

## Sunday School Program

### Grade 4

#### Class of Archangel Rafael



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

### **Preface To The First Edition**

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

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

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

Publishing and Editing Committee  
Diocese of Beni Sweif

### **Preface To The Second Edition**

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

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

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

## **The Lesson**

Church Education Service is divided into:

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

## **This Book**

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

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

## **Home Assignment**

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

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

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

## The Fourth Elementary Grade

### *A Child of nine*

It is an aim of change as it denotes the beginning of mental and emotional development of middle childhood. So the programs set for this age aim at making children discover the Lord's Covenant with His children so that they may behave according to these covenants in their daily life. The Holy Bible refers to several covenants God made with us: His covenant with human beings, His covenant with His people in the Old Testament and His covenant with the new church. The Lord has promised to love, care for and forgive His church, which in turn love Him and seeks to carry out His will. The church is the people of God, who respond in love and obedience to God, our Lord Jesus Christ, in worship and conduct. In this way, the program offers opportunities to test living in covenant with God in our present life and the life of those who came before us. We have to test the blessings of living in grace and behaving in grace. We have to offer opportunities to the students so that they may discover these aspects in the lessons and apply them. This does not mean that we always present the circle of salvation that begins with sin, then repentance, then forgiveness then renewing life, but what we mean is to test the action of grace in the fellowship of God and how this grace, in its sincere action leads to their salvation.

### *The Children*

They watch their own experience and their struggle in their relationship with God and people. They examine the stories of the Old Testament and God's covenants with His children. They become concerned with the church occasions and Saint's celebrations. These give them vital fellowship as each one of them takes part as an individual. Children of this age discover new dimensions in serving the church through their offerings and through drawing pictures and icons, etc., and so on.

### *To the Servant*

Before the Scholastic year begins, you have to do the following:

1. Study the curriculum and this guide very well.
2. Take the advice of your colleagues especially those who taught this curriculum or those who taught children of this age.
3. Study the potentialities of the Sunday School in which you teach: Calmness, how classes are separate from one another, means of illustration, the library, etc. and try to know which books suit this class or that class then define the circumstances you are going to face and decide how you can develop them to improve your service.
4. Try to know a lot about the children by asking about them, being acquainted with them, and visiting them either individually or with others.
5. Record the names of your children and decide who will help you in visiting children, delivering letters to houses, distributing pictures in the class, gathering alms, arranging and cleaning seats, seeing 10 discipline, doing social services, etc.
6. Think of what you can do inside the class and what you need to prepare beforehand as you may prepare something that will be useful for several lessons, and these lessons may be taught by the end of the period.
7. Think of what you should do outside the class such as homework, trips on different occasions, parties etc. and out of these draw a general integrated plan.

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## THE FIRST PERIOD

### (1) The Coptic New Year's Day (Nayrouze): The Miraculous deeds of St. Mina and his martyrdom

#### *References*

- + Acts 6,7
- + Romans 8, 2
- + Corinthians 11
- + Hebrews 11,12
- + The Spiritual values of Nayrouze feast
- + The Introduction of the Book: Martyrdom in Christianity
- + Al Mahaba Message: November & December 1967, Page 213
- + Synexarium 15<sup>th</sup> of Hatur
- + A special pamphlet from St. Mina Monastery

#### *To the Servant*

1. On the Blessed El-Nayrouze Day we contemplate the history life of our fathers the martyrs and how they loved death and how they offered pure oblation on the altar of martyrdom to that whom they loved.
2. As their hearts were filled with faith in eternity, they faced death with such courage that astonished the pagans who, for that reason, received faith, and in this way the blood of martyrs were the greatest preachers.
3. Come now and join us. Live with us in the glories of martyrdom.

#### The Lesson

#### *Aim*

The children, after studying the lesson about St. Mina, should be filled with love for Christ so they reveal their faith without fear when they are asked about what their religion is.

#### *Verse*

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10)

#### *Hymn*

- + Come O Righteous, Come... [Arabic Song]
- + O Mar Mina the wonder worker... [Arabic Song]
- + Hasten O righteous... [Praise the Lord, Page 31]

#### *Aids*

The picture of St. Mina with candles lit before it. At the end of the lesson, all the children take part in the general procession of the church.

What is the meaning of the word “martyr”? Mention the names of five martyrs. Why did governors kill Christians? What is the name of the saint you see in this picture?

St. Mina is a great and famous martyr. Several churches carry his name and many saints were named after him. Before Pope Kyrillos VI (Cyril 6) was ordained, his name was Protopriest (Rommos) Mina, and St. Mina was his beloved Patron Saint. That is why he established a monastery carrying his name in the same region where the martyr lived.

St. Mina was born at a village near Menouf in about 250 A.D. His parents were pious and filled with love for Christ and the church. They brought him up in the way of holiness and worship, so he became a blessed young man who loved prayer and who was fond of the word of God. He longed for the life of monasticism, as he desired to devote his whole time to worship.

When he became a young man, he joined the army and was as honest soldier. He always remembered God’s words: “Be faithful unto death”. He was strong and brave. He performed his duty quite well and precisely. He served his colleagues sincerely. That army was under the leadership of the Roman Emperor, Diocletian who hated Christians. Diocletian was a pagan. He worshipped idols. He gave an order that Christian Religion was forbidden and he compelled all people to worship him!

- + What is the name of your Martyr?
- + Where was he born?
- + What was his job?
- + What is the name of the Roman Emperor of that time?
- + What was the order he made?

One day, when St. Mina was standing with his colleagues the soldiers, an officer came so they stood to attention and saluted him. The man read the Emperor’s order in a serious way threatening that he would kill any Christian soldier. What did St. Mina do? Would he deny Christ for fear of death? No, as the verse says: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you...” Then what should he do? He was perplexed... He said to himself, “I must be faithful O Christ”. He prayed to the Lord and his heart became filled with a strong desire for monasticism. “This is the only solution. I shall go to the desert and there I shall worship my Lord in calmness. This has always been my desire”, he thought. He went back to his house... took some clothes and books and left for the desert after raising a long prayer. When he arrived at Mariout near Alexandria, he lived in a cave and continued worship and spiritual reading for five years.

- + What is the name of the Emperor?
- + What was the solution that the Lord guided St. Mina to?
- + How many years did he spend in the desert?
- + What was the verse that the Lord commanded him to follow?

While he was praying and reading the Gospel, the verse came back to his mind, “Be faithful”. Then, he must remain faithful to Christ even if he were exposed to death... he thought... “For the sake of Christ, I must not fear death”... he prayed, and then he went to Mariout to declare his faith as Christian. He decided to reveal his faith even if he faced death... He entered the city... He

was a stranger... They asked him what his religion was and they took him to the governor and the following talk ran between them:

- ∞ Is what I heard about you true?
- ∞ Yes sir. I am a Christian.
- ∞ Do you know the meaning of these words?
- ∞ I know it well...it means death, but to us, death is a great gain as through it we go to heaven where Jesus sits. Didn't he promise us saying: Be faithful until death, and I will give you...
- ∞ These are superstitions...Jesus is in heaven! Jesus is God! Deny Him immediately!
- ∞ Your attempts will go in vain, Sir. Jesus is my Lord and my God.

The governor grew angry. He raised his voice saying: Take him away and cut off his head immediately. The soldiers attacked him and took him to the martyrdom place where they cut his head off as he was repeating the blessed verse "Be thou faithful..."

What made St. Mina leave the desert? The children here act the dialogue between the Saint and the governor.

St. Mina is called the wonder worker as his pure body made many miracles before and after its burial. When they came to bury him, the camel stood in the place where he used to live. They tried to remove the body but they could not. They beat it but it did not want to move. Then they knew the secret. The martyr wanted to be buried here. One day, a shepherd was taking care of his sheep in that region. The shepherd was walking before the herd singing a hymn on his flute. He suddenly looked back and found that a sheep had run away and made for Mariout Lake. The shepherd was disturbed. He ran after him. He was afraid lest the sheep should fall into the lake. The sheep ran and the shepherd ran. The sheep fell into the lake and the shepherd could pull it out quickly. The sheep was shabby, but he was well. What is this? It is St. Mina's blessing. Many people still intercede with him and recite the verse "Be faithful..."

### ***Questions***

It is better to write these questions in the children's notebooks and ask them to answer them at home:

1. What is the name of St. Mina's town?
2. What was his job?
3. What did the emperor's circular state?
4. What was the verse that motivated St. Mina to martyrdom?
5. What was the miraculous deed that revealed St. Mina's blessings?

### ***Activity***

1. If a non-Christian person asks you about your religion say, "I am Christian". Do not be afraid.
2. Pray three times everyday and say, "O Lord, I will be faithful unto death. Give me the crown of life as you gave it to St. Mina".

### ***Instructions***

1. Note the steps of the lesson. They must be clear in your mind. We have given you examples of questions that remind you of the content of each stage. The purpose of the questions is to enunciate the story.
2. You can speak in detail about important situations such as: St. Mina's faithfulness as a soldier. St Mina's zeal when he saw the emperor's circular and the happiness he felt for the solution that the Lord guided him to.
3. The conversation between St. Mina and the emperor is important so it must be presented in a vital way when you tell the story. Two boys can act this.
4. When you speak about St Mina's martyrdom, do not speak in detail so that you may not emphasize the apparent defeat, but concentrate on the victory of the saint over death and emphasize his miraculous deeds.
5. Explain that when the saint went to the desert, he was not afraid. There is no doubt that he prayed to God who led him to the desert and to martyrdom.

### **(2) God Cares For Gideon In His Wars**

#### ***References***

+ Judges 6,7

#### ***To the Servant***

1. It is clear that when the ancient people kept far from the Lord, the Lord humiliated them through heavy servitude. This applies to our spiritual life... but when we cry to the Lord, He saves us.
2. Contemplate the words of God "Go in this might of yours". Which "might" does He mean? Of course He means the might of holy zeal and Gideon's concern in salvation.
3. The Lord blesses the little that we offer and saves us. Let us offer him our effort, patience and good works and He will sanctify us, grant us His grace, give us power so that we may preach His name and make His works known everywhere.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To ensure the child that God cares for him and protects him from danger so he must not be afraid.

#### ***Verse***

"If God is with us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

#### ***Hymns***

+ El Cherubim yasgodoon Lak... [Arabic Song]  
+ The Cherubim worship You...[The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 79]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

What is the name of the martyr we spoke about last week?  
What was his job?  
What is the name of the emperor who persecuted the Christians?  
What did he do?  
What did St. Mina do?  
What was the miraculous deed that revealed the blessings of St. Mina?  
What is the name of the man in this picture?

Gideon was a great man who had a great personality. He is one of the great men of the Old Testament. He lived in the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C. He was one of the Ancient People. At that time they had powerful enemies called the Midianites. The Midianites enslaved them and were cruel to them. The ancient people suffered a lot. They sowed and leaped and the Midianites came upon them in severe attacks like locusts. They looted them and killed them and the people ran away in great horror, as soon as they saw them. The people of God built tombs, strongholds and caves to hide themselves from their enemies who stole their crops and animals. This situation continued for seven years during which the people of God suffered severely. What should be done? Would they fight the Midianites? They had no army. Should they build up an army? They had no king, no chief, nor a leader. Everything caused sadness. What should be done? They cried to God from the bottom of their hearts. “You brought our fathers out of the Land of Egypt and gave them victory over Pharaoh. “O Lord, save your servants. We are in deep grief. Come and deliver us”. They prayed every day, in houses, in meetings, and everywhere. They prayed the Lord to save them from their enemies...Did not you say to us, “The Lord will fight for you?”

- + What is the name of the enemies of the Ancient people at that time?
- + What did they do?
- + Why did not they fight the people?
- + What did they decide to do?

The seven years passed...One day, a young man called Gideon was threshing some wheat secretly so that the Midianites would not see him. He worked hard but he looked here and there out of fear. Suddenly, a man appeared before him and said; “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor” Gideon was astonished. “Who is that man?” he thought. “He may be the angel of the Lord” Gideon was thinking of the sad situation of his people so he said to the angel, “If the Lord is with us, how can this happen to us, my Lord? Wasn’t the Lord with our fathers long ago? Didn’t the Lord say to us: If God is with us, who is against us”. The man said, “Go and deliver the people”. Gideon smiled and was amazed. He said, “Who am I to deliver the people? I am a weak man and my family is poor... Who am I?” The Lord said to him, I will be with you...and we will strike the Midianites as one man”. The Lord said, “If God is with us, who is against us?” Gideon did not believe himself...was he in a dream or was he in the real world? He was sure that he was not dreaming and began to think.

- + Who appeared to Gideon?
- + What did he say to him?
- + What was Gideon’s reply?
- + What did the Lord say to him?

Then Gideon said to the angel, “Wait because I want you to give me a sign. Gideon went in and brought a sacrifice and put it on the rock. The man stretched his hand and touched the sacrifice with his staff...Fire immediately came out of the rock and burnt the sacrifice...Gideon was sure that it was the Lord so he knelt down and bowed to the ground and said, “Lord, what shall I do now?” And the angel said, “Take your army and fight the Midianites and don’t forget: If God is with us, who is against us?”

What was the sign that the Lord showed to Gideon?

Gideon went back home. He was amazed and happy...He told his family, his neighbors and his relatives about what happened. All people knew that the Lord chose Gideon. They rejoiced. They all asked him about the story and he related it over and over again saying: “Pray and thank the Lord. Gideon blew the trumpet...people gathered...He asked them to go with him to fight. They all said, “We shall go with you and the Lord is with us. Gideon divided them into groups...The number was very great...They were 32,000 men...Well, victory is surely ours. The Lord said to Gideon:

- ∞ No. This is not good.
- ∞ Do you want a greater number, Lord?
- ∞ How many soldiers are there?
- ∞ 32,000 of the best men
- ∞ Is the army ready?
- ∞ Yes, Lord.
- ∞ The men you have are too many for me to give them victory over the Midianites. They may think that they had won by themselves and so, give me no credit. Announce to the people, “Anyone who is afraid should go back home”.

Gideon said so to the men...Alas! All men except 300 men, returned. Then God will be angry and we will be defeated. Gideon was sad...but the Lord promised him victory. Have you forgotten the verse that says: “If God is with us, who is against us?”

O Lord, where can we find weapons?

- ∞ Take the three hundred men and divide them into three groups...Let each man have an empty jar and a lamp. When you blow the trumpet let them all break the jars and shout, “For the Lord and for Gideon”.
- ∞ Will this suffice, my Lord? The men are few and this is not a weapon...I am afraid I may be defeated.
- ∞ Have you forgotten the verse, “If God is with us, who is against us?”

Gideon was ashamed. He took courage, as he was sure that the Lord was with him...He went out with the troops. He blew the trumpet. They broke the jars while they were shouting...For God and for Gideon... The Midianites ran away ...They won victory and the Midian was no longer a threat...and the Israelites lived in peace.

### ***Activity***

Write the answers to these questions in your notebooks as homework for next week:

1. What is the name of the enemies of the ancient people in the days of Gideon?
2. What was the sign that the Lord gave Gideon?
3. What was the verse that Gideon kept?
4. How many men took part in the fight?
5. What are the weapons that were used in the fight?
6. Complete the following:
  - a. The Lord delivered his ancient people from..... by.....
  - b. Gideon won victory by.....men.....and.....

### ***Exercise***

If you happen to meet a person who annoys you, remember the verse: “If God is with us...” and pray for him so that the Lord may turn him into a good-hearted person.

### ***Instructions***

1. Observe the stages and make them clear.
2. Observe emotional situations and explain them. Involve completely in the situations, such as the sad state of the people of God – Gideon’s amazement when he saw the angel of the Lord - Gideon’s modesty, humbleness and submission to the Lord’s call - His amazement when he knew the means of victory - Their happiness and joy when they won victory.
3. Explain that the Lord can give victory to his people by a simple weapon.
4. Give the conversation in detail such as the conversation between the angel and Gideon, and the conversation between Gideon and the people as a repetition to the story.

### ***Recitation***

Prayer of Thanksgiving suits this lesson: “We thank the beneficent and merciful God...” So the children begin to study it and use it in their prayers till lesson 6. Please distribute copies to the children and later arrange competitions for memorizing it.

## **(3) Samson**

### ***References***

+ Genesis 13- 16

### ***To the Servant***

Samson’s mother was barren and the Lord gave her ability to give birth to a child. This stands for the fruitless soul, which becomes fruitful between the hands of the Lord, both in life and in service.

Manoah was a symbol of simplicity. When he knew that the angel appeared to his wife, he prayed asking for the angel to appear to him to teach him what to do. When he realized that it was the Lord that appeared to him he was afraid he might die.

At the beginning of Samson's life, the Lord's Spirit moved him but when he submitted himself to the desires of the flesh, he fell.

The Secret of Samson's power was in his hair, and the crown of prophecy that the Lord gives us is the cause of our victory so let us keep it.

Samson's repentance always opens the door of salvation for us.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To recognize the potentialities of the great power of God in our life

#### ***Verse***

“Out of the eater came something to eat” (Judges 14:14)

#### ***Hymn***

+ The Cherubim Worship You... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 79]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

- + What is the name of the hero of our story last week?
- + What is the name of the enemies of the children of God and how did they deal with them?
- + How did Gideon know that the Lord chose him?
- + How many armies did he fight by and what were his weapons?
- + What was the verse that Gideon used to recite?
- + What happened when the people kept away from the Lord, their supporter?
- + What is the new number of the people of God?

There was a pious man called Manoah. He was married but had no children. While his wife was praying to the Lord to give her a son, the place was suddenly filled with light. She was deeply frightened when the angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, “Peace be to you... You will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. This son of yours will deliver the people of God from the hands of the Philistines” (These words should be recited calmly, deeply and seriously).

Then the angel disappeared...Manoah's wife came to herself. She ran to her husband in the field. The husband wondered what made his wife come to him. He was worried and said “Is it well with you?” She said, “It is well... the angel of God appeared to me and said...” The man was amazed. He paused for a while then he said to his wife “Let us kneel down and pray “O Lord, let the man of God that you sent come back to us and tell us what we must do with the boy when he is born. O Lord we thank you because you will give us a son...we are confident of the truth of your words...Amen”.

- + What is the name of the man?
- + Why was his wife praying?

- + What did the angel speak to her about?
- + Why did Manoah pray?

One day, Manoah was in the field. His wife was at another place caring for cows and milking them...Suddenly she saw the angel standing near her...She ran to call her husband...Come quickly...the angel has come...The man went quickly with her. They bowed to him saying:

- ∞ Sir, you said to my wife ..... what shall we do with the child?
- ∞ Your wife must not drink wine and your son's hair must not be cut. Your son also must not drink wine, as he is a Nazarite.
- ∞ What does a "Nazarite" mean seer?
- ∞ It means that he is chosen by the Lord to rescue the people of God from the Philistines.
- ∞ What is your name sir?
- ∞ My name is "a name of wonders"; do not ask about my name.
- ∞ Allow me to offer you a sacrifice.

Manoah took a young goat, slew it and put it on fire...To their surprise -Manoah and his wife saw the Lord's angel go up towards heaven in the flames. They threw themselves face downwards on the ground. When the man disappeared, they rose to pray and thank the Lord.

Nine months later, Samson was born. They brought him up in the fear of God and taught him how to pray and how to read...The boy grew up...What is the thing that characterized Samson in his appearance and made him different from his companions? (His long hair) What does this mean? ...In fact Samson was dedicated to God as a Nazarite - that is why the Lord gave him a brave heart and wonderful powers...He was very strong. One day he was walking with his parents in a place full of grapes...Suddenly a lion appeared to them and it was roaring (How does a lion roar? Have you seen the lion? I think it is terrible) -What was to be done? Manoah was afraid and his wife was afraid. Samson said to them, "The Lord will fight for you, do not be afraid...He ran to the lion and got hold of its head...Manoah was anxious about his son Samson...His wife screamed...Keep away from the lion, Samson, do not do that...The lion will devour you...O Lord help us...Samson was able to get hold of the head of the lion...He managed to get hold of the lion's jaws...The lion made a vain attempt to devour Samson but could not. Samson cried, "The Lord fights for you... O Lord, help me to kill this lion". He was able to separate the jaws and destroy the mouth of the lion. The lion fell dead and Samson threw it to the ground. Manoah and his wife were amazed at the great power of Samson. They all knelt down and thanked God. They went their way then they came back safely.

What is that? The lion was still on the ground... What is there in its mouth? Many bees bringing out honey...Samson stretched out his hand and took some honey...They all ate honey and Samson said, "Out of the eater came something to eat". And the Lord made Samson rescue his people from their enemies.

### **Activity**

1. What is the name of the enemies of the people of God in the days of Samson?
2. How was Samson born?
3. What does this statement mean, "Out or the eater came something to eat?"

4. Complete:
  - a. The ..... power was with ..... so he killed the lion.
  - b. The eater is ..... and the thing to eat is .....
5. Join the hymn team. Study the second part or the prayer of Thanksgiving. Draw a Coptic cross.

### ***Exercise***

When you see a dog in the street make the sign of the cross and say “O Samson’s God, be with me”.

### ***Instructions***

1. Make stages of the lesson clear in your mind and be involved in them.
2. Emphasize the following feelings: the humility of the people, the woman’s amazement at seeing the angel, how Manoah and his wife were afraid of the lion, Samson’s courage, Samson’s parents joy when the lion was killed and how they thanked God for the food that came out of the lion’s mouth.
3. Conversations make the story lively when you present it. Let the children act it.
4. Explain the value of the vow (solemn pledge -being a Nazarite -dedication) in the life of Samson.

## **(4) Elijah**

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 17-21
- + 2 Kings 1,2

### ***To the Servant***

1. Note that Elijah’s service was limited but it was lively and effective. The secret lies in the life of perpetual prayer that he led and the lively faith that filled his heart.
2. Note also Elijah’s courage in announcing the Divine Truth and note his meekness when he does this. We are often disturbed by the affairs of this life but here we see the Lord support Elijah through unnatural means such as the raven and the poor widow.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

For the children to have confidence in the care of God about them, as it is the Lord that gives us our food in the suitable time.

### ***Verse***

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalms 103:2)

### ***Hymn***

- + Bless the Lord, O my soul... [Arabic Song]
- + When I feel tired to whom shall I go... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

### ***Aids***

- + The picture of the lesson
- + Who remembers the verse of the previous lesson?
- + What does this verse mean and what event does it describe?
- + What is the cause of Samson's power?
- + Whose picture is this?

Elijah was one of the great prophets of the ancient people. What does the word "prophet" mean? A holy man... God speaks through him and the people know the words of God. Elijah came eight hundred years before Christ. He lived in a town named Tishbe that is why he is called Elijah of Tishbe. When he was old, the Lord chose him to become a prophet... Elijah prayed, fasted and read the Holy Scriptures and he became a great saint.

- + What is the name of the man?
- + What was his job?
- + What does the word "prophet" mean?

One day, the Lord said to Elijah, "Go to king Ahab, the wicked king and say to him: The Lord is not pleased with you because of your wicked deeds and because you worship idols. So the Lord will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain till you and your people repent". Elijah obeyed the Lord. Elijah began to think... the king is wicked... he may kill me... I am afraid... No, the Lord ordered me to go to the king and He is with me. I will go immediately. He left his house and went to where the king lived... he went on foot... his clothes became torn and dirty. How can I appear before the king with my dirty clothes? Anyway this is not important I have to obey the Lord who ordered me to go to the king. When he arrived at the palace, the guards did not allow him to enter.

(Conversation)

- ∞ Where to?
- ∞ To the king... I have to enter... I have the word of God to the king.
- ∞ Who is God? We only know the idol.
- ∞ God Almighty the creator of Heavens and earth has sent me to the king... do not delay me... (The guards were afraid of Elijah and his strong words and his mighty personality)
- ∞ Wait a while. We will inform the king... (A guard went to the king... bowed to the ground... Saluted him and said "Your majesty... There is a man at the palace gate. His body is covered with hair and his clothes are very simple. He wants to meet you". The king said, "Let him meet anyone of the officials... Is it easy for such a man to meet me?
- ∞ No, your majesty... but he says that he is a prophet and that he has a message to deliver to you... Let him enter... he may be one of those mad people... The guard bowed and went out to call Elijah... Elijah entered the palace with an upright stature... he did not bow to the king... He opened his mouth and spoke bravely to the king and said, "In the name of the Lord, the living God of Israel, whom I serve, I tell you that there will be no dew or rain... I until I say so". The king was amazed. Who are you? How can you shut up the heavens? I am the prophet of God and my words will come true". Then Elijah went out.

- + What is the name of the king? Was he a good king?

- + What was his sin? Were the people good?
- + What are the words of the Lord that Elijah delivered?

The Lord said to Elijah, “Go and hide yourself near the brook of Cherith... I have commanded ravens to bring you food there”. Elijah thought for a while... the brook of Cherith? This brook is small and dries when there is no rain... a raven? Do ravens support man or do they snatch what is in the hand of man? ...This is strange... but... I have to obey the Lord... He went and stayed near the brook and prayed Wonderful! What is this? A raven coming very quickly and throws bread and meat in the lap of Elijah in the early morning... Elijah said, “Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits”. He drank water from the brook... In the evening the raven came back carrying the same thing and Elijah said, “Bless the Lord, O my soul...” Days go by... Elijah eats and is filled... All the people suffered from hunger... as there was no rain an? Neither was there any cultivation. There was no food in the whole land, but Elijah ate and drank and was satisfied and every day he said, “Bless... the Lord, O my soul”. In this way God cared about Elijah till rain fell again and life became natural once more. Let us always learn to say: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

### ***Questions***

- What is the name of Elijah's town?
- What is the name of the king and what was his sin!
- What was the Lord's command through Elijah?
- Did the Lord leave Elijah to die with the wicked people?
- What is the name of the brook by which Elijah hid himself!
- What did the ravens bring Elijah in the morning and in the evening?

### ***Exercises***

When you sit at the table to eat, remember the Lord who has sent you this food and say: Bless the Lord O my soul.

### ***Instructions***

1. Observe the steps and let them be clear in your mind.
2. Repeat the verse during the lesson so that the children may study it.
3. Explain that greatness does not lie in the job, clothes or food... but true greatness lies in keeping the Lord's commandments and obeying them.
4. The children should know that the power of God changes the nature of fierce ravens that snatch every thing and makes them carry things to the children of God... This also happened with St. Paul... God is the same yesterday, and today and forever.

## **(5) Elisha and the Syrian Army**

### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 6
- + The Life of Jesus

### ***To the Servant***

1. Through faith we know that those who are with us are more than those who are against us. Although the wars waged by sin and the devil's temptation are more powerful than we are yet those who live with Christ see armies of angels guarding them and hosts of holy men praying for them. Accordingly, they do not lose courage.
2. The Syrian king intended to kill Elisha, but when the prophet won victory, he did not kill the soldiers, but he fed them and sent them in peace. Do I treat my enemies kindly and with love? Let us pray our Lord Christ to give His grace to us and help us to love our enemies.
3. Many people believe that they have wisdom, but in fact they are in need of the prayers of holy men. O Lord, open their eyes so that they may see.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The children should be sure that God and His angels always guard and protect them.

#### ***Verse***

“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:16)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Bless, bless the Lord O my soul... [Arabic Song]
- + The Lord is my Shepherd. [Praise the Lord page 148]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

- + What is the name of the prophet we spoke about last week?
- + What is the meaning of the word, “Prophet?”
- + What is the prophecy which Elijah delivered to the king?
- + Why was the Lord angry with the king and the people?
- + How did the Lord care about Elijah during the famine?
- + What is the name of Prophet Elijah’s disciple?

Elisha was a prophet. He was Elijah’s disciple. When Elijah’s service was completed and ended, the Lord told Elijah that Elisha would be his successor as a prophet. When the people knew that Elisha became a prophet they came to ask him about everything, and to listen to the words of God. Elisha lived in a town called Dothan. He spent his time there in prayers and worship and led the life the monks lead nowadays... One day a war was waged by the Syrian Army against the ancient people of God. The fight was severe... Each army had its own plans according to which it fought. But something strange happened. The Syrian king and his officers drew their plans without telling anyone about them, but when they went out to carry out the plans, they were surprised to know that the ancient people knew their plans and defended themselves and the enemy plans were useless... and the Syrian army was defeated... This happened several times and the Syrian army was tired and upset.

- + What is the name of the people who fought the ancient people of God?

- + What used to happen during the fight?
- + How can the enemies know our plans?

One day, the Syrian king called in his officers. He was very angry and furious. He asked them:

- ∞ Which one of you is on the side of the king of Israel?
- ∞ No one is, your Majesty... No one of us is a betrayer... We are all ready to die for our country.
- ∞ How does the enemy know the plans then? ...No one in the whole country knows them but you. (The king beats the table with his hand in anger)
- ∞ Do you suspect us, your Majesty? If you find a traitor among us, kill him and his family.
- ∞ I know that you are brave officers, but tell me how are our plans revealed...
- ∞ (Here one of the officers said to the king): Your majesty, I know why.
- ∞ All right, tell me.
- ∞ There is a prophet named Elisha... This prophet tells them about our secret plans. -A prophet?
- ∞ What does the word “prophet” mean?
- ∞ A man who is pious and God-fearing The Lord tells him about everything.
- ∞ What do you think, what shall we do?
- ∞ If we kill Elisha we shall win victory, your majesty (All the officers said that was true).
- ∞ Where is he?
- ∞ He is in Dothan. Then let us send a regiment to kill him there... Hurry up!
- ∞ All right, your Majesty.

Who revealed the Syrian's king plan?

What is the name of the town where Elisha lived?

Four children go out to act the scene: The king and his officers.

A large force went out next morning. All the people in Dothan were asleep. They surrounded Elisha's house... At sunrise, Gehazi, Elisha's servant got up and opened the window... He went back quickly to his master and said: “We are doomed, sir! What shall we do? There are many troops surrounding us. We shall surely die... horses and chariots”. Elisha was calm... “Sir, don't you hear me?” Elisha replied calmly, “Do not be afraid. We have more on our side than they have on theirs”. Gehazi smiled in despair... “We have more on our side”. Where are they, sir? Elisha bowed down and prayed... “Lord, open his eyes and let him see”. Then he ordered his servant to open the window and have a look... Elisha's servant looked up and saw the hillside covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Elisha asked his servant, “What have you seen?” But Gehazi was so surprised that he could not answer... He asked him again... “A strange thing... Thousands of chariots of fire on our side, sir”. They both knelt down and prayed. Then Gehazi said, “Do not be afraid. We have more on our side”.

What did Gehazi see at first?

Why was he afraid?

How did he see the chariots of fire?

What is the verse that Elisha said?

Elisha faced the army and prayed: "O Lord, strike these men blind". All the soldiers became blind. No one could lead the other, as they were all blind... Elisha came and took them to the town... to the king's palace, gave them food and made them see again.

- + What did Elisha do to them?
- + Was it possible to kill them?
- + Why didn't Elisha kill them?
- + How did Elisha make his servant see the chariots of fire?
- + What did Elisha do to his enemies?

### ***Activity***

1. Contemplate the following sentences: Elisha was ..... disciple. He worked ..... and he lived in .....
2. Mark right (✓) or wrong (x) before the following:
  - a. The spies delivered the Syrian plans to the ancient people.
  - b. When Elisha prayed, his disciple saw the chariots of fire.
3. Rearrange the following:
  - a. them -are -with -who -fear -those -for -not -those -than -more -are -are -who -us - with.

### ***Exercises***

When you walk in a dark place do not be afraid as .....

Remember that the angels always guard you.

### ***Instructions***

1. Keep the stages clear in your mind. Do not go into detail so that the lesson may not lose its liveliness.
2. Emphasize Elisha's power of faith.
3. Elisha's heart was full of love for all. He did not take revenge although his enemies were under his control.
4. This is the spirit of the New Testament: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him" (Romans 12:20). As a result of this, reconciliation took place between the Syrian army and the ancient people.
5. Acting gives liveliness to the lesson especially acting the dialogue between the king and his Captains and the dialogue between Elisha and his disciple Gehazi.

## **(6) God Cares for Daniel**

### ***References***

- + Daniel 1 (it is better to read the whole Book)

### ***To the Servant***

1. Do you hold fast to the commandments of the Lord in your practical life or do you become weak before people's threats and inducement. Test yourself quite well in the presence of the Lord and pray Him to help you.

2. Holding fast to the commandments may lead you to carry the cross and you may be deprived of temporary good things such as jobs and promotions... Are you ready to live your life in the future holding fast to Christ's love whatever the sacrifice may be?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The children should learn to hold fast to the commandment of the Lord to us whatever the circumstances may be.

#### ***Verse***

“Hold fast you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Bless... Bless the Lord O my soul... [Arabic Song]
- + The Lord is my Shepherd...[Praise the Lord, Page 148]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

- + What is the name of the prophet we spoke about last week?
- + What is the name of the army that fought the ancient people?
- + What did the king say to the officers and what was their reply?
- + What did the Syrian army do and how did Elisha treat them?
- + When did Gehazi become at ease?
- + What was the verse that Elisha said to his servant?
- + Whose picture is this?

Daniel was a young man. The king of Babylonia sent Daniel and all the ancient people into exile. They were all captives. What does the word “captive” mean? Daniel had three friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. One day, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylonia, called his chief official and said to him: “The Jews whom we took captives during the last war are intelligent people. There are handsome and intelligent young men of the royal family and of the noble families living among them. Those young men seem very intelligent. Go and select some of them to serve me in the palace.

- ∞ All right, your majesty but give me a chance to feed them and teach them.
- ∞ Will it take long to teach them?
- ∞ Three years, your Majesty (He bows and goes out)

What is the name of the king?

How many friends did Daniel have?

The chief official went out to search for intelligent and handsome young men. He chose many of them among whom were Daniel and his friends. He said to them come with me to the Royal Palace because the king wants you to serve him. They said, “All right... Let us go. We are at your

service, sir". The chief official took them, dressed them in good clothes and sent them to stay in the Palace. He brought them food to eat. What is this...Pork and wine and many other kinds of food, which Moses had commanded the people not to eat! Daniel and his friends refused saying that was not lawful as it was against the commandment of God.

Daniel said: We cannot eat this food, sir.

Ashpenaz: Why?

Daniel: Because the Lord, our God commands us not to eat such food. The Lord says: Hold that fast which you have.

Ashpenaz: What shall we do now?

Daniel: We eat vegetables and legumes such as lentils. Please, do not compel us to eat such food, which is not lawful.

Ashpenaz: But this means that you will not look fit, and if you don't look fit as the other young men, he may kill me.

Daniel: Then test us for ten days. Give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare us with the young men who are eating the food of the Royal palace, and base your decision on how we look.

Ashpenaz agreed because he loved the four young people because of their good conduct and sweet talk.

- + What did Daniel say to the chief official?
- + Why did they refuse to eat the royal food?
- + What was the verse they held fast to?
- + What was Daniel's suggestion?

When the time was up, they looked healthier and stronger than all the others. The chief official was surprised. Daniel said to him, "The Lord says: Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your Crown" and he who holds fast to the words of God is given health and safety by the Lord God.

The four young men continued to eat lentils and legumes for three years. They learnt the Babylonian language and culture. The time came for them to stand before the king. They put on their best clothes... They were taught how to salute the king. They entered the king's room... The king was pleased with them. He asked them and they answered... He gave orders that they would become members of the king's palace. He loved them all.

- + What is the name of the country where Daniel was held captive?
- + What did the king want?
- + What did Daniel say to the chief official?
- + What was the verse that Daniel held fast to?
- + What was the result of Daniel's holding fast to the words of God

### ***Activity***

1. Complete:

- a. Daniel held fast to ..... so he refused to ..... what the chief official gave him.

2. Choose the suitable word from the second column that fits words in the first column and make sentences.

a. Daniel	Nebuchadnezzar
b. The name of the king is	held fast to the words of God
c. Daniel's friends were	three in number

#### ***Instructions***

1. Let the stages of the lesson be clear in your mind.
2. Contemplate on situations of deep feelings such as:
  - a. Daniel holding fast to the commandment of God.
  - b. Ashpenaz's surprise at Daniel's words.
  - c. Ashpenaz's amazement when Daniel's words came true.
3. Encourage the children to fast Wednesdays and Fridays.
4. He who holds fast to the commandments of the Lord and who lives in the ways of the Lord is always successful.

#### ***Recitation***

Psalm 91 suits this lesson. "He who dwells..." Children are to study it and use it in their prayers till Lesson 15. It should be printed and distributed to all children. Competitions are to be held.

### **(7) God Cares for Paul**

#### ***References***

+ Acts 27,28

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate Paul's struggle for the Service and how much he suffered for it...dangers at sea... fasting... hunger... threats... facing death.
2. Contemplate the personality of the apostle, the simple captive who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, held all those on the ship, the captain and the crew under his control.
3. Contemplate the apostle's confidence in Christ. Christ promised to rescue him and he believed and although dangers surrounded him, he declared that He who promised is able to fulfill his promise.
4. Christ does not lift up dangers that face us, but He lifts us up above dangers. A snake fastened itself to Paul's hand without harming him.
5. Pour yourself now between the hands of Christ our Savior and promise Him that you will endure pains for Him. We should have confidence in Him even in the midst of darkness. We ask Him to give us His grace and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

For the children to have confidence that Christ keeps them safe and protects them from violent dangers

### ***Verse***

“We let her drive” (Acts 27: 15)

### ***Hymns***

- + Paul the apostle preached... [Arabic Song]
- + Where You leads me...[Praise the Lord, Page 145]

### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

- + What is the name of the young man we spoke about last week?
- + What did the king order the chief official do?
- + What did Daniel and his friends say to the chief official about the food?
- + What was the outcome of their holding fast to the commandments of God?
- + Whose picture is this?

Paul was one of the great apostles of Christ. After the ascension of Christ, Paul preached Christianity in many countries. He was able to convince a large number of pagans and Jews to become Christians. This annoyed the Jews. So they plotted to kill him. The Romans ruled the country at that time. They took Paul to judge him. Paul was taken to prison that it was decided that he would go to Rome to be judged there by Caesar the emperor or Rome. Rome was a far away city that needed months to reach by sea... Orders were given. Paul and many other captives were taken on the ship. Some soldiers were with them. The Captain ordered the crew to sail and the ship sailed on the sea for many days and the apostle thanked God and said: We let her drive.

- + Who aroused the governor's anger against Paul?
- + Where was Paul going to?
- + Was Paul the only traveler on the ship?
- + Who will judge them in Rome?

One day a strong wind blew and hit the ship... All the travelers cried... The captain gave his orders quickly to the crew... stretch that sail... fold this sail... raise the oars... They were all afraid... This state continued all the day long... No one tasted food... all the day, the next day... 14 days... during that period Paul the apostle was quiet and kept praying for the safety of his brothers. On the fourteenth day, Paul stood up among the captives and the soldiers and said: “Brethren, do not fear... because Jesus Christ my Lord has sent His angel and we shall be rescued. Let us rejoice and eat. He said... We let her drive”. The wind was still severe but they were all pleased with what Paul said and they began to eat. After a little time, they saw an island so they made for it and got ashore to have a little rest and mend the ship that was broken. They said: “We let her drive”.

- + What happened during their travel?
- + How long did they stay without eating any food?
- + What did Paul the apostle say to them?
- + Did Paul's words come true? When?

They all got safely ashore...They were 276 persons...The natives were upset when they saw the new comers... but they soon realized that those new comers lost their way in the sea, so they welcomed them, entertained them and fed them. They all sat happily to warm themselves around the fire they lit and Paul sat among them. Suddenly something strange happened. What is this? A snake came out on account of the heat and fastened itself to Paul's hand. The natives cried in fear. Paul the apostle shook the snake off into the fire. They all said: "This man must be a murderer but fate will not let him live, even though he escaped from the sea". They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead, but nothing happened. The snake was poisonous and Paul was well. The people wondered and said, "Then he is a god". They glorified Paul the apostle and asked him to bless them and heal them. Paul performed many miracles among the natives. When the time came for them to travel, the natives came to see Paul off with tears. They gave the travelers all that they needed and they left the island in peace. They arrived in Rome and thanked God and said: We let her drive.

- + What happened when they were warming themselves up?
- + What did the natives say? What happened after that?
- + How did the natives' opinion of Paul change?
- + What did Paul do when he was among them?
- + How did the natives show hospitality to him?

### ***Other Questions***

Why was Paul the apostle going to Roma?  
What happened during their travel?  
What was the miracle that took place on the island?  
How was Paul saved?  
How did the Lord care for Paul?

### ***Activity***

1. Complete the following:
  - a. The Apostle Paul went aboard ..... from Adramyttium, which was ready to ..... for the seaports of the Province of Asia.
2. Mark right (✓) or wrong (x) before the following.
  - a. Paul's words made people on the ship take heart.
  - b. The snake hurt Paul's hand.
  - c. Paul did not perform any miracles on the island. Repeat this verse many times: We let her drive.

### ***Instructions***

1. Explain how the Lord chose Paul whose name was Saul and who persecuted the church severely and how he changed into a chosen vessel, bearing the name of Christ before kings and governors...Let the children know that he who comes humbly to Christ receives Christ's love and is filled with His grace.
2. Do not give details of situations of fear such as the dangers of the sea, the snake that fastened to Paul's hand but concentrate on God's care of Paul all the time.
3. Encourage the children to study the Intercession for Travelers.

4. Tell the naughty children that the Lord loves them and chooses them to become ministers like Paul. Give them a chance to do what satisfies their desires...Let them gather the alms, distribute presents, visit those who are absent, let them play a match and play with them.

### **(8) God Cares for Pope Athanasius the Apostolic**

#### ***References***

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa), Part I, Pages 298-313
- + The story of the Coptic Church Part: Pages 186-249
- + The history (Biography) of Athanasius the apostolic by Kamel Saleh Nakhla

#### ***To the Servant***

1. The child has received the Holy Spirit and the new nature through baptism and Chrism. Let us behave in the spirit of holiness before him as he imitates all our movements and attitudes.
2. Pray for the little children in your family so that the Lord may bless them and grant them his grace.
3. Be honest in serving the children of your class in the lessons, the visits you pay and the prayers that you raise as from among those children comes Athanasius and Cyril of the future.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Having confidence in God's care of us as He made us Christians.

#### ***Verse***

"The Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9)

#### ***Hymns***

- + The Cherubim worship You... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 79]

#### ***Aids***

The picture.

Who remembers the verse of last week?

Why wasn't Paul the apostle upset during the storm?

Where did the ship lower (the) anchor?

What happened on the island?

Whose picture is this?

We call Athanasius "The Protector or the Orthodox Creed" because he was a great Patriarch and he proved the truth of Christianity to the whole world. Athanasius' parents were pagans. (What does the word "pagan" means? His father was very rich but he died when Athanasius was still a

child. His mother brought him up. She sent him to a Christian School to learn. He mixed with the Christian children and noticed how they played, talked and how they loved one another. He saw that they were calm and obedient. He watched them while they were praying to Christ. They asked him about his religion and he said that he worshipped idols and the boys told him that idols are not gods. Christ is God. Athanasius said: "This is true". The boys said, "Athanasius, be a Christian so that the Lord may be with you wherever you go". The hands of men make idols, so how do they worship them?

Whose picture is this?

What was his parent's religion?

Where was Athanasius educated?

What did his friends say to him?

One day, while the children were in the school, the bell rang. There was a long break then...The children ran out to play on the Sea shore...At that time The Pope was watching them from the window of his room but they did not notice it...The boys said to Athanasius "Let us baptize you and make you a Christian". Athanasius agreed because he loved Christ and desired to be baptized... They practiced the ritual of baptism. "I renounce you Satan". He repeated it three times while looking to the west... Then he said, "I acknowledge You O Christ" three times while looking towards the east. Then Athanasius played the part of the bishop and so on. Pope Alexandrous was happy because the children knew the ritual of baptism...He sent for them and they came.

(Conversation)

∞ What were you doing?

∞ We were playing, Your Grace.

∞ Which game were you playing? (The boys felt hesitant but he encouraged them)

∞ We were playing baptism ritual with Athanasius.

∞ What is your name my son and who are you?

∞ My name is Athanasius... My mother worships idols but I want to be a Christian, your Grace.

The Pope welcomed him and said to him, "May the Lord be with you". The Pope was pleased with him. He noticed that he studied the ritual of baptism perfectly. He took him to his bosoms and anointed him with chrism. He asked his mother to leave him to stay with him at the Patriarchate as a deacon. The mother agreed...Athanasius prayed and studied the Gospel and became a talented preacher. Then, according to Pope Alexandrous' will, the bishops and the people chose him a patriarch and they blessed him by saying: The Lord be with you.

What were Athanasius and his friends doing on the seashore?

Where did Athanasius study the rites of baptism?

What made Athanasius love Christ?

How many church sacraments are there?

### ***Other questions***

+ What was Athanasius' parents religion?

+ How did Athanasius become a Christian?

- + What was the church post (order) that Athanasius received?
- + What is the title given to Athanasius? Why?

### ***Activity***

1. Read the gospel regularly.
2. Mark right (✓) or wrong (x) before the following:
  - a. Athanasius' parents were Christians.
  - b. God is pleased with the wicked boys.
  - c. Athanasius is called "The Protector of The Orthodox Creed".

### ***Instructions***

1. The stages should be clear in your mind, express them precisely to the children so that they may be enucleated in their minds.
2. Situations that need to be given in detail could be given in detail on condition that the lesson should not lose its liveliness.
3. Concentrate on the Lord's love for those who keep themselves away from the true faith.
4. Explain that when the Lord sees a glimpse of light in the life of a man, He does not deprive him of His grace, as he desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge or the truth, "He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick".
5. The Sacrament of baptism is essential in attaining salvation as by it we become Christ's children, and through the Holy Chrism with which we are anointed, we get the guarantee of the Kingdom and we abide in Christ, live in him and bear fruit.
6. Encourage the children to study the "Intercession" by Pope Shenouda.
7. Encourage the children to study the church Sacraments with their families.
8. Read the Holy Bible every day.

## **(9) Moving The Mokattam Mount**

### ***References***

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeesa), Part 2, the 10<sup>th</sup> generation, Pages 344-348.
- + The Wonder of Moving the Mokattam Mount

### ***To the Servant***

1. Jesus endured our sins with pleasure and he still endures them.
2. Shall I stand like sinners with humility?
3. Prayer is an effective means that changes our shape and renews our mind.
4. Shall I pray perpetually without aim in mind?
5. Prayer and fasting are of a great benefit when we face problems and difficulties, when we cure a naughty child, and when we face the various problems of our service.

### ***Aim***

The power of prayer in calling the power of God through faith

### ***Verse***

"The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:14)

### ***Hymns***

+ Through the intercessions of the Theotokos... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 73]

### ***Aid***

The picture of the lesson

What affected the life and attitudes of Athanasius when he was a child?

What was the name of the Pope?

Who remembers the verse?

What is the name and title of our Pope the Patriarch?

The Lord performed a miraculous deed in the days of Caliph Al Moezz. The Lord moved Al Mokattam Mount. History tells us that Caliph Al Moezz had a Jewish minister who hated the Christians and who always despised Christianity and Christ. He was wailing for an opportunity to persecute the Christians.

One day, he sat with the Caliph and said to him, “Christ said a verse in the Gospel: If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain: Move from here to there, and it will move” (Matthew 17:20). Now let us test the Christians to see if this verse is true...Ask them to move The Mokattam Mount so that the air in Cairo may be purer and cleaner and its weather become milder. If the verse is not true, let us take their houses and possessions for ourselves, and drive them out of our country.

What was the name of the Caliph?

Where can we find this verse?

Al Moezz was convinced and he sent for the Patriarch whose name was Anba Abram the Syrian. He said to him: “If the Gospel is true, move Al Mokattam Mount from its site or we will drive you out of the country”. The Patriarch was upset. He said to the Caliph: “Be patient with me for three days”. The Patriarch went back in grief. He wrote letters to all the priests of Egypt asking them to fast three successive days till evening and to pray Masses as the church was in danger. The Christians were upset and afraid. The old men and the children cried to the Lord. Mothers left their babes without food. All the people wept. The Patriarch shut himself up inside Al Moallaka Church for three days without food or water. He remained standing on his feet raising hands and praying, “O Lord help us...O Lord, deliver us. When the time was up, he slept and had a dream and saw a vision. A very beautiful lady -the Lady Virgin the Mother of Light came to him and said; “The Lord heard your prayers and the people’s prayers. When you go out through the door leading to the market place, you will see a man carrying a big jar of water. This man will tell you what to do...” The Patriarch got up...He knelt down before the Lord and said: “Thank you Lord because you have heard our prayers”. The verse says...The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.

What is the name of the patriarch?

What did the Patriarch and the Christian people do?

Who gave an order that the Mokattam Mount should be moved?

The patriarch went out and reached the place the Mother of Light told him about and found the man. He got hold of him and brought him to the church and told him what happened. The man whose name was Simon the tanner (Shoe repairer) said: “The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace”.

At the appointed time, Anba Abram went to the Caliph’s palace and when the minister saw him he said: “Of course you have come to say that you cannot move the Mount. Anba Abram made the sign of the cross (Let us all make the sign of the cross) and said: “The Lord will fight for us, and we have only to be still”. Our Lord can do everything. He is God Almighty. With the power of our Lord, the mountain will be moved.

The Caliph, the ministers, the statesmen, the captains and the nobles went out to see how the mountain would move... The minister was sure that the Christians would be ashamed and disappointed. They will say to the mountain, “Move” and the mountain would not move.

Our Father the Patriarch stood up and besides him stood Simon the tanner with his worn out clothes. The priests, the deacons and all the people stood in rows behind them. After the mass, the Patriarch and his people bowed down in worship then they stood up saying “Lord have mercy, (Keirealeison)”. A great earthquake took place and the Mount shook and moved and the Sun appeared below it. Then the Patriarch and the people knelt down again and the Mount moved again causing violent movements in the ground. This happened several times. The caliph and the leaders of the army were afraid and asked the patriarch to stop praying so that the city might not be turned over.

What does the verse say?

What happened to the Mount?

Al Moezz the Caliph knelt down before the Patriarch and said, “I am a Christian. Then he gave up the throne (Abdicated), and was baptized and lived as a monk. His tomb is there in the church of Abu Sefein up till now. His son Al Azeez became king after him.

What does the verse say?

What happened to the mount?

Why did the Mount move?

What did the Caliph do after the miracle took place?

Mention the verse.

### ***Exercises***

1. Let us pray for the See of St. Mark (in Egypt, the Sudan, Ethiopia...etc.).
2. Let us study the Title of the Pope of Alexandria, Pope and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark or the Intercession of the Pope: Pray for the Pontiff, Pope Shenouda III Patriarch and Archbishop of the great City of Alexandria, and for our Orthodox Bishops. Grant him the blessing of a long and peaceful life.

### ***Homework***

Answer the following questions:

1. What was the name of the Caliph?
2. What was the name of the Patriarch?
3. What does the word “Keirealeison” mean?
4. How many times do we recite it in the prayers of the Psalms?
5. Write the Title of the Pope in your notebook.
6. Write the Intercession in your notebook.

### **Notes**

Concentrate on faith in the practical life feeling of peace in dark places and advise the children not to be afraid of exams.

### **Instructions**

1. Let the stages be clear in your mind and concentrate on important situations in the life of a child such as the power of faith.
2. The children should know that the man who walks with God never fears anything. They should never perish and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. If God is with us, who is against us! I am with you always to the end of the age.
3. Show the children that the conversation between Al Moezz and the Pope teaches us a good lesson; that is we must not be rash in giving our agreement to anything before we pray.
4. Show the children how powerful prayer and fasting are. Prayer and fasting rescued Esther and her people and they also can rescue all the Christians.
5. The children should know the truth of Christianity and the firmness of the Coptic Church during the wars and troubles she faced all over ages. She will be always firm as God is in her and so she will not be shaken.
6. Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence, and keep your conscience clear.

## **(10) The Transfiguration**

### **References**

+ Matthew 17:1-7

### **To the Servant**

1. Do you devote a certain time to sit with the Lord Jesus, speak to Him, to know yourself, listen to His voice and take delight in the Lord?
2. Do you close your heart, wean your mind and thought, keep away from the cares and problems of the world, and sit with Jesus in your solitude.
3. Take delight in the Lord in His house where He fills the place with His glory. When the Lord comes in His glory to the Holy of Holies (The Sanctuary) during the mass say: “Lord, it is well that we are here”, and you will have his blessings.
4. Pray and ask the Lord to give light to your spiritual insight so that you may see, through faith, the glory of the Lord Jesus and touch the saints whose intercessions you ask for. When you see Him you live a spiritual life not the life of the flesh.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The power and the glory of God

### ***Verse***

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear Him” (Matthew 17:5)

### ***Hymn***

- + Your bright shone on the high mountain... [Arabic Song]
- + We see wonder...[Praise the Lord, Page 136]

### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

What is the name of the Patriarch (of the previous lesson)?

What is the name of the Caliph?

What is the name of the simple man through whom the Mokattam Mount was moved?

What was his job?

What can you see in this picture?

Who are the three persons?

Who is in the middle?

Who received the Ten Commandments?

One day Jesus said to His disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things...and be killed and on the third day rise... They grieved because of these words. Jesus took with Him three of His disciples... who knows their names? ...He led them up a high mountain apart. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus; His face was shining like the Sun, and His clothes were dazzling white...He appeared in His glory before the disciples...Moses and Elijah (who went up to heaven alive in a chariot of fire) also appeared and they spoke with Christ.

How many disciples did Jesus have?

How many disciples did Jesus take with Him on the mountain?

What are their names?

What was Christ doing on the mountain? (Praying)

What happened to Him?

Who went up to heaven alive?

Peter and the other disciples were amazed to see that scene and he said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. We desire to stay with you, if you wish. I will make three tents here: one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah. He was still speaking when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said: This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased, listen to him”. When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were filled with awe.

- + What did Peter say?

- + What did the disciples hear?
- + What do these words mean?
- Mention the verse.

Then Jesus came and touched them saying “Rise and have no fear...and when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. The disciples bowed down to Jesus then they came down the mountain and this beautiful scene remained in their minds all the time.

- + Why was Jesus transfigured before them?
- + What did the Father say from heaven?
- + What did Peter say?

### ***Activity***

1. Complete the following:
  - a. Peter said to our Lord: It is well ..... we are .....
  - b. A voice from the cloud said: .....
2. Pray every morning, every noon and every evening.
3. Draw a picture of the Lord Christ in his glory.
4. Kneel down before the sanctuary when you imagine the glory of Christ.

### ***Instructions***

1. The Servant draws the children attention to the sweetness of living within God when He is transfigured here in the church and in our prayers in our private room.
2. Concentrate on the beauty of Christ when He was transfigured on the mountain through using a nice means of illustration.
3. Help the children to have a true image of the Lord when He was transfigured, through means of illustration. Let them put this picture in front of them in every prayer so that they may feel that they are in the presence of the Lord and stand with submission before the Lord.

## **(11) Healing Peter's Mother-in-law**

### ***References***

- + Luke 4:38-41
- + Mark 1:29-34
- + The Lord Jesus at the shore of Galilee, Louis Diamond Beirut

### ***To the Servant***

1. Have you come to Jesus to heal you?
2. Do you have confidence in the doctor who examines you and treats you?
3. Some disciples were married and there are priests and deacons who are married, so if you are married do not neglect your service believing that serving Sunday School is the responsibility of others.
4. Visit the children who are absent or sick this week...bear in mind that Jesus visited Peter and healed his mother-in-law. When you visit anyone, give him a present.

## The Lesson

### ***Aim***

Lord Jesus heals us.

### ***Verse***

“For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26)

### ***Hymn***

+ Praise God in all His Saints... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 150]

### Aids

The picture of the lesson, seven candles, seven wicks, a plate, and some oil

What was our previous lesson about?

What were the names of the disciples who went with Christ?

What happened on the mountain?

Who appeared with Jesus?

What does the verse say?

Jesus was teaching in the Synagogue. Andrew, Peter, James and John were with him. When they went out of the Synagogue, Peter invited them to have dinner in his house. Peter's wife was busy preparing dinner for them, but she looked sad. Jesus said to Peter; "Your wife looks sad", and Peter said, "Yes, Lord, her mother is sick with severe fever, and her case is hopeless". But Jesus said, "I will heal her, and he said to Peter's wife: Do not be afraid. I will heal your mother, for I am the Lord who heals you". They found her lying in bed. Her face was red and she cried in pain, "Ah my head, ah my body". Jesus got hold of her hand and she rose at once and the fever left her. She served them and helped in preparing dinner for the guests.

Who healed Peter's mother-in-law?

What was wrong with her?

What did she do when the Lord healed her?

Let us repeat together: for I am the Lord who heals you.

The four disciples: Andrew, Peter, James and John sat with their Servant for the first time around the table in Peter's house. They were very happy. Peter's wife and his mother-in-law thanked Jesus. They served him and his disciples. They offered the best food in the house. The news of this wonderful healing spread. At sunset, many people came to Peter's house where Jesus was sitting. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

How did Peter's mother-in-law express her thanks to Jesus?

Why did the crowds come to Peter's house?

Who remembers the verse? I am .....

### ***Activity***

1. Rearrange the following:
  - a. heals -Lord -the -I -who -am -you
  - b. Pleased -wall -am -I -with -Son -whom -beloved -my -this -is
  - c. Still -be -to -only -have -you -and -you -for -fight -will -The Lord
2. Pray for (name) who is sick, this week, or ask our father the priest to come and pray for him and anoint him with the holy oil.
3. Mention some Biblical verses, which the Lord Christ used in healing the sick people.

### ***Instructions***

1. Speak about the Sacrament of the Unction of the Sick and explain that when the priest prays for a sick man, this man is healed through faith.
2. When we are sick we should first go to church to thank God. Then we bring the children to Sunday School bearing in mind that when Peter's mother-in-law was healed, she served Christ.
3. Acting is useful in elucidating this story and all the stories of healing, as this will show its power.
4. Explain the prayer of the unction of the sick and try to gather the children during the week to attend the prayer of the unction of the sick.
5. Help the children to study the Intercession for the sick.

### **(12) Jesus heals ten men that are lepers**

### ***References***

+ Luke 17:11-19

### ***To the Servant***

1. Do you feel the power of God in everything you do?
2. Do you lead the life of thanksgiving or do you complain of everything?
3. Visit your sick friends and those in grief. Spend some time in prayer and contemplation on the Word of God. Visit those who did not attend the meetings as they suffer from other kinds of sickness.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Thanks be to God for his steadfast love.

### ***Verse***

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits” (Psalm 103:2)

### ***Hymn***

+ Praise God in all His Saints...[The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 141]

## *Aids*

The picture of the lesson

What is the miracle of healing we heard about last week?

What did Peter's mother-in-law do after Christ heal her?

Who remembers the verse?

One day Jesus was on His way to one of the villages, ten lepers met Him. (What does the word "leper" mean?) They stood at a distance and shouted "Jesus, Master... Have pity on us". Those men were driven out of the village and they were not allowed to come back to the village. Nine of them were Jews and the tenth was a Samaritan. Jesus saw them and said to them, "Go and let the priests examine you". They thought for a while... Shall we be healed if we go to the priests? What does Jesus intend to do? Why didn't He examine us? They obeyed Him. On their way, each one of them looked at the other.

Suddenly one of them said: "Have you been healed?" and the other one said: "And you?" and the third said: "And you too?" One of them cried, "I have been cleaned" At that time they all knew that a miraculous deed happened to them... They were made clean. They ran to show themselves to the priests, to their families and to their friends.

How many patients were there?

What was wrong with them?

Why did they stand at a distance?

When were they made clean?

Suddenly one of them stopped running. He went back quickly to Christ to thank Him...Jesus knew that was the man whom He healed and to whom He performed the miracle... The man fell on his face at Jesus' feet and with a loud voice he said: "I thank you our Lord Jesus because you healed me...I am a sinner...I do not deserve to be healed...You are the Holy God...You are our Savior...All the people heard the man saying: "Bless the Lord O my soul". The Lord Jesus was pleased with him because he came back to thank him for the grace of healing. The Lord said: "Were not ten cleaned? Where are the nine?" They went on their way. They rejoiced because they were healed but they did not come back to thank Jesus...Perhaps they thought that they deserved healing because they were Jews not foreigners. Jesus looked at the Samaritan who was still falling on his face and said to him, "Rise and go your way, your faith has made you well".

Who came back to thank Jesus?

What did Jesus say to him?

Let us repeat together: Bless the Lord O my soul.

We cannot speak about the carelessness of the nine men, as we know that we are careless too. Do we thank God in our prayers for the food we eat and for the clothes we wear and the house we live in, the good things and blessings we receive from him everyday and the health given to us? We cannot live without the care of God so we have to thank the Lord for his steadfast love and say: Bless the Lord O my soul.

How many men were made clean?  
How many men came back?  
Mention some of the things that show the Lord's care of us.  
Who remembers the verse?

### ***Activity***

1. Mark right (✓) or wrong (x) before the following:
  - a. Those who were made clean were ten men.
  - b. Those who came back to thank Christ were nine men.
  - c. The man who came back to thank Christ was a Samaritan.
2. Pray and thank the lord for his steadfast love before and after having your meal.

### ***Instructions***

1. Always concentrate on the fact that Jesus Christ our Lord is the True Physician of our bodies and souls.
2. Speak about the sacrament of the unction of the sick and show that when the priest prays for a sick man, that sick man is healed of his spiritual and bodily diseases.
3. The children should be accustomed to the life of thanksgiving. The first thing we do after we are healed is to go to Church and thank God and accompany the other children to church.
4. Acting is useful to give liveliness to the story.

## **(13) Raising Jairus' Daughter**

### ***References***

- + Luke 8:42-56
- + Matthew 9
- + Explanation of the Gospel of Luke
- + The Gospel of Matthew by Fr. Daoud

### ***To the Servant***

1. The Lord Jesus raises the dead who die because of their sins -Count your sins and ask God to rescue you from them. Have trust in Him and fear not...Just believe.
2. Do you care for the children who are filled with grace? Do you follow them up?
3. When Christ saw that Peter, James and John were prepared to grow, He gave them special food.
4. In your service care for each one and give him the sort of food that suits him besides the ordinary food.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Christ's authority over the kingdom of the souls and the body.

### ***Verse***

“Do not be afraid, believe only” (Luke 8:50)

### ***Hymns***

- + Thank the Lord O my soul...
- + Praise God in all His Saints... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 141]

### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

How many men were made clean?  
Who healed them?  
How many men came back to thank Christ?  
Who of you pray perpetually and thank God for His steadfast love?  
Count the good things of the Lord.

The Lord Jesus Christ healed many people because He desires to help all, young and old. Jesus had some friends who were fishermen, living near The Lake of Galilee. They owned ships. One day the sun was shining in the sky and the ships were in the middle of the lake. Jesus and the fishermen his friends were on one of the ships. There was a large crowd of people on the shore. The people saw Jesus...children rejoiced. The ship drew near the shore where the crowds were waiting for Jesus.

Then a man named Jairus arrived, an official in the local synagogue. He was in deep grief as his only daughter was dying. Many people knew Jairus as he had a high status in society. Jairus threw himself down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to go to his house as his daughter was dying. He begged Him to come and lay His hands on her and heal her. And Jesus went with him.

What was the name of the man?  
What did he want Jesus to do?  
What did he do when he drew near Jesus?  
What do you do before you pray?

A man from the ruler's house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble The Master any more”. Jairus was sad but Jesus encouraged him and said: “Do not fear, only believe”. When Jesus arrived at the house, he saw a large crowd and everyone there was crying and mourning for the child. When Jesus entered the house he asked them: What is all this noise and weeping for? Do not cry: the child is not dead. She is only sleeping”. They all made fun of Him, because they knew that she was dead. Jesus ordered them all not to enter her room.

Who told Jairus that his daughter died?  
What did Jesus say?  
Let us repeat together: Do not be afraid; only believe.  
The Lord Christ did not let anyone go in with Him except the child's father, mother and three of His disciples. Jesus took the child by the hand and called out, “Get up, child”.

The child began to breathe and move, her life returned and the child opened her eyes. She saw Jesus and Jesus helped her to rise and leave her bed. The girl got up at once. She smiled to Christ, to her father and to her mother. She threw herself between the hands of her parent. Her grief turned into great joy and the mother was very happy. People came and knew what happened. The girl's parents did not know how to express their thanks to Jesus...Jesus knew their thoughts and He turned these thoughts to another simple matter. He said to them "Give her something to eat". Jesus looked at her kindly and smiled to her expressing His kindness and love for her. Her mother prepared the food and Jairus said to the people; "Jesus is our Lord God indeed". Fear not...only believe.

- + Who were the three disciples who were with Christ?
- + What did Jesus say to the girl?
- + What did Jesus say to her father?
- + Who can say the verse?

### ***Activity***

1. Answer the following questions:
  - a. How many miracles of healing has Jesus performed up till now? To whom?
  - b. Mention the names of the three disciples who followed Jesus everywhere.
2. Begin each prayer by thanking the Lord for his steadfast love.
3. Pray for (name) who is sick and visit him.

### ***Instructions***

1. The story is very nice and interesting and includes strong emotional situations that suit the child.
2. The Lord Jesus did not blame those who made fun of Him but He forgave them.
3. The Lord, glory be to Him chose the girl's parents and three disciples to show them this miracle.
4. Let us not forget the natural means; He ordered them to give her something to eat and they were able to do this.
5. Review with the children Psalm 91. Encourage them to use the psalm in their prayer by giving them prizes. Use Psalm 91 in times of troubles.

## **(14) Jesus Heals A Man Born Blind**

### ***References***

- + John 9

### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate the system and the movement of the sun, mention the wisdom of God in His work and contemplate the system of plants, the power of life, the colors and smell of flowers and thank the Lord for his blessings such as the grace of sight and His other blessings.
2. The most important grace for us is that Christ is the Light of the world. We should follow Him in everything and be comforted as we walk by faith not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

3. We ask the Lord to lighten our inner insight and enable us to see the wonders of his law.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

God's power of healing

#### ***Verse***

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. (John 9:5)

#### ***Hymns***

+ When I am tired, to whom shall I go... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]

#### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

Do you remember the miracles Christ performed and raised the dead?

Who are those people whom Christ brought back to life?

Who remembers the verse?

Who has seen a blind man who can see nothing? ...Darkness...Open your eyes now. (The Servant asks about the things that the children can see)

Jesus was walking with His disciples in the streets of Jerusalem. They saw a blind man who was begging for food. All the people in the city knew this man. They knew that he was born blind. When the disciples saw him they had pity on him and asked Christ, "Why is this man blind? Whose sin was it that caused him to be born blind? His own or his parents sin?" Jesus answered, "His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents' sins. He is blind so that God's power might be seen at work in him... While I am in the world, I am the light of the world". After he said this, Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's eyes and said to him, "Go, and wash your face in the pool of Siloam". The man obeyed and many men led him by the hand and took him there.

Why was this man born blind?

What did the disciples ask Christ about?

What was Jesus' answer?

What did Jesus do to the man?

Let us repeat together: As long as I am in the world...

The man washed his face in the pool as Jesus told him...the miracle was fulfilled...he opened his eyes and saw light for the first time...He saw the sun, the sky, the trees, the people, Jerusalem and the temple...he saw everything...He went joyfully home to see his family whom he had not seen since he was born. He forgot to go back to thank Christ

But Jesus did not forget him. All those who knew that he was blind rejoiced. All the neighbors, the relatives, and the friends who used to see him sitting at a corner begging were happy. They asked him, "How have your eyes opened?" He answered, "A man named Jesus made some mud,

rubbed it on my eyes, and told me: Go to Siloam and wash your face. So I went and as soon as I washed I could see". "Where is he?" they asked. "I do not know where he went...I want to see him to thank him".

How did Christ open the eyes of the man who was born blind?  
When you are sick, what must you do?  
Who remembers the verse?

The Pharisees are a group of Jews who do not like Jesus. The Pharisees took the man and asked him how he had received his sight He told them, "A man named Jesus...etc." Some of the Pharisees said; "This man is a sinner". The man who had been blind said to them; "How can a sinner open my eyes? How can a sinner do the mighty works of God? He is prophet".

They held a long discussion with him but they could not convince him. They drove him out and brought his parents...His mother and father came... The Pharisees asked them; "Is this your son?" They said, "Yes, this is our son". "Was he born blind?" they asked. "Yes, he was born blind" they answered. The Pharisees said, "Then, how were his eyes opened?" And his parents said, "We do not know...Ask him, he is old enough to answer". The Pharisees brought him again and asked him many questions and the man was annoyed, so he said to them, "I told you and you won't listen... What do you want to listen to? Do you want to be his disciples?" They cursed him and threw him out of the synagogue... The man went out of the synagogue. He longed to see Jesus.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out He found him and said; "Do you believe in the Son of God?" The man answered, "Tell me who he is, sir, so I can believe in him". Jesus said to him, "You have already seen him, and he is the one who is talking with you now". "I believe, Lord" the man said, and knelt down before Jesus. At that moment, the man's heart was filled with faith as he saw the Light of the world...He saw the Saviour and believed in him.

Why was this man born blind?  
How did the Lord open the eyes of the man who was born blind?  
Why were the Pharisees arguing with him?  
Why did the man's parents confess that it was Jesus that opened their son's eyes?

### **Activity**

1. Write notes on the miracles the Lord performed to heal the sick and to bring the dead back to life.
2. Complete the following verses:
  - a. As long as I am ..... I am ..... the world.
  - b. Fear ..... only believe.
  - c. Bless the ..... O my soul .....
  - d. I ..... the Lord .....
3. Pray this week and thank the Lord because he has given you senses and has deprived you of nothing and say: Lord, I thank You for the grace of sight...and the other blessings.
4. If you find a blind man in the street, help him to cross the street.

Let the children bring the Gospel of Matthew with them and let them read chapter five.

### ***Instructions***

Explain that Siloam pool stands for baptism and explain its benefit.

### **(15,16) The Sermon on the Mount**

#### ***References***

- + Matthew 5
- + The Sermon on the Mount by St. Augustine

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24). Study the word of God as far as you can.
2. Choose a verse from the Bible and apply it to your daily life.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

To love the word of God

#### ***Verse***

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6)

The Servant checks the previous homework and makes sure that the children have read chapter 5 of the Gospel of Matthew and that each one of them has a copy.

The Servant reads the first part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-16) and asks the children about the meaning. He says for example:

1. Was the Lord Christ addressing the disciples at first or the crowds?
2. What does the word “blessed” mean? Happy...how lucky...
3. “Blessed are the poor in spirit”... who are they? Those who know that they are sinners and grieve when they disobey the commandments of God. They want to live according to the will of God or those who seek Christ’s mercy perpetually.
4. Then when are we deprived of the kingdom of God? “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Those who will enter the kingdom of heaven are those who live by the Lord Christ our Savior and Redeemer.
5. What should we do so that our sins may be forgiven? We should go to Christ and seek his mercy and confess our sins before the priest: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
6. Who are those who mourn and will be comforted? Those who mourn for their sins and seek the mercy of God.

In this way the Servant and the children contemplate the word of God and discuss how the pure in heart shall see God and how the peacemakers are called the sons of God and the meaning of

“the salt of the earth”, and “the light of the world” etc. Thus the lesson becomes interesting and the children will be delighted when they study the word of God.

### ***Instructions***

1. During the lesson, the Servant asks the children to give him examples, verses, stories and hymns.
2. The Servant chooses some hymns and asks the children to study them. These hymns should be based on the verses studied by the children and the class should repeat them.
3. So when speaking about Mercy, they repeat, “Blessed are the merciful who are kind to the poor” and when speaking about those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake they recite: “They were beaten, they were imprisoned”. The Hymn...My Coptic Church.

### ***Recitation***

1. Children should study this part of the Scripture by heart and recite it during their prayers in the Sunday School and the Servant encourages them to do so.
2. The Servant asks the children to be prepared for the Review lesson and to bring their pens and notes with them.

## **(17) Review**

### ***Aim***

Review and emphasize the previous aims

### ***To the Servant***

1. Examine what you did during this period and remember God’s love for you and thank Him for that.
2. Examine your services concerning preparation, visits, prayer, and the children’s life.

### ***Questions***

1. How did Christ’s power of glory appear in healing Peter’s mother-in-law, healing the ten lepers? Raising Jairus daughter? Healing the man who was born blind?
2. How did the Lord care about Elijah? Daniel? Paul?
3. What was Athanasius doing on the seashore when he was a child?
4. Who reconstructed the Monastery of St. Mina in Mariut Desert?
5. Write the Intercession for the Pope.

### ***Instructions***

1. Review the texts for recitation taught in this period.
2. Give the children some questions, which the family may help to answer. Review the hymns and verses that have been studied.
3. Review does not mean reviewing information but it means reviewing the aims and concentrating on the benefit the children receive in their life.

### ***The verses studied during this period are:***

1. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9), Lesson 8.

2. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace (Exodus 14:14), Lesson 9.
3. If God is with us, who is against us? (Romans 8:31), Lesson 2.
4. I am the Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26), Lesson 11.
5. Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits (Psalm 103:2), Lessons 4,12.
6. Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown (Revelation 3:11), Lesson 6.
7. We let her drive (Acts 27:15), Lesson 7.
8. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6), Lessons 15,16.
9. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10), Lesson 1.
10. Do not be afraid; only believe (Luke 8:50), Lesson 13.
11. Fear not for those who are with us are more than those who are with them (2 Kings 6:16), Lesson 5.
12. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world (John 9:5), Lesson 14.
13. Out of the eater came something to eat (Judges 14:14) Lesson 3.
14. This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; hear Him (Matthew 17:5), Lesson 10.

***The texts for recitation for this period are:***

1. The prayer of Thanksgiving: We thank the beneficent and merciful God...
2. Psalm 91: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High.
3. The Blessings.

## THE SECOND PERIOD

### **(18) Christmas: The Angels And The Shepherds**

#### ***References***

- + Matthew 1
- + Luke 2:8-14
- + Studies on the Gospel of Matthew, Fagala
- + The Child Jesus by Asad Leilah, Beirut
- + By the Manger: Christian Culture House

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Jesus Christ, glory be to him, came to this world. Have you thought a while of how much he suffered when he left his heavenly glories and came to rescue the human being from certain death?
2. Heaven rejoiced and announced His coming. So, do I accept Christ as my Savior and Redeemer and then I can enjoy the real happiness and an unutterable delight?

#### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The Joys of Christmas

**Verse**

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14)

**Hymn**

- + O believers come with us...
- + Silent night... Holy night...

Where was the Lord Christ born?

Who remembers the name of a king and prophet who was a shepherd in this city?

Bethlehem is a small town near Jerusalem. Rocks, valleys and mountains surround it. One winter dark night, this city was crowded with travelers coming from every city and village in the country, as the Roman Emperor Augustus wanted to enroll all citizens. So all went to be enrolled in their own town. The people obeyed the decree Joseph and Mary came from Nazareth to Bethlehem. When they arrived at the town they were very tired. They did not find a place in the inn. But the innkeeper looked at Virgin Mary's face and saw that she was very tired. He tried to help her so he led her to the manger. It was not a good place but it was warm because of the cows' breath and the smell of straw. In that place, the little Child Lord Jesus was born. His mother wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, as there was no place for them in the inn.

What was the name of the town?

Why was Lord Jesus born in a manger?

How did the world know that Christ was born?

Who were the first to receive the annunciation?

In that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Why...So that the wolves and fierce animals might not come near their flock. At midnight something strange happened. What are these sweet songs? The shepherds heard a sweet hymn filling the sky. They heard these words: Glory to God in the Highest... They got up and opened their eyes. The light that came from heaven shone on everything: the mountains, the flock and the people. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When the bright light disappeared, the shepherds said to one another: Let us go to Bethlehem and see the child Jesus. They took presents...what do you think the presents were? The shepherds went quickly to the hills of Bethlehem... they arrived... they found the stable... they entered quickly and told Mary and Joseph about what the angels said. They knelt down before Jesus and gave him their little presents and went out quietly and made for the place where their sheep were and they were glorifying God.

- + Why were the Shepherds out in the fields?
- + What happened at midnight?
- + Let us say together, Glory to God...
- + What did the shepherds do?
- + What did they give the child Jesus?
- + What would you give him?

Let us sing a hymn together: O Shepherds...

### ***Activity***

- + Write the verse in good handwriting.
- + Read Luke 2

### ***Notes***

1. You can use acting to show the joys in heaven (the angels) and the joys on earth (the shepherds) because the Savior was born.
2. The children should cooperate in making the Nativity cavern under the supervision of the Servant. Children like to make caverns and such things elucidate the idea of Nativity.
3. Encourage them to bring the components and parts such as: small statues of sheep, shepherds, a babe, a manger, straw, candles, etc.
4. The children can act the events of the story.

## **(19) Epiphany**

### ***References***

- + Mathew 3
- + Mark 1
- + Luke 3
- + John 1
- + Studies on the Gospel of Mathew, Fagala

### ***To the Servant***

1. If you died and were buried with Christ in the font of baptism, you are not allowed to take off your flesh of light to put on the flesh of sin.
2. The church insists on holding the mother responsible for the children so take care of your children in Sunday School in all aspects.
3. Look and contemplate Christ's meekness when he allowed John to baptize him. Do we submit ourselves to the Lord who commanded that we should learn from his because he is meek and lowly in heart?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Baptism is the New Birth

### ***Verse***

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mathew 3: 17)

### ***Hymns***

- + Seven spiritual sacraments...
- + We went there on the Baptism Sunday...
- + Holy is Our Church....[Praise the Lord, Page 124]

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

- + Where was Christ born?
- + Who remembers the verse we studied last week?
- + Where was Christ baptized? Who baptized him? How?

John was by the River Jordan baptizing, preaching people and asking them to repent. When they repented John baptized them in the Jordan River by immersing them in water.

When Jesus came and asked John to baptize Him, John was surprised. He said: It is you who should baptize me. I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? But Jesus answered him; let it be so now for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

The baptism of Jesus was by immersion. Jesus went down to the water. The Spirit of God descended like a dove and alighting on Him; and a voice from heaven saying: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### ***Instructions***

1. Let the children attend the celebration of baptizing one of the children so they may see by themselves how this sacrament is practiced and share in the prayers.
2. Search for children who have not been baptized as Sunday School must bring them to church to be baptized or at least they should draw the attention of their parents to the importance of baptizing them as he who is not baptized cannot enter the kingdom of God
3. The Servant emphasizes that the Sacrament of baptism is practiced through immersion not spraying. The children should deduce this by themselves when the Servant refers to the Lord's going up from the water.
4. Aids are important so use the picture of John baptizing Christ if the children cannot see by themselves.
5. Epiphany is called the feast of the Divine Appearance as on that day the Holy Trinity appeared. The son was being baptized in water. The Holy Spirit descended like a dove and the Father, from Heaven said: This is my beloved Son.
6. The Verse should be repeated, recited and studied during the lesson.

### ***Activity***

Remember that you have been washed with the washing of the Second birth so your heart must remain clean.

### ***Stories Of Heroism Resulting From True Worship Of God***

#### **(20) Samson, A Nazirite To God From Birth: His Power**

### ***References***

- + Judges 13:14

### ***To the Servant***

You can review this lesson in the first period, as it is fully prepared.

### ***Recitation***

+ The Ten Commandments, Exodus 20: 3-17

These are the texts designed for the fourth grade and this will continue till Lesson 25.

## **(21) David Kills A Lion And A Bear**

### ***References***

+ 1 Samuel 17  
+ Stories from the Bible -Beirut  
+ Explanation of Samuel, translated by Fr. Daoud, Sporting

### ***To the Servant***

1. David spoke about the event of the lion and the bear to glorify God. He might have fought many similar fights so his faith grew stronger and through exercise his muscles became strong.
2. In this way, the Lord prepared him for the greatest battle as our case when we are alone is not different from our case when we are among people. Do not imagine that the great events will make a hero of you without affecting you in hours of solitude.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Victory comes by the power of God and through putting our trust in Him.

### ***Verse***

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

### ***Hymns***

+ The Lord always cares about us...  
+ We are the Shepherd's children...  
+ The Lord is my Shepherd...

### ***Aids***

A short play and the picture of the lesson

- + Who walked with God and won victory?
- + What is the name of his brother?
- + Who remembers the verse?
- + Who remembers the name of a psalmist and Shepherd who became a king?
- + Who remembers his well-known psalm? Who can recite it?

Let us say together: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

David was a young cheerful shepherd. He cared for his parents' sheep. He took to the hills where birds and animals gather. He wore a loose bright colored cloak and held a staff in his hand. He put some small stones in a small purse. He carried a sling. When the sheep got away, he threw them a pebble and in this way the sheep returned to the flock. He used to sing while leading his sheep over the hills. He used to say: The Lord is my Shepherd... Let us say together...

He had a small harp... He used to sit and play it producing sweet melodies... He sang hymns and praised the Lord. He contemplated the sweet creatures of God. He listened to the birds and winds and said who created the heaven. There was a little sheep among the flock...it was a naughty sheep. It was playing and running...it ran away and was lost... David looked here and there searching for the sheep and he found the poor sheep in the mouth of a lion and the mouth of a bear... He trembled but he remembered the power of God and that he could, with God's help, rescue the sheep from the mouths of the lion and the bear. David ran towards them. He put his hand in his bag and took a small stone and threw it with his sling... The stone flew into the air and struck the head of the lion. The lion fell to the ground... David could kill the lion... The bear attacked him, but David held it by its chin and struck it and killed it... David killed the lion and the bear... and saved the sheep... The sheep was happy...it jumped up over David's shoulders and hands saying Maa... Maa... David hugged it and kissed it and patted it and the sheep slept on David's arms and David took it back to the flock.

### ***Questions***

1. Describe how David saved the sheep from the mouths of the lion and the bear.
2. What did you do for your brothers who did not come last week?
3. What do you intend to do for them this week?
4. Encourage your relatives and your friends to go to the House of God.

### ***Activity***

Draw a picture of David while he sings hymns and another one while he is fighting for the sheep.

### ***Instructions***

Show the children how to care for birds and animals, which they have at home and tell them how the Lord cares about us and protects us.

## **(22) David and Goliath**

### ***References***

- + 1 Samuel 17
- + Explanation of Samuel (The first Book of Samuel), Sporting
- + Stories and Tales from the Bible, Beirut
- + The Dictionary of the Holy Bible
- + The Life of David by F.B. Mayer

### ***To the Servant***

David did not save his people with a sword or a spear but with the power of God as he took refuge in the Lord. In the same way, you as a minister cannot save your children unless you lead a pure spiritual life.

With a small sling, David could kill Goliath... Thus by using very simple tools you can win victory with the grace of God.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Explaining how the Lord cares about his people and how powerful the Lord is.

#### ***Verse***

“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts” (1 Samuel 17:45)

#### ***Hymns***

- + O Friends come...
- + Holy is our Church... [Praise the Lord, Page 124]

#### ***Notes***

- + What did David do to the lion and the bear?
- + Who remembers the verse?

David had seven brothers; three of them were men of war. These were the older brothers. There was a fight between ancient people and the people of Palestine.

- + Who was the king of the ancient people at that time?

Saul prepared his army and gathered his men to fight. The two armies faced each other. This, here and that there and David stood between them... Days passed and the two armies did not have the courage to fight. One day, Saul's men trembled in fear when a champion came out from the camp of the Philistines. He was very tall and wore bronze armor that weighed about fifteen pounds and a bronze helmet. He carried a bronze javelin slung over his shoulder. A soldier walked in front of him carrying his shield. He was walking proudly (Describe how he walked). Goliath stood and shouted at the Israelites: Who dares to fight me? Choose one of your men to fight me. If he wins and kills me, we will be your slaves; but if I win and kill him, you will be our slaves. Here and now challenge the Israelites' army. Goliath challenged the Israelites every morning and evening for forty days. No one of King Saul's men dared to challenge Goliath... What then? Is there a way out?

#### ***Questions***

- With whom was that war?
- What is the name of that giant?
- What is the name of the ancient people?

One day David got up early, left someone else in charge of the sheep, took the food and went to find out how his brothers were getting out. He hoped to hear good news about the army, as he loved his people... He saw the Philistine speaking rudely and vexing the soldiers. He also made fun of the ancient people and their God. David was not afraid of him. King Saul had promised to give a big reward to the man who would kill him; the king would also give him his daughter to marry and would not require his father's family to pay taxes. David said: "Who is this heathen Philistine to defy the army of the Living God?" The soldiers gathered around David the brave boy. David's brothers heard David talking to the men and they were angry with him and said: What are you doing here? Who is taking care of those sheep of yours out there in the wilderness? David said calmly: My father is anxious about you and he has sent me to see if you are well and I have brought you food and I left the sheep in charge of a guard". One of the soldiers ran to Saul and said: There is a young man in the camp who is not afraid of Goliath. Saul said: Bring him to me. David came and stood before Saul and this conversation ran between them:

David: Your Majesty ...No one should be afraid of this Philistine! I will go and fight him.

Saul: No, how could you fight him? You are just a boy and he has been a soldier all his life!

David: I am sure of the power of God... The Lord is more powerful than any Amalek. I have killed lions and bears. The Lord has saved me from lions and bears; he will save me from this Philistine. Let me go and fight him and rescue the people.

Saul: Go, and the Lord be with you, but you have to wear the tools of war... a coat of armor, a helmet, etc.

David wore this armor but he could no walk because he wasn't used to wearing it. So he took it all off and he was sure that the Lord would help him.

Why did David go to the camp?

What did he see?

Was he afraid? Why?

Who told Saul about David?

David took his shepherd's stick and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his catapult ready, he went out to meet Goliath... Saul's soldiers watched David while he was walking towards the Philistine and they were afraid. On the other side the Philistines were laughing. A little boy was coming to fight their hero... David drew near Goliath... Goliath laughed loudly as he saw David without a sword. He said to David: What is that stick for? Do you think I am a dog? Come on and I will give your body to the birds and animals to eat. David steadily and bravely walked towards Goliath and said: You are coming against me with sword, spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the Israelite armies, which you have defied. This very day the Lord will put you in my power. I will defeat you and cut off your head. Then the whole world will know that Israel has a God, and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people. Goliath started walking towards David again and David ran quickly towards him. He put his hand into his bag and took out a stone, which he slung at Goliath. It hit him on the forehead and broke his skull, and Goliath fell face downwards on the ground. And so without a sword, David defeated and killed Goliath with a catapult and a stone. David's men shouted

loudly. David ran to him, stood over him, took Goliath's sword out of its sheath, and cut off his head and killed him.

The Philistines were afraid... their hero died... they ran away... Saul's men ran after them and took their belongings... Thus the Lord rescued His people by David's hand. David carried Goliath's weapons to his own tent and carried his head to Jerusalem.

Let the children act the conversation that ran between King Saul and David, and between David and Goliath and recite the verse...

### ***Activity***

Write down the differences between David and Goliath.

### ***Instructions***

Encourage the children to pray for the enemies of the church and for her peace and safety.

## **(23) Elijah Prayer For Rain**

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 17
- + Explanation of 1 Kings -Sporting
- + Practical Contemplations of the life of Elijah of Tishbe by Charles Mackintosh
- + Stories and Tales from the Bible -Beirut

### ***To the Servant***

Elijah was a man of like nature with us and he prayed fervently that it might not rain and it did not rain on earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Does your prayer have a great power in its effects?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The Lord answers the prayers of his children the saints.

### ***Verse***

“As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word” (1 Kings 17:1)

### ***Hymns***

- + When I am thirsty, to whom shall I go... [Praise the Lord, Page 143]
- + Bless the Lord O my soul... [Arabic Songs]

### ***Aids***

Films, tapes, picture...

- + What is the name who ordered the heaven not to give rain?
- + What is the name of the king? Was he a good king?
- + What is the name of his wife?

King Ahab did wrong and acted wickedly more than all the kings before him. His wife Jezebel was the daughter of a pagan king. She brought her idols with her and built a great temple for the idols... Jezebel ruled with Ahab and brought him under her control and ordered all the people to kneel down before Baal. She killed all those who refused to worship it Elijah was one of the true men of God. He did not worship the idols but he always prayed to God and used to say, "O Lord reveal yourself to those wicked people".

- What is the name of the king?
- What is the name of his wife?
- What is the name of the man of God?
- What will you say to a man who asks you about your religion?

Elijah was filled with courage and asked the guards to let him enter the palace as he decided to meet the king (Review Lesson 4 in the Notes for the first year). He met the king and said to him, "As the Lord the God of Israel lives..." Ahab was furious. There would be no rain so there would be no sowing, nor reaping. There would be no food. There would be a severe famine. Ahab's men knew that Elijah was a prophet by his clothes. But how was this prophet saved? Surely Jezebel would kill him. Ahab did not believe Elijah's words. Days passed... The sun rose daily as usual but it was very hot. The land became dry... the plants were dry... People waited for the dew of the night but there was neither dew nor rain... Animals did not find food to eat. The crops that belonged to the poor and the rich went bad and were damaged in the fields... There was famine. People thought that if they worshipped the idol and offered it their prayers and sacrifices, rain would fall... They offered prayers and sacrifices "O idol listen to our prayers", but rain did not fall. We know who listens to our prayers... To whom do we pray? People began to suspect the power of the idol... Then these stones are not gods because they do not hear us... King Ahab and his wife were angry. They asked: Where is the man that has brought this horrible message and prevented the rain from falling? Search for him... Compel him to change his mind and if he refuses, kill him. He said these words to his men... Ahab searched for Elijah everywhere but he could not find him because the Lord said to Elijah, "Hide yourself from the king and the queen".

### ***Questions***

- What is the name of the prophet?
- What is the meaning of the word "Prophet"?
- What did the Lord say by Elijah's mouth?

Let us repeat the Divine words together "As the Lord the God of Israel lives... Who can recite these words?

### ***Activity***

If anyone asks you about your religion do not be afraid, but say bravely, "I am Christian".

### ***Instructions***

Explain that the prophet or the priest conveys the words of God to all people even the king. He does not fear any man.

(24) Elijah, Ahab, the Priests of Baal and the Falling of Rain

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 17,18
- + Explanation of 1 Kings -Sporting
- + Practical Contemplations of the life of Elijah of Tishbe by Charles Mackintosh
- + Stories and Tales from the Bible -Beirut

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The Lord answers the prayers of his children the saints.

#### ***Verse***

- “O Lord, answer me” (1 Kings 18-37)
- “The prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5: 16)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Praise God in all His Saints... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 141]

#### Aids

A picture showing that the Lord answered Elijah's prayers as when he ordered the sky not to rain and another picture when he asked for rain to fall.

What is the name of the King? His wife? The Lord's prophet?  
Who remembers the verse?

There was no rain on the whole earth for three years and the state in the country was horrible. Many people died because of the famine... Where was Elijah? Ahab and Jezebel searched for him everywhere but they could not find him... At last, Ahab decided to leave his palace and go out to search for water. He took with him one of the great officials of the country. He was a pious man named Obadiah. Ahab went one way but there was no water. While Obadiah was walking on the road he saw a man coming towards him... he knew him. He was Elijah... he knelt down before him and said: Is it you my Lord, Elijah? Where are you going my Lord? And Elijah answered bravely: To Jezebel the wicked woman. Obadiah said: She will kill you. Elijah said: I am not afraid... The Lord said to me, “GO and present yourself to king Ahab” and I have to obey the Lord. Obadiah told King Ahab that the prophet was coming. Ahab was surprised “Then I shall arrest him” he thought. Elijah arrived and this dialogue ran between them:

-Is it you, you trouble of Israel?

+ I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baal.

-Why have you come?

+ I have come to declare to the people that there is only One God.

- The idols are the gods.

+ No, the Lord is God. I want you to send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets who eat at Jezebel's table. Let your prophets call on the name of their gods and I will call on the name of the Lord...the God who will send fire is the True God...Ahab agreed.

+ How many prophets belonged to Baal?

+ How many prophets belonged to Jezebel?

+ What was the agreement held between Elijah and Ahab?

So all the people met at Mount Carmel. Elijah went up to the people and said: I am the only prophet of the Lord still left, but there are 450 prophets of Baal. Bring two bulls, let the prophets of Baal take one, kill it, cut it in pieces, and put it on the wood...but do not light the fire...I will do the same with the other bull. Then let the prophets of Baal pray to their god and I will pray to the Lord, and the one who answers by sending fire - he is God. The people shouted their approval. Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal: Choose a bull and prepare it first. Pray to your god but don't set fire to the wood. They took the bull that was brought to them, prepared it, and prayed to Baal. They shouted: Answer us Baal; answer us Baal. The king and the people were watching them without saying a word... Will the fire come down? The fire did not come down. At noon it was very hot and the prophets of Baal shouted more loudly: Answer us Baal, Answer us Baal. But there was no fire and the sun was about to set Baal did not answer them in spite of their loud shouts. Elijah started making fun of them: Pray louder. He is a god. May be he is daydreaming or relieving himself or perhaps he has gone on a journey ...or maybe he is sleeping, and you have got to wake him up. So the prophets prayed louder, and cut themselves with knives and daggers until blood flowed, but no answer came...fire did not come down.

Then Elijah said to the people: Come closer to me. And they all gathered around him. Then he set about repairing the altar of the Lord. He took twelve stones, one for each of the twelve tribes named after the sons of Jacob. With these stones he rebuilt the altar for the worship of the Lord. He dug a trench round it...Then he placed the wood on the altar, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said: Fill four jars with water and pour it on the offering and the wood. They did so, and he said, "Do it again", and they did. "Do it once more", he said...and they did. The water ran down round the altar and filled the trench. (What does this stand for?) At the hour of the afternoon sacrifice the prophet Elijah approached the altar and prayed, "O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove now that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant and have done all this at your command...Answer me, Lord, answer me... The Lord sent fire down and it burnt up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench. When the people saw this, they threw themselves on the ground and exclaimed: The Lord is God; the Lord alone is God. The prophets of Baal were perplexed. Elijah ordered: Seize the prophets of Baal, do not let any of them get away.

The people seized them all, and Elijah led them down to the river and killed them so that they might not mislead the people and hamper the work of God. Then Elijah said to king Ahab: Now, go and eat...I hear the roar of rain approaching.

Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel where he bowed down to the ground, and prayed...he was waiting for rain to fall...Elijah said to his servant "Go and look towards the sea". The servant went and returned saying: I did not see anything. Seven times in all Elijah told him to go and look. The seventh time he returned and said: I saw a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand, coming up from the sea. So the Lord fulfilled his promise.

Elijah ordered his servant: Go to king Ahab and tell him to get into his chariot and go back home before the rain stops him. In a little while, the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind began to blow and heavy rain began to fall. The Lord answered the prayer of his servant Elijah and everything was wet because of rain.

- + What does the number "3" stands for?
- + What does the Number "7" stands for?
- + How does the Coptic Church practice the Sacrament of Baptism?
- + What happened to the prophets of Baal?
- + What usually happens to wicked people?
- + How was Elijah's prayer effective?

#### ***Activity***

1. The children write the Place Intercession and study it: Pray for the safety or the world, and of this city of ours, all the cities, districts, islands and monasteries".
2. The children pray for the members of the family so that they may all live for the Lord.

### **(25) Elijah Is Taken Up To Heaven**

#### ***References***

- + 2 Kings 2
- + The Life of Elijah; translated by Fr. Daoud
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Part 9, Beirut
- + Practical Contemplations on the Life of Elijah by Macintosh

#### ***To the Servant***

1. The desire of prophet Elijah to leave this world without this matter being discovered, and this secret being known to people who would, in case they knew, stand to watch that wonderful unique scene never heard of before. This desire makes us ashamed of ourselves when we speak about our service in the church or boast of our struggle in our spiritual life.
2. The greatest thing a leader can do is to train another leader to substitute him. Elijah trained Prophet Elisha. So in our service we have to prepare and train the-would be leaders.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

For the children to love the kingdom of Heaven

### ***Verse***

“Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord in His sanctuary. Praise Him in his mighty firmament (Psalm 150:1)

### ***Hymns***

- + Who created heaven... [Arabic Songs]
- + You have made all things... [Praise the Lord, Page 45]

### ***Aids***

The picture of the lesson

+ What is the name of the prophet who ordered the sky not to rain and it did not rain and then he prayed and it rained?

+ Who remembers the name of his disciple?

One day the Lord said to Elijah, your mission now is complete. Elisha will continue your service and I will take you up with me...Elijah rejoiced but he was afraid Elisha might stick to him and become sad if he knew that he would leave him. Elijah desired to stay along so he said to Elisha: My son, I am going on a journey...Stay here. But Elisha asked him: Where to? Elijah said: To Bethel. (Bethel means the Lord's House. Children write down in their notes) Elisha said: Father let me come with you. I cannot leave you. He insisted on going with Elijah so Elijah was obliged to take him with him to Bethel...On their way to Bethel he advised him: Take care of your service and be honest till death. Elisha was sad because Elijah would be taken away from him.

Though the road was rough and they walked for three or four hours, Elisha endured all that because he loved Elijah his master. They reached Bethel... There was a School for Prophets at Bethel...A group of prophets who lived there went to Elisha and asked him: Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today? “Yes, I know” Elisha answered. “But let's not talk about it. Do not increase my grief. I want to benefit from the teaching of my master before he is taken away”.

Who was Elijah's disciple?

What was Elijah's advice to him?

Do you do your homework or do you neglect it?

Do you obey your parents?

To Jericho: Then Elijah said to Elisha “I am going to Jericho...Stay here”. But Elisha said, “Never, I'll not leave you...I will come with you”.

To the Jordan: Fifty men followed them to the Jordan hoping to see Elijah while being taken up to heaven. They arrived at the River Jordan...Elijah wanted to cross that river but how?

He remembered the miracle of splitting the Red Sea in the days of Moses and the River Jordan in the days of Joshua...so he took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water was divided and he and Elisha crossed to the other side on dry ground. They praised the Lord saying, "Praise the Lord..." But the prophets could not cross the river. Elijah laid his hand on Elisha's shoulder and advised him as what he should do in his service then he tested him by saying: What do you want me to do for you before I am taken away? And Elisha said: Let me inherit a double share or your spirit as in receiving this I will be successful in performing my message. Elijah said to him: If you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you.

Suddenly a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire came between them, and Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elijah's cloak fell from him on Elisha. The chariot went quickly up to heaven. Elisha looked and cried, "Father, father"...but the chariot disappeared. In grief, Elisha went back, wept and prayed saying, "O Lord, I have lost a precious thing...losing an army could be endured but losing Elijah could not be endured". The Lord comforted him saying: Be comforted. I will be with you as I was with Elijah and I will bless the people through you..." Elisha took courage and thus the God of Elijah was also the God of Elisha.

Who witnessed Elijah while being taken up to heaven?

How was he taken up to heaven?

What did Elisha ask Elijah to give him?

What was Elijah's answer?

How did Elisha go back home?

Who comforted him?

### ***Activity***

Write a paragraph of three lines on a comparison between the ascension of Elijah and the Transfiguration of the Lord of Glory (Mark 9)

### ***Instructions***

1. Encourage the children to study their lessons and do their homework and not to postpone what should be done today till tomorrow.
2. Concentrate on how Elisha obeyed Elijah and how much he loved his service.

## **(26) John the Baptist; His Self Denial and His Evangelism**

### ***References***

- + John 3
- + Mathew 1
- + John the Baptist, translated by Fr. Daoud
- + John the Baptist, by Kamel Saleh Nakhla

### ***To the Servant***

"No one can receive anything except what is given him from heaven". Have you been successful in your work? Do the children gather around you? Do not attribute success to yourself, as it is God's gifts and grace that are given to you. Thank the Lord all the time and keep away from the

sin of boasting and pride... as that who gives may take. The greatest talents are connected with the greatest responsibility on the Day of Judgment...so do not be proud of your talents but fear the Lord.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Concentrate on the greatness of the Baptist in his simplicity and self-denial.

#### ***Verse***

“He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30)

#### ***Hymns***

- + There on the Jordan Bank... [Arabic Song]
- + joy... joy.... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]
  
- + Who was older John the Baptist or Christ?
- + How many months?
- + What is the name of his father?
- + What is the name of his mother?
- + What did the angel say to Priest Zechariahs about John?

John's task was to prepare the people's hearts to receive Jesus the Savior when he came so he warned them to keep themselves away from sin. John went to the wilderness (the desert) to prepare himself for this mission and to live with the Lord as we do when we pray.

How often do you pray alone? Do you pray with your family? When he was thirty years old the Lord spoke to him and sent him to preach.

John wore prophet's clothes. He was clothed with camel's hair. He ate the food eaten by poor people (locusts, and wild honey). In those days the dried locusts were ground and kneaded with honey and baked as cakes... John did not mean to appear as a strange man before people... It is true that his appearance would be strange if he appeared in our churches now but at that time he was preaching poor people who took care of weak slim sheep suffering from lack of food.

When did John come to evangelize? What did he wear? What did he eat? Whom did he preach?

Many people gathered by the Jordan River to be baptized and John used to say: Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. The people heard, their numbers increased and they asked themselves: Is John a prophet?

The last prophet to appear among the people came four hundred years ago... but his words are like the words of the prophets. The people followed him... Some of them believed his words and said: The Savior has come. Others did not repent and John said to those; I warn you. Repent. He who is coming after me is mightier than I... The people were surprised as John dared to speak to the crowd, so many people asked: Who is he? Where does he come from? Is he the promised

Christ? He is a great preacher. They went to him and said: Tell us who you are... Are you Jesus? He said: No, but I prepare the way for Jesus. When the people heard about Jesus, they gathered round him and loved him. Some brothers went to John and said: Christ is there, teaching, baptizing and gathering disciples around him. John rejoiced and said: I am very happy. He must increase and the kingdom of heaven is at hand because Christ will rescue his people. This is what I aim at. People were surprised at his answer and meekness.

Did John feel sad when he knew that Lord Christ would work instead of him?

What did he say to the people?

Let us repeat together... He must... Who can complete?

### ***Activity***

1. Answer the following questions:
  - a. What was the mission of John the Baptist?
  - b. Why was he called the Baptist?
  - c. How old was he when he came from the wilderness?
2. Read Matthew 14.

### ***Instructions***

Show the difference between the Baptism of John and Christ's baptism.

## **(27) John Defends The Law And Says To Herod: "It Is Not Lawful For You..."**

### ***References***

+ Mathew 14

+ John the Baptist, translated by Fr. Daoud

### ***To the Servant***

1. "It is not lawful for you". Do you feel something like that in your life? Many hearts contain lower dark rooms where conscience is confined. The outside appearance expresses royal joy but inside the heart there is anxiety ...
2. If there is a chance to have rest and quiet, you hear it: It is not lawful for you. Nothing can silence that voice - except repentance and confession... and putting things back in their place if possible. The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Courage in declaring truth

### ***Verse***

"It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife" (Mark 6:18)

### ***Hymns***

+ O companions, come...

- + We are Christ's children... [Arabic Songs]
- + Without return... [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

### ***Aids***

A big picture of an Icon and some candles

- + What is the name of the prophet that came before Christ?
- + Why was he called "the Baptist"?
- + What was the name of the king at that time?
- + Did that king love John?

King Herod, who killed the children of Bethlehem, when he knew of the birth of the Lord Jesus, died. He had a son named Herod. One day John went to him and said: You are committing sin with Herodias, the wife of your brother Philip when he was alive... This is a breach of the commandment of God... It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.

John was brave like... whom?

Who was the enemy of Prophet Moses? And Elijah? And the Lord Jesus?

Herod heard him and was afraid of him because John was a holy man. He said to him: Your courage pleases me. I would like to see you again. Herodias encouraged Herod not to leave her and according to her mother's suggestion, he sent John into prison.

Herod wanted to kill John but he dared not do that as John was loved and respected by people who considered him a saint. Herod intended to set John free to rescue himself from the Lord's punishment and anger...But! Herodias was a wicked woman who feared neither God nor man. She always refused to let Herod set John free. She made fun of Herod's fear of the Lord's punishment. Thus John remained in prison. John prayed inside the prison and he grieved...anyway he had told the truth...His disciples visited him and told him the good news specially what they heard about Jesus...At that time Jesus was performing miraculous deeds. He knew that John was in prison and that he would die as a martyr and that he would take a heavenly crown... We know that John is now in heaven putting on the crown of martyrdom.

What is the name of the king?

What was his sin?

When did he put John in prison?

Let us repeat the verse...

### ***Activity***

1. Fill in the space with a suitable word:
  - a. Every great personality in the Holy Bible has an enemy...the enemy of Moses was ..... and the enemy of Elijah was ..... and the enemy of John was .....
  - b. John ate ..... and .....
  - c. ..... put John into prison according to the suggestion of his brother's .....
2. What did Elijah's courage and John's courage end with? Be brave enough to resist sin.

### ***Instructions***

1. Encourage the children not to fear the power of truth even if it leads to death.
2. Concentrate on John's courage. He rejoiced even when he attained the crown of martyrdom for the sake of Christ.

### **(28) The Feast of the Cross: The Discovery of the Cross by Empress Helene**

### ***References***

+ The Synaxarium

### ***To the Servant***

1. Does the cross have a place in your heart?
2. Does the cross give you cordial inner comfort and satisfaction for your soul?
3. Do you believe that the cross is the cause of your salvation and the forgiveness of your sins as the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sins was poured on it?
4. Do you pray to the beloved God who took flesh, became man and was crucified for you and in this your spiritual power will increase so long as you pray to him? Repeat this statement many times "My beloved Crucified Lord, have mercy on me..."

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Our pride in the cross and how we hold fast to it

### ***Verse***

"I should glory except in the cross or our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14)

### ***Hymns***

+ My cross... my cross...  
+ Christ's cross... [Arabic Songs]  
+ Hail to you the Holy Cross... [Praise the Lord, Page 128]

### ***Aids***

1. Three crosses painted black on one side. On the other side one of them is painted red and the others are painted black. (The Red Cross represents the Lord's cross on which the Divine blood was poured... A cross made of palm leaves...The procession of the cross.
2. A competition on drawing cross or coloring them.

What is the name of the feast, which we celebrate on the first of Tute and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tute? On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September every year, the church celebrates the feast of the discovery of the Cross.

The Lord arranged that the persecution of the Christians would come to an end by the hands of King Constantine, who worked for the good of the church. He gave his mother a great amount of money and sent her to the Holy Land to build churches and monasteries.

Queen Helene was 80 years old when she went to Jerusalem to search for the Cross upon which Christ was crucified. At first she failed to find it. But she knew that the Jews had put a hill of dust on the place where Christ's tomb was and that they had built a pagan temple on it. She gave orders that the temple should be destroyed and the hill be removed. During digging, they found the tomb of the Savior and three crosses and some nails near it. They brought a sick woman who suffered from a dangerous disease for a long time and put the first cross on her but she was not healed. They put the other cross on her but she did not recover but when they put the third cross on her she was healed at once. When they put the same cross on a dead body of a man, he was brought back to life. In this way, Queen Helena could recognize the Lord Christ's cross and she was very pleased to discover it. She built a church there and that day on which she discovered the cross became a feast in the church. That was in the 4th century.

1. Why did Queen Helene search for the cross?
2. Where was the cross found?
3. How did they know that it was Christ's cross while it was found with two other crosses?
4. Let us say together: "I should glory..."

### ***Activity***

1. Arrange the words of this verse: Christ -Jesus -should- I -Lord -our -of -in -except -glory -cross.
2. Make many types of crosses: draw them and color them and bring them with you to the Sunday School. Hang one of them in the place where you pray.
3. Make the sign of the cross before you go to bed and when you get up, before you eat, before doing any thing I and when you walk in a dark place.

### ***Notes***

1. The Servant draws the children attention to the fact that when non-Christians reproach us, they do so because they are ignorant of what Redemption is. Let us pray for them so that the Lord may bring them to him.
2. Crosses are the best prizes to be given on that day.

## **(29) The Apostles' courage and Heroism before the courts of Law**

### ***References***

+ Acts 4

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The Christian Courage

### ***Verse***

"For there is no other name ...which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)

### ***Hymns***

- + The Reverend Apostles of the Redeemer... [Arabic Songs]
- + We have brave grandfathers... [Arabic Songs]
- + Holy is our Church... [Praise the Lord, Page 124]

### ***Notes***

- + When did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples?
- + How many disciples were they?
- + Who remembers three of them?

One day, Peter and John went together to the temple at 3 O'clock (= 9 O'clock in the morning) to pray. At the door of the temple, they found a man begging. He was lame from birth. He stretched his hand out to them hoping to take something from them...Peter looked at the man; and instead of giving him money, he healed him in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth "Rise and walk". Peter held the man by the hand and helped him to get up. At once his legs became strong and began to walk for the first time in his life... The man walked then began to jump happily. He did not want to leave Peter and John...but he stuck to them and went with them into the temple...He walked and shouted happily and praised God because he healed him.

- + What are the names of the two apostles?
- + Who used to sit at the gate of the temple? Why?
- + What did the two apostles give him? Why did the man stick to them?

The news of this miracle spread and anyone who saw him asked: How was he healed? People gathered around Peter and John and the lame man who was healed. Peter preached to them so that many might be brought to the church.

While Peter and John were teaching the people some men came and arrested the two apostles and put them into prison, thinking that if the apostles spent a night in prison, they would be silent and stop preaching. The next morning the Jewish leaders, the elders, and the servants of the law gathered. They made the apostles stand before them and asked them many questions and they answered bravely:

- + What is your name?
- + Peter, a Christian
- + What is your name?
- + John, a Christian
- + How was the lame man healed?
- + In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom you crucified and God raised from death on the third day and there is salvation in no one else. (The leaders were amazed and their mouths were open and their eyes were gazing)
- + What was your job?
- + We were fishermen.

The Leaders sent them out, and started discussing among themselves. What shall we do with these men? How did courage come to these two simple men? They must stop preaching...What

shall we do with the lame man who was healed? He is standing with them as a proof of the truth of the miracle -We must threaten them and warn them. The leaders called them back in and told them that under no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But the two apostles said. We cannot obey this order. You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight, to obey you or to obey God. For we cannot stop speaking of what we ourselves have seen and heard. The Lord is with us and we are not afraid of threats. The leaders were annoyed and they set Peter and John free because they feared the people who loved them. Peter and John went back to the other disciples and told them what happened. They prayed together so that the Lord might give them courage and power to speak about the Lord Jesus in public.

The children act the conversation that ran between the leaders and Peter and John, and recite the verse: There is no salvation in no one else.

#### ***Activity***

1. Answer the following question: What is the secret behind the courage of Peter and John?
2. Bring St. Mark's Gospel with you next week and read chapter 7:1-23.
3. Pray for the ministers and the spread of the word of God.

### **(30) The Covetousness of the Jews: The Lord Rebukes the Scribes and Pharisees**

#### ***References***

+ Mark 7

#### ***To the Servant***

1. "In the world you have tribulations but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:23).
2. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed" (Psalm 2:2).
3. "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Reading the Holy Bible.

#### ***Verse***

"And if anyone has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mark 7:16)

#### ***Hymns***

+ We are the Shepherd's children... [Arabic Songs]  
+ Without return... [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

#### ***Notes***

The Servant sees that each child has a copy of the Gospel of St. Mark. The Servant reads a part and then asks the children to read. He gives many questions on this part assigned to them last week. Here are some suggested questions:

1. With whom was Jesus speaking?
2. Did those people love Jesus?
3. What does the statement “unclean hands” mean?
4. Mention the things that the scribes and the Pharisees strictly kept.
5. Why did the scribes and the Pharisees hate Jesus?
6. Complete the following verse: Honor...
7. Let us say together: And if any man have ... What does this verse mean?
8. What should you do if you sin?
9. Who reads the Absolution for you?
10. Who received communion last week? The Servant encourages the children.
11. What did the Jews do with Christ then?
12. Why did Christ accept to be insulted and crucified?
13. Do you love the Lord Jesus with all your heart?
14. What should you do to prove that you love Jesus?
15. Does Jesus love sinners and sin?

### ***Activity***

Go to confession this week and receive the Holy Communion.

### **(31) Hymn: Power And Glory Be To You...The Power Of Christ When He Is Arrested...His Power When He Opens Paradise For The Thief**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 27
- + With Christ in his passions: Death and Resurrection

### ***To the Servant***

“Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him, who can describe his generation...He was wounded for our transgressions he was bruised for our iniquities: upon him was the chastisement that I made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed”

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The passions of Christ cleanse us.

### ***Verse***

“Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)

### ***Hymns***

- + To You is the power... [Praise the Lord, Page 25]

### ***Aids***

A big picture, a film, and recorded hymns

### ***Notes***

The Servant gives his children an idea about the Holy week so that they may participate in the church prayers.

1. The Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem on Sunday to be kept there till the day of slaughter as the case was with the Pasch Sacrifice, which stood for Him.
2. On Monday, He was in the temple teaching, discussing, and answering questions. The priests asked about His authority -the story of the fig tree.
3. On Tuesday, He was in the temple. The parables and the signs of the end of the world. (Matthew 21:22-25 and Mark 12,13).
4. Wednesday: First, the plot (the priests) (Matthew 26 and Mark 14). Second, the agreement with Judas Iscariot.
5. The Jewish Passover (on Thursday). Christ eats the Passover with His disciples. His prayer for his passions. At night He prayed with His disciples in Gethsemane while Judas was plotting against Christ. An angel came to strengthen him saying: "Power be to you". The Jews arrested Christ and the disciples ran away.
6. The Judgment: Caiaphas, Annas, Pilate and Herod and how it happened: The procedures of crucifixion, the story of the two thieves and Christ's answering one of them. Truly say to you...(Matthew 6:2-27; Mark 14,15).

### ***Instructions***

1. This is one of the most interesting, effective and valuable lessons. The children should fully understand that all what Jesus did was for them because of sin which the Lord hates.
2. Some aids such as the pictures, which represent the Lord Jesus with a crown of thorns on His head, or pictures of the Lord crucified between two robbers should be used.
3. Do not concentrate on the parables or the conversations that took place during the days of passion, but contemplate with you children the passions that the Lord endured for our salvation.
4. The children read Luke 24.

## **(32) Easter: The Power Of Resurrection -The Women Visit The Tomb**

### ***References***

- + Matthew 28
- + Luke 24
- + With Christ in His passions: Death and resurrection

### ***To the Servant***

1. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?
2. This is the voice of victorious Jesus. Do you follow His example and repeat these words with Him to win victory over sin?

3. Unless we rise from our sins to the freedom of the children of God we cannot benefit from the resurrection of Jesus.

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

The Lord Christ breaks the sting of death.

### ***Verse***

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:6)

### ***Hymns***

- + Children, Christ has risen... [Arabic Songs]
- + Ekhristos Anisty... [Coptic Hymn]

### ***Aids***

- + Wings for angels and a circular plank to represent the door of the Holy Tomb
- + Recorded hymns, a play performed by the boys, and a film.

### ***Notes***

1. The Resurrection of Christ from the dead on the third day (Sunday at dawn) is a fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. He rose to raise us with him in victory over sin.
2. When the women went to the tomb, they did not see the Lord inside it. Peter and John went there and they saw nothing but the shrouds.
3. The Lord told Mary Magdalene to tell his disciples about his resurrection.
4. Mary rejoiced and ran to announce the good news.
5. Jesus rose from the dead to raise us with him, so he who does not rise from sin, does not benefit from resurrection.

### ***Instructions***

1. This blessed day is like all feast days. All classes should gather together... The lesson is to be given. A party is to be made. Sweets and prizes are to be distributed. -Simple parts of the Resurrection can be played as a conversation about the resurrection of the Lord. The party ends with suitable Resurrection hymns.
2. The Servant draws the children's attention to the power of resurrection so that they may understand that Christ who was crucified and despised won victory when He rose from the dead. The children will feel that the Lord is Mighty.
3. The children greet themselves and one another by the Resurrection greeting: Ekhristos Anisty... Alithos Anisty...

### ***Questions***

1. How many days did the Lord stay in the tomb?
2. Do you believe the soldier's words that the body was taken away? Why?
3. Who rolled the stone?
4. Who was the first to announce the good news? (Children should write these questions in their notes)

### ***Activity***

Read Luke 24 together with your family. Take part in distributing the feast gifts among the needy.

### **(33) Christ Appears to the Two Disciples of Emmaus**

#### ***References***

- + Luke 24 (From Resurrection to Ascension)
- + The Stranger: The House of Christian Culture

#### ***To the Servant***

1. The Lord Christ paved the way for His appearance to His disciples, as He did not desire to appear to them suddenly for this might have been dangerous to their minds. In the same way it is dangerous for our minds to imagine the far-fetched facts of the kingdom of God. That is why we cannot know everything about the kingdom of God.
2. Christ's words inflame our heart with love. The more you contemplate the word of God, the more your heart will be filled with joy and delight.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Resurrection is an established fact.

#### ***Verse***

"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Children, Christ has risen... [Arabic Songs]
- + Ekhristos Anisty... [Coptic Hymn]

#### ***Notes***

In this story we find very deep emotional situations, which should be emphasized so that the lesson may be interesting. It should be given in the form of conversation or a play. Luke asked sadly: Cleopas, are we approaching Emmaus?

- We have covered half the way to Emmaus; there is still a distance of six kilometers before us, my friend.
- Cleopas, I'll be very happy when we depart from Jerusalem. The recent sad events that took place in the city affect me greatly.
- Right you are, Luke. My heart, nerves and soul are all perplexed and confused. I hate injustice and I cannot endure cruelty. The Jews treated the man severely and the man is innocent and never did evil. I don't know why they treated him that way.

- These people are not grateful. He healed their sick and brought their dead back to life. He taught them but they were very cruel to him. They envied him because their hearts were filled with jealousy and wickedness.
- I want to forget all that I saw for a moment. But can any man forget the events of crucifixion and the innocent man suffering on the cross?
- You are right Cleopas. It is difficult to forget the Roman soldiers when they nailed His hands to the cross.

His voice choked and his eyes filled with tears. While he was drying his tears, he heard a voice behind him saying: Peace be to you, friend... I am a traveler and I heard you speaking about Jerusalem and you look sad. What has happened in Jerusalem?

The two men looked at Him in astonishment Cleopas said: "Peace be to you friend. It seems that you are a stranger so you haven't heard of what has happened in Jerusalem". What has happened in Jerusalem?

- Haven't you heard about Jesus of Nazareth who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all people?
- What happened to Jesus of Nazareth?
- The chief priests crucified him and we hoped that he would rescue our nation.

Luke shouted in amazement: "Some women and some disciples said some strange words which we could not believe". The stranger asked with interest: "What were those strange words?"

They said that He rose from the dead and that they saw two angels dressed in white near the tomb... These words cannot be believed. It must be an imaginary story. The stranger interrupted him saying: My friend... Why don't you try to understand what the prophets said? Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory? While they were speaking Luke said, "Is this Emmaus, Cleopas? I can see some of the village houses from here. The stranger acted as if he was going farther, but they held him back saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark. So he went to stay with them and thanked them for their hospitality. The family prepared supper and offered food to the three men. The stranger sat at the table with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him. He was Jesus, but He disappeared from their sight. Luke looked at Cleopas and the tears of amazement were still in his eyes. My heart was beating quickly when he was speaking about the Scriptures and the prophets. Did you have the same feeling? Yes, Yes, I felt that my heart was burning within me.

The two men hurried back to Jerusalem where they found eleven disciples gathered together with the others, and saying: The Lord is risen indeed. Luke and I saw HIM; we walked with him on the road and spoke with him.

### ***Questions***

1. Who visited the tomb?
2. How many disciples were going to Emmaus?
3. What were they talking about?
4. How and when did they recognize Jesus?

### ***Activity***

1. Read Luke 24:13-25.
2. Draw a picture of an angel standing by the tomb?

### **(34) Love for our Neighbors: Ruth**

#### ***References***

- + The Book of Ruth
- + Explanation of Judges and Ruth, Sporting
- + The women of the Holy Bible
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Part 5, Beirut

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Contemplate how Ruth rejected Paganism and believed in True God. It is believed that Ruth did not read any books about Jehovah before she knew Naomi. Naomi was her mother in law and her eternal book that filled her way with light. How weak our faith is when we compare it with that of that gentile girl who struggled against darkness, hunger, poverty and misery.
2. Contemplate the wonderful reward that the Lord gave to her because she held fast to him bravely, sincerely and powerfully.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Love for neighbors

#### ***Verse***

“Your people shall be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16)

#### ***Hymns***

- + All your children my Lord... [Arabic Song]
- + Without Return... [Praise the Lord, Page 146]

A man named Elimelech who belonged to the clan of Ephrata and who lived in Bethlehem in Judea, and whose wife was named Naomi, had two sons: Mahlon and Chilion. There was a famine in the land so he and his family went to Moab, a pagan city. The man died. Naomi was left alone with her two sons who married Moabite girls, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi hoped to see her grandchildren but after ten years her two sons died without having any children. Poor Naomi was sad and was left all alone. She determined to go back to her motherland when she heard that the Lord blessed the people by giving them a good harvest.

- + What is the name of the man? His wife? His two sons?
- + Why did they leave the land? Where to?
- + What are the names of the two wives of Mahlon and Chilion? Did they have any children?

Orpah and Ruth did not leave Naomi. She said to them: "Go back home, and stay with your mothers. May the Lord be as good to you as you have been to me and to those who have died". But the two girls did not want to go to their mothers, as they loved Naomi. When she asked them to go back home they wept and said to her: "We want to go with you to your people" Naomi said: "You are still young and you must marry. I do not have other sons and I am sorry for you". At last Orpah agreed to go back to her people. She said: "Naomi is right... What shall I do and I am a Moabite girl in a strange land. In my country I shall feel safe". Thus, Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went back to her people. Naomi said to Ruth: "Orpah went back to her people; so you also must go back to your people". But Ruth refused. "Shall I go back to Moab and leave the good hearted Naomi go alone to her land?" She thought. Ruth said, "Do not ask me to leave you. Let me go with you. Wherever you go I will go, wherever you live I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die". When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more. She was pleased because Ruth showed a deep love and that she would go with her. The two ladies went together to Bethlehem in the land of Canaan where Naomi had been living before.

1. What is the name of the girl who went back to her people?
2. Who held fast to Naomi? Why?
3. Let us say together: Your people are my people...
4. How did the Lord want the family to treat one another?
5. What thing can you participate in to make your family Happy?
6. Do you cooperate with the members of your family at home?

### ***Activity***

1. Put a note beside the things you can make to help others.
  - a. Visiting a sick man.
  - b. Keeping the house clean.
  - c. Quarrelling with the neighbors' children.
  - d. Caring about little children.
2. Read a chapter from the Book of Ruth.

### ***Instructions***

Try to revise the texts for Recitation with the children.

### ***The verses studied in this period are:***

1. O Lord, Answer me (1 Kings 18:37), Lesson 24.
2. Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43), Lesson 31.
3. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want (Psalm 23:1), Lesson 21.
4. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? (Luke 24:32), Lesson 33.
5. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men (Luke 2:14), Lesson 18.
6. You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts (1 Samuel 17:45), Lesson 22.
7. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear (Mark 7:16), Lesson 30.
8. I should glory except in the cross or our Lord Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:14), Lesson 28.

9. As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand there shall be neither dew nor rain these years except by my word (1 Kings 17:1) Lesson 23.
10. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord in His Sanctuary (Psalm 150:1), Lesson 25.
11. Your people shall be my people and your God my God (Ruth 1:16), Lesson 34.
12. The prayer or a righteous man avails much (James 5:16), Lesson 24.
13. It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife (Mark 6:18), Lesson 27.
14. For there is no other name ...which we must be saved (Acts 4:12), Lesson 29.
15. He is not here but is risen (Luke 24:6), Lesson 32.
16. This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17), Lesson 19.
17. He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30), Lesson 26.

***Texts for recitation for this period are:***

1. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17).

## **THIRD PERIOD**

### **(35) St. Mark's Feast: His Evangelism**

#### ***References***

- + The Story of the Coptic Church
- + The precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa)
- + St. Mark the Evangelist of the country and the Martyr, Synaxarium, 30 Barmudah

#### ***To the Servant***

1. St. Mark preached Christianity in all the See of St. Mark. Would you preach the word of Christ in your class, family and among your friends?
2. The Lord chose the shoemaker to be a patriarch. In Christianity the qualifications of a minister are a firm faith and a successful life in Christ.
3. Pray so that the Lord may send to us successful ministers like St. Mark and St. Inianus.

#### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Bringing others to Christ.

#### ***Verse***

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

#### ***Hymns***

- + St. Mark... St. Mark...
- + O pillar of Christianity... [Arabic Songs]
- + Song of Praise to St. Mark [Praise the Lord, Page 17]

### ***Aids***

Big picture of St. Mark with candles lit before it. The Procession of the Icon for all classes or for each class if possible.

### ***Introduction***

- + Who is this?
- + What is there beside Him?
- + Why is this lion drawn beside St. Mark?
- + Do you know the story?

St. Mark is an Evangelist (Evangelist = preacher). He the Evangelist of Egypt. He also wrote the Gospel of St. Mark. He is an apostle. He was sent to preach in many countries among which was Egypt. He is a martyr. Today we celebrate the feast of his martyrdom. He departed to heaven on the 30<sup>th</sup> of Barmudah (8<sup>th</sup> of May).

When he was a young man, St. Mark lived in the North of Africa with his parents who were Jews. The family was rich and St. Mark was brought up in faith. The barbers attacked the city and robbed the people. The family left for Palestine. That was a Divine arrangement so that St. Mark might meet the Lord Jesus when he was still on earth. (Describe the feelings of the family when they piled their things to leave: sufferings...complete trust in God...they did not understand why ...The Lord helped them.

### ***Questions***

1. What does the word “Evangelist” mean?
2. When do we celebrate the feast of St Mark?
3. What was his parents’ religion?
4. Whom did he meet in Palestine?

Jesus was preaching and Mark was with Him...Jesus chose him to be one of the seventy apostles...St. Mark was Happy. The Lord was arrested...He was crucified. He rose from the dead and appeared several times. He sent his disciples to preach to the world.

Mark went with Paul to Asia Minor... Then he went to Cyprus then to Alexandria...In Alexandria his shoe was torn (Describe his feelings as he was alone in Alexandria...He prayed to the Lord to guide him.) He met Inianus and began preaching the word. He baptized Inianus and his household...He established the church of Egypt... The church grew; developed and spread all over the country...St. Mark rejoiced...He ordained Inianus Patriarch. He ordained priests and deacons then he went to the North of Africa and then to Rome where he met Peter and Paul. He stayed with them till they were martyred... Then he went back to Egypt and found the church flourishing...He rejoiced and thanked the Lord.

### ***Questions***

1. How did St. Mark meet the first Copt in Egypt?
2. Who became the first Patriarch of Egypt?
3. Who helped Inianus?
4. Mention the countries where St Mark preached the word of God.

### ***Exercise***

We must call all our brothers the Christians in the school to attend the Holy Mass and Sunday School.

### ***Activity***

1. Complete the following:
  - a. St. Mark preached in ..... the Minor and in ..... of Africa and in ..... where he was martyred.
  - b. St. Mark's head is in his church in ..... and his body is .....
2. Draw a famous picture of St. Mark.
3. Review the passage of the third hour prayer.
4. Be ready for the Review lesson.

### ***Instructions***

1. Do not forget to repeat the verse many times.
2. You can use the hymn: St. Mark... during the lesson.
3. You must make the procession of the Icon to make the boys recognize the church spirit.
4. Ask the children to write the following statement in their notebooks: on the day of his martyrdom after 19 centuries, St. Mark's relics came back to Egypt in 1968 A.D. They were put in the Great Cathedral at Abbassia in a great ceremony.

## **(36) Review**

### ***Aim***

A) Revision and affirming the previous aims.

1. Who baptizes children in the church?
2. Who baptized Jesus Christ?
3. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
4. What were the gifts that the shepherds gave to Christ, in your opinion?

B) Rearrange the sentences and choose the words from the second column that suit the words of the first column:

-Samson	-killed the mighty Goliath
-David	-ordered the head of John the Baptist to be cut off
-Elijah	-is called the Nazarite of the Lord
-Herod	-prayed for rain

C) Complete the following:

1. The thief said to Jesus "O Lord ..... when you ..... and Jesus said to him, "Today you .....
2. Christ appeared to two disciples from ..... and they recognized Him when .....
3. ..... held to Naomi and said to her ..... my people and ..... my God.

### ***Notes***

1. Review texts for recitation, hymns and verses so that the children may not forget them.

2. Review does not mean reviewing information but reviewing the aims and affirming the benefit in the life of the children.
3. The children in their notebooks can answer the previous questions and the Servant can encourage them to do so.
4. You can also hold a discussion with the children in the form of statements, which you say, and the children can decide if they are right or wrong. You can also ask the pupils to act some parts of the lessons studied in the previous period.

### **(37) The Good Friendship: David and Jonathan**

#### ***References***

- + 1 Samuel 18-20
- + Stories and tales from the Holy Bible, Part 6, Beirut

#### ***To the Servant***

When we speak about the friendship of David and Jonathan, which was unequalled and rare in history, we have to bear in mind that Christianity means that Christ and I are close inseparable friends. I tell him frankly about all the secrets of my heart which He himself knows and I consult Him before I do anything, and I cast all my anxieties on Him and I enjoy speaking to Him and living with Him and I desire to sit by His feet to listen to His voice.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The good friendship

#### ***Verse***

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully” (Proverbs 12:26)

#### ***Hymns***

- + O Lord we are... [Arabic Song]
- + The Lord is my Shepherd... [Praise the Lord, Page 148]

#### ***Notes***

- + Who are your friends?
- + Who is your dearest friend?
- + Does he always go to church and the Sunday School?
- + Do you have some wicked friends?

Jonathan rejoiced greatly because the mighty Goliath was killed...Saul his father was sad at first when Goliath despised the people and the Lord their God for forty days...Jonathan prayed to the Lord and said: “O Lord bring victory to our people”. When David stood before Saul and spoke to him after Goliath had been killed, Jonathan, the king’s son was present. Jonathan loved David and knew that he was a hero because of his faith and trust in the Lord.

What is the name of King Saul's son?  
Who killed the mighty Goliath?  
Why did Jonathan love David?

Jonathan looked at David's face and felt that David was the only one who would be a sincere friend. Jonathan was the Crown Prince but he knew that the Lord chose David to be King and he did not envy him but he desired to be his friend all the days of his life. To show his love for David, Jonathan gave David his cloak and sword together with his bow and girdle. Jonathan loved David and wanted to give him everything. Do you love Christ? What would you give him?

#### Activity

1. Read I Samuel 18 –20
2. Ask children to bring with them simple presents to give to someone in class so that their love for one another may increase (e.g., some pictures or some crosses).
3. The children read 2 Samuel 16 to prepare themselves for the next lesson.
4. Bring your friend with you to the church.
5. Study by heart the first passage of the sixth hour prayer.

### **(38) Endurance: David and Shimei, Son of Gera**

#### ***References***

- + 2 Samuel 16
- + The Second Book of Samuel, Sporting
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Part 8, Beirut

#### ***To the Servant***

1. Shimei was wrong...he sinned and David was King but David did not blame him. Do we endure others even if they are sinners?
2. David received the insult as if it were from the Lord and he controlled himself. Do we have this attitude?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Love for others -Endurance.

#### ***Verse***

“Pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44)  
“Repay no one evil for evil” (Roman 12:17)  
“Do not avenge yourselves” (Romans 12:19)

#### ***Hymns***

- + We love Christ...
- + We are the Shepherd's children... [Arabic Songs]
- + Where He leads me ... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

David loved Jonathan deeply. Suppose that Jonathan annoyed David, would David be angry? Why? David would endure Jonathan if he sinned against him and he would reconcile him. What would you do if a stranger annoyed you?

David was a great king. He ruled the people of the Lord. He was just to all. The devil plotted against David. He spoke in the ears of Absalom, David's son "If you kill David your father, you will be king instead of him". Absalom admired the devil's plan. He gathered soldiers around himself and said, "I am the king not David my father". The good people who loved David told David about it. They said, "We will fight for you. Go away from the place of the battle so that you may not be injured...Go to the mountains and when we win victory we will call you...David gathered his household and his servants and went out to the mountains so that he might not be injured in the war.

David surrounded with his soldiers and guards went to the mountains. Suddenly a man whose name was Shimei Son of Gera, an evil wicked man appeared before them. He insulted David and called him bad names. A soldier tried to silence him "Don't you know that the man you have called bad names is the King?" Shimei said, "I know that he is a wicked unjust King". The soldier said, "Shut up otherwise I will come to you" Shimei shouted louder and louder and called David bad names...Then he took some stones and threw them at the soldiers. The captain of David's army became angry and told the King about it, "Sire why do you keep silent? Let me go and cut off his head" David refused and said, "Leave him alone and let him do it. If he curses me because the Lord told him to, who has the right to ask why he does it? Even if the devil wants to harm me and makes this man curse me, the Lord ordered us to forgive those who spitefully use us. The Lord said: Pray for them, which spitefully use you, and persecute you. I forgive him. May the Lord forgive him".

- + Why did David run away to the mountains?
- + Who cursed David? What did David do?
- + What does the verse say? Who can say it?

### ***Activity***

A) Answer the following questions with yes or no. Can you forgive:

1. A boy who has cursed you?
2. A boy who has struck you without intention?
3. A girl (for girls) who treads on your foot?
4. A friend who plotted against you?
5. A person who annoys you during playing?
6. A friend who betrays you?

B) Read with your family 2 Samuel 16.

C) Study by heart the second passage of the 6<sup>th</sup> hour prayer.

D) Confess your sins to your father of confession.

### ***Instructions***

The child should get used to saying: I forgive you. May the Lord forgive you.

## **(39) Whitsunday: The coming of the Holy Spirit on the Disciples**

### ***References***

+ Acts 2

### ***To the Servant***

1. The servants of Sunday School should be one in mind and heart as the disciples were, as this spirit of unity is necessary for the church, i.e. the believers and also for the ministers (Ephesians 4:1-6).
2. I have to seize this chance to renew the work of the Holy Spirit in the fruitful service and the good work.

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

The blessings of the Holy Spirit

#### ***Verse***

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:8)

#### ***Hymns***

+ Let us praise the name of the Lord... [Praise the Lord, Page 28]

#### ***Notes***

Christ charged His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem and to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. The disciples were 12 in number and there were other men and women with them and they were praying together on the day of Pentecost. An earthquake took place...fire from heaven settled on the house and divided in the shape of tongues and got into each disciple (Speaking in different languages).

There were Jews in Jerusalem from all part of the world celebrating the harvest feast which comes fifty days after the Pasch (the Passover) and on that day the Jews gave their offering of wheat to the temple.

The people gathered round the house... They talked with the disciples... The people were amazed as those men of Galilee knew and spoke their language.

Peter’s sermon is an example of the work of the Holy Spirit. Three thousand persons were baptized.

#### ***Questions***

- + Who ordered the disciples to hold that meeting?
- + What were they doing?
- + What did they do during the period of ten days?

They prayed and Matthias was chosen...in what shape did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples?

#### **Notes**

1. The Servant draws the children's attention to the fact that the church prays the prayer of genuflexion in the eve of the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit in memory of what Jesus said to the Samaritan woman: But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth (John 4:23).
2. The disciples prayed and fasted immediately after that day for the service and for the spread of Christianity.
3. The Holy Spirit comes upon us after baptism and Chrism (Myron). We want Him to appear in us. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not the Holy Spirit from me".

#### **Activity**

1. Study the third passage of the sixth hour prayer by heart.
2. How does the Holy Spirit work in the sacraments of the church?
3. Read 1 Samuel 24.

#### **Recitation**

Review of the passages of the third hour "O Lord your Holy Spirit that you sent..."

### **(40) Do Good To Those Who Offend You: David And Saul**

#### **References**

- + I Samuel 24
- + Explanation of the First Book of Samuel
- + Sporting Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible part 7 Beirut.

#### **To the Servant**

1. Has my life surpassed the level of the Scribes and the Pharisees who only love those who love them?
2. Have I reached the positive stage in which I do good to those who offend me...If not how can I convey my lesson to the heart of the child?

### **The Lesson**

#### **Aim**

Love for all

#### **Verse**

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21)

#### **Hymns**

+ O Companions Come... [Arabic Song]

+ Joy...Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

Saul tried to kill David several times. Saul led an army and went out to kill David. He slept in the cavern where David used to sleep and where David and his men used to hide themselves. It was easy to kill Saul at that time. He cut off the end of Saul's cloak. David ran after Saul when he went out of the cavern and told him what he did. Saul wept because David did not harm him and he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil and the good Lord said: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good".

### ***Activity***

1. Ask the children to write the following in their notebooks: Luke 6:27-31 and to read 2 Samuel 21.
2. Read 1 Samuel 14 with the family.
3. Review the first three passages of the third hour prayer.
4. Give a gift or send a postcard to a friend who has offended you.

### ***Note***

The servant draws the children attention to the necessity of showing love to all people, not only our relatives or brothers but for those who curse us and harm us, as what happened with the Lord Christ. Draw their attention not to differentiate between Christians and non-Christians in the kind of treatment.

There is a story about a child who was struck by another boy who threw stones at him. The child hurried to his house and brought an orange and gave it to the boy who struck him and said that the church says: overcome evil with good.

### ***Recitation***

The passages of the 6<sup>th</sup> hour prayer "You who on the sixth day and at 6 hour..." . These should be printed and distributed or the children copy them from the canonical Hours Prayers. The Servant encourages the children through competitions. The children should use them in their prayers at home.

## **(41) Show Respect for the handicapped: David and Mephibosheth**

### ***References***

+ 2 Samuel 21

### ***To the Servant***

When you see a blind man in the street help him cross the street. If you help a handicapped do that to please the Lord.

### **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Showing Respect for the handicapped

### ***Verse***

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink” (Romans 12:20)

“Open your mouth for the speechless” (Proverbs 31:8)

### ***Hymns***

+ O Companions Come... [Arabic Song]

+ Joy...Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

+ If you see a blind man among the cars in the street what will you do for him?

+ Who will be pleased with you when you do that?

Jesus is very pleased with us when we help an old man or handicapped. Do you remember David the Shepherd? He became a king after the death of Saul. We know that Saul was an evil man and wanted to kill David, but David loved all people. One day, he said to his servant “Is there anyone left of Saul’s family? If there is, I would like to show him kindness”. The servant said, “Your majesty, do not forget that King Saul wanted to kill you, and now you want to show kindness to his son”. David said, “It is true that Saul wanted to kill me but he was a King and I have to show kindness to the King’s son. I want to give him money”. The servant was surprised but he obeyed the King.

What was David’s job?

What was the name of the king before him?

Give an example to show that David was a good-hearted man.

Who remembers a verse about love?

The servant searched for Saul’s descendants and asked many people. Have you seen anyone from the house of Saul? The King wants to show kindness to him. They found a man named Mephibosheth...Saul’s son...he was hiding himself...He could not walk as he was lame...The King’s servant said to Mephibosheth: “The King wants to see you”. Mephibosheth was afraid. He said to the servant, “Go and tell the King that Mephibosheth is a kind-hearted man and does not want to kill you as his father did and I did no evil to be punished for”. The servant said, “David the King wants to show kindness to you for the sake of Saul your father”. Mephibosheth said, “But Saul, my father hated David and David wants to show kindness to me for his sake. This is impossible and cannot be believed!” The servant said, “King David is a kind hearted man. He sticks to the words of God. He reads the Scriptures and keeps the verse: If your enemy is hungry, feed him...

(The Servant repeats the verse) so he decided to care about you as the Lord commands. Mephibosheth said to the servant “I cannot walk” and the servant said, “I shall carry you”. The servant carried him to David. He was very tired because of the long distance. The servant said to David: “Do you want to show kindness to this man whose father was your enemy? Give him some money and let him go his way. It is enough for him to be kept alive”. David said, “This idea occurred to me but you see he is lame who will care for him? He cannot walk and he can do

nothing by himself. Who will serve him? Some of my servants will serve him and he will eat at my table”. The servant said, “He will cause you many troubles”. David said, “Haven’t you read the Scriptures: Open your mouth for the Speechless?” The same should be done for the lame and others.

David gave orders that Mephibosheth would always sit at the Royal Table beside him and that he would live in one of the royal palaces. Mephibosheth bowed down before the king and said to him, “I am your servant”. David said to him, “Do not fear... You will be honored and you will live with me all your life”.

The children act the conversation that ran between the king and the servant, and between the servant and Mephibosheth.

### ***Questions***

- + Why did David want to show kindness to Saul’s son?
- + What is the name of Saul’s son?
- + What is the verse that David obeyed when he showed kindness to Saul’s son?
- + What did the servant say to David in secret?
- + What did Mephibosheth do when he was brought to David?

### ***Activity***

1. If you see a lame man crossing the street, take hold of his hand. Do the same with a blind man.
2. Read 2 Samuel 15.
3. Help any handicapped that needs help and do not annoy the dumb.
4. Send a postcard to the Light and Hope School.
5. Study the fourth passage of the canonical hours prayer the sixth hour.

## **(42) Love for Parents: David and Absalom**

### ***References***

- + 2 Samuel 15 -18
- + Explanation of the Second Book of Samuel
- + Sporting Stories from the Old Testament, Beirut
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Parts 7&8, Beirut

### ***To the Servant***

1. Have you trained yourself to show love and sacrifice for your family?
2. Is my conduct at home different from my conduct in the church?
3. Do I boast of what I know about religion?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Love for parents.

***Verse***

“Walk in Love”(Ephesians 5:2)

***Hymns***

- + O Companions Come... [Arabic Song]
- + Joy...Joy... Joy... [Praise the Lord, Page 62]

- + Who are those who love you?
- + Do you also love them?
- + How do your parents feel if you are injured?

Notes

1. The disobedience of Absalom to the orders given by David his father.
2. His attempt to kill his father. Absalom wanted to be king.
3. Some people gathered round Absalom and declared that he would be king.
4. David and his servants fled to the mountain.

- + What is the name of David's son?
- + What did the Devil say to Absalom?
- + Did he obey him? Whom do you obey? Whom do you love?

Let us say the verse together: “Walk in love”.

David prepared an army to fight Absalom...The people said to David: Do not fight with us because our enemies want to kill you. David said, “I will stay here but be kind to Absalom. I love him so do not harm him”. David's army defeated Absalom's army. Absalom fled to a place full of many trees. While he was riding his mule under the trees, his long hair stuck with the branches of a tree and he could not escape death. The captain of the army ordered a soldier to kill him but the soldier said “Haven't you heard the king say: Be kind to Absalom? He will grieve if he hears of his death as he loves him”. The captain of the army aimed arrows at Absalom and killed him.

- + Whose army won victory?
- + What did Absalom do?
- + What was David's commandment to the soldiers?
- + How did Absalom meet his end?

Let us say together: Be kind to .....

David stayed in the palace all the day. He was anxious about his son Absalom. A soldier arrived and told him that David's army won victory. David asked if Absalom his son was well. David was very sad because of the death of his son.

- + What happened in the battle? Who was killed?
- + What did David do? What does the verse say?

### ***Activity***

- + Study the fifth passage of the 6<sup>th</sup> hour prayer.
- + Read 2 Samuel 15 –18.
- + Obey your elders and your parents.

### ***Instructions***

Obey, honor and respect your parents.

## **(43) The Good Counsel: Rehoboam and the advice of the Older men**

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 12
- + Explanation of the First Book of Kings
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible, Part 8, Beirut

### ***To the Servant***

1. When I do something do I ask myself if what I am going to do is according to the will or God?
2. Do I accept the Divine Counsel even if it is against my desire?

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Acceptance of the good counsel that is according to the will or God

### ***Verse***

“Keep my commandments and live” (Proverbs 4:4)

### ***Hymns***

- + O Lord, get hold of my hand...[Arabic Songs]
- + It is a sin to disobey your father... [Arabic Songs]
- + Where He leads me... [Praise the Lord, Page 145]

### ***Notes***

- + Is it better to do a thing at once or to ask the advice of someone first?
- + Whose advice do you follow... friends or strangers?
- + Who is David? Why did he order the soldiers to show kindness to Absalom?
- + Do you remember Mephibosheth? How did David treat him?
- + When Saul was in the cavern, where was David?
- + Why did David leave Shimei, son of Gera without reproaching him?

David was a good man...so the Lord said to him “There will be peace and security in your days. Your son will succeed you on the throne and no strange man will rule. After the death of David King Solomon ruled the kingdom. In his days, he annoyed some people and wanted to kill them,

so they fled and left their country for other far away places. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king.

The people whom Solomon ill-treated returned to the country when Rehoboam became king. They said the one to the other: "Let us go back to our country as King Solomon died and the new king is a good-hearted man and he will treat us well. The people came to meet Rehoboam and said to him: "O good-hearted king, we are your slaves. Your father treated us severely so we left our country and left him, but if you treat us well, we shall serve you all the days of our life". Rehoboam said to them, "Come back in three days and I will give you my answer". Rehoboam thought for a while then said: "I have to consult the ministers and the good people first. Rehoboam went to the wise good ministers whom he knew that their words are according to the will of God. He said to them, "My father, Solomon was harsh to the people so they left him. Those people came to me today and said: If you make life easier for us and if you do not take the wages for the fields except after the crops are harvested, and if you make the burdens of taxes lighter, we shall be your loyal servants... What is your opinion?" The wise old men said to him, "Your majesty, if you want to serve this people well, give a favorable answer to their request, and they will always serve you loyally. The Lord says: Keep my commandment and live. So the Lord wants you to live in peace with people. But if you disobey the Lord's commandment, you will not be successful as a king. Rehoboam ignored this good advice and made up his mind to treat the people harshly.

- + What is the name of Solomon's son?
- + What did the people ask for?
- + What was Rehoboam's reply?
- + What was the old men's advice?

Let us say together: "Keep my commandment and live".

Rehoboam ignored the advice of the older men and went instead to the young men who had grown up with him and who were now his advisers. Those friends were wicked men. He said to them: "What do you advise me to do? What shall I say to the people who are asking me to make their burden lighter?" His friends thought a little then said: "This wicked people do not deserve to live. You are a great king, how can these people come and say these words? They must be punished". Rehoboam asked them: "What shall I say to them then?" And they replied: "Solomon my father placed heavy burdens on you and I will place heavier burdens on you. He beat you with a whip; I'll flog you with a horsewhip!" What shall I say? Which advice must I follow, the old men's advice or the young men's advice?" he thought. Then he chose the wicked young men's advice. He made up his mind to be harsher than his father.

Let us say together: "Keep my commandment and live".

Three days later the people came and Rehoboam said to them: "My father beat you with a whip, I'll flog you with a horsewhip. Anyone who raises his voice will be killed. When the people heard these wicked words, they left the king and went to another country where they brought another man and made him king, and they left Rehoboam.

- + Why did the people desert their country during Solomon's reign?
- + What did they say to Rehoboam, Solomon's son?
- + What did the older men advise him to do?
- + What did the young men advise him to do?
- + What might have been better for Rehoboam, to follow the advice of the old men or to follow the advice of the young men?
- + What was the people's reaction?
- + Who can say the verse?

***Activity***

- + Consult our father the priest or your elders, or your parents about what is wrong and what is right.
- + Read 1 Kings 12
- + Study the last passage of the sixth hour prayer

***Instructions***

Sing this hymn this week:

When I am confused	To whom shall I go but you
O Jesus guide me	I'll bow down and pray to you

**(44) Love for the House of God: Araunah the Jebusite**

***Reference***

- + 1 Chronicles 21

***To the Servant***

- How do I stand in the church?
- Am I attentive or absent-minded when I am in the church?
- How can I participate in the prayers: with my voice, with understanding or with spirit?
- Do I prefer the church to my personal interests?

**The Lesson**

***Aim***

Love for the House of God.

***Verse***

“In the midst of the congregation, I will sing praise to You” (Hebrews 2:12)

***Hymns***

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

***Notes***

- + What do you know about David?

- + Who wrote the Psalms?
- + If your father asks you to do something and you do not do it what will happen?
- + The Lord ordered David not to count the people but David disobeyed, what did the Lord do?

The Lord commanded David not to count the people so that he might not boast of his strength. David disobeyed. The Lord sent his angel to punish the people and the king. David cried to the Lord to forgive him.

The Lord said: “The angel of the Lord is there at the threshing place of Araunah, the Jebusite”. David saw the angel standing in mid air -Araunah was threshing wheat, and when he saw the king he ran to meet him and bowed low with his face touching the ground, greeted him and welcomed him. David entered his house and spoke with him.

- + What wrong did David do?
- + Why did the Lord order the angel to stop killing people?
- + What are the types of prayer, individual, family, public...?
- + How many times do you pray? Where do you pray? Who attended the Divine mass last week?

The king said to Araunah, “I desire to build a house for our Lord God in this field”. Araunah rejoiced because there would be an altar, incense, pictures, and icons. He said: “Your Majesty, do whatever you wish...Here are these oxen to burn as an offering on the altar, and here are the threshing boards to use as fuel, and wheat to give as an offering. I give it all to you”. David was very pleased with Araunah and said to him: “Because you so loved the church and offered all these things to God, the Lord will give you many good things and repay you”. Araunah said: “Your Majesty, when you build this house of the Lord, my sons and I will be servants in it. We shall go early to pray. I'll teach my church how to stand quietly and attentively in the House of God and I will say: David was pleased with Araunah because he loved the House of God”.

- + What did Araunah offer to the House of God?
- + What things can you do to serve in the church?
- + Let us say together: In the middle of the church...

### ***Activity***

1. Ask some children to do the following: Light the Church, turn on the electric fan or AC when it is hot, shut the windows in winter, distribute the hymn books, collect hymn books after the service, clean the church, arrange the seats, etc.
2. Plan these activities between children where some can do these things for a month then others do them for a month and so on.
3. Draw your church inside a rectangle then color the doors and windows.

### **(45) The Feast of the Apostles: John the Evangelist and The Thief's Repentance.**

#### ***References***

- + The Precious Gem (Al Khareeda Al Nafeessa, -Part 1)

### ***To the Servant***

How do I treat sinners...kindly...with love or do I judge them?  
Can I exert an effort to save a man?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

- + John's love for sinners
- + This love is the outcome of his love for Christ and his service

#### ***Verse***

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow" (Hebrews 13:7)

#### ***Hymns***

- + In your house... in your house... [Arabic Song]
- + Holy is our Church... [Praise the Lord, Page 124]
- + The honorable apostles of the Redeemer...

#### ***Notes***

- + What do we celebrate today?
- + How many disciples did Christ have?
- + How many apostles did Jesus send?
- + What are the names of some of them?

The beloved John was one of Christ's disciples. What was his job before he became a disciple? He followed Christ to the cross. The Lord Jesus asked John to take care of his Mother St. Mary. After the resurrection and ascension of Christ, and the coming of the Holy Spirit John went out to preach the word of God. He spoke to people about Christ who loves all, died for us and redeemed us. One of those whom he preached to was a wicked young man who repented and received faith by the hands of John. One day John wanted to go to another town so he took the young man and asked the priest to care for him and teach him how to pray.

John stayed away for a long time and he became old and moved with difficulty. One day he went back to the first town to visit the people there. He met the priest and asked him about the young man. The priest bowed his head and was ashamed. John asked what happened to the boy and the priest said that the boy died. John was sorry for the boy and said: "What a loss! When did he die?" The priest said, "I mean that he died in sin. He is now a chief of a gang of robbers". Old John was very sad and wept saying: "Ah! My dear beloved son! Where are you now?" The priest said: "He is in this town but he goes out at night to rob and steal". John went out immediately leaning on his staff. He searched for the boy everywhere. He prayed: "O Lord have mercy on that boy...Save him...You left the ninety nine on the mountain and went out to search for the lost sheep...I am searching for your lost son. It was night, the moon and stars were in the sky and John walked in the dark. He forgot that he was weak and old when he was searching for the boy. He prayed while he was searching for the boy.

Finally he found him. When the boy recognized John he ran away. Old John ran after him...he fell down many times and stood up again to run...he lost his breath...he cried...My son have mercy on my old age. The boy was deeply affected and stopped running. He came back to John and wept. He bowed down and said: "Father, I have sinned. Will Jesus accept me when I come back to Him...now?" John said: "Of course...He loves you and wants you to return". The boy confessed his sins and said I repent. The young man repented and became a saint. He always attended the Divine Mass and received the Holy Communion. He never returned to sin.

The Servant chooses two children to tell this story of repentance. Let them repeat the verse and the hymn.

### ***Activity***

Test yourself: Do you neglect prayers and reading of the Holy Bible? Do you curse others? Do you swear? Go to confession and say: I have sinned, father forgive me.

Write the places John traveled to and which he recorded in his gospel.

Write the names of the places where John stayed with Jesus during his service on earth.

### ***Recitation***

1. Children study the passage of the 9<sup>th</sup> hour prayer "You who tasted death by the flesh at the third hour..."
2. Children use them in their prayers and study them till lesson 50. They should be printed and distributed or let them copy them. The Servant should encourage them through competitions.

## **(46) Pictures and Icons**

### ***References***

- + Genesis 8,21
- + Psalms 141,2
- + Jeremiah 44,21
- + Ezekiel 8,11
- + Malachi 1,11
- + Revelation 5,8,3,4
- + Galatians 3,1
- + The Precious Gems "Al Laale Al Nafeessa" Page 384
- + The life of the Orthodox Prayer

## **The Lesson**

### ***Aim***

Pictures in the church, incense and candles in the Orthodox churches and prayer as incense before the Lord

### ***Verse***

“Let my prayer be set before You as incense” (Psalms 141:2)

### ***Hymns***

- + In your house... In your house... [Arabic Song]
- + Morning Doxology... [Praises the Lord, Page 149]

### ***Aids***

Censer, incense, coal, candles, icons

### ***Notes***

Encourage the children to go to church, to love it and study its systems and rites

### ***Instructions***

The pictures remind us of the saints. The Lord loves incense in the church. The prayer is counted as incense before the Lord. The candle in the church is a means of honoring saints. Before the Icon is put in the church, special rites are performed which are called prayer of dedication during the Divine Mass. After the bishop prays over it and anoints it with the Holy Chrism (with which the baptized are anointed), the bishop breathes onto it the breath of the Holy Spirit. In this way the Holy Spirit sanctifies the icon and works in it for the healing of the sick and answering the prayers. By this ritual being performed the Icon becomes holy and should be respected. So we must show respect to the saint of the Icon.

### ***Questions***

1. Why are icons put in the churches?
2. What are the rituals of dedicating the icon?
3. What is the difference between pictures and icons that we see in the church and the other pictures?

### ***Activity***

The servants encourage the children to devote a certain place at home for prayer (It may be in the child's sleeping room). He can put a table in it and put a Holy Bible on the table together with church pictures, a lamp or some candles. This should be his favorable place of prayer.

## **(47) Almsgiving: Elijah and the Widow**

### ***References***

- + 1 Kings 17
- + Stories and Tales from the Holy Bible part 8, Beirut
- + Stories from the Old Testament, Beirut

### ***To the Servant:***

1. The Lord did not neglect Elijah when the land dried, so you must not fear anything when the world becomes full of troubles.

2. The Lord blessed the bowl of flour and the jar of oil by the hand of Elijah. Is your hand and source of blessing in your house and for your friends?

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Almsgiving and helping others

#### ***Verse***

“The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22)

#### ***Hymns***

- + Bless the Lord O my soul...[Arabic Songs]
- + Praise the Lord... [Arabic Songs]
- + Praise God in all His Saints... [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, page 141]

#### ***Notes***

The Servant reviews what the children have studied about the life of Elijah in the first period and the second period.

Recall the story of Elijah when he met king Ahab. He warned the king that the famine will continue for a long time. The Lord sent Elijah to the brook of Cherith. The ravens fed him and he drank water from the brook. The Lord sent him to Zarephath to a house where a widow lives with her son. When Elijah arrived, the widow was gathering firewood to make fire to bake a loaf of bread, as she had nothing except a handful of flour and little oil. She would eat the loaf of bread with her son then wait for death. The prophet asked her to bring him food and a drink of water. The widow told him her story... Elijah said to her; “The bowl will not run out of flour or the jar run out of oil before the day that the Lord sends rain. The widow obeyed...her faith was deep...The God of Elijah fulfilled his promise.

Elijah stayed for a long time in the widow’s house, and the Lord fulfilled his promise. There was always flour in the bowl and oil in the jar enough to feed them all. The Lord blessed the woman and Elijah spoke to her every day about the Lord.

#### ***Questions***

1. Where did Elijah go when the brook dried up?
2. What was the widow doing?
3. What did Elijah ask her to do?
4. What was her reply?
5. The children act the conversation that ran between Elijah and the widow.

#### ***Activity***

1. Always give alms, as it is one of the foundations of worship.
2. Give others the sweets and the food you have.

### **(48) Entertaining the Strangers: Anba Pachomius and his faith**

## **References**

+ The Paradise of the Monks, Page 35

### **To the Servant**

1. Let us read together Luke 10:30 -37.
2. The way of the Christian life is not the way of selfishness and self-love. What are the obstacles that stand in our way? (Read Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 25).
3. How far do non-Christians feel your love for them?

### **The Lesson**

#### **Aim**

Entertaining strangers.

#### **Verse**

“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so” (Proverbs 3:27)

#### **Hymns**

- + A man was going home... [Arabic Song]
- + The Good Samaritan... [Praise the Lord, Page 35]

#### **Notes**

Is that who needs kindness and help a relative of mine, a native of mine or a member of my church? Do I refrain from helping those who annoy me? Pachomius accepted faith because of the good treatment.

His father was from Upper Egypt. He was a pagan. One day Pachomius joined the army and became one of the king's soldiers. While they were traveling and they were suffering greatly, some Christians from Isna met them and brought them food and drink. Pachomius asked, “How do those people show kindness to us although they do not know us?” He was told that those people were Christians and they do that to please the Heavenly God.

When Pachomius heard these words, he made up his mind to become a Christian and help the needy if he had the chance to do so. God arranged that the king defeated his enemies and gave orders that his soldiers would go each to his house. Pachomius went back and was baptized. Three years later he became a monk and lived with St. Palamon. St. Pachomius established a monastic system called: “The Coenobitic System”.

1. What did Pachomius worship?
2. Whom do you worship?
3. What did the Christians of Isna offer?
4. What made Pachomius receive faith?
5. How did he live after receiving faith?
6. What is the name of the Monastic System, which Pachomius established?

### ***Activity***

Try to offer an act of love to anyone who asks for that.

### **(49) Do not be greedy: Aulogius the Stone Cutter**

#### ***References***

+ Aulogius the Stone Cutter Syrian Monastery

#### ***To the Servant***

If we teach the children the virtue of satisfaction and not to be greedy, we should contemplate the life of monasticism and abstinence. The apostle says: “If we have food and clothing with these we shall be content” (1 Timothy 6:8).

### **The Lesson**

#### ***Aim***

Satisfaction.

#### ***Verse***

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

#### ***Hymns***

+ A man was going home... [Arabic Song]

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

#### ***Notes***

Aulogius is a poor man. He cuts stones and his wage is one Denarii a day. But he loves to entertain strangers and wash their feet, give them what he has. Aulogius met St. Daniel; the archpriest of Scetics. He entertained him, washed his feet and fed him. The saint was pleased with Aulogius, the poor man and prayed for three weeks so that the Lord might give Aulogius a lot of money. The Lord answered the saint's prayer and Aulogius became rich as he found a treasure.

Aulogius went to a distant country and befriended the rich people and did not show love for the poor and the strangers. The saint was sorry for what he asked for and prayed that Aulogius would return to his first love and the Lord answered his prayer and Aulogius became a poor man once more and returned to his country. He loved the strangers. This happened after his property had been robbed and people threatened to kill him.

#### ***Questions***

1. Why did St. Daniel pray that the Lord would make Aulogius rich?
2. How did Aulogius live?
3. How did he get all that money?
4. Where did he go with his money?
5. What did he lose when he was in Constantinople?

6. How did Aulogius go back to his first life?

**Activity**

Be ready for the recitation review lesson.

**Instructions**

Save some of your pocket money and give it to the poor.

**(50) Recitation**

Review the texts for recitation that the children have studied during this period. The Servant encourages the children who have studied them but those who haven't studied them should be followed up till they study it because we want the children to use them in their prayers.

**Activity**

- + Pray the passages of the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, 6<sup>th</sup> hour and 9<sup>th</sup> hour with the family.
- + Visit your brothers who are absent.

**(51) The Feast of the Virgin: Her Departure**

**References**

- + The Virgin Mary, Page 38
- + The Synaxarium 21<sup>st</sup> of Tuba, 16<sup>th</sup> of Mesra
- + The Virgin Mary, the Mother of Light: New Cairo (Misr al Guideeda)

**To the Servant**

The Lord Jesus commanded that we should honor our parents and He himself honored His mother, St. Mary the Virgin. Can her body then be left in the dust as the bodies of all people? No. The body that bore Christ for nine months must not be buried in the dust.

**The Lesson**

**Aim**

God honors those who love him.

**Verse**

“For, behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” (Luke 1:48)

**Hymns**

- + Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, St. Mary [The Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, Page 73]

**Aids**

Pictures of Virgin Mary

### **Notes**

After the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the virgin was in the house of John the Beloved. We can imagine how the virgin told John about Christ's life on earth when He was a child and John told her about the miracles of Christ, a sweet atmosphere and blessed stories.

When her time to depart was near and she knew it, the disciples and some virgins came. Jesus Christ, together with angels from heaven, came to receive her soul after she had blessed the disciples.

St. Thomas the apostle was not present when she departed. He came after she had been buried and he heard a voice saying: Hurry up to receive the blessing of the body of Pure Mary. He saw the body and kissed her. Later, when he met the disciples, they told him that she departed but St. Thomas did not believe this news. They went together to her tomb but they did not find the body and the disciples were astonished. St. Thomas told them how he saw the body rising up to heaven among the hymns of the angels. The disciples asked God to show them that scene which St. Thomas saw. They remained fasting for fifteen days and the Lord showed them the scene on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Mesra.

After the departure of the Lady Virgin, the Lord answered the prayer of anyone who interceded with her. Moreover, the virgin appeared to many people. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1968 the Lady Virgin, the Mother of Light appeared many times in the Church of Zeitun (Zeitun means Olives) in Cairo and this appearance was associated with two things:

- a) The Spirit of faith in God and in the saints spread and many people repented.
- b) Wonders and miracles happened to many people. May her intercession be with us all. Amen.

### **Activity**

1. Study: "Through the intercession of the Theotokos..." and recite it in your prayers this week.
2. Put the picture of the Lady Virgin in front of you when you pray and lit a candle before it.
3. We must honor Christ's mother: by keeping her picture at home to remind us of her holy life, by naming the churches after her name, by asking for her intercession at the end of each prayer because her prayers are acceptable, etc.

### **(52) Review**

The Servant can review the lessons as follows:

1. By giving a statement and asking the children to say if it is right or wrong. For example:
  - a. St. Mark preached the Gospel in Egypt.
  - b. Saul loved David.
  - c. Rehoboam followed the advice of the older men.
  - d. The widow made a loaf of bread for Elijah and the oil and flour ran out.
  - e. Anba Pachomius became a Christian thanks to the Christians' love for him.
  - f. When Aulogius became rich he became generous.

- g. David loved Saul.
- 2. Ask the children to act some scenes of the lessons.
- 3. Test their memory in studying the verses:
  - a. Let your heart hold .....
  - b. If your enemy is hungry .....
  - c. Consider the outcome .....
  - d. The blessing of the Lord .....
  - e. For, behold, from henceforth .....
  - f. In the midst of the congregation .....
  - g. Do not be overcome by evil .....
  - h. You shall receive power when .....

***The Verses of this Period are:***

- 1. Keep my commandments and live (Proverbs 4:4), Lesson 43.
- 2. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), Lesson 35.
- 3. Walk in love (Ephesians 5:2), Lesson 42.
- 4. Open your mouth for the Speechless (Proverbs 31:8), Lesson 41.
- 5. The righteous should choose his friends carefully (Proverbs 12:26), Lesson 37.
- 6. If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him a drink (Romans 12:20) Lesson 41.
- 7. Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow (Hebrews 13:7), Lesson 45.
- 8. The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it (Proverbs 10:22), Lesson 47.
- 9. Take heed and beware of covetousness (Luke 12:15), Lesson 49.
- 10. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Acts 1:8), Lesson 39.
- 11. Let my prayer be set before You as incense (Psalm 141:2), Lesson 46.
- 12. Pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you (Matthew 5:44), Lesson 38.
- 13. For, behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed (Luke 1:48), Lesson 51.
- 14. In the midst of the congregation, I will sing praise to You (Hebrews 2:12), Lesson 44.
- 15. Repay no one evil for evil (Romans 12:17), Lesson 38.
- 16. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so (Proverbs 3:27), Lesson 48.
- 17. Do not avenge yourselves (Romans 12:19), Lesson 18.
- 18. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), Lesson 40.

***Texts for Recitation for this period:***

- + Review the passages of the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, 6<sup>th</sup> hour and 9<sup>th</sup> hour.
- + Conduct competition to encourage children for memorizing these prayers