather than deny Jesus Christ as her God. The emperor began to threaten her and, when she did not give in, he ordered that she be whipped. She was taken out and whipped cruelly for two hours until her flesh was torn. Those who witnessed it were moved and they cried. Then she was put in the place prison, where she praised and thanked the Lord.

### **The Empress' Conversion**

As the emperor traveled on an inspection journey, his wife met with Kathryn on the festive day. The empress had seen her in a dream, glittering and seated on a throne of light, inviting her to sit beside her. Kathryn then placed a crown upon her head saying, "Oh magnificent queen, it is my bridegroom who offers you this crown". Then the empress woke up, expressed her wish to see Kathryn, and asked the prison captain to lead her there. The empress was struck with amazement when she saw that Kathryn's flesh was healed. Kathryn spoke to her about Jesus Christ and the kingdom of heaven. The empress, as well as the prison captain, who was also present in the room, started to believe in Jesus.

### **The Emperor asked St Kathryn to marry him**

The emperor returned from his journey and opened the prison door, thinking he would find a dead body behind it. Instead he saw Kathryn in the best of health. He asked her to marry him but she refused. He attempted to torture her by having her placed on a machine with pointed toothed wheels that moved around very fast. But an unseen hand broke the chains, and she fell on the ground unhurt. Then the mean emperor finally ordered that she be beheaded. She died a martyr on the 25th of November, 307 A.D. Some monks carried her body to Mount Sinai and buried it in a hole among the rocks, where it has since been laying for centuries.

## NOTES

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*Jesus explains the parable of the fig tree*



**JUNE  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**A FRESH START  
THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE**

**Please read Luke 13:6-9, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To remember on every birthday of ours that God is giving us another year as a chance to do better than we did the year before.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Sir, let it alone this year also.” Luke 13:8*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † We should remember that every birthday is a new beginning for us. God is giving us another chance to do good and have a fresh start.
- † Please tell the parable of the fig tree in detail. In this parable the fig tree represents one of us. Every year the Lord gives us a new chance to repent and be better. If after giving us all these chances we still commit sins, the Lord will be angry with us. We must repent, and our Lord Jesus will accept us and forgive our sins.

When we confess and take communion, our sins are forgiven. This is a fresh start.

- † In order for us to be good and bring good results in our lives, we must pray, read the Bible everyday and, take communion regularly. These are like the fertilizers farmers give to the trees so they could bear fruit for the following

year.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. In our birthdays, when we make a wish before we blow the candles we must ask God to protect us in the upcoming year and help us to bring forth good fruit.
2. If we did something wrong, we must say sorry, correct what we have done and have a fresh start on solid ground.
3. Everyday is a new chance for us to get closer to God. We must have a fresh start every day.



## Songs

### **MARY AND MARTHA**

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

of Mary and Martha  
to fix him something to eat

Mary stayed in the ground  
Opening her heart and ear

kneeling at Jesus’ feet  
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Martha was quite upset  
And she started complaining

at Mary she threw a fit  
that Mary was not caring

Jesus praised Mary  
But He was not really pleased

what she did was really neat  
with Martha’s great big Feast

When Jesus is anywhere  
We should always be right there

talking and preaching  
listening and learning

Also when we go to church  
We should always be quite

with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

# HOLY BIBLE

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class



**JUNE  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
ABIDE IN ME**

**Please read John 15:1-11, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn that if we want to have a happy life here on earth and in heaven as well, we must abide in the Lord Jesus, just as a branch abide with the tree.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Abide in me and I in you.” John 15:4*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Jesus wants us to understand that in order for us to have a happy life, we must believe in Him and abide in Him. Jesus says in a parable that God the Father is like the vinedresser. Jesus is like the Vine. A vine is a plant with many branches attached to it. If a branch is attached to the tree, it takes its food from the tree, and the branch lives. If the branch is cut off from the tree, it dries up and dies. Similarly if we would like to have a good life full of good things, we must abide in Jesus.

† **What Do We Mean By Saying “Abide in Jesus”?**

Listen to what Jesus is telling us to do in the Bible, then do it.  
When we are baptized, we become a branch in the vineyard of Jesus Christ.

We are taken away from the tree of Adam and planted in the tree of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we have a new life since we are baptized. We receive the Holy Spirit inside us when we are anointed of the Holy Myrrour.

- ✠ When we abide in Jesus and ask God in our prayers, it will be given to us (John 15:7).
- ✠ If we truly abide in Jesus, we can witness for His name in front of other people. We can tell them how wonderful life is with Jesus.
- ✠ Please tell them the story of Mary and Martha, when Mary decided to abide in Jesus and sit under His feet.

#### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We should grow gradually in our relationship with Jesus until we abide in Him completely.
2. We should tell others how wonderful is the life with our Lord.

## Songs

### **MARY AND MARTHA**

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

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### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



*The apostles, united in love by Jesus*



**JULY  
FIRST SUNDAY**

**THE APOSTLES (PART I) - LIFE OF UNITY AND LOVE**

**Please read Acts 5:12-37, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about the spirit of unity and the love of the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is lesson one in a series of two lessons about our Apostles' lives.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12:31*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

† **The Unity and Love of the Apostolic Church.**

Please tell in a story fashion what had happened with the Apostles from Acts 5:12-37.

The apostles all lived together. The poor and the rich people sold their belongings and put the money at the feet of the apostles. We learn from this to share what we have with each other.

† The angel of the Lord got the apostles out of prison and ordered them to go back to church and teach. The head priest wanted to interrogate them, however.

- ✝ The Apostles loved the Lord Jesus, and they accepted to be put to prison. The Apostles wanted to defend the faith and teach the Word of God. In return, the Lord supported them by giving them the power to perform miracles. He gave them also His heavenly Peace.
- ✝ When the apostles responded to the head priest, they had one voice and one opinion, “We ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We must maintain the spirit of unity and love at home, at school, and in the church.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ will support us in everything we do as He supported the Apostles as long as we love each other.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**





**JULY  
SECOND SUNDAY**

**THE APOSTLES (PART II)  
“SAUL, SAUL, WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME?”**

**Please read Acts 9:1-19, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn that people against the church are against Jesus Christ Himself, and they cannot win. This is lesson 2 in a series of two lessons about the Apostles.

**MEMORY VERSE**

**“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Acts 9:4**

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

**Please tell in a story fashion the entire event in Acts 9:1-19.**

Saul was against the Lord Jesus and all the Christians, and he went to Damascus to kill the Christians.

- † The Lord Jesus met him and asked, “What are you doing, Saul? Why are you persecuting Me?” This shows us very clearly that whoever is against the church is against Jesus Himself. Jesus told him, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting”.
- † **What do you want me to do?**  
Saul, though his eyes were open, could see no one. What happened? Saul saw a light from heaven and Jesus wanted to explain to him that he was doing wrong, and that he was only hurting himself.

† **Ananias baptized Saul**

Ananias was afraid of Saul because of his past reputation of hurting people. But, the Lord assured Ananias that Saul could no longer hurt the church because he had met Christ. The Lord also told Ananias that Saul was going to be an excellent apostle to carry God's name to all the nations.

† **Saul can see again and got baptized**

God proved to Saul that He organized everything for Saul's salvation. He sent him Ananias, made him see again and granted him rebirth through baptism.

Saul later became St. Paul, the Great Apostle.

**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Our church is strong because Jesus is the head of it. We must never be afraid of publicly declaring that we are Christians.
2. As the Lord helped Saul to change his life and he became St. Paul the great Apostles, He can help everyone of us as well.

**Colouring  
Songs**

**PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

*"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

**Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



**JULY  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**BE SINCERE WITH PEOPLE**

**Please read the attached material entitled “What Makes the Difference”, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn to express our true feelings to people without offending them or hurting their feelings. Let us be true helpers.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Give to him who asks you” Matthew 5:42*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The Lord Jesus wants us to help other people. Please read the memory verse. If we do not want to help others we should not pretend we could do so. In the attached story Nancy wanted to help but only for money. She did not have enough courage to say that her help was conditional. Hence, she ended up empty-handed.
- † We must not show anything other than what we feel  
Judas Iscariot fell into the mistake of being a hypocrite. He loved money more than Jesus. When he led the Jews to take Jesus, he kissed Him. Jesus said to him, “Is it with a kiss that you deliver the Son of Man?”
- † Once, a Pharisee and a collector entered the temple to pray. The Pharisee is used of having false appearances. He did things contrary to what he felt. The Pharisee said in his prayer, “I am good, I am better than other people. I

pray, I fast....” In other words, he only praised himself. The tax collector on the other hand, said the truth, saying, “God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner”. In this parable Jesus said that the tax collector was forgiven and the Pharisee was not.

- ✝ Our beloved Lord Jesus advised His Disciples to be careful of the Pharisees because they were hypocrites. We must also be careful of people like that.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Do not express an opinion or show feeling that is different from what you really feel.
2. We must be extra nice and helpful to people.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

### **What Makes the Difference?**

Old Mrs. Smith lived all alone in her small house. One day, she fell down and broke her arm. An ambulance took her to the hospital, and the doctors there put a cast on her arm, and she returned back home.

“What will I do now,” Mrs. Smith wondered. “I won’t be able to do my work now”.

Soon, her neighbours next door, Sally and Nancy, heard the news. Nancy said, “I’ll go to Mrs. Smith and offer my help. She has plenty of money and will pay me well, no doubt. I will make a lot of money from working for her”.

“Poor Mrs. Smith!” Sally said. “She won’t be able to do her work now. Maybe I can spare some time to help her out, instead of watching TV the whole afternoon”.

“I am sorry to hear about your trouble, Mrs. Smith,” said Sally. “I’ll be pleased to do a few things for you while your arm is broken”.

“What will you charge me?” asked Mrs. Smith.

“Oh, nothing at all,” said Sally. “I don’t want payment for helping a neighbour in trouble!” “What about you, Nancy?” asked Mrs. Smith, turning to her other neighbour.

Nancy did not at all want to do anything for nothing, but she was embarrassed to ask for payment after what Sally had said. She felt quite sure that Mrs. Smith would give her a fine present anyhow. So she smiled and said, “Oh, I agree with Sally, Mrs. Smith, I’ll do it for nothing”.

“Well, we’ll see about that!” said Mrs. Smith. “Perhaps one of you could come in one day and the other the next day. Then I’d be well off!”

So, it was arranged that Sally would come in that day and Nancy the next, and so on.

Nancy was lazy. She didn’t change the sheets when she made the bed, unless Mrs. Smith’s eyes were on her. She did not dust properly, and did not sweep the corners but left them full of dust. . She just did the jobs as quickly and as carelessly as she could. Sally was quite different. She loved to do everything neatly and cover all the corners.

Mrs. Smith watched the two girls but said nothing. As her arm got better, she thought of a trick on how to compensate them. She planned to pay the two girls for their work, but they would have to find the money by themselves.

“You have been very good to me” she said to them. “I m very thankful. I want to

give you a present all the same. I will leave the money out for you!”

The next day, Nancy came along to do the jobs for the last time. She found Mrs. Smith just going out. “I’ve left the money for you,” said Mrs. Smith. “Good bye and thank you.

Nancy looked for the money greedily. She looked on top of the table, but it was not there! She looked on top of the dresser, but it was not there either. She became very upset.

“It’s too bad! She had forgotten! I will not bother much about the chores today”. So she hurried through the work and did it very carelessly. She opened the refrigerator, took a can of soft drink and drank it while watching TV then she went home.

Mrs. Smith had, in fact, not forgotten to leave the money out, but she hid \$5 under the sheets, another five under the jewelry box on the dresser, and so on. But Nancy never changed the sheets nor dusted the dresser, as she was supposed to.

When Mrs. Smith got home that night, she found the money untouched. She remarked, “So Nancy did not do her work again. No work no pay! I’ll keep the money in the same spots and see if Sally finds them tomorrow”.

The next morning Mrs. Smith told Sally, “I’ve left some money out for you. Take it, with my best thanks!” And she set out to work.

Sally went to make the bed and changed the sheets. Under them she saw \$5. Wasn’t she delighted! “This can buy the sticker book I have wanted for so long!” she said. She lifted up the jewelry box on the dresser to dust underneath it properly, and she found another \$5! “How generous Mrs. Smith is!” she said.

When she swept all the corners she found another \$5 tucked away in a dark corner. “Wow! Now I can buy a cabbage patch doll!” She said to herself, “I did not expect all these!”

While on her way home Sally met Nancy and said to her, “Isn’t Mrs. Smith a generous lady? She gave me \$15 for doing those few odd jobs for her while her arm was broken! And the way she hid some under the sheets, under the jewelry box on the dresser, and in that dark corner of the bedroom, was truly amazing. I suppose she did the same thing for you, Nancy! Well, I never expected so much return for my offer to help!”

Nancy stared at Sally and turned red like a tomato. Then she went home without a word. “It is my own fault,” Nancy thought, “I could have found that money, too. It serves me right. I am too careless and too lazy. I’ll be better in the future!”

## NOTES

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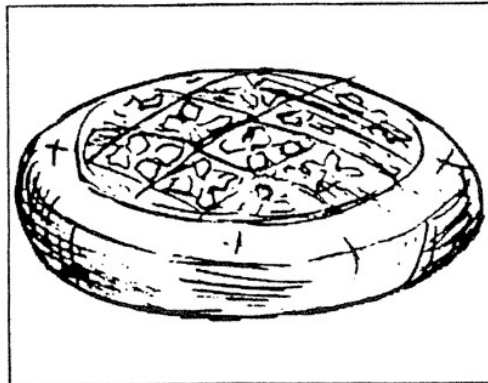
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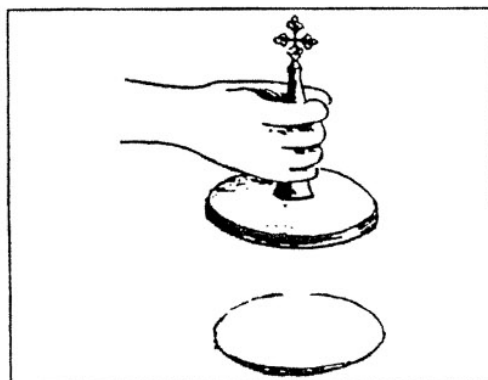
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*El-Korbana*



*El-Korbana's symbols and coptic writings*



*The stamp*





**JULY  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**LIGHTS IN THE CHURCH**

**Please read Exodus 37:17-24, John 9:5, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To show that the lights in the church is a symbol of Christ who is the light of the world.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“I am the light of the world” John 18:12*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Christ is the Light of the world through whom the darkness of sin disappears. Since the church is the house of God and it has no place in it for the devil or the sin, it must be lighted up.
- † We also as Christians, the Lord Jesus called us saying “You are the light of the world”. Matthew 5:14. When we see our beautiful church lighted up with candles and lamps we remember that we suppose to be Christ-like, i.e., light of the world.
- † The Ark of Testimony (the Church of the Old Testament) was lighted up with beautiful light. Exodus 37:17-24.
- † Our church here is an icon of the church in heaven, the city of God. “and the

city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it and the Lamb is its light". Revelation 21:23.

- ✠ Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ when He transfigured on the mountain in front of His Disciples Peter, James and John, "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as light". Matthew 17:2.
- ✠ So the lights are always associated with God, the Angels, the Saints and the church. Whereas darkness are always associated with the devil and the sin.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. Our church is beautiful with its lights, icons...etc.
2. The lights in particular are a symbol of Christ "The True Light".
3. By our Christian behaviour and the grace of God "We are the light world".

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN**

*"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mat4:19)*

Peter and James and John and the fishermen (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

They went fishing, they caught nothing (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then came Jesus walking on the water (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

Then the boat was filled with fish (3)  
Out in the deep blue sea.

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

## NOTES

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*The Queen stands on the King's right hand side*



**AUGUST  
FIRST SUNDAY  
SAINT MARY (PART I)**

**Please see the attached colouring material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To study the events of St. Mary's birth up to her delivery of baby Jesus. This is series of two lessons about the life of St. Mary.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Henceforth all generations will call me blessed” Luke 1:48*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † The angel of the Lord gave the good news to St. Anne that she will bring forth a baby in her old age. Then God gave her and her husband, Joachim, a beautiful baby. They called her Mary. Her parents had a vow to God to give Him back the child to serve Him at the altar. When St. Mary was around 3 or 4 years old they sent her to serve at the altar and to stay there and pray.
- † Later on, God sent a dove to St. Joseph. to declare him as St. Mary's betrothed. God then showed where St. Mary should go.
- † An angel announced to Mary about the birth of the Lord Jesus from her. She obeyed what God wanted her to do. As she knew that Elizabeth would need help, she went to help her out. St. Mary had love in her heart, so we also

must love one another.

- ✠ St. Mary then delivered baby Jesus by the Holy Spirit. Continue to describe what happened and test the memory of the children

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. We must keep our promise as St. Mary's parents did. We must trust God as St. Mary trusted the message that God sent her through the angel.
2. God gives us many things. He also likes to get from us not because He needs anything, but He wants us to permanently be aware of Him and His presence in our lives and benefit from Him.

### **Colouring**

### **Songs**

#### **Mary and Martha**

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

Mary stayed in the ground  
Opening her heart and ear

Martha was quite upset  
And she started complaining

Jesus praised Mary  
But He was not really pleased

When Jesus is anywhere  
We should always be right there

Also when we go to church  
We should always be quite

of Mary and Martha  
to fix him something to eat

kneeling at Jesus' feet  
in Him she found peace

at Mary she threw a fit  
that Mary was not caring

what she did was really neat  
with Martha's great big Feast

talking and preaching  
listening and learning

with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**



For the success  
of this Sunday  
School Program  
the teacher should  
refer to the

# HOLY BIBLE

in his/her preparation  
of the lessons and in  
teaching the children  
in the class

## NOTES

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**AUGUST  
SECOND SUNDAY  
SAINT MARY (PART II)**

**Please see the attached colouring material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about St. Mary's help to St. Joseph, her intercession in a wedding at Cana of Galilee, her presence at the Cross of Jesus, and her presence with the disciples in the upper room. This is the second lesson in a series of two lessons about the life of St. Mary.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"Henceforth all generations will call me blessed" Luke 1:48*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- ✠ Start by reviewing the previous lesson, ask the children and test their memory.
- ✠ St. Mary, St. Joseph and Baby Jesus were a good example of a true Christian family. Joseph was a carpenter and everyone in the family had a role to do. Jesus helped him in the carpentry job and St. Mary prepared food as well as spinned yarn to make sweaters and clothes.
- ✠ When Jesus was a young boy, he sat at the altar to listen to the elders. St. Mary and St. Joseph went looking for Him one day and told Him to come home. He obeyed and followed them home. Are we obedient to our parents like Jesus was?

- ✠ In the wedding at Cana of Galilee, the people finished all the wine they had. St. Mary asked Jesus to provide wine to the people. The Lord Jesus did and the people were pleased.
- ✠ St. Mary saw the suffering of Jesus, her son, on the Cross. She was in tears because of His suffering. She was sure that He is the Son of God and was crucified according to the will of God the Father, for our salvation.
- ✠ On the Pentecost, 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus, when St. Mary was with the Disciples in the upper room the Holy Spirit came down and filled them with His presence.
- ✠ St. Mary supported the Disciples in her prayers. She is still praying on our behalf.
- ✠ As her time to depart from this world came close her Son Jesus Christ came to tell her about His coming with the angels to take her soul. She called all the disciples from different places to come, and she blessed them, except for St. Thomas who was away. When the disciples took her body for burial, some Jews tried to prevent it from happening. When a man tried to disrupt the burial, his arm suddenly got cut off. He cried and subsequently repented, so the disciples prayed for him until St. Mary gave his arm back to him. Later on St. Thomas came and saw the body of St. Mary ascending to heaven. She blessed him and gave him a strip of her cloth to make him feel better after missing her previous blessing. She is our kind mother and she wants us to be happy.

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

1. From the life of St. Mary we can see a good example of a person who lived a peaceful life (a life filled with prayers) and has an outstanding position in heaven.
2. As St. Mary loved everyone and cooperated with everyone, we must also do the same.

## Songs

### Mary and Martha

*“ But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (Lk10:42)*

Jesus entered a house  
Martha to the kitchen rushed

of Mary and Martha  
to fix him something to eat

Mary stayed in the ground  
Opening her heart and ear

kneeling at Jesus’ feet  
in Him she found peace

Martha was quite upset  
And she started complaining

at Mary she threw a fit  
that Mary was not caring

Jesus praised Mary  
But He was not really pleased

what she did was really neat  
with Martha’s great big Feast

When Jesus is anywhere  
We should always be right there

talking and preaching  
listening and learning

Also when we go to church  
We should always be quite

with Jesus we all meet  
everybody in his seat

### Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

## NOTES

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**AUGUST  
THIRD SUNDAY**

**THE MIRACLES OF ST. MARY (PART I)**

**Please read the attached material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about the miracles of our Mother St. Mary. This is lesson one in a series of two lessons.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“We magnify you the mother of the true light”(introduction of the creed)*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Start by reviewing the highlights of the previous two lessons about St. Mary’s life. Then proceed as follows:  
St. Mary has the greatest position in heaven after her beloved Son Jesus. She is the Queen sitting on the right hand of Christ the King.

- † **Miracle # 1—Saving Mathias, the Disciple, by melting the irons**

Mathias the Disciple was in jail with his hands and legs tied up. St. Mary, who was in Jerusalem, knew about.

Mathias being in jail and she went to help him. At the prison door St. Mary prayed for the iron-lock chains to melt. They did, and all the prisoners got out of jail. Later on she healed the son of the governor who subsequently became a Christian together with all the people in town. Then she prayed again and the melted iron chains turned back to normal.

Let us call on St. Mary whenever we are in trouble (and even if we are not), so she can come to help us, as she helped St. Mathias.

✝ **Miracle # 2 — Saving two boys from a terrible earthquake**

Please read the attachment.

An earthquake destroyed everything inside a shop, except the wall with St. Mary's picture on it. Two boys trapped in there asked St. Mary for help. She covered them with a curtain that came from the picture and protected them until their parents came. The whole island loved St. Mary and all the people there became Christians.

**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

As we ask our mother at home to help us when we need something, we must learn to ask St. Mary in our prayers to help us during our hard times.

## Songs

### WATCHING US

**‘Behold , great is thy intercession, strong and acceptable with our Savior.’  
(the sixth prayer)**

#### REFRAIN

Watching us, hearing us, loving us  
She is St. Mary  
We are her children

she could never possibly forget us  
Mother of Jesus who saved us  
and she is always guiding us.

She is in heaven in her glory  
And is always interceding

the pride of all our saints  
with the saints on our behalf

She is heaven but she appears  
Spreading on earth love and peace

to her children everywhere  
and preserving faith for all

She is heaven but she sees  
Mettias was hand-cuffed in jail

when her children are in tears  
but she came and broke the chains

She is in heaven but she hears  
Anba Abraam come out and see

the pleadings of a great Pope  
the faith that moved the mountain

She is in heaven but she leaves  
In the church she comes and shares

many miracles where she appears  
with faith we witness her care.

#### Recitation Curriculum :

*Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.*

### **Miracle # 1—Saving Mathias, the Disciple, and the Melting of the Iron**

Mathias went to a city called Borots near Galatia, where people worshipped idols. He started preaching about Christ and created miracles in that city. Many of those who had heard and seen him became faithful and started breaking the news to other people. But the enemy of the good, who always opposed the straight divine ways, stirred the hatred of the idolaters. They talked against Mathias in front of the governor saying that he did not respect the gods nor the laws of their city. The governor got angry and had the disciple put to prison. Many of the people Mathias had baptized were also put in prison with him. The disciple then prayed from the depth of the prison for God to save him from the chains.

St. Mary in Jerusalem heard that Mathias the disciple was in great trouble. She prayed for him and asked her Son to guide her to the place of Mathias. The Holy Spirit then guided her to where she met an old woman who had been faithful on the hands of Mathias. She asked the woman about his place, and the lady guided her to the prison.

When St. Mary went to the prisons, she found that it was locked by iron chains. She prayed to God for the iron chain to melt. God accepted her prayers and the iron on the doors and locks dissolved, and so did all the iron found in the city.

Thereafter, all the prisoners came out of prison joyfully and the prison guard went to the governors and told him all these events. He was troubled and did not believe and ordered a swordsman to come and cut the heads of the prisoners who fled. This man also told him that all the iron and copper had dissolved and that they had neither swords nor torture instruments to use. In fact, even their gods were dissolved. Many inhabitants of the city complained about the dissolution - one of the iron of his animals' pegs, the other of his plough, and the third of his house locks. The entire city became bothered.

The governor asked about the cause of all this and he was told that a curious foreign lady came to the city asking for Mathias the prisoner. She came to the front of the locked prison walls where she prayed a prayer that was not understood. All of a sudden the prison doors and the locks were melted, and the prisoners got out. These curious events happened in all the city. The governor then sent for her and asked her who dissolved the iron. The Virgin told him, "Our real God, Jesus Christ, made me dissolve the iron".



The governor had a mad son with Satan inside of him and he brought him in front of her. When he saw her he cried, “This is the mother of the only God”. The Virgin said, “Get out of him, devil!” He came out at once and the son sat talking wisely. The governor was very pleased and, along with the other city inhabitants, became faithful to Jesus Christ.

Later the people asked St. Mary to return their strength of iron at once. She prayed to her beloved son, and the iron turned again as solid as it was previously. All the city inhabitants asked for baptism, and St. Mathias did it. Thereafter, the governor ruined all the idols and ordered the building of a great church carrying the name of the Mother of God. The city inhabitants magnified the Virgin greatly and asked her to pray for them always.

Let us call the Virgin Mother during our hard times, and she will quickly come to help us as she did for St. Mathias. May her prayers and intercessions be with us. Amen.

### **Miracle # 2—Saving two boys from a terrible earthquake**

On the 9th of March 1507 a great earthquake happened in Crete Island, and mined many houses and buildings in the great city of Kandia. In the outer courtyard there was a shop with the picture of St. Mary drawn on its walls, and the owners of the shop used to light a candle in front of this picture every night. On the night of the earthquake there were two boys sleeping in the shop. When the quake stopped the shop owner came quickly to get the boys out and they saw all the shop had been ruined except for the wall carrying St. Mary’s picture. They thought the two boys had died under the fallen stones and debris.

While they were digging and removing the stones they heard the boys talking underneath the rubble! They lifted the stones with great care and took the two boys out and asked them how they had survived such circumstances. The boys answered that when they felt the earthquake they stood in front of the picture of God’s mother and they wept, asking for her help. While they were praying they saw a curtain coming from the picture to cover them. Wood and stones were falling on the curtain, but they did not hurt them.

St. Mary told the boys not to be afraid. This miracle became very famous in the city and the people then magnified God. When the prince Eronimos Zonathos, the governor of the island knew about this, he ordered to build a church in that place

without destroying the wall with St. Mary's picture on it. The inhabitants celebrated this miracle every year on the night of Ayar.

Many other miracles were done by the mighty Queen in that island as she saved many people from drowning and from fire. She cured many of the injured and sick people. All their miracles were drawn on the walls of this church, in memory of the good deeds of the mother of God.

Her prayers be with us, Amen.

## NOTES

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*St. Mary*



**AUGUST  
FOURTH SUNDAY**

**THE MIRACLES OF ST. MARY (PART II)**

**Please read the attached material, and give the lesson with emphasis on the points below.**

**PURPOSE OF THE LESSON**

- To learn about the miracles of our Mother St. Mary. This is lesson two in a series of two lessons.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“Henceforth all generations will call me blessed” Luke 1:48*

**PLEASE EMPHASIZE:**

- † Please reviewing the previous lessons about St. Mary and proceed as follows:
- † Let us know the memory verse by heart and repeat it several times during the lesson. In every generation people love her and ask her prayers on their behalf.
- † **Miracle # 3—The miracle of Atrib church**

The priest asked for a permit of three days before the governor ordered his men to ruin the church. The governor was too far away and it normally took two months to reach him. But the priest believed in God and in the help of St. Mary to reach the governor in time. In the next three days, the priest prayed very fervently to get St. Mary’s help. She told him not to fear. As

the governor was sleeping he saw a bright light that woke him up. St. Mary asked him to write an order to his men at once to stop destroying the church. A bird came to pick up the letter and flew it over to the priest right away. There the priest told the prince that this is the action of the Mother of Light.

† **Miracle # 4—Curing a cut hand**

Please see the attachment.

There was a stepmother who hated a girl named Mary, and wanted to hurt her, but Mary loved St. Mary and kept praying in the desert where the guard had to kill her and bring her hands as an evidence to her stepmother that she was killed. A prince was in the desert when he heard Mary crying and he came and took her. She later became his wife. When Mary's father knew about it he kicked out his step wife and gave all that he owned to his beloved daughter, Mary. But Mary gave the money to the poor and built churches in the name of St. Mary.

**WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS LESSON?**

We love St. Mary. Let us ask her prayers on our behalf.

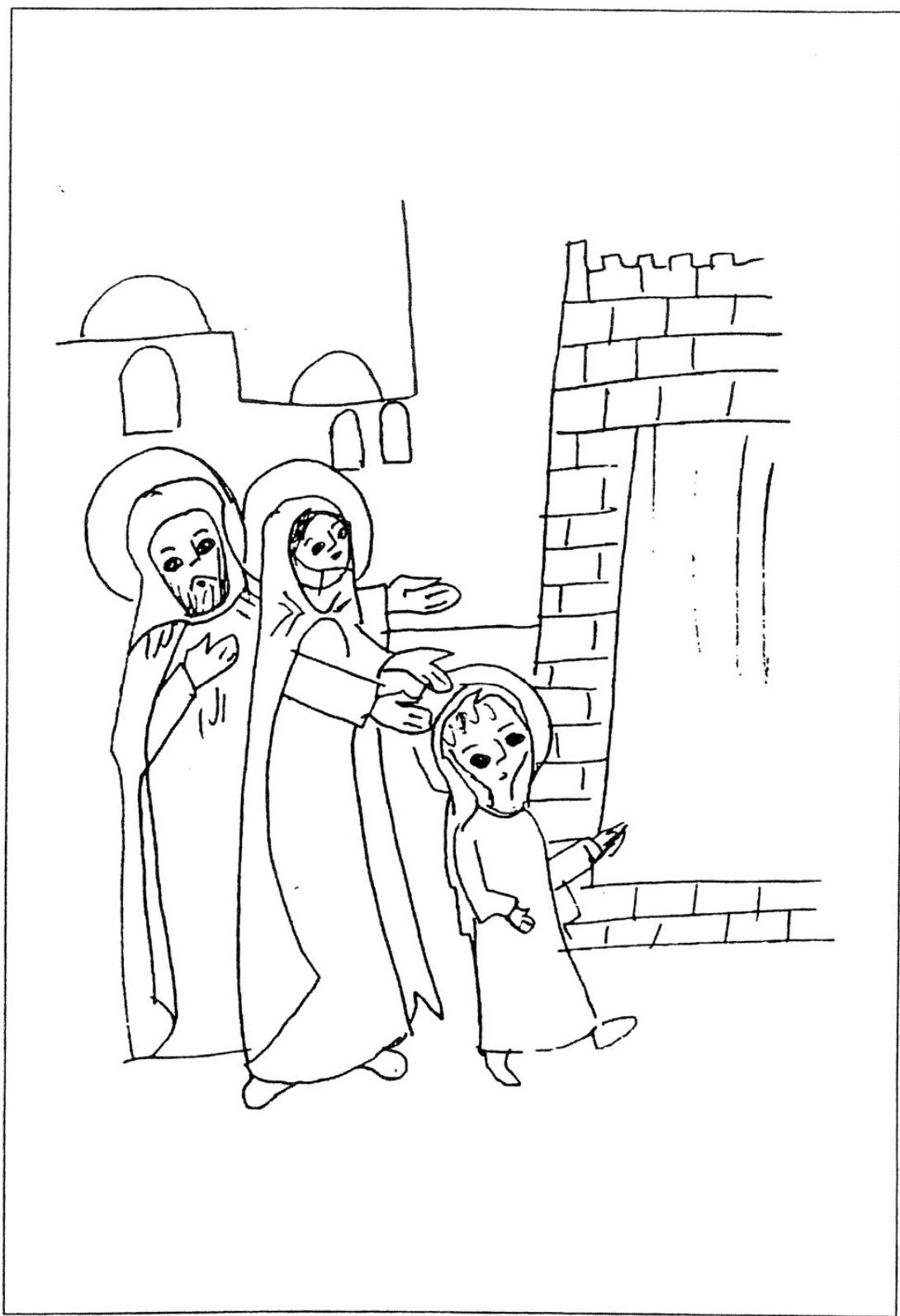


*St. Thomas sees St. Mary's body ascending to heaven after her death*

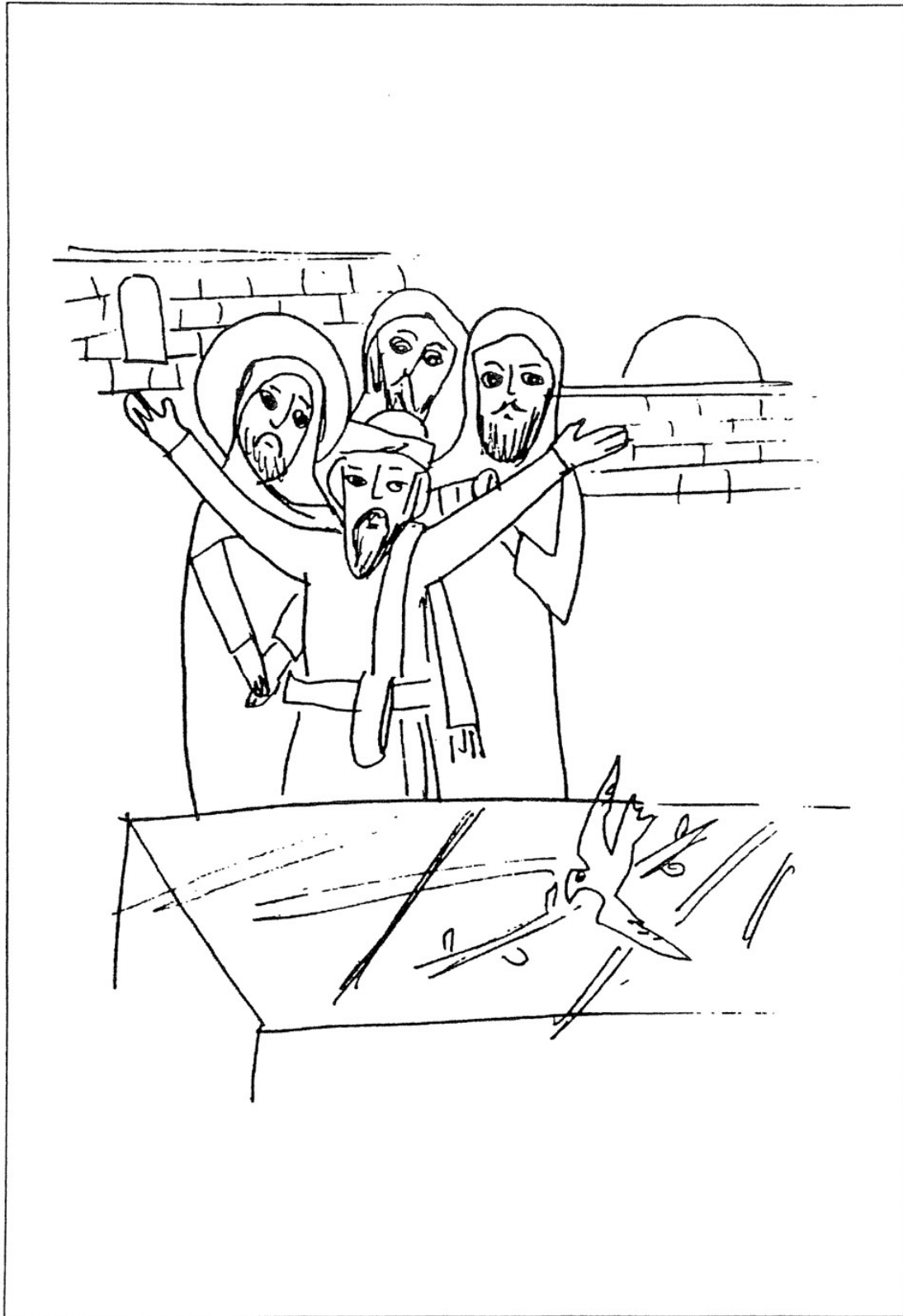


*An angel tells St. Anne that she would give birth to a child*

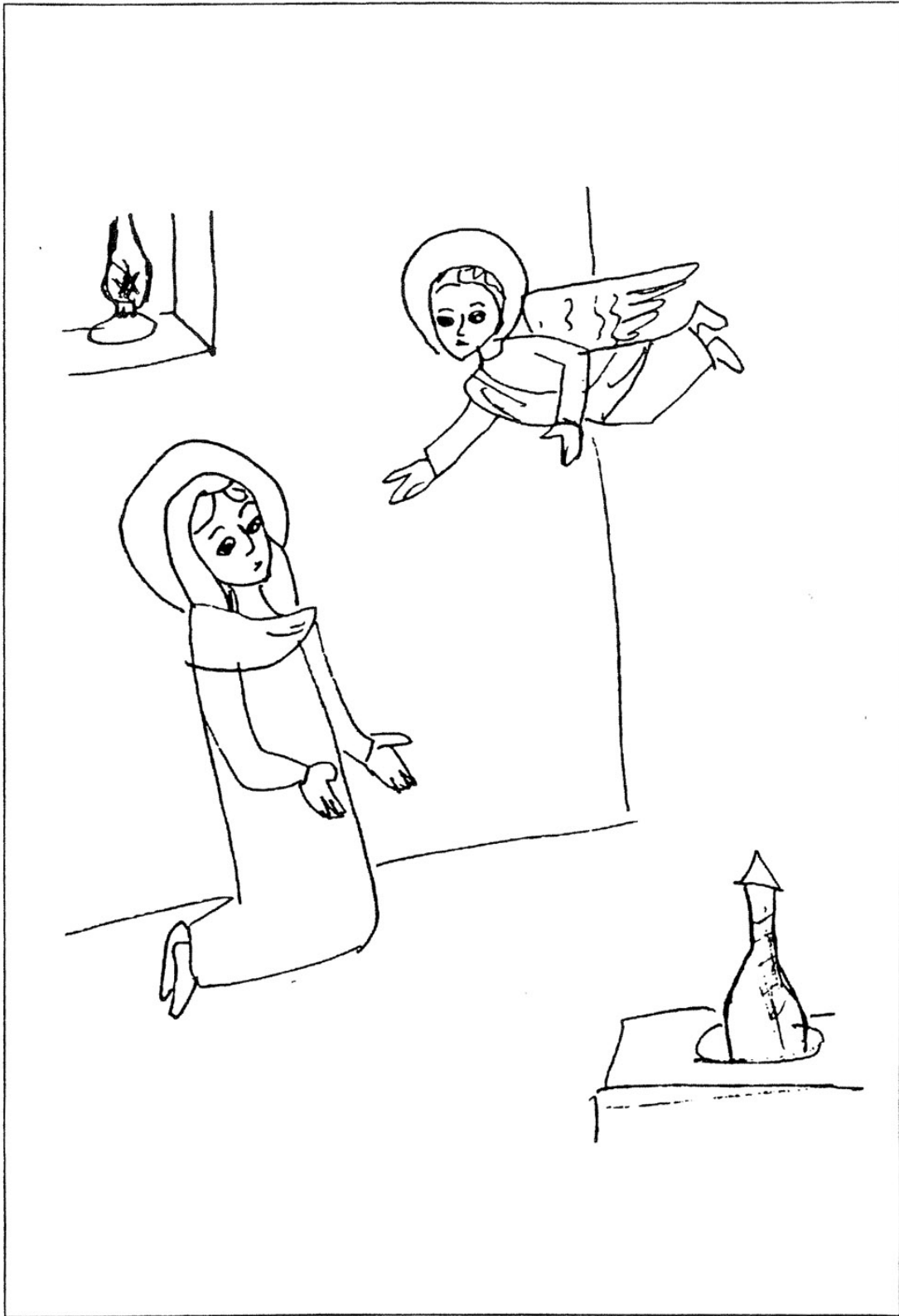




*St. Joachim and his wife, St. Anne, take their daughter, St. Mary, to the temple*



*A dove lands on St. Joseph's rod, signifying his being betrothed to St. Mary*



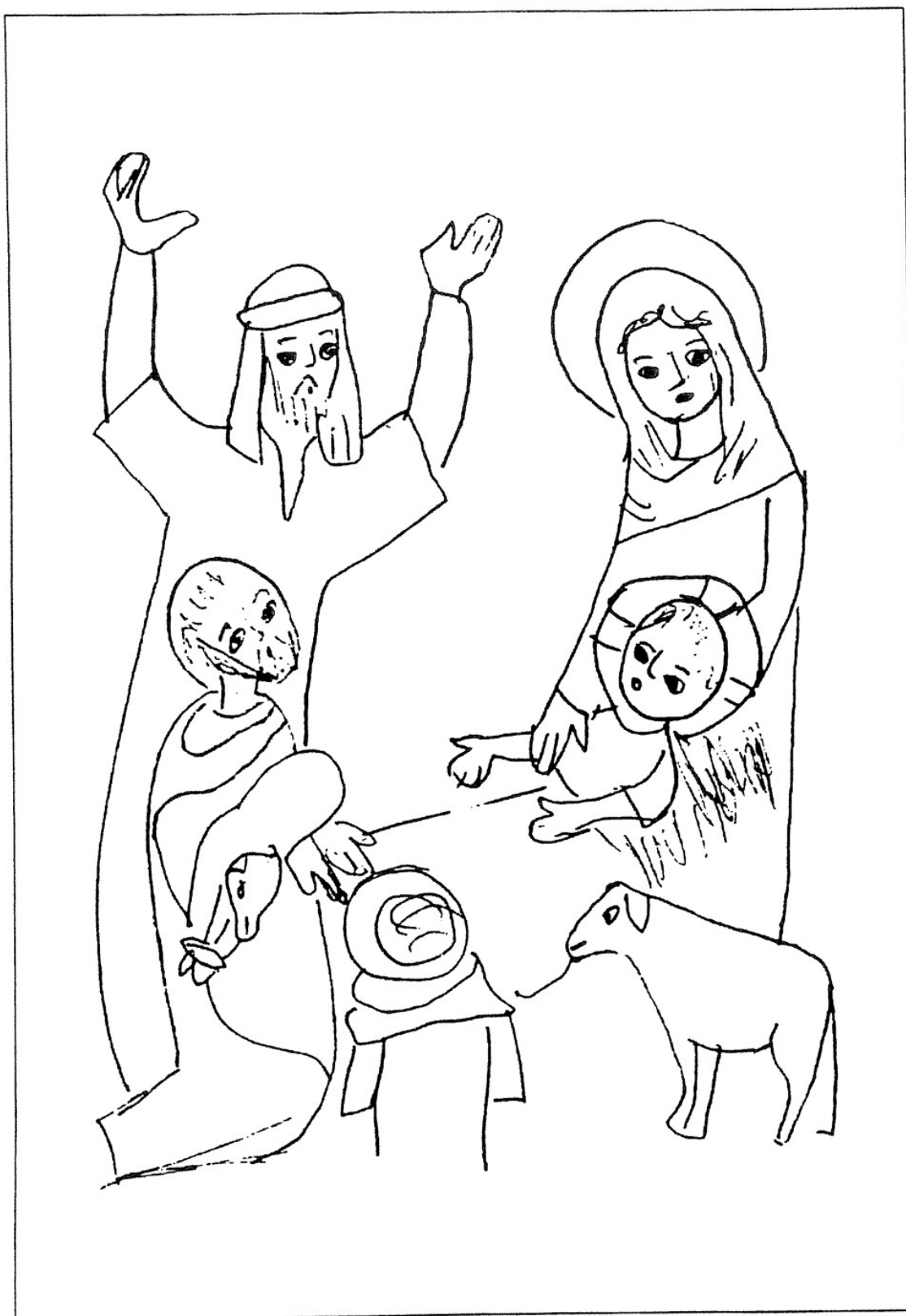
*Archangel Gabriel appears to St. Mary, tells her that she would bear a son, Jesus*



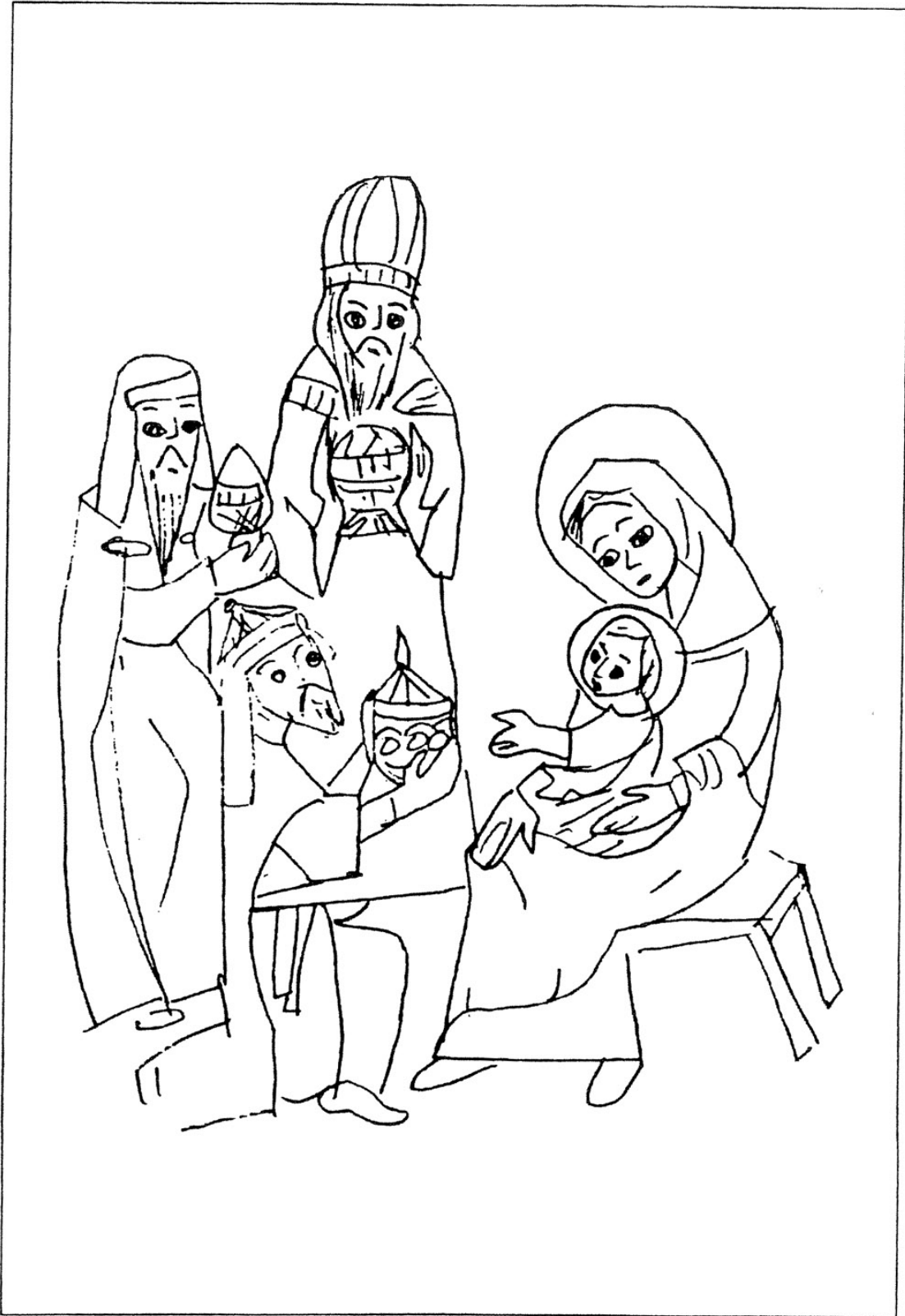
*St. Mary rushes to St. Elizabeth to serve her*



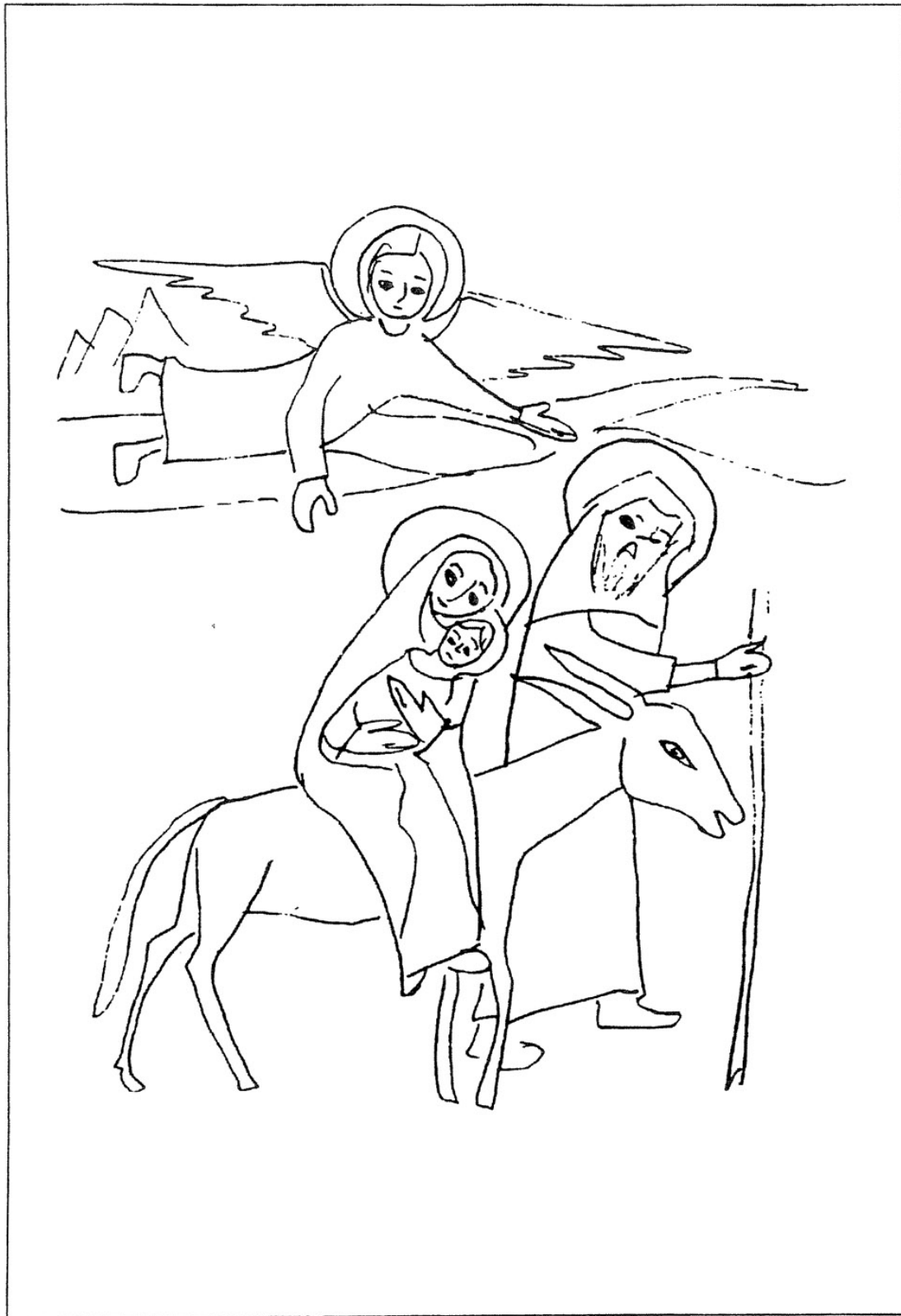
*St. Mary gives birth to Jesus in Jerusalem*



*The shepherds worship Jesus*

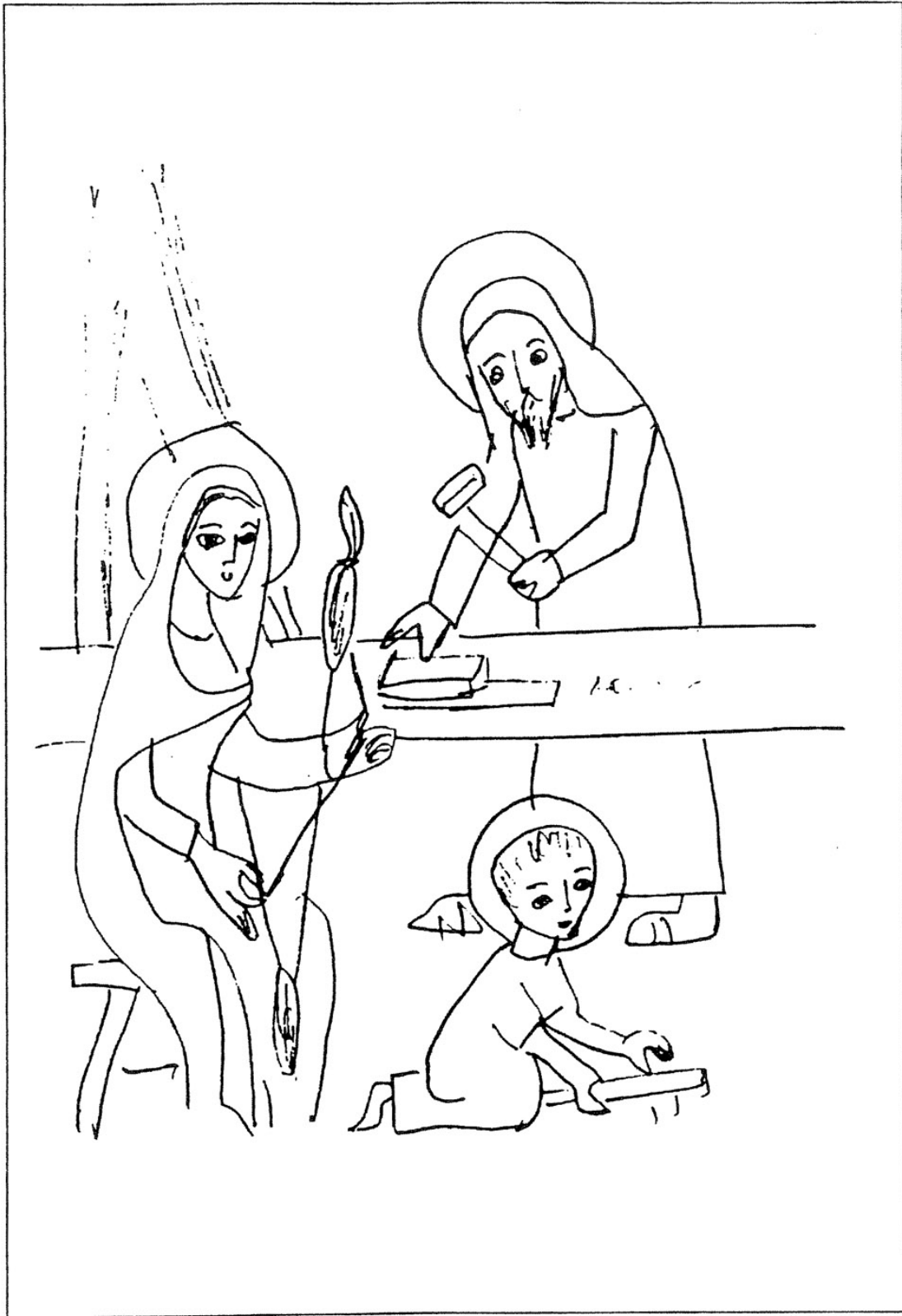


*The wise men offer gifts of gold, incense and myrrh to Jesus*

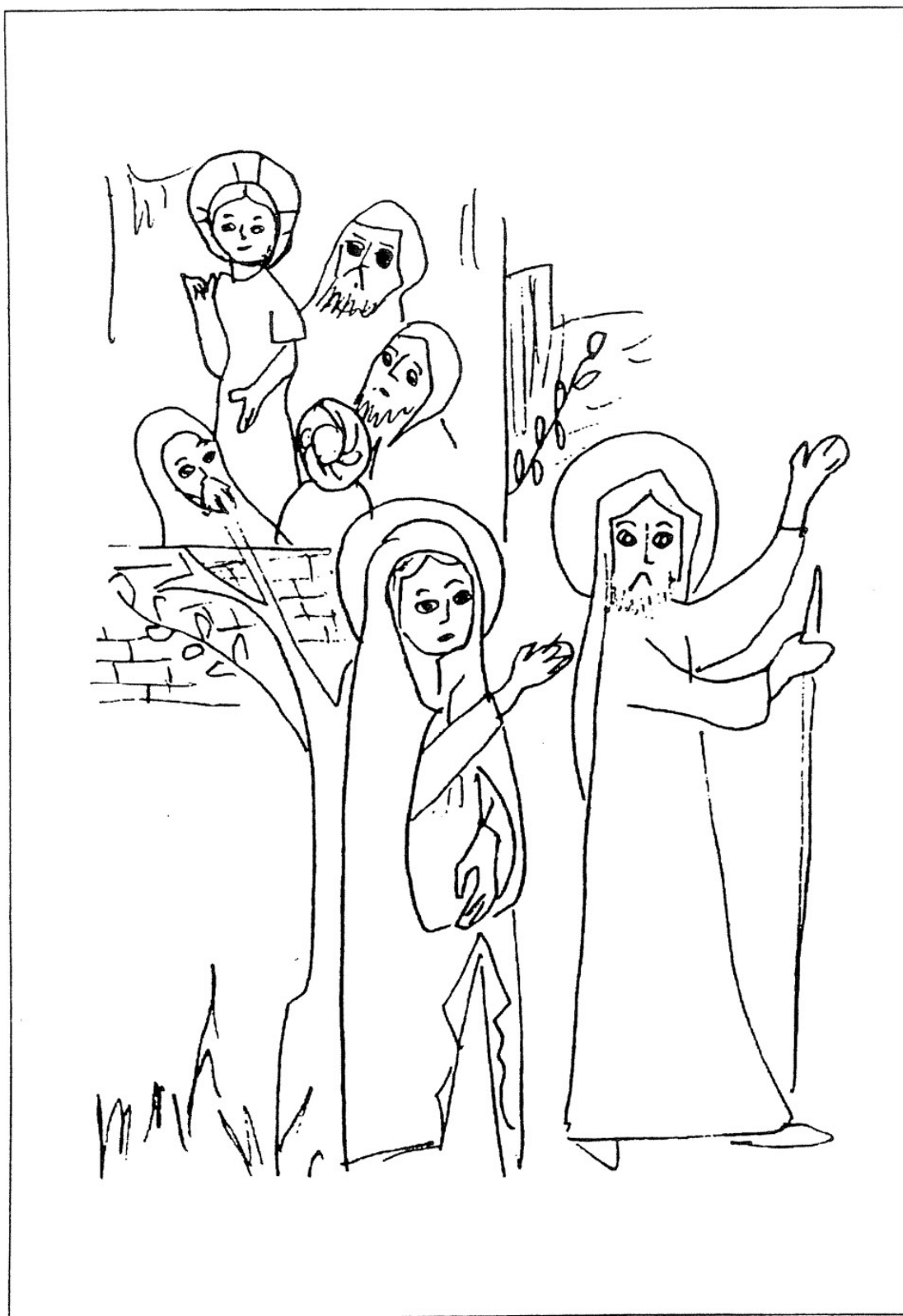


*Jesus, St. Joseph and St. Mary on a journey*





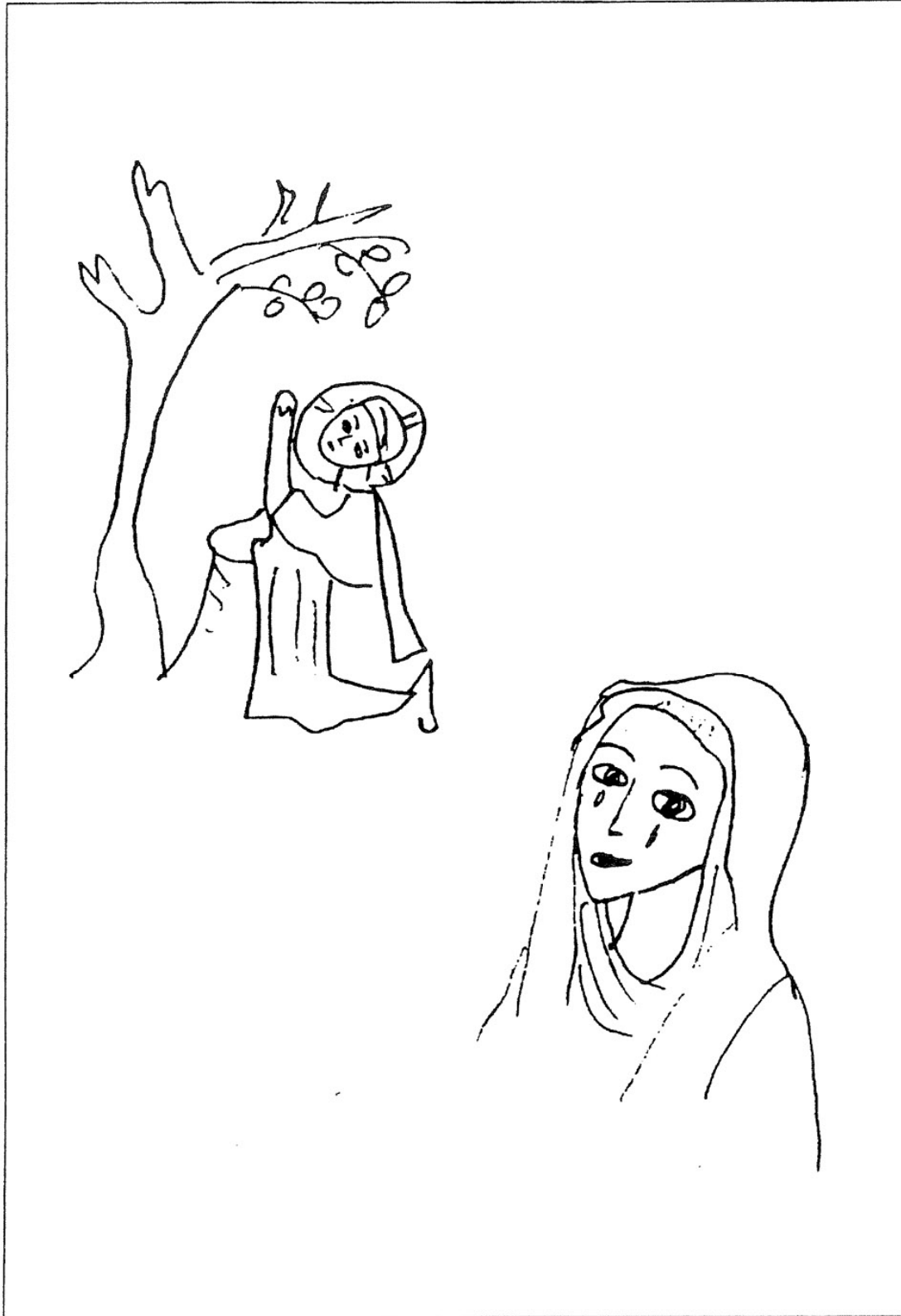
*St. Mary spins yarn as child Jesus helps St. Joseph, the carpenter*



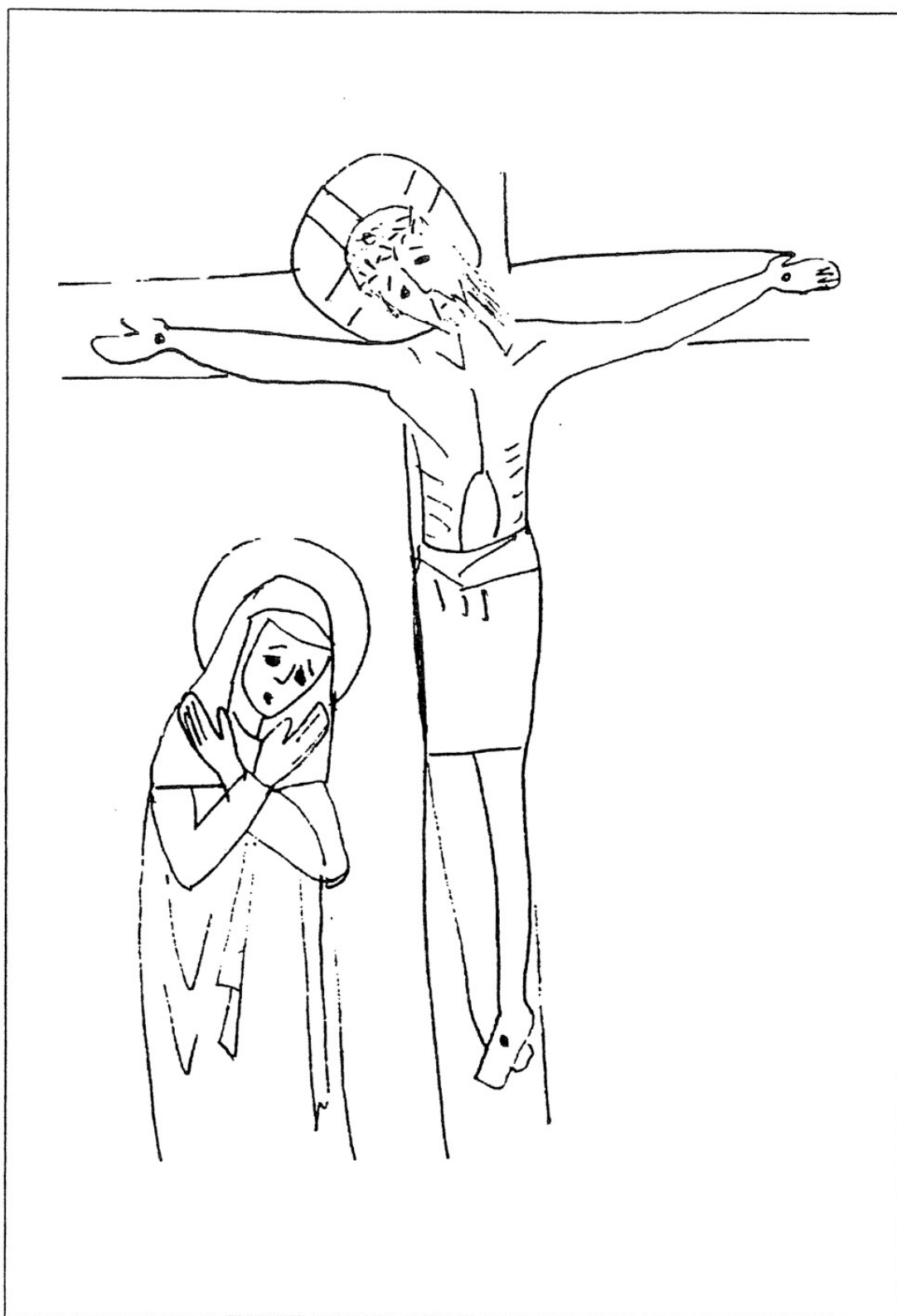
*Jesus at the temple with the pharisees while His parents were looking for Him*



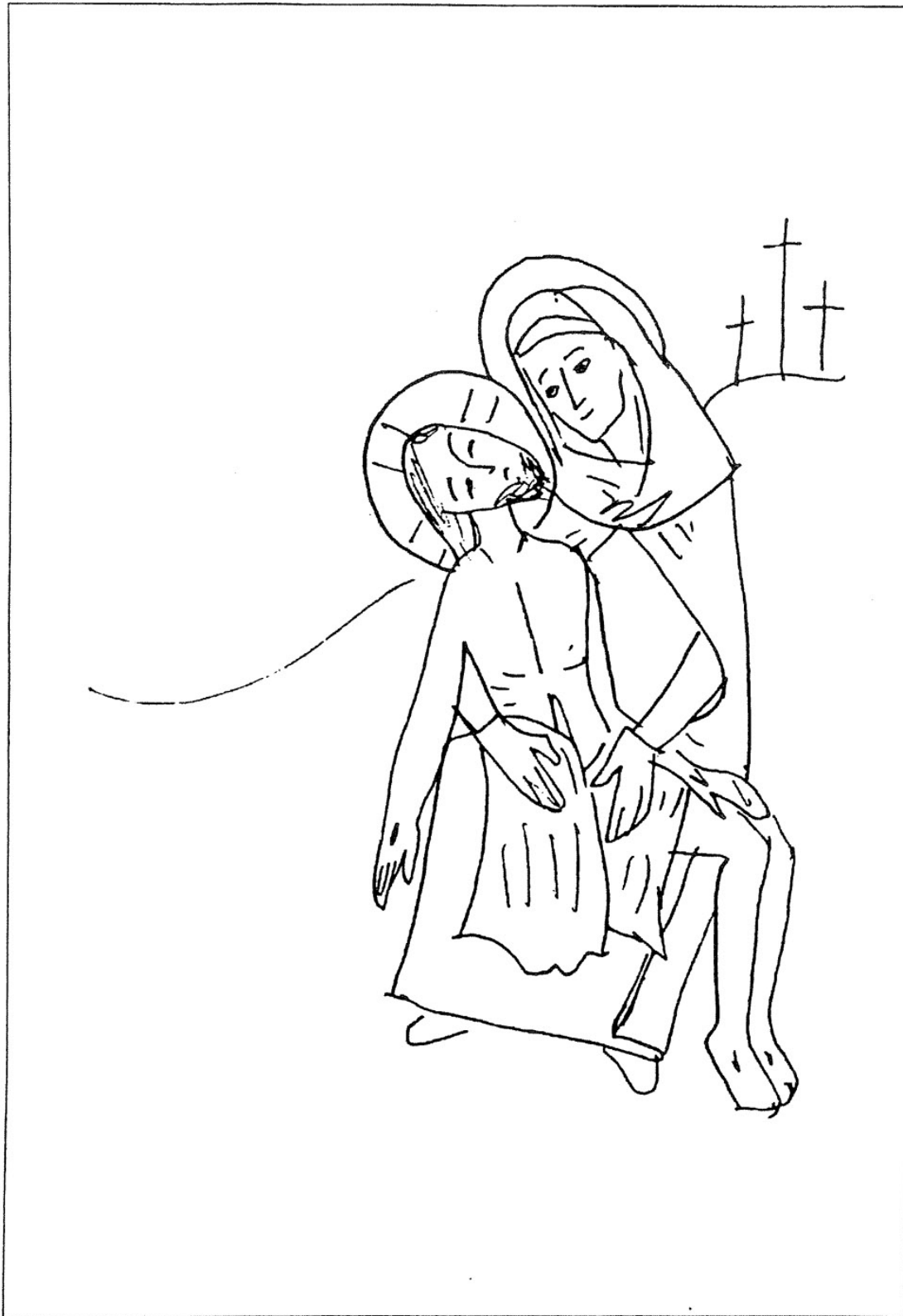
*At the Cana in Galilee, St. Mary tells Jesus there is no wine*



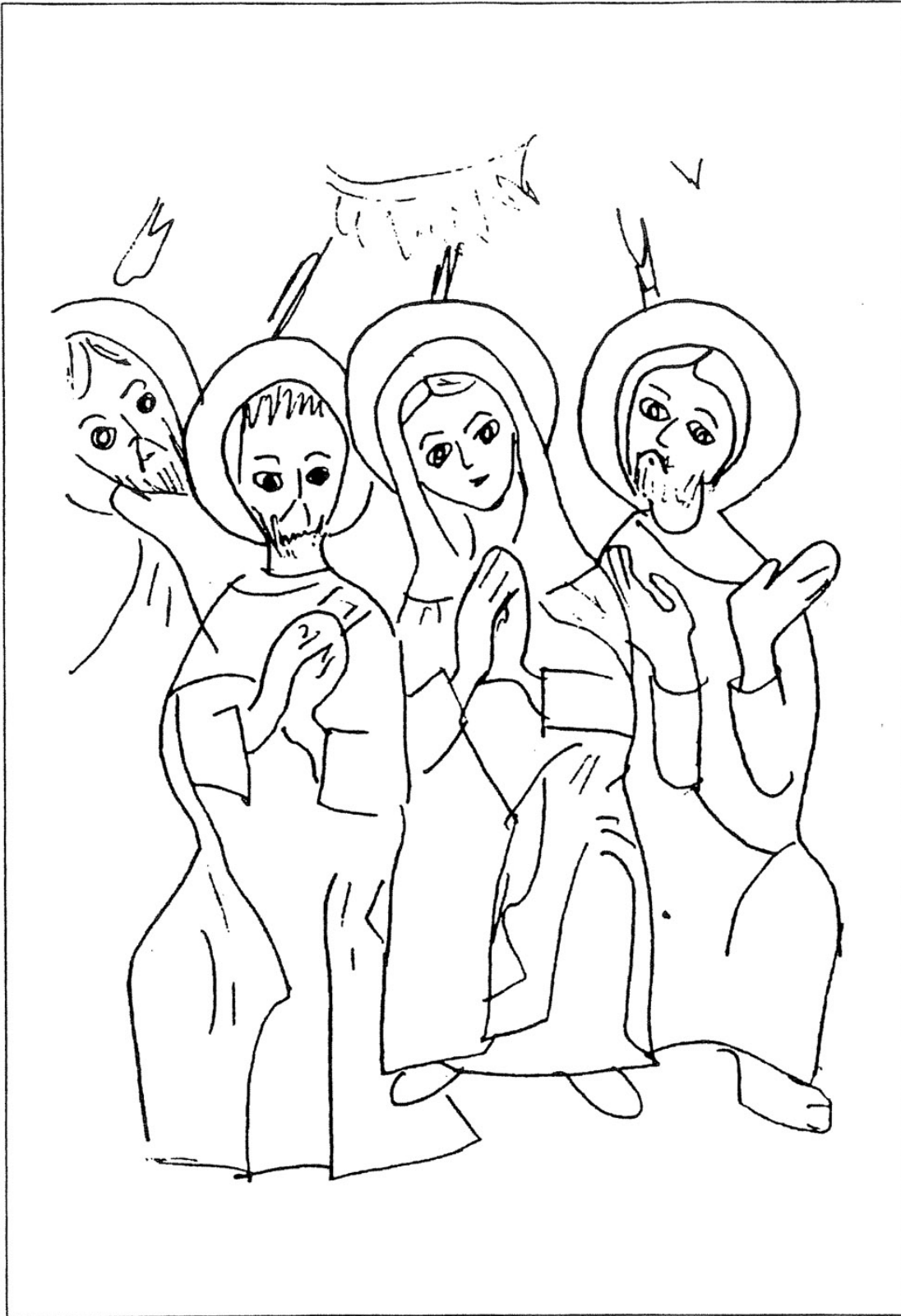
*St. Mary suffers because of Jesus' Passion*



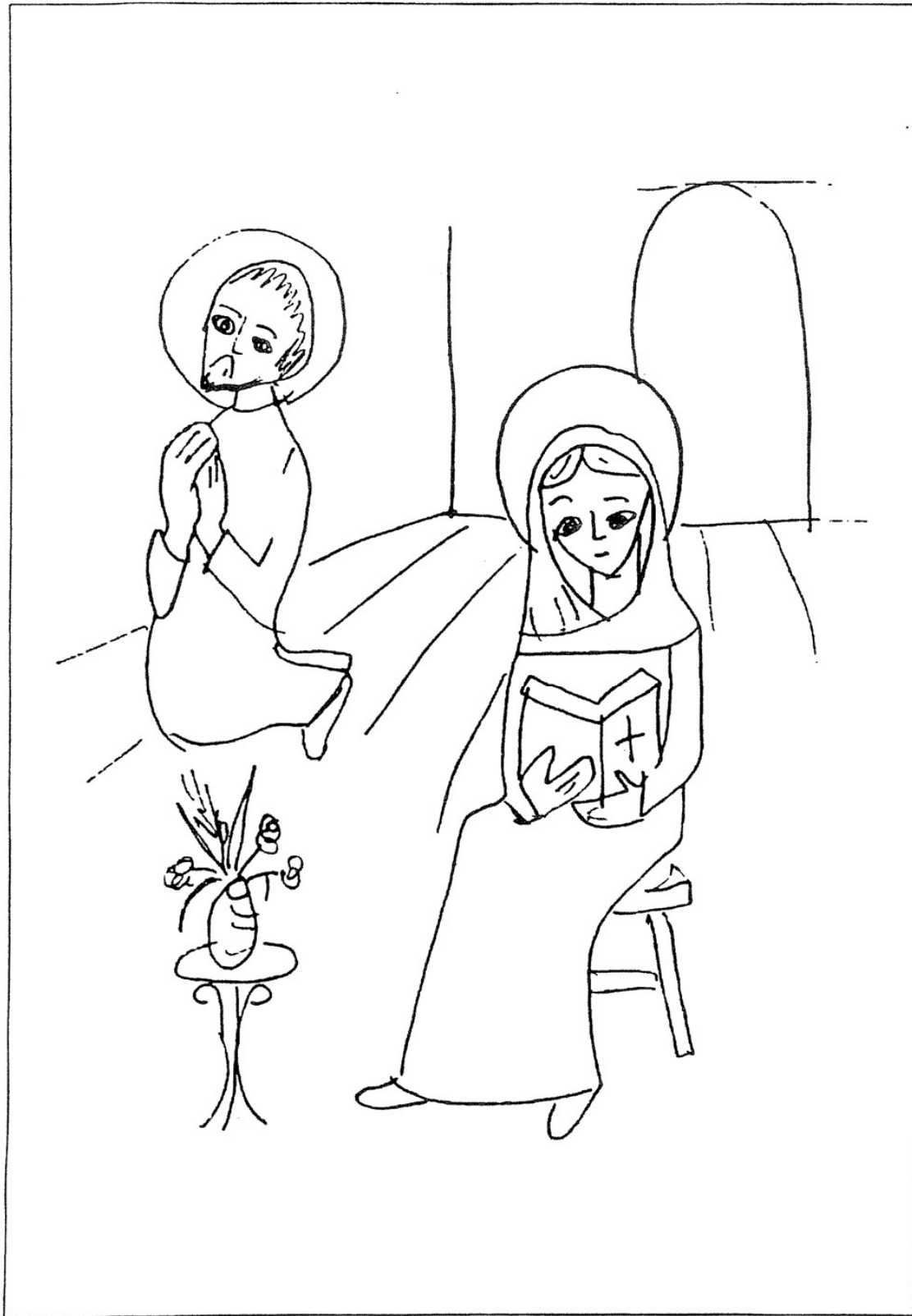
*St. Mary cries at Jesus' feet on the Cross, saying, "Oh my son and Lord!"*



*St. Mary carries the body of the Lord Jesus*



*St. Mary with the disciples in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came*

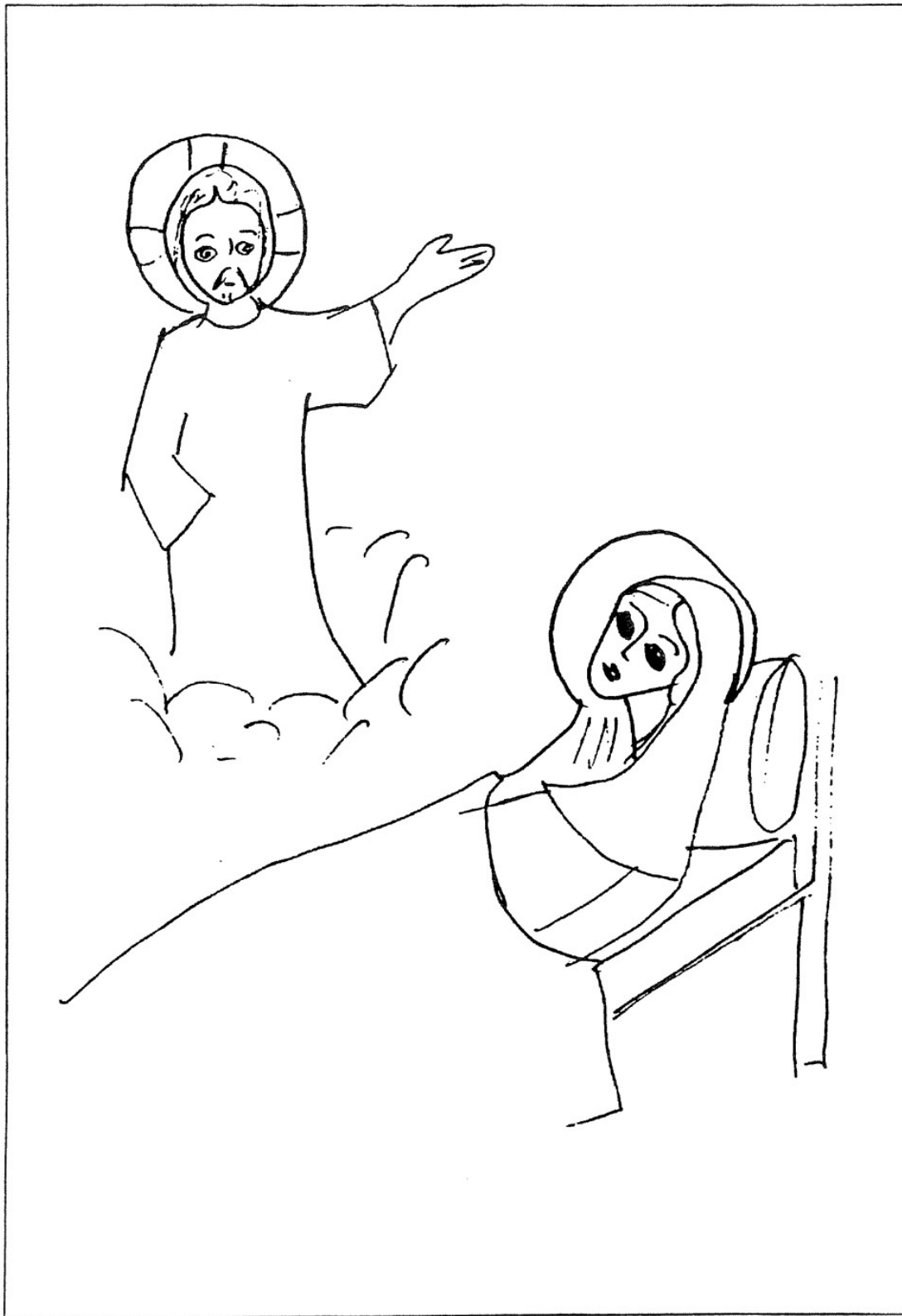


*St. Mary dwells in St. John's house according to Christ's commandment*

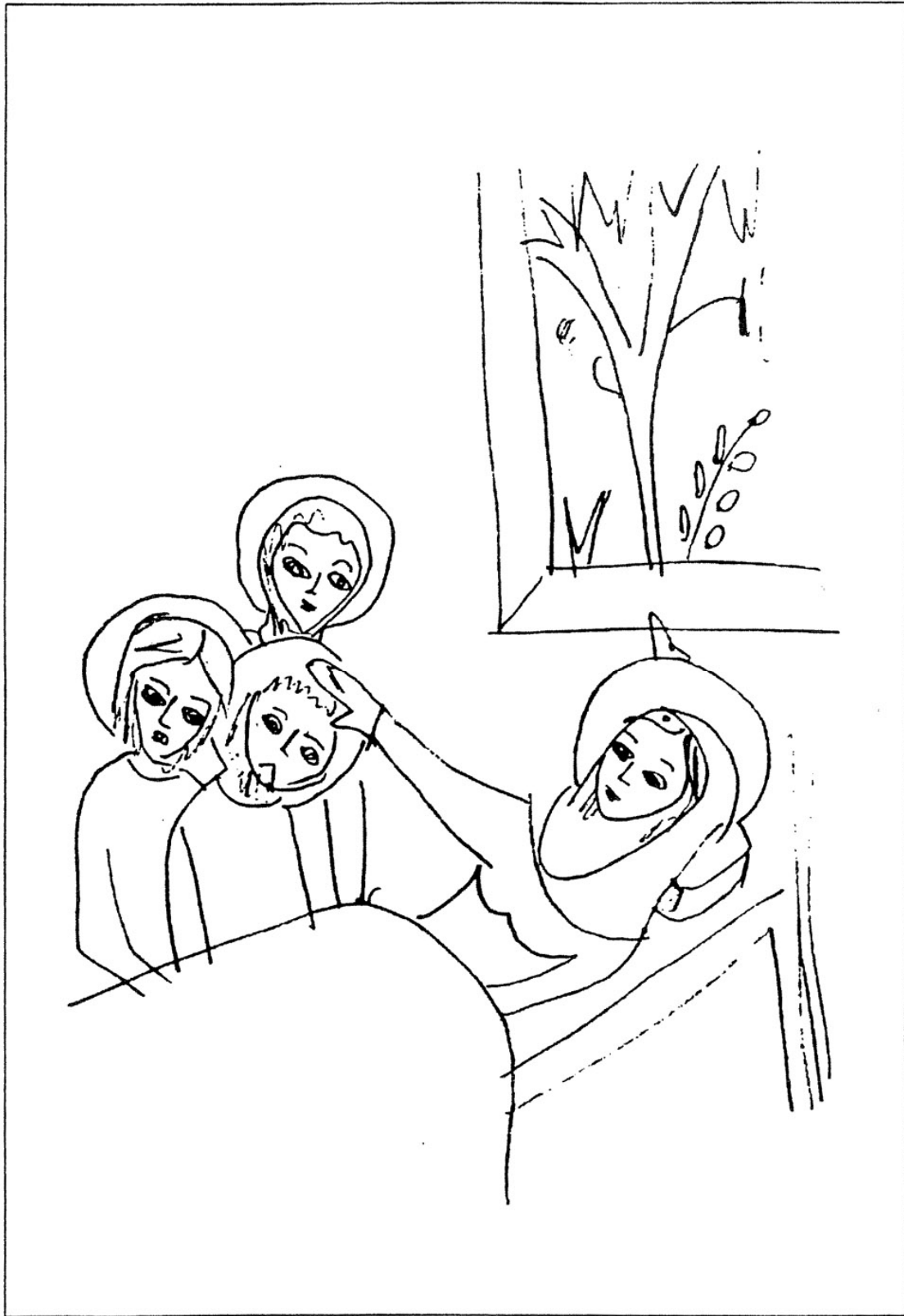




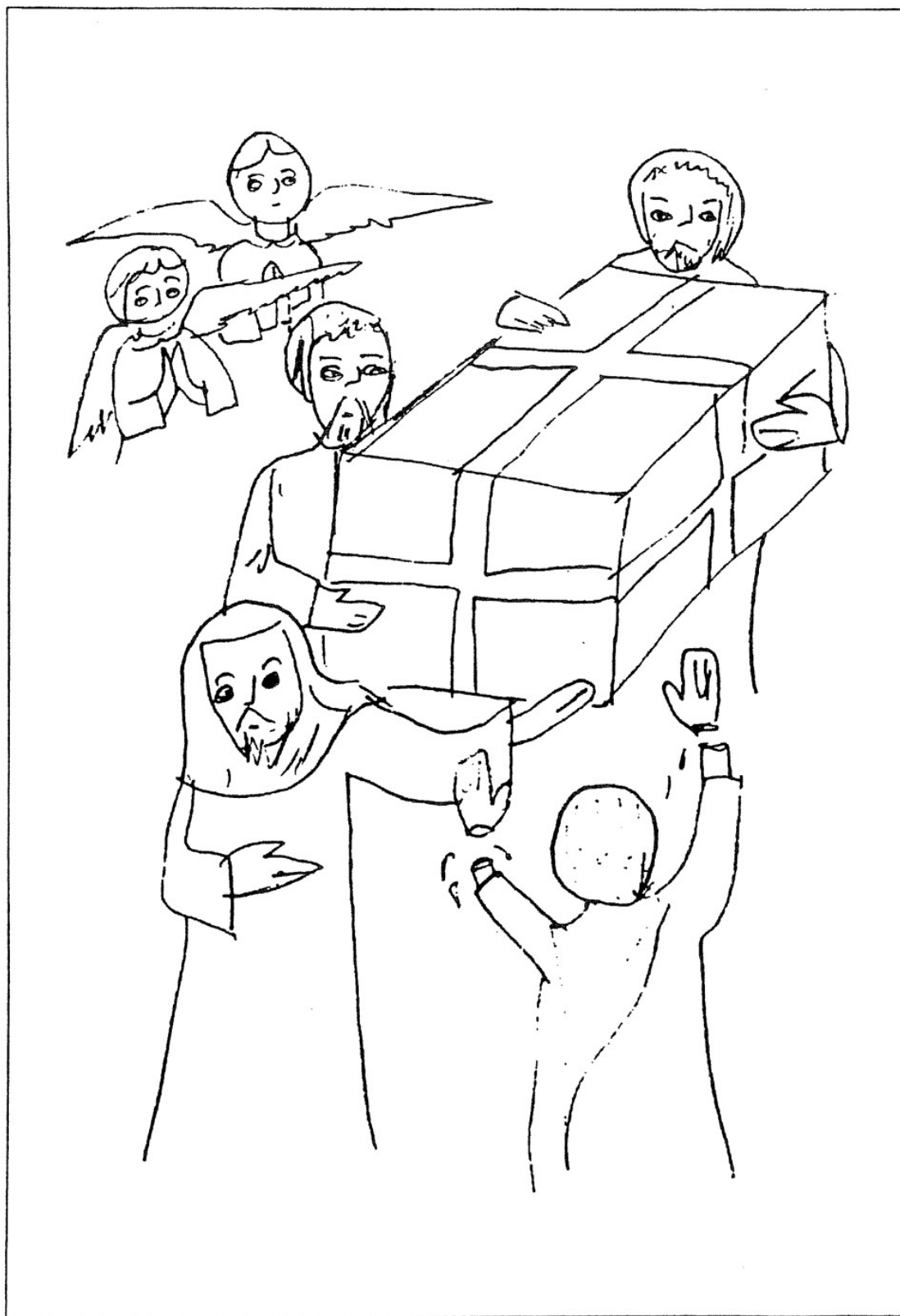
*St. Mary supports the disciples with her prayers*



*Jesus appears to St. Mary and tells her that He should receive her soul*



*St. Mary blesses the disciples before her death*



*A wicked man tries to prevent St. Mary's burial, but his hand gets cut off*

## Songs

### WATCHING US

**‘Behold , great is thy intercession, strong and acceptable with our Savior.’  
(the sixth prayer)**

#### **REFRAIN**

Watching us, hearing us, loving us  
She is St. Mary  
We are her children

she could never possibly forget us  
Mother of Jesus who saved us  
and she is always guiding us.

She is in heaven in her glory  
And is always interceding

the pride of all our saints  
with the saints on our behalf

She is heaven but she appears  
Spreading on earth love and peace

to her children everywhere  
and preserving faith for all

She is heaven but she sees  
Mettias was hand-cuffed in jail

when her children are in tears  
but she came and broke the chains

She is in heaven but she hears  
Anba Abraam come out and see

the pleadings of a great Pope  
the faith that moved the mountain

She is in heaven but she leaves  
In the church she comes and shares

many miracles where she appears  
with faith we witness her care.

#### **Recitation Curriculum :**

**Please look at the recitation curriculum at the end of this book.**

### **Miracle # 3—The miracle of Atrib church (near Benha, Egypt)**

During the reign of Khalifa Haroun El Rashid, a cruel man governed Egypt and persecuted Christians, torturing them and ordering their churches to be destroyed. He sent his generals to every place, carrying strict orders from the Khalifa to destroy every church along their way. They did so, moving from one place to another until they reached a city called Atrib, where there was a church called St. Mary. It had a magnificent building with marble columns covered with gold.

When the church priest learned of the general's arrival, he entered the church and tearfully prayed to St. Mary to support him in this dreadful hour. He showed the prince the church's precious contents including St. Mary's icon. He implored the prince to give him three days to secure an order from the Khalifa El Rashid to save this church from destruction.

The prince laughed, saying the Khalifa was in Baghdad and that it would take no less than two months for anybody to get there! Hence, it was virtually impossible for the church to obtain that order from the Khalifa in three days. The priest assured the prince of his getting this order even if the Khalifa was farther than that. In the next three days the priest was responsible for payment of accommodations for the prince and his followers.

He picked up 300 Dinars from his pocket and gave them to the prince. After much insistence the prince agreed to give the priest that allowance of three days, feeling certain that the church would be ruined after three days anyway. The priest said I have great confidence that the Virgin who melted the prison locks and saved Methias, can support us and prevent you from destroying her church.

The priest went quickly to St. Mary's icon, knelt in front of it and prayed fervently saying, "Save us, pure Virgin, and do not let our enemies rejoice over us. If we have made mistakes please forgive us. We have thrown this heavy burden on you. Therefore, please ask your Son, Jesus, to save us. This is the time when your great power will be apparent. Come quickly to help us so that your church will not be ruined. How can we be ashamed among the nations when you are with us, O mother of God?"

The priest went on praying with tears running down his cheeks. He did not eat and became weak from hunger, but he still held firmly to his faith and hope. Then St. Mary began to talk from her icon saying, "I am the Virgin who is helping you. Do

not fear the threats of the prince. I have done all that you have asked. The prince will soon receive from his chief an order to spare this church from destruction”.

While the priest was praying the Khalifa was asleep in Baghdad. The Khalifa suddenly saw a divine bright light as St. Mary appeared to him. He was afraid of her majestic sight. She said to him, “I am Mary, the mother of Jesus, whom you made all these evils against, especially ordering the destruction of the churches. How do you sleep calmly as Christians are mourning the loss of their churches?”

“I am the Virgin, the mother of God who, by His will, gave you this kingdom. Therefore, repent and leave your bad deeds. Fear God, otherwise you will have so many great sufferings and troubles that you will wish to die rather than to live”. The Khalifa became afraid and told her that he was ready to do what she wanted as long as she does not hurt him. She said, “I want you to write an order at once by your own handwriting, seal it with your seal and send it to your people in Atrib today, so they would no longer destroy churches and devastate Christians”. The Khalifa wondered how they could receive it today when it was virtually impossible to send it by sea or by land. St. Mary answered, “Write the order and by God’s help it will be in the hands of the prince before he wakes up”.

The Khalifa became even more afraid of this authority and the way she was talking to him. He wrote a royal order to the prince in Atrib, saying, “I am the Khalifa Haroun El Rasid. I am writing this to you in my own handwriting. Come back quickly and do not interfere with Christian people or destroy their churches on your way back”. He stamped the letter and was puzzled while watching what was going to happen. A bird came and, with its beak, took the letter from his hand, flew away and disappeared along with St. Mary. After a short while the bird was in Atrib, gave the letter to the prince and flew away.

The prince opened the letter and was very astonished as it was from El Rashid, ordering him to come back at once. He read the letter several times, looking carefully at the handwriting and then the seal, and concluded that it was all from his king.

He was dumbfounded but still wary. So, he sent for the priest of the church and asked him, “Tell me what you did and who saved you in this incredible way?” The priest answered with full faith and with a heart full of pleasure, “This is not the doing of a visible human but of the Mother of Light, the Mother of God, who makes every route easy for us, carries every burden away from us. He then told

him about his prayer and her answer from the icon. The prince was stunned beyond belief and became faithful to Jesus Christ, entered the church, kissed the icon of St. Mary and asked her to hear him and protect him during his travels.

The prince gave the money (300 Dinars) back to the priest and gave him 100 more as a token of his appreciation. Then the prince hurriedly left all the churches and returned to Baghdad, where he met the Khalifa and found him just as bewildered. After exchanging greetings with the Khalifa the prince asked immediately, “Your highness we received this message from you. Did this really come from you?” The Khalifa confirmed that the message was from him and asked the prince to describe quickly what had happened. The prince told the Khalifa everything he had seen in this city of Atrib, about the priest the letter, and the bird.

The Khalifa said at once, “We shall build a church for the Christians so that St. Mary will be my aid in my life to save me from all the evil surrounding me. This church will be more magnificent than all the other temples we have seen in our lives,” They started building the church and put precious things in it, including the icon of St. Mary. In this new church gathered the displaced and cursed Christians, to pray with great pleasure after they lived in the aisles and caves of the earth against their will. By the prayers of St. Mary Christianity won, and the flag of the cross was exulted. May her prayers be with us all and protect us. Amen.

#### **Miracle # 4 - Curing princess Mary’s cut hand**

There was a prince from Europe who married a woman who had borne him a daughter named Mary. After several years the wife died and the prince married another woman. Mary became a young lady and the new princess envied her for she was very beautiful, clever and nice. The princess plotted to do something evil to Mary.

When the prince went to see the places under his reign, the bad princess took this opportunity to order two of her servants to take Mary to the desert, kill her and bring her hands back to be sure that she was really dead. She told Mary to leave before her with the two servants to a garden outside the city and that she was going to follow them. Mary did so, and when the servants led her to the wide desert she understood that she would be a sacrifice to the deception of her father’s wife. She began praying asking the intercession of the Lady Virgin. She recited, with tears in her eyes, “Oh my Lady mother of God, the hope of those without hope, have mercy upon your servant and reward those who had planned against me”.



When the servants saw her tears they told her that the aim of bringing her to the desert was to kill her and cut her hands for evidence, so their lady would be sure. They accepted Mary's request to keep her alive, cut her hand and told the cruel envious woman that they did her evil wish. That evening the son of another prince was out hunting with some servants. When he heard in the desert the sound of sighing and weeping he went towards the place where Mary was praying to the mother of God. Without knowing her, he stitched up her wounds and brought her to his father's home. Owing to her beauty and wisdom he fell in love with her and wished to marry her. He did not know her father because she did not tell him that she was the daughter of the prince ruling the land.

Her father thought that his daughter had fled from home as his wife told him. He asked for her everywhere and by every means, but in vain. After some time the princess knew that Mary was alive and that she was married and she had borne two sons. She tried other means to kill her, but the Divine Providence decided to notify the prince of his wife's deception. Mary was not only saved from death but her hand was also cured. When the father learned what happened to his dear daughter, he made her the heiress to all his fortune and ordered the death of his guilty wife.

Mary was sure that she was saved from death only by the intercession of the mother of God, so she urged her father to build a church for the Lady Virgin. Her relatives celebrated all the feasts of the mother of God especially on the same day Princess Mary's hand was cured. She established many charities for the poor, remembering the great charity that she got from the pure Lady.

Princess Mary lived a long time enjoying her earthly kingdom and happiness after which she went to her heavenly home, to be together with God. May God let all Christians enjoy the blessings and miracles of the Virgin Mary. Amen.

# *Recitation Curriculum*

In addition to all the  
memory versus and  
songs in the lessons,  
please teach the  
following recitation  
items throughout the  
year:

# **Recitation 1**

## **Psalm 51**

Have mercy upon me, O God,  
According to Your loving kindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender  
mercies,  
Blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
And cleanse me from my sin.  
For I acknowledge my transgressions,  
And my sin is always before me.  
Against You, You only, have I sinned,  
And done this evil in Your sight--  
That You may be found just when You  
speak,  
And blameless when You judge.  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,  
And in sin my mother conceived me.  
Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness,  
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins,  
And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,

The God of my salvation,  
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your

righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,

And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I  
would give it;

You do not delight in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,

A broken and a contrite heart--

These, O God, You will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;

Build the walls of Jerusalem.

Then You shall be pleased with the  
sacrifices of righteousness,

With burnt offering and whole burnt  
offering;

Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Alleluia.

## *Recitation 2*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the beneficent and merciful God, the Father of our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for He has covered us, supported us, preserved us, accepted us unto Him, had compassion on us, sustained us, and brought us to this hour. Let us then ask Him, the Almighty Lord our God, to keep us in all peace this holy day and all the days of our life. O Master, Lord, God Almighty, Father of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, we thank Thee upon every condition, for any condition, and in whatever condition, for Thou has covered us, supported us, preserved us, accepted us unto Thee, had compassion

on us, sustained us, and brought us unto this hour. Therefore, we pray and entreat Thy goodness, O Lover-of-mankind. Grant us to complete this holy day and all the days of our life in all peace with Thy fear. All envy, all temptation, all the workings of Satan, the intrigue of wicked people, the rising up of enemies, hidden and manifest, do Thou cast away from us, and from Thy people, and from this, Thy holy place. Whereas of things that are good and useful do Thou grant unto us, for Thou art He who gave us the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and every power of the enemy; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Through the grace and mercies and love-of-man of Thine only begotten Son, our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ,



through whom is due unto Thee glory and honor and power together with Him and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, who is consubstantial with Thee now and ever, and to the ages of all ages. Amen.

\*Note: It will be beneficial if the teacher can include the recitation items of the previous years as well.

## **MAJOR REFERENCES**

**(with permission)**

- (1) Books by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III up to March 2005.
- (2) El-Keraza Magazine, head publisher: His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, all issues up to March 2005.
- (3) Recorded Sermons by His Grace Bishop Rowiss up to March 2005.
- (4) Books by His Grace Bishop Moussa up to March 2005
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- (8) All issues of “Sout El-Rahi” magazine, St. George Church, Alexandria, Egypt.
- (9) Books by Father Tadros Y. Malaty, St. George Coptic Church, Alexandria, Egypt, up to March 2005.
- (10) “Bahgat El-Aiad” by Yassa Mansour, 1970.
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THE FOLLOWING TABLES  
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THE CHANGES IN THE  
TIMING OF EASTER AND  
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