

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, one true God.**

**Glory to Him, and may His grace and mercy
be upon us for ever. Amen.**

Executive Committee

M.J.S.S.A.

CLASS - VI

TEXTBOOK

Name:

Sunday School:

.....**Ph**.....

PREFACE

Dear Associates in Christ,

Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday School Association (M.J.S.S.A.) is functioning as a spiritual organization of the Church, with its headquarters at Puthencruz, in order that the children of the members of Jacobite Syrian Christian Church would nurture depending and fearing in God; they would realize and experience Christ and the light of Christ would enlighten the society through them; and they would become virtue-based citizens by learning the Bible, true faith, history, prayers and liturgy of the Church. On every Sunday, classes are conducted after the Holy Qurbana in a structured way having textbooks from Class I to XII.

Accepting the continuous request of our students, teachers, parents, Reverend priests and Their Eminences Metropolitans to revise the textbooks as per the needs of the present era, M.J.S.S.A. presents such a more attractive and student-centred textbook. This new curriculum tries to introduce Jesus Christ to our kids in various ways such as games, drawings, colourings, songs, and stories.

Masters of the Educational Department have given leadership in this challenging endeavour. M.J.S.S.A. is much obliged to Mr. T.C. Alias Master, Rev. Fr. Varghese Paul Thombra, Rev. Fr. Eldhose Karuthedathu, Rev. Fr. Jijo Varghese, Rev. Fr. Shaji Varghese, Rev. Fr. Jaison Blayil, Rev. Fr. Jyothis Pothara, Mr. Eldhose Mathew, Mr. A.G. Alias Master, Mr. Siju Paul, and Mr. P.V. George. Along with gratefully acknowledging the contributions of the Executive Committee Member Mr. P.V. Jacob as the Coordinator of the Curriculum Committee, M.J.S.S.A. appreciates the efforts of all the Curriculum Committee members. Sincere gratitude also goes to Smart Creations Angamali and Modern Graphics Angamali for the design works. M.J.S.S.A. presents this new textbook curriculum with authentic approval, after several discussions and meetings presided by the President of M.J.S.S.A. His Eminence Mor Aphrem Mathews Metropolitan.

For,
Executive Committee
Chev. M.J. Markose (General Secretary)

To the Parents

Dear parents,

“Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (St. Matthew 19:14). Children are the gifts of God. They are good. But today’s world leads human beings to evils. On one hand there are alcohol, drugs, overwhelming influence of media; and on the other anger, hatred, disobedience, and disrespect towards parents and elders... How far our kids are interested in spiritual matters...? Have you ever thought of it? What is its reason?

They have not received true divine feeling. Therefore, unless we grow them carefully today, we may have to regret tomorrow. This textbook is prepared to help the kids nurturing in spiritual experience as well as enhancing their knowledge. And this book becomes worthy, only when the lessons are taught in the intended way. Some activities could be done only with the help of parents. Your dedication and time are necessary for the kids to learn the lessons accurately which is taught on every Sunday. If so, we will surely be able to develop a generation which is filled with Divine Love.

To the Students

Numerous opportunities of colouring, singing, discussions etc. have been given to you in previous classes. Yet, from Class V onwards, you are responsible for doing various activities by reading the Bible. And therefore, you are requested to have your own copy of the Bible. The activities, given to you, are to be completed through preparing notes, stories, descriptions, elocutions, essays and portrayals after reading the Bible. Some activities could be done in the text book itself which but need to be written very carefully, while others could be completed and kept in a file after getting evaluated by your teacher. Please learn all the occasional prayers and songs by heart. Surely this activity oriented learning will enable you to proclaim Jesus boldly. As Jesus had grown in wisdom and stature in favour with God and humans, let us live gracefully before God and our fellow beings by enacting the teachings of Christ in our lives, holding firmly the Christian values, and by knowing our nature and society. Let us move forward by having the same mindset of Jesus Christ.

To the Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Introducing Christ in relation to our kids' day to day living circumstances, the new curriculum is prepared as child-centred. A lesson could be taught in two Sundays. Make sure that each child has his/her own copy of the Bible that s/he needs to prepare notes, descriptions, stories, elocutions, essays and portrayals based on the Biblical portion. There are enough spaces in the textbook itself to do some other activities. Besides, you are expected to give some short assignments too. Precisely, a child needs to be equipped to read the Bible thoroughly and to execute the viewpoints emerged from group discussions inherently. After proper evaluation and grading, you are also encouraged to keep their works in a file. In order to communicate the aims of a lesson to your students effectively, a prior learning of the biblical portion is inevitable. While explaining the Old Testament characters such as Esther, Ruth, Gideon etc., a description of the entire book is also desirable. A teacher's contribution is very much necessary in such activities which enable a child to realize the social commitment of the Scripture. Kindly make use of the textbooks of previous classes as references. Furtherly, make sure that the students write carefully and neatly in their textbook that they may experience the feel of 'my textbook' through their own talent of creative writing. May every child be able to see, know and experience Christ through your commitment as well as this activity oriented learning process of the Bible. Let us pray and prepare for the work in our Lord's vineyard.

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Part I Prayer

Let us all revise Psalm 51 which we have learnt in Grade V.

(The teacher is requested to make sure that all the kids know it by heart.)

For the Intercession of St. Mary

O Virgin Mother, shield us from all menace that confront us and forbid from us the whirls and tides of this world. O Mother, since you have acceptance in the presence of God, pray that your intercession grant us forgiveness and mercy, heal the sick, bring relief to the afflicted and the return of those who are away to us peacefully.

For the Intercession of Saints

Martyrs, as in the time of deluge, when the righteous Noah protected the beasts that entered with him in the ark, let your intercession protect us from the tides and whirls that encircle this world.

For the Intercession of Patron Saint

St. Thomas, your grace has astonished the heavenly beings. Your glorious name is praised on earth among us. Your good deeds have been counted worthy by your Lord Jesus Christ, and he has revered and upheld your memory. May your prayer be a refuge to us.

Prayer of Repentance

O God, the lover of those who are unblemished and upright, grant us perfection in our hearts. Remove from us all evil and malicious thoughts. O lord, open to us your merciful door, as you did to the thief. Accept our repentance as you had accepted the penance of the tax-collector and the sinful woman. O lord, you are merciful and pleased with those who turn to you in repentance as you graciously pardoned Peter who came to you after he had denied you. Lord, cleanse us from our sins and follies.

O Lord, we, the sinful, are sad about your dispassionate last judgment. When the great books of account are opened and our sins are read, let your grace strengthen us and let your mercy help us. Let our sins be pardoned. O Lord, we acknowledge our sins, have mercy on us.

For the Faithful Departed

Lord, grant good remembrance to the faithful departed who have received your atoning body and blood. Lord Jesus Christ, when you come gloriously with the company of angels, let our departed ones stand before you with praises. Moriyo rahem elain noo'adarain.

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of your mercy on our faces. Lord we confess that we are sinners, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, your love made you descend from your place to us that by your death, our death was abolished, have mercy upon us.

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one true God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of the same substance with the Father, and by whom all things were made, who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, + and was incarnate of the holy Virgin Mary, mother of God, by the Holy Spirit, and became man, + and was crucified for us in the days of Pontius Pilate, and suffered and died, and was buried, + and in the third day rose according to his will, and ascended into heaven, and sat on the right hand of his Father, and shall come again in his great glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the one living Holy Spirit, the life-giving Lord of all, who proceeds from the Father, and who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets and apostles.

And in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and we confess one baptism for the remission of sins, and look for the resurrection of the dead, and the new life in the world to come. Amen. Barekhamor Staumenkalos Kurielaison.

Wisdom Dots

What is Prayer?

Raising our minds to God, adoring His name, praising Him for all His mercies and requesting our needs humbly is altogether called Prayer.

Part II

Old Testament

1 GOD APPEARS TO MOSES

Bible Reference: Exodus Chapter 20

Bible Verse to Learn:

"I will show mercy to thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:6)

Aims:

- ✿ To learn the Commandments of God
- ✿ To learn how to live according to the Commandments

Have you ever heard a priest reading a Bull in your church after Holy Qurbana?
Whose Bulls are usually read?

.....
.....
.....

List all the specific things you have noticed while reading a Bull:

E.g.: All faithful will stand in awe while reading a Bull.

What is the purpose of reading a Bull?

Bishops or other prelates of our church inform important matters to beloved faithful through their Bulls.

Likewise, Ten Commandments are the instructions given by God to Israelites, His own people, through Moses in order to live accordingly.

On their journey to Canaan, when Israelites had reached the valley of Mount Sinai, God commanded Moses to go up to the top of the mountain. When he reached there, God gave His **Ten Commandments** to Moses.



The commandments ONE to FOUR explain the relationship between God and Humans:

- ☆ I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me.
- ☆ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
- ☆ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.
- ☆ Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy; you shall not do any work on the day.

Find out the commandment to which I need to take the following pledges

Pledge	Commandment
Worship the True God	1
Do not swear in God's name	
Attend the Holy Qurbana on every Sunday	
Give importance to God than wealth	
Do good to others	
Avoid boasting	
Go to Sunday School	
Counter superstitions	
Do not blame God	

The FIFTH Commandment connects God and Humans:

- ☆ Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Are you doing? Mark for 'yes' and for 'no'

Pray daily for your parents	
Lie to your parents	
Get angry to your parents	
Mock your parents	
Take care of your grandparents	

TO REMEMBER

Matha Pitha Guru
Deivam
(Mother, Father, Teacher
God)

The commandments SIX to TEN describe the mutual relationship between humans:

- ☆ You shall not murder.
- ☆ You shall not commit adultery.
- ☆ You shall not steal.
- ☆ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- ☆ You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Your Pledges continue...

Pledge	Commandment
Do not watch anything bad	
Do not be a plagiary	
Be happy with what I have	10
Do not steal anything from my neighbour	
Do not blame others	
Do not think badly	

After receiving the Ten Commandments, Moses came down from the mountain. He had in his hands the two stone tablets made by God on which the commandments were inscribed by God's own finger.

Assignment

1. Lord Jesus has précised all the Ten Commandments in Two Commandments. Find out and write down those two from the New Testament (St. Matthew 22:37-40)

1.

2.

2. Write down an essay on 'Honouring your Parents'.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin orange border, occupying most of the page below the instruction. It is intended for the student to write their essay on 'Honouring your Parents'.

Answer the Following:

1. Write the Commandments which explain the relationship between God and humans?
2. Which is the Commandment that connects God and humans?
3. Write the Commandments which describe the mutual relationship between humans?
4. 'Do not swear in the name of God' - this is related to which Commandment?
5. Which Commandment to be obeyed in order to live long?
6. Which Commandment is related to the pledge - 'Do not be a plagiary'?
7. "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" - Which are the commandments?
8. Write down Exodus 20:6.

Wisdom Dots

How we can love God?

We can love God by leading a life obeying the commandments of God and the church.

What we should do while seeing a church or a cross?

We should draw the sign of cross saying devotionally, "Crucified for us, have mercy on us."

2 Aaron

Bible Reference: Exodus Chapter 7

Bible Verse to Learn: "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts." (Malachi 2:7)

Aims:

- ✿ To realize the priestly vocation
- ✿ To learn how to respect priests



Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological (MSOT) Seminary

The place where priests are getting trained in our church.

Name the Vicar of your church? List his spiritual activities?

We respect our priests. Let us learn about **Aaron**, a model priest and his priestly services from the Bible.

Family History

- ⤴ *The name 'Aaron' means 'enlightened'.*
- ⤴ *Son of Amram and Jocheded in the Tribe of Levi.*
- ⤴ *Moses and Miriam were siblings.*
- ⤴ *Elisheba was his wife.*
- ⤴ *Had four sons – Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar.*
- ⤴ *Lived for 123 years.*
- ⤴ *Died at the summit of Mount Hor.*

Election

God said to Moses, "Bring near to you your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests. Put on Aaron the sacred vestments and consecrate him by pouring the anointing oil on his head." Hence Moses anointed Aaron as a priest.

Qualities of Aaron, the High Priest

- ▲ *Speak fluently – a good orator (Ex. 4:14).*
- ▲ *Courageously performed miracle before Pharaoh (Ex. 7:8-13).*
- ▲ *Interceded to God for Miriam and the people of Israel (Num. 16:46-48).*
- ▲ *Led Israelites along with Moses (Ex. 24:18)*
- ▲ *Blessed his people by entering into the Most Holy Place and worshipping God (Lev. 9:22).*

After Aaron



After the demise of Aaron, his son Eleazar became the priest. Only the descendants of Aaron were ordained as priests, even during the time of Jesus. Priests used to offer animal sacrifice in the Old Testament times. When Jesus Christ sacrificed himself at Calvary, the animal sacrifice came to an end.

Priestly Succession



Lord Jesus has instituted the Holy Qurbana (Eucharist) at the House of Mark (Upper Room of Sehyon) and entrusted his disciples to continue it. Through laying of hands by apostles to their successors, the church still endures the same priestly succession handed over by Christ to his disciples.

Assignments:

I. Learn the following songs by heart:

1. When the priesthood passed on down
Moses got it, Aaron too;
Moses passed it to Zachariah
Passed Zachariah on to John
John did pass it to our Lord
Christ ordained apostles twelve
They were sent forth by him
Passed it on throughout the world. Moriyoyo...

Aadhyacharyathwam kaikond-
Aharon Mooshayodonnichu
Skariyaykkathu nalki Moosha
Skariya Yohannaneki
Yohannan Karthaavinnam
Karthathan Sleehanmaarkkum
Naana srushti vibha-
gangalkkeki Sleehanmaar. Moriyoyo...

2. High priest, reverend priests,
and deacons are appointed
On the earth and the church is
adorned by their hymns.

Melpattakkar pattakkarodu shemmashanmaar
Erppad aakki Karthavivare bhoomi athinkal
Aniyichaar avar anisham thannude sabhaye ivied
Anavaratham cheithetti vasikkum sthithikal athaale.

II. Read Exodus 7: 8-13 and write down the miracle performed by Aaron before Pharaoh:

III. Prepare notes based on the lesson:

Who is a Priest? Explain the succession of priesthood?

IV. Answer the Following:

1. What is the meaning of the name 'Aaron'?
2. Which is the Tribe of Aaron?
3. Name the place where Aaron died and buried?
4. Name the person who anointed Aaron as a priest?
5. Who was the successor of Aaron, the High Priest?
6. Where did Jesus institute the Holy Qurbana?
7. Write down the song, 'When the priesthood passed on down...?'
8. Explain any two miracles performed by Aaron before Pharaoh?
9. Why we need to respect Priests? (Bible verse to Learn)

Wisdom Dots

**From where does the Holy Jacobite Syrian Church get its
Apostolic Succession?**

The Throne of Antioch, the Throne established by St. Peter is the source of
Apostolic Succession in our church.

3 GIDEON

Bible Reference: Judges Chapters 6 to 8

Bible Verse to Learn: "Gideon said to them, 'I will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you.'"

Aims:

- ✿ To realize the Divine Call and act accordingly like Gideon.
- ✿ To live humbly before God and fellow beings.

Write down the names of church prelates according to the order:

Patriarch:

Catholicose:

Diocesan Metropolitan:

Parish Vicar:

These church prelates are specially called to lead us in the way of the Lord. Likewise, in order to deliver Israelites from the oppression of Midianities, God specifically elected Gideon. (Midian is situated to the south of Israel and to the west of Saudi Arabia.) Even his name Gideon means 'mighty warrior'. During Israelites' harvest season, Midianites used to attack them and looted their crops. Being scared of the Midianites, the Israelites, therefore hid themselves away from their fields and cried aloud to God. Lord answered their plea by choosing Gideon as their judge and liberator.

Election by God

One day, when Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, an angel of the LORD appeared to him, sitting under an oak at Ophrah.



Angel: "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior."

Gideon: "But sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?"

Angel: "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you."

Gideon: "But Sir, how can I deliver Israel? I am weak and least in my family."

Angel: "But I will be with you, and you shall win surely."

Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, named it 'Yahweh Slom' (the LORD is peace) and worshipped Him. Afterwards he took his mission and defeated the great army of Midianites just with the help of three hundred Israelites. He was aware that the victory was not because of his power, but only because of God's grace.



Israelites: "Rule over us, for you have delivered us out of the hand of Midian."

Gideon: "I will not rule over you, the LORD will rule over you."

Gideon was not willing to become the ruler of Israel. Instead, he went to his house, led a peaceful life and entered into eternal rest at very old age. Because of Gideon, Israelites were able to live peacefully for forty years.

Assignment

I. Let us meet two people. Please listen to what they are saying?

- ▲ I have gained everything only with my ability and wealth.
- ▲ The secret of my success is my own wisdom.
- ▲ I will live as I wish to.
- ▲ I don't have to fear anyone.



- ▲ Everything what I have is God's gift.
- ▲ Health to work and wisdom to think are given by God.
- ▲ God leads me every day.
- ▲ I will be thankful to God and my fellow companions.



Analyse the thoughts of these two individuals and prepare a short note without exceeding ten sentences regarding, "How I think and act."

II. Write from your own experience:

Divine Providence in My Own Life or Family

IV. Answer the Following:

1. Name the head of the church?
2. What is the meaning of the name Gideon?
3. Why did the Israelites hide themselves away from their fields?
4. Name the place where Gideon was beating out wheat?
5. What was name of the altar built by Gideon?
6. What was Gideon's reply, when the Israelites requested him to be their ruler?
7. What should be our thoughts before God?

Wisdom Tits

What will be the experience of a victorious soldier?

Being a lover of God and an obedient to God's commandments, a victorious soldier will attain the heavenly kingdom, that has been prepared by God for the righteous even from the beginning of the world which has been seen by no eyes, heard by no ears and imagined by no hearts.

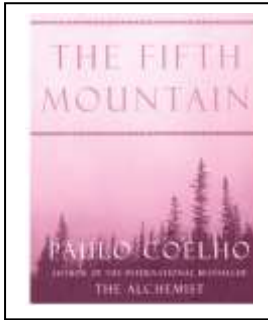
4 Elijah, the Lamp

Bible Reference: 1 Kings Chapters 17 & 18

Bible Verse to Learn: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16)

Aims:

- ✿ To understand that Elijah is the intercessor for those who struggle from natural calamities.
- ✿ To realize that there is answer for every prayer in any distress.



Answer me , O LORD;
answer me O LORD;
answer me O LORD
and have mercy on me.



*Look at the above pictures and prayer.
Try to answer the following questions.*

1. This is the world famous novel written by Paulo Coelho. Do you know the name of the protagonist of this novel?
2. Invoking the Holy Spirit, this is the prayer said by priest in Holy Qurbano before reading the tubdens. Whose prayer is remembered here?
3. This is the chapel situated to the east of MJSSA Head Quarters in Puthercruz. In whose name, this chapel is constructed?

Have you got the answer? If not, read 1 Kings 17:1 and write it down.

So the answers for these three questions are the same. Let us all learn more about this important prophet Elijah.

When the Israelites were struggling with difficulties, God had appointed a great prophet named Elijah to strengthen and sustain His people. Having been mentioned many times in the New Testament, Elijah, even in the current era, receives a graceful position in human minds as a prophet of miracles.

Ahab was a king of Israel. Influenced by his wife Isabel, he had forsaken the true God and started to worship Baal. Furtherly, he began to persecute Israelites; and therefore, gradually many of them became the devotees of Baal. In order to impeding this movement and to lead the Israelites on right path, God had appointed Elijah. Elijah is also known as the intercessor for those who struggle from natural calamities.

One day God appeared to Elijah and said:



“Go from Samaria and turn eastward and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. They will give you bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.”

Elijah had obeyed the commandment of God. As a punishment from God, there was neither rain nor dew in the land for two years. Even the wadi Cherith had dried up. Elijah prayed to God and He answered him, saying,

“Go now to Zarephath and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks.



1 Kings 17:10-24 narrates the conversation between Elijah and the widow. Precise the conversation and write it down:

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing the conversation between Elijah and the widow.

Elijah prayed to God in the midst of people with perplexed mindset. Even though he had to face lot of blames and criticisms, he nullified it by praying with strong faith. God answered him. Let us all have the courage to pray faithfully that God will answer us.

Answer the Following:

1. Who was Elijah?
2. Why did God elect Elijah?
3. What did God say to Elijah during the time of famine?
4. How did Elijah revive the widow's son at Zarephath?
5. Where did Elijah hide himself?
6. Was God please with Elijah's offering? How?
7. What did Elijah pray to God after placing the bull on the altar?

Activities:

1. Write down the qualities of Elijah.



2. Knowing the Difference:

- | | | |
|---------|----|---|
| Elijah | :- | The prophet during the time of Ahab. |
| Elisha | :- | The prophet who was a disciple and protégé of Elijah. |
| Eli | :- | A priest and a judge of Israel before Samuel. |
| Elishah | :- | Son of Javan (Genesis 10:4). |

3. Write a short essay on PRAYER:

Hints:

- ⊗ What is Prayer?
- ⊗ Different types of prayer
- ⊗ Importance of Prayer
- ⊗ Praying for others
- ⊗ Lord's Prayer
- ⊗ Prayer of Elijah

PRAYER

4. Find out the references on Elijah from the New Testament and write it down.

May I help you?

John 1:25

Matthew 17:3, 10, 11, 12

Luke 4:24-26

James 5:17

Romans 11:2

Wisdom Dots

A beautiful novel written about Elijah by the world famous Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho is 'Fifth Mountain'.

Moses, Elijah and Jesus had observed lent for 40 days.

There is a tradition among the Jews. When they observe the Passover (Pesaha), they leave an empty chair for Elijah.

The Old Testament ends by the prophecy of Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5,6).

Write down the prophecy on Elijah's Return

Let us Pray

Through their fasting, Moses had received the stone tablets written by God and Elijah had pleased God. Blessed be the one who observe fasting, praying and pleasing God through their deeds with no jealousy, hatred and evil in his mind.

Amen.

Let us Sing Together

(Tune: *Bhoovake namikkum ninne.../All the world adoreth Thee...*)

Seeing the prayerful life and
Miracle deeds of Elijah,
Worshipped, praised and adored God
Beloved children of Israel - Haaleluyya.

Leading a life of prayer
Like the blessed Elijah,
No doubt heav'ns will be opened
We be blessed by Lord God - Haaleluyya.

5 The Brave Woman

Bible Reference: Judith Chapters 1 to 6

Bible Verse to Learn: "For the Lord is a God who crushes wars; he sets up his camp among his people; he delivered me from the hands of my pursuers." (Judith 16:3)

Aims:

- ✿ Be fearful to God; then God will be gracious.
- ✿ Depend upon God during trials and tribulations.

Have you ever seen this picture?

Have you learned about it in your school?



This is the picture of Joan of Arc, a mighty French girl lived in fifteenth century, who became a martyr at the age of 19. During the long running revolt of France against England, when everyone was scared of the war, she, having strong faith in God, courageously took over the leadership of French army. And she proved that depending on God's power would help to relieve the fear of failure than depending on one's ability. She also taught us to proclaim the love of God whilst pain

and difficulty.

Let us learn about a courageous Biblical character who lived long before Joan of Arc.

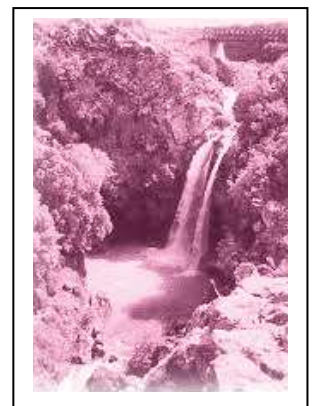
It was the twelfth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar, the barbarous Assyrian king, made a war against Israel. Holofernes was appointed as the chief general of the Assyrian army. Even though fear and dread of him fell upon all the Israelites, they defended his army with their whole strength. But Holofernes was so brutal that he took the possession of all springs of water and seized Israelites' entire water supply; and hence the people started to faint because of thirst and famine.

The whole Israel gathered around their leader, Uzziah and the judges of the town and cried out with a loud voice, "Let God judge between you and us! Now surrender the whole town as booty to the army of Holofernes and to all his forces."

Having heard this, Uzziah replied, "Courage, my brothers and sisters! Let us hold out for five days more; but if these days pass by, and no help comes for us from our Lord God, I will do as you say."

Then women and children went back to their home, while men returned to their various posts to protect and watch over the town.

Now in those days, **Judith**, a God-fearing widow, wearing sackcloth and spending her widowhood in fasting, heard about these things. Sending her maid, she called the elders and said to them,





"What you have said to the people today is not right; you have even sworn and pronounced this oath between God and you, promising to surrender the town to our enemies unless the Lord turns and helps us within so many days. Who are you to put God to the test today? You cannot plumb the depths of the human heart or understand the workings of the human mind; how do you expect to search out God? No, my brothers, do not anger the Lord our God. Therefore, while we wait for his deliverance, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it pleases him."

Being a consoling word to them, she continued,

"If we are captured, all Judea will be captured and our sanctuary will be plundered. We should not let them to do it. The Lord scourges those who are close to him in order to admonish them. Therefore, my brothers, despite everything let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Uzziah, having heard her words, replied, "All that you have said was spoken out of a true heart. Now since you are a God-fearing woman, pray for us, so that the Lord may send us rain to fill our cisterns." Then Judith left the place along with her maid. Uzziah and the judges blessed her.

Judith cried out to the Lord and went on to Holofernes with her maid. She revealed herself to him and lied to him that they have left the Hebrews because they were about to sin against God and when they act upon, on that very day they would be handed over to you to be destroyed. And when she told him that, "My lord, I will remain with you; but every night I will go out into the valley and pray to God. He will tell me when they have committed their sins. Then I will come and tell you, so that you may go out with your whole army, and destroy them," he was pleased well and let her to do so.

On the fourth day, Holofernes invited Judith for a private banquet where they spent their time in eating food and drinking wine. Holofernes was greatly pleased with her, and drank a great quantity of wine and became dead drunk. Making sure that no one left there at that time, Judith, having prayed to God and strengthened herself, took Holofernes' sword that was hung there and cut off his head. Then she wrapped up his head and gave it to her maid who placed it in her food bag. Afterwards both of them went out together, as they were accustomed to do for prayer.

They passed through the camp, circled around the valley and went up the mountain and reached the Israelites. She described everything what was happened. Thus they realized that they were saved from Nebuchadnezzar. They worshipped God and gave him peace offering and thanksgiving offering. The fame of Judith had spread wide around that she came to known as a 'brave women'.

Activities

1. Let us sing together...

Akhilam njaan aran-njittum

Daiva bhayathe mikach onnum

Njaan dharshichilla - thal snehathaale

Dhaarmikanaam Yousep aarnnu Misrem raajathvam

Mahithan Moosha vibhaagichaan vadiyaal varidhiye

Haananiya-adhyanmaar athinaal

Agniyil ninum rakshithar aai

Thankathekkal athu kaamyam

Mathuvilum athu madhuram paaram

Deiva-araadhanaye - snehippon dhanyan.

(I have searched out everything; nothing found to be better than fearing God. By loving God, Joseph became the King of Egypt, Moses divided the sea with his staff, and Hananiah and the other two were rescued from fire. It is beautiful than gold and sweeter than honey. Blessed is the one who loves worshipping God.)

2. Let us pray:

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where comes my helper?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot to tremble: He who keeps you will not slumber.

3. Research, Write and Picturize...

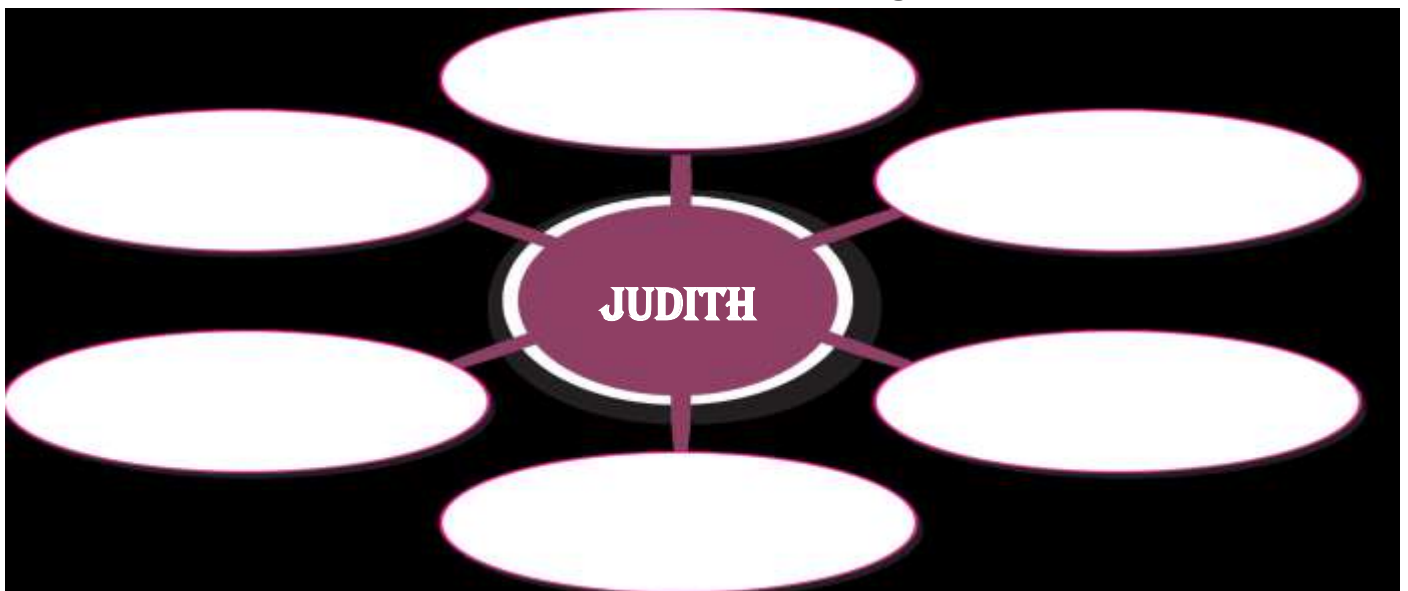
1. What did Judith say to the elders of the town?

2. "The Lord scourges those who are close to him in order to admonish them" - Explain with the help of clues? (Job, St. Paul, Jesus calming the storm and sea)

3. How did Judith save the Israelites?

4. Like Judith, there was a woman character in the Old Testament. Can you find out her name? (Clue: Judges chapters 4 & 5)

5. Picturize the qualities of Judith in the below diagram.



6. Write down a note comparing the esteemed courageous women Deborah and Judith:

<u>JUDITH</u>	<u>DEBORAH</u> (<i>Judges 4&5</i>)

6 RUTH

Bible Reference: Ruth Chapters 1 to 4

Bible Verse to Learn: "Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Aim: To understand that 'salvation is for everyone'.



Map of the Journey of Elimelech



Exodus of Israelites

What are these pictures speaking to us? (Discussion)

Migration is as old as humanity. It happens even today irrespective of nations or lands. People leave everything and run away because of war, famine, communal riots, terrorist attacks etc.

In the days when the judges ruled Israel, there was a famine in the land. Crossing the Dead Sea, a family from Bethlehem in Judah migrated to dwell in the southern country of Moab. The book of **Ruth** narrates the journey and the then life of Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their sons Mahlon and Chilion. And this is one of the books in the Bible written in the name of a woman.

Find out and write the names of the other books

Moabites, who worshipped their god **Chemosh** and lived in its religious customs and traditions, did not know about the True God **Yahweh**. Yet, Elimelech and his family settled in this foreign land as immigrants and later on his sons Mahlon and Chilion got married to Moabite women Ruth and Orpah respectively.

After her marriage, Ruth came to know more about the True God. Nevertheless, the entire family had to face very difficult situations gradually that Naomi had lost her husband as well as her sons. Then she requested both Ruth and Orpah to go back to their own people. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went to her home, while Ruth clung to Naomi and said,

"Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."



From these words, we could realize the depth of her confession of faith in True God.

When the famine was over, Naomi took Ruth and went back to Bethlehem, the place known as the 'House of Bread'. And that was the time of barley harvest in Bethlehem. Having reached there, Naomi met her relatives and shared all bitter experiences she had to face in Moab. She consoled herself by submitting everything to God, the 'omnipotent'.

In order to find her livelihood, Ruth wanted to go for 'gleaning the heads of grain'. Naomi let her to go, saying, "Go, my daughter". As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, a prominent and rich kinsman of Elimelech. From his servants, Boaz knew about Ruth; and granted her permission not only to glean and gather the sheaves, but also to drink water from the vessels of young slave men, if she had felt thirsty. Being thankful to him who had shown mercy to her though she was a foreigner, she bowed down before him. Boaz blessed her and said,



"It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

Boaz had gone to the city gate, met the elders there, and done the arrangements to redeem her. Then he became her redeemer in the presence of the elders and the entire people.

Let us hear the words of Jesus, our Redeemer:

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for the redemption of many." (Matthew 20:28)



Boaz married Ruth according to the religious rite of Israel. God blessed them with a son and they named him **Obed**. Later Obed gave birth to Jesse, the father of David. And in this genealogy of David, has born our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, Ruth whom was admired by Boaz as 'virtuous woman', had a significant place in the genealogy of Jesus.

Like Ruth, a foreigner yet believed in true faith through the family of Elimelech, was redeemed by Boaz, everyone who believes in True God will be saved and redeemed by Jesus Christ.

RUTH: A RIGHT MODEL



Activities:

1. Write a brief not on the topic given below:

'A Good Family' in my Imagination

2. In the fourth chapter, Ruth has been compared to various Biblical characters. Write down their names.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. Let us sing together (Not to be learned by heart - from the service of Holy Matrimony)

Moodupadam - vadi mothiram ivayaal

Thaamar vijayam - sambathichu

Pokkanavum kallum kavinayumaai

Vennan Golyathine Dhaaveedhum

Thaamar - uthamayaai moonnaal

Dhaaveed - unnathanaai moonnaal

Samrakshakanaam thrithvathe

Viswaasini paavana sabhayaal

Sthuthi geethathaal keerthikkunnu.

4. Answer the Following:

1. To which country did Elimelech migrate?
2. Which was the birthplace of Ruth?
3. What was the name of Moabite god?
4. Name Ruth's daughter-in-law who kissed her and went back home?
5. What is the meaning of the name 'Bethlehem'?
6. What was the name of Ruth's son?
7. Who was Ruth's husband?
8. Name the person who called Ruth a 'virtuous woman'?
9. Who were Elimelech's sons?

5. Explain the model given to us by Ruth?

Part III

New Testament

7 House of Mercy

Bible Reference: St. John 5:2-15

Bible Verse to Learn: "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6)

Aims: To realize that any feeble will be strengthened, if Jesus is with him.

*The Moment
the light of life
hits them.*



End of Awaiting Moments: The rescue team finds the boys stuck inside the cave. They are safe on a rock in the water-filled cave.

'When to go back? We are hungry.'

The boys stuck in underground cave were found first by the British rescuers John Volanthen and Rick Stanton. Breath taking moments, so as, were captured by one of them; and the Thailand force posted it on their Facebook page.

Picture: Nearly one hundred meters away, when the rescuing team moving forward, cutting through severe darkness using their torches, finds 13 boys sitting on a rock though fearfully but not panic. When light fell on his face, a boy: **Thank you.**

Rescuer (in English): **How many are you?**

Boys: **13**

Rescuer: **13, Brilliant.**

A boy: **Aren't we returning today?**

Rescuer: **Not today. We are just two reached here. Don't worry. Others are on their way, we reached here first, that's all.**

Boy: **What day is today?**

Rescuer: **Monday... It's been 10 days you guys are here. You are very strong, very very strong.**

Boy: **We feel hungry.**

Rescuer: **I know, I know. We'll come back, okay, will come back soon.**

Another Boy (In Thai): **Tell him that we are hungry.**

First Boy: **They told they knew it.**

Rescuer: **We've come, we've come.**

Another boy (In Thai): **We haven't eaten anything. We need food.**

First Boy (In Thai): **I've told them.**

Rescuer: **They will come tomorrow with food and doctor.**

Boys: **We're so happy.**

Rescuer: **We too.**

Boys: **Thank you, Thanks a lot!**

Where are you from ?

Rescuer: **England, UK**

Boys: **OH!**

Have you seen the friends fighting for their life? Let us appreciate the rescue team and pray for them.

Let us sing together:

Sthambithan aai muppathettand oru kattinmel
Bheekara vedhana poondu kidannaarum nokkathe
Vezhchakkaar koottalikalum vitt odi poi
Karthav avane sandharshippan aai ezhunnelli
Sheekram eneetta kkattilum enthi
Santhoshathaal geham chernnaan
Dhainyatha kandu sukham nalkiya naadhan samsthuthyan.



Crippled for 38 years, a man was laid there in agony abandoned by his friends and relatives. Jesus came and healed him; and sooner he took his bed and went back home. Glory be to the Lord who had compassion on him seeing his misery.

The above song and the picture explain a miracle in the Bible. Let us learn about it.

One day Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, there was a pool, called in Hebrew **Bethesda**, which had five porticoes. And in these did lay a great multitude of sick people - blind, lame and paralysed. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain times into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well from whatever disease that person had. One man, who had been ill for thirty eight years, was there; and Jesus saw him.

Write down the conversation between Jesus and the sick person after referring the Bible (John 5:6-9).

Jesus:

Paralytic:

Jesus:

And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. But it was on a Sabbath day. According to the Jewish Law, no one should do anything on a Sabbath day. Therefore the Jews had an argument with the person who had been healed by Jesus.

Let us find out their conversation from the Bible: (John 5:10-13)

Jews:

The Man:

Jews:

The Man:

In the House of Mercy, could not be found a Merciful person.

At the time of the miracle, there was a huge crowd gathered up; and that was the reason why the healed man did not know Jesus. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him,



“See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

Then the man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

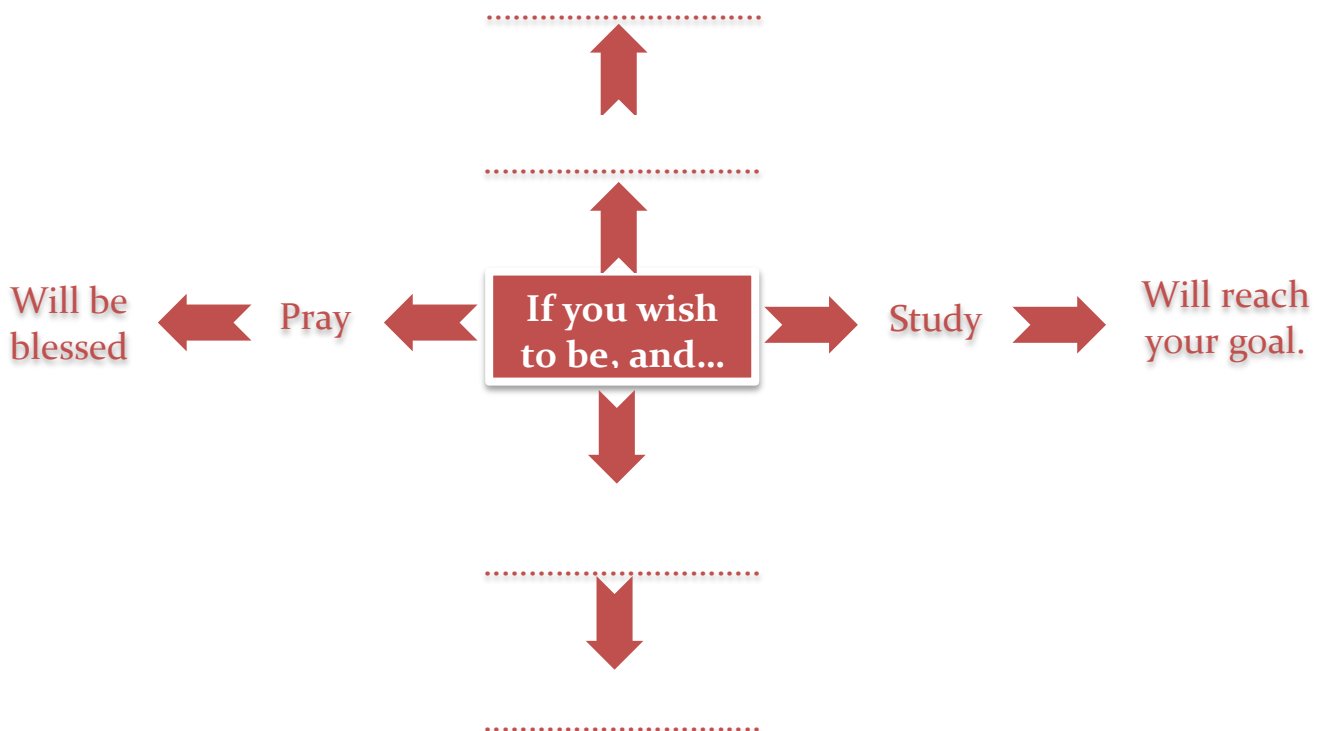
ACTIVITIES

1. Research

What are the values that we learn from this lesson?

<i>Let's submit our needs before Jesus.</i>	<i>Be obedient to Jesus.</i>
<i>Be grateful.</i>	<i>No more sinning.</i>
<i>Jesus will help those in despair.</i>	<i>The weak will be strengthened by Jesus.</i>

2. Do you want to be?



3. Along with your parents, go to a bedridden sick person. Inquire about the details of his disease, prepare a note and present in the class:

(Clues: Disease condition, Caretaker, Medicines, Food, Prayer etc.)

4. Where was the Bet'hesda pool situated? What was its peculiarity?

5. What did Jesus ask the sick person lying nearby the pool?

6. Jesus was the one who saw the person again in the temple. What could have been it so?

7. What did Jesus say when he had seen the person again? Why? (John 5:9-14)

8. "If Jesus is along with, the weak will be strengthened" - Discuss in a group, prepare a note and submit to your teacher. (Use the clues: *From your everyday life *Testimony of Saints *The Sick persons healed by Jesus etc.)

9. Hi! See the Difference:

a. **Bethsaida**: A village in Galilee, which was the birthplace of Peter, Andrew and Philip. At the shore, the fishermen used to catch fish from the Sea of Galilee using their nets; and therefore this village was known as 'the village of nets'. It is also called the 'House of Fishing'.

b. **Bet'hesda**: A pool situated in Jerusalem. It had five porticos where multitudes of diseased people stayed in. It is also known as the 'House of Mercy'.

Wisdom Dots:

Beth - The second alphabet in Hebrew language which means 'house' or 'place'.

Bethlehem - "House of Bread"

Bethania - "House of Figs"

Bethel - "House of God"

Let us Pray:

O Lord, our God! we beseech you. Come for our aid. Hear our plea and have mercy on our spirits. Lord! we do not want to go away from you. Yet our sins have expelled us out from your sight, may your compassionate love enable us to enter in your presence. Amen.

8. Ethics of Patience

Bible Reference: St. Matthew 18:22-35

Bible Verse to Learn: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

Aims:

- ✿ To have a heart of helping others.
- ✿ To make patience a habit in life.

Listen to a conversation in the Bible:

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

"Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times."

Answer the following: (Clue: St. Matthew 18:20,21)

a. Who is asking the question?

b. Who is answering the question?

Have you got the answers? Paste the pictures of both of them at the given space above.

There is a reason behind this question and answer. In ancient past, the Jews taught to forgive their enemies for three times. Yet, the question was whether to forgive for seven times. But the reply was to forgive without boundaries and conditions.

Then Jesus says a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven from which we could learn the great lesson of patience and kindness.

One day a king wished to settle the accounts of debts with his slaves. One slave who owed him ten thousand 'kakreen'* (money/talents) was brought to him; and as, he could not pay, the king ordered him to make the payment by selling all his possessions including his wife and children. During that ancient period, it was quite usual to sell and buy humans; and that was the reason why the king ordered so. Suddenly, the slave fell on his knees before the king, saying,

"Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

And out of pity for him, the king released him and forgave him the debt.

Later the same slave, on his way back to home, met one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred 'denarii'.* Seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe me". Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him,

"Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. Seeing what had happened, the other fellow slaves went and reported it to the king. Then the king summoned him and said to him,

"You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"

And in anger the king handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

Then Jesus said,



"So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The wicked slave's repentance was only for his own benefit. If he was good enough, he could have given the concession to his friend, same as what he was granted. He did not realize the kernel message to forgive others as his king had forgiven him. If we don't forgive our brothers, God will not forgive us.

This parable is related to the Kingdom of Heaven, where the king represents God. When God shows his mercy and patience to us, we should not boast of it; lest it may lead us to lose the heaven. Let us grow forward by forgiving wholeheartedly the mistakes and shortcomings of others and also by helping them generously. And for that, let us follow the path of Jesus Christ.

"Paropakaarame Punyam; Paapame Parapeedanam."
"Helping others is meritorious, and hurting others is a sin."

Activities:

1. Let us pray:

**"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one."**

* One Kakreen = Rupees 3700 approximately

* One Dinarii = 60 Paisa approximately

2. Let us sing together:

"Anyonam slomo nalkin
Karthavin slomo nammil
Vaasam cheitheedattenum
Thammil chumbikkenam naam
Thal slomoyum thal shainoyum
Namme kaakkatt-ennaalum."

"Let us give peace from our hearts,
Now and all eternity.
May Lord's peace dwell in our hearts,
Let us kiss all from our hearts.
His peace and calm, protect us
Now and all eternity"

3. Fill up the Table:

Merits of Patience	Demerits of Impatience
☆ Friendship will be sustained	☆ Homely peace will be disturbed
☆ Metal Health will be improved	☆ Conflicts will be emerged
☆	☆
☆	☆
☆	☆

4. Let us share our experience:

- ✿ Your parents have showed patience to you in many occasions.
- ✿ You also have forgiven others.

Prepare a note on your experience without exceeding one page and hand it over to your teacher.

5. Find out the answers:

1. What is the core message of the parable of the king and the two debtors?
2. Why is this parable being mentioned as a parable related to the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Why did the king punish the wicked slave?

WISDOM DOTS

- ▲ *What does the Creator God do for us?*
God, our creator loves us and provides everything according to our need.
- ▲ *What should we do?*
We need to obey His commandments and love Him.
- ▲ *Does God know our activities?*
Yes. God knows everything that we do in our daily life. When we do good, God rejoices; and when we do evil, God laments.

9 The Lost Sheep

Bible Reference: St. Matthew 18:11-14

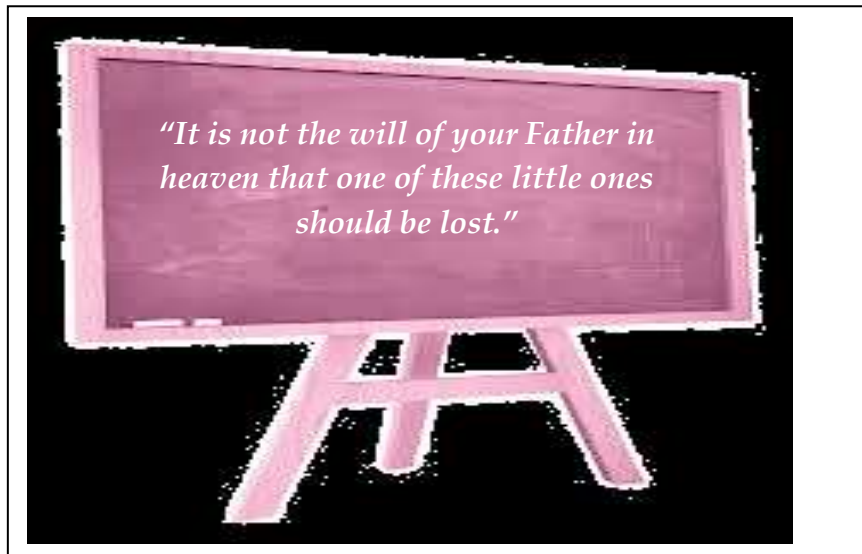
Bible Verse to Learn: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Aims:

- ✿ To learn the purpose of Jesus' advent.
- ✿ To be enriched in Christian values.

Have you ever seen some quotes written on your class board?

One day it is written:



It was on June 26, the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. A special assembly was held at the school where all students took a pledge against using drugs. Then the teacher came into the classroom. After taking everyone's attendance, she noticed the verse written on the board and congratulated the kid who had written it. The teacher asked to everyone: "Do you know whose words are these? Which book is its reference?"

If you were the kids, what would be your answers?

"These are the words of Jesus Christ mentioned in the Bible."

Yes, its St. Matthew 18:14. But before saying this verse, Jesus says a story. Let us read it and write it down (clue - St. Matthew 18:11-13):

Who are the characters of this story? Complete the Chart:



Since this story is about a shepherd and his sheep, let us **write** about the responsibilities of a shepherd and the peculiarities of sheep:

Shepherd	Sheep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Feeds his sheep * Pastures his sheep in good fields * Not to let any of them gone astray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Realize shepherd's voice * Walk in the ways shown by shepherd * Obey the shepherd

Who are the shepherd and sheep of this story?

Read Aloud and Complete the Table

(Divide the students into two groups. One is the group of 'shepherd' and the other 'sheep'. Let each group fill up their respective columns.)

Shepherd	Sheep
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God * Jesus * Parents * Church Leaders * Priests * * * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God's people * Disciples, Christians * Children * Members of the Church * Members of the Parish * * *

God's people, the sheep, are being protected under the divine providence of Jesus, the shepherd. In order to save sinners and to guide humans in the right path, Jesus was sent to the world by God, the Father. And Jesus obeyed his Father in his words and deeds. Obviously, it is the responsibility of a son to fulfil the wish of his father; and Jesus did it. If a shepherd's sheep go astray, he has to be accountable to his master. Likewise, when humans deviate from the right path, Jesus, the shepherd's heart weeps. And through this story, Jesus teaches us about this pain.

Parents and teachers are said to be the 'visible gods'.

Match the following relating the attitudes of lost sheep and those of bad children.

Lost Sheep	Bad Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Don't listen to the shepherd's words* Seek new pastures* Go astray	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Go into groups of bad people* Disobey parents and teachers* Get into drugs, alcohol etc.

It is the responsibility of every parent to guide their children in the right path. Even it was the aim of Jesus himself, which is vividly mentioned in the Bible.

- * Son of Man has come to save the lost.
- * I have come not to call the righteous, but the sinners.
- * I have come not to do my will, but the will of the One who sent me.

When children repent and come back, parents will rejoice, like heavens rejoice in the repentance of a sinner. The call for a brother's repentance and its reward are mentioned in the Epistle of St. James.

Read St. James 5:19-20 and write it down.

"My brothers and sisters....."

In this modern world, the ways of Satan are plenty. Avoid such paths and walk in the ways of Jesus. Grow in ethical values and thereby attain the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let us make a Poster:

Intoxicants such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco etc. will destroy our family life and health. Let us make awareness against it...

Alcohol Destroys Family

Smoking Destroys Lungs



Let us Meditate...

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

For you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long." (Psalm 23)

Let us discuss and write notes:

We have learned the parable of the 'Lost Sheep'. And we have understood that it denotes the aim of Jesus' arrival. Find out any two similar parables from the Bible and prepare notes after discussing with your friends:

(Clues: St. Luke 15:11-32; St. Luke 15:8-10)

Answer the Following:

1. What is the message of the Parable of the Lost Sheep?
2. Write the responsibilities of parents and children in a table having two columns?
3. Research and write the hazards of intoxicants?
4. How do the sheep go away from the shepherd? What should we do in order not to go astray from the shepherd?
5. Who does pasture us? What are the blessings we receive when Jesus pastures us?

10. Road to Emmaus

Bible Reference: St. Luke 24:13-35

Bible Verse to Learn: "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." (St. Luke 24:30,31)

Aim:

- ✿ To realize that Jesus is the Risen God who lives even today.
- ✿ To familiarize with the compassionate Jesus, who, being walked along, loves and cares us.



Share your own experience of a trip along with your friends:
(Clues: New experiences, new people, places, entertainments etc.)

Let us learn about a journey by two people, travelled along with the risen Jesus. On the same day of Jesus' resurrection, two people were going from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. One of them was Cleopas. Both of them were talking about the death and resurrection of Jesus. While they were travelling, talking and discussing, Jesus came near and went with them; but they did not recognize him.

Listen to their Conversation:

Jesus: What are you discussing with each other, looking very sad?

Cleopas: Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?

Jesus: What things? Could you please explain?

Both of them: The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word. Our chief priests and leaders crucified him.

Jesus: Oh! Then?

Both of them: Today some women of our group said to us that he had resurrected. And we also went to the tomb, but did not see him there.

Jesus: Oh, how foolish you are...? Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?

Both of them: We are almost reaching our house. Since it is evening and the day is nearly over now, stay with us tonight.

Jesus: Alright, I will come to your house.

Jesus went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them for dinner, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?" Hence they realized that Jesus had risen. Immediately they got up and returned to Jerusalem. Having found the eleven disciples gathered there and praying together, they detailed everything that happened. And the disciples also believed in the risen Lord.



I. Answer the Following:

1. What was the topic discussed by the two persons on their way to Emmaus?
2. What did the third person said to them?
3. When did their eyes open?
4. What did they experience while Jesus was talking to them on the road to Emmaus?
5. What did they do after realizing that Jesus had risen?

II. Let us write a poem:

"Jesus is with me" - Write a poem in not less than eight lines and present it in the class.

III. Testimony...

"Jesus is with me" - Share your experience in the class.

Let us pray:

Oh Jesus, our Lord, teach us to believe in your resurrection. Be with us always in our journeys and in our houses. We offer you praise, to your Father and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

IV. Let us find out:

Find out and write down the other instances from the Gospel where Jesus blesses the bread:

1. Five loaves (Four Gospel passages)
2. Seven loaves (One Gospel passage)
3. The Last Supper (Three Gospel passages)

*Five Loaves of Bread

St. Matthew 14:19

St. Mark

St. Luke

St. John

*The Last Supper

St. Matthew 26:26

St. Mark

St. Luke

*Seven Loaves of Bread

St. Matthew 15:36

11. The Great Sheet from the Heaven

Bible Reference: Acts of Apostles 11:1-18

Bible Verse to Learn: "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 11:16)

Aims:

- ✿ To realize that all are one in Christ.
- ✿ To pour the love of Jesus upon everyone irrespective of religion or caste.

Do you dream? And have you got good dreams and bad dreams? Could you share one of your good dreams? What is the difference between dreams and visions?

(Let the children share their dreams.)

Have you ever heard about the vision of Samuel in the Old Testament? When Samuel was sleeping God called him, "**Samuel, Samuel...**", and told him about the hardships to happen in Israel and the destruction of Priest Eli's family. Likewise, when Joseph was a boy, God showed him a vision in his dream which you have studied in earlier class.



An experience of seeing something in a dream through divine spirit is called vision.



Let us learn about a vision that St. Peter, the head of apostles had. Before that we will look into the special qualities of St. Peter.

- * St. Peter was innocent.
- * St. Peter loved Jesus very much.
- * St. Peter was brave enough.
- * St. Peter was courageous.
- * St. Peter was willing to die for Jesus.
- * St. Peter was a good leader.
- * St. Peter, though he denied Jesus three times, repented and cried.

The Vision of Great Sheet from Heaven

When the early church began to flourish, a common thinking emerged that only the Jewish should be converted to Christianity. Yet, the gentiles (non-Jewish) also believed in Jesus and confessed their faith in Christ. So, St. Peter, when he was in Jerusalem, had food together with the Gentiles; which received great criticism. He became very sad. Then he explained to them a vision that he had:

"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At the very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. When I, along with the accompanied men, entered the man's house, he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; and he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said,



'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Through this vision of Apostle Peter only, the gospel was preached throughout the world and the non-Jewish people were able to become followers of Christ.

Activities:

Listen to the words of Rev. Fr. Shibu Kuttiparachel from Wayanad who has donated one of his kidneys to a Muslim lady...



**"My life is not only for myself, but for others too;
What I have is not mine alone. I will share it with others."**

1. Write a note from your own experience:

Share your experience of your brotherly love towards your friends, classmates and neighbours...

2. Assignment

Find out a vision from the Bible, write it and submit to your teacher.

3. Complete the Testimony

The vision of Great Sheet from Heaven signifies the proclamation of Christ's Gospel to everyone irrespective of their religion or caste.

Through my good deeds

By being generous

By preaching the Gospel

Through my prayer life.

I will be a witness
for Christ before
others...

Answer the Following

1. What was the common thinking among Jewish Christians, when the early church began to flourish?
2. Why did St. Peter receive great criticism in Jerusalem?
3. What were the things St. Peter had seen in the large sheet came down from heaven?
4. What was Peter's reply for "Get up, Peter; kill and eat"?
5. How could we witness Christ before others?

12. Be Courageous

Bible Reference: Acts 6 & 7

Bible Verse to Learn: "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven." (St. Luke 6: 22&23)

Aims:

- ✿ By the power of the Holy Spirit, those who suffer persecution in the name of Christ will receive strength and courage.
- ✿ If we submit ourselves to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, unachievable will become easily achievable.

Listen to the following news...

Syria: Christian Population
dropped from 1.25 million to
500,000

Refusing to Renounce Jesus:
12 Christians were executed in
Syria

Terrorists abducted the Syriac Orthodox Archbishop Mor Gregorios
Yohanna Ibrahim and the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Boulos Yazig

What do you understand from the News?

-Discussion-

Likewise, plenty of Christians were persecuted around the world. Even the Bible testifies many who had been suffered and martyred for the sake of Christ. Name some of them from the Bible:



Let us learn about the first martyr of the church, St. Stephen:

After Jesus' ascension to heaven, his disciples went to places around the world and preached the Gospel of Christ; and thereby a multitude had become Jesus' disciples. When the disciples were increasing in number, the Greeks (Hellenists) complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. In order to resolve this issue, the apostles selected seven men, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, from among themselves, and appointed them as servants of God by laying their hands on them. One among them was Stephen. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Being jealous to him, some of them made false allegation against him that he had blasphemed against God and Moses. Therefore, he was seized and brought before the council. Many were standing against him as false witnesses.

Nevertheless, Stephen, in his reply to the council, described the miraculous deeds of God to the Jewish people, yet he criticized the Jews, who by disobeying the Law, stood against the Holy Spirit and crucified the Son of Man. Filled with the Holy Spirit, his face was shining like an angel. He gazed into heaven and said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" When the people assembled there heard him, they rushed together against him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. While they were stoning him, he prayed:



Find out and write down the similar prayer of Jesus:

St. Luke 23:34

Similarly, let us all pray to have the courage and boon by the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive our enemies.

Let us all sing... (To learn by heart)

*Sthephanosin vadha nerath ettoru peeda
Kashtathakal chindhichen njaan vismithan aai paaram
Kallerukal elkkumbolum praarthichevam
Ariyaathivarithu cheyyunnu kshama nalkuka naadha!
Mruthi nera-tharikalkkaai praarthi-
Choru naadhan-anuyojyan dhaasan
Thal praarthanayil cherkkaname karuna-mayanesu.*

Write down the answers from the below box:

1. Who was the person who kept the coats of Stephen?
2. On which date does the Church commemorate Stephen?
3. Who was the first martyr of the Christian Church?
4. Name another martyr of the Church?
5. The longest sermon in the Book of Acts was delivered by Stephen. Which is the chapter?
6. "Lord, do not hold this against them."
7. Stephen's face was like
8. Who is the author of the Book of Acts?

Q	M	A	I	N	A	H	T	E	B	O	R	J
S	E	S	U	O	L	I	V	E	Y	E	A	I
C	A	A	H	E	O	K	G	P	I	N	L	E
I	E	I	G	P	V	B	F	D	U	O	D	G
S	I	N	N	Z	E	U	L	A	W	A	L	R
A	A	T	Q	T	Z	O	R	C	V	H	E	O
M	Y	L	U	A	S	Y	K	I	O	Z	A	E
A	L	U	A	P	E	T	D	E	W	V	R	G
R	M	K	V	I	V	B	E	I	F	E	S	T
I	L	E	G	M	E	T	N	P	L	A	I	N
A	G	H	Y	X	N	E	V	E	H	Q	M	I
S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T	P	E	L	A
H	A	M	C	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	S

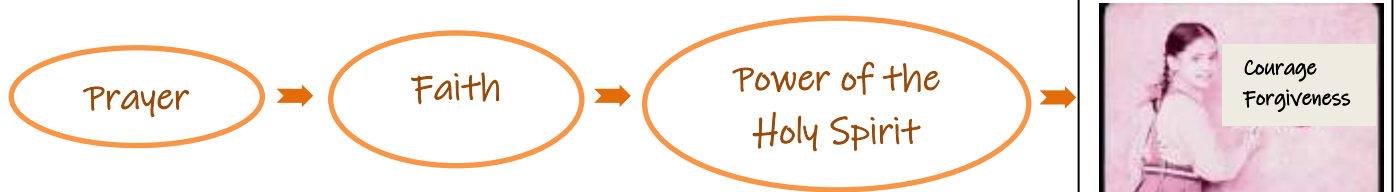
Let us write a prayer...

Stephen, who forgave and prayed for his persecutors, is a good example before us. We also have to forgive and pray for our enemies. Prepare a prayer in your own words.

Graham Staines - A Good Model:

When the Australian Missionary Graham Staines and his children were burnt alive, the most forgiving words of his wife received worldwide acknowledgment. Prepare a brief life history of Graham Staines' wife?

Like Stephen, let us all be courageous and forgiving. How?



13. Integral Growth

Bible Reference: St. Luke 2:40-52

Bible Verse to Learn: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." (St. Luke 2:52)

Aims: Let the children realize the values of those things that to be learned at the time of their physical and mental growth.



"World Famous Nose"

Have you noticed the picture?

This nose has received quite a lot attraction which has been explained in a Malayalam fiction.

What will happen, if the nose has grown like this?

Discussion - Compilation (With your teacher's help)

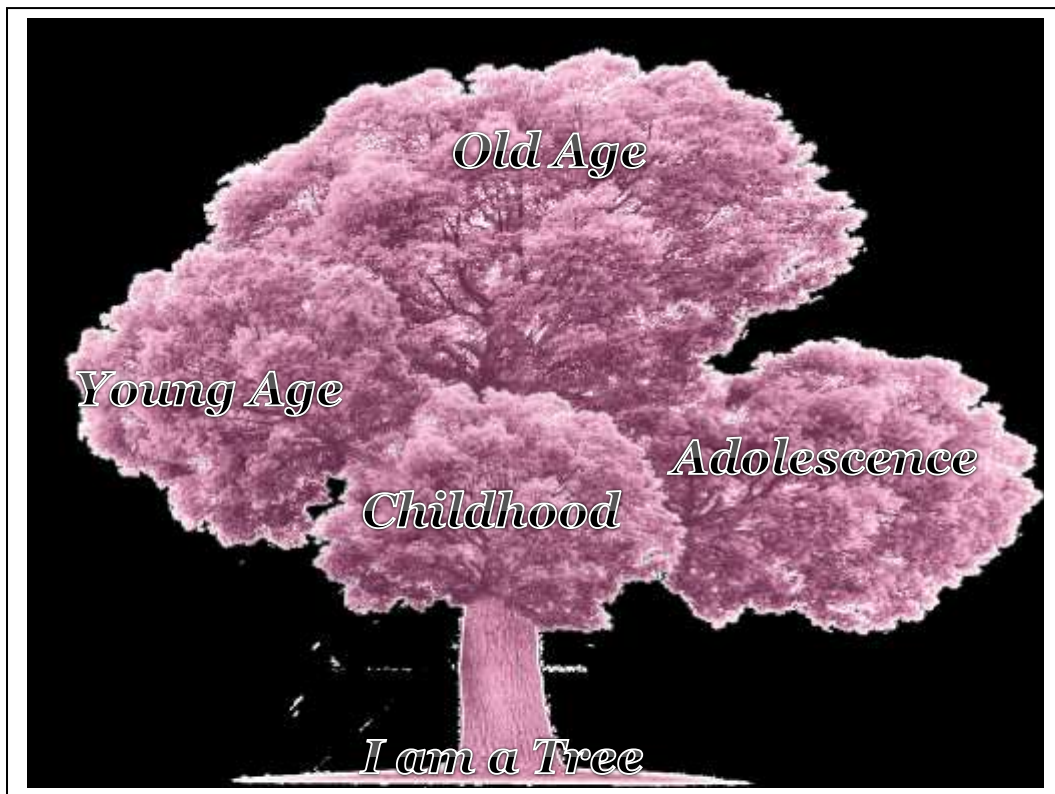
- * It is natural to grow as per one's age. * Unilateral growth is dangerous.
- * Partial growth is like cancer. * Growing in knowledge, age and wealth, but forgetting God is exactly like getting cancer.

*

*

*

Oh, the tree is telling a story; let us listen to it:



One day a boy and a girl sat on my shade. Talking about various things, they were laughing at each other. I tried to listen them carefully. The girl was sharing a moral story with her friend which was told by her grandmother. "Look at the environment. Don't you see the ants walking in straight lines and the birds flying one after the other? Why? Because, they have good obedience and discipline. If anyone goes away, it will not be able to reach the destination. Therefore you must have good obedience and discipline." Having heard this, I have named one of my branches 'childhood'.

After some days, a crow sat on my branch with a loaf of bread in her beak. Suddenly a hungry fox came on the way and he saw the crow. He said in his mind, "I need to have the loaf; what should I do?" He then started talking to the crow, saying, "Gorgeous, you look beautiful today; and I am sure that your song will also be very beautiful. Can you sing a song for me?" The crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the loaf of bread fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by the fox. Hence the crow had learned a lesson from that, "Do not trust flatterers." I have named that branch 'adolescence'.

Another day, two parrots, sharing the story of lazy young men, came and sat on my branch. "A farmer had four sons; all of them were very lazy fellows. They do nothing. Yet their father nurtured them. The farmer grew old and sick. One day, he called all his sons and told them, "Dear sons, there is a great treasure hidden in one of my fields to make sure that you four never go hungry. You may find it out and share it with yourselves." Then the father died. They decided to search for the treasure. They took their father's spades and mattocks and dug every portion of their field hunting the treasure. But they found nothing. One of their friends saw this and suggested to sow some seeds as they have already tilled their

fields. They accepted the suggestion and did the same. Days passed. The fields rewarded their labour with abundant crops. They realized that 'this is the treasure our father wanted us to find'. And I named that branch 'young age'.

Some days later, two old men came and sat on my shade. One of them shared a story. "A young man was searching for the 'secret of happiness'. He found a wise man at a beautiful castle. The wise man listened to him attentively, but told him that he didn't have time then just to explain the secret of happiness. He suggested him to look around the palace and return in two hours. "Meanwhile I want to ask you to do something," said the wise man, handing him a teaspoon that held two drops of oil. "As you wander around, carry this spoon with you without allowing the oil to spill." The boy began climbing and descending the many stairways of the palace, keeping his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the room where the wise man was. "Well, did you see the Persian tapestries that are hanging in my dining hall? Did you see the beautiful garden?" The boy was embarrassed, and confessed that concerning not to spill the oil, he had observed nothing. "Then go back and observe the marvel of my world," said the wise man. Upon returning to the wise man, the lad related in detail everything he had seen. "But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?" asked the wise man. Looking down at the spoon, he saw that the oil was gone. Then the wise man said, "Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you. The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil on the spoon. One needs to have both physical growth and spiritual enrichment." Having heard this story, I had named the branch 'old age'.

I thought, Where am I?

In the earth created by God.

Yes, my roots go deep in the land.

My thoughts go high as branches in the sky.

Without forgetting the earth, without losing my spirit, I will grow from my childhood aiming to reach heaven.

Answer the Following:

1. What are the different stages of growth in the story shared by the tree?
2. How should be the growth in childhood and adolescence?
3. How does one utilize young age?
4. How should be the growth in old age?

Without exceeding one page, write an essay:

"Partial growth is dangerous." Read the parable taught by Jesus in St. Luke 12:16-21 and prepare the essay by explaining the following hints. (1. What will happen if one acquires wealth and forgets to become rich in God? 2. What are the precautions we need to take in order not to lose the Spirit while achieving physical knowledge?

Seminar - "Swindles in the Adolescence"

Many 'foxes' will approach you with flattering words in your adolescence. How should a child of God prepare not to get into such swindles?

Sub Topics: * Peculiarities of Adolescent age *Hidden swindles *Overcoming through dependence in God (It could be appreciated, if you could do a video presentation of this seminar, letting all the students above Class V to attend.)

Part IV Church History

1 General Councils (Synods)

Year	Council (Synod)	Convoked by	President	Reasons	Decisions
AD 325	Nicaea (318 Fathers)	Emperor Constantine	Mor Osthatheos of Antioch	Heresy of Arius that Jesus Christ is not God, but a creation of God the Father, and therefore distinct and subordinate to Him.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, being of the same substance with the Father, and by whom all things were made. 2. Decided the day of Easter.
AD 381	Constantinople (150 Fathers)	Emperor Theodosius I	Patriarch Mor Meletius of Antioch and Mor Nectarius of Constantinople	Heresy of Macedonius that denied the full personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit, saying, the Holy Spirit is not equal to the Father and the Son.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holy Spirit is the life-giving Lord of all, who proceeds from the Father, and who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. 2. The Patriarch of Antioch has authority all over the East.
AD 431	Ephesus	Emperor Theodosius II	Mor Cyril (Coorilose) of Alexandria	Heresy of Nestorius which said that Christ had two natures and emphasized the distinction between Christ's human and divine natures; and argued that St. Mary should be called only as	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus was one person (hypostasis), and not two separate persons, yet possessing both a human and divine nature which cannot be separated. 2. St. Mary should be called as 'God's Mother' (God-bearer/Theotokos)

				the 'mother of Christ', not as 'God's Mother' (God-bearer).	
AD 449	Second Council of Ephesus	Emperor Theodosius II	Mor Dioscorus of Alexandria	Heresy of Eutyches that the human nature of Christ had fused into divine nature and became one nature.	Even though Pope Leo I had favoured this argument by sending the 'Tome of Leo', the argument was considered as a heresy and rejected by the majority fathers.
AD 451	Chalcedon	Emperor Marcian	A board of government officials and senators, led by the patrician Anatolius	Rediscovered the Heresy of Eutyches	<p>Eutyches' argument was accepted. But the church divided.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p>United Church</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p>The Churches of Rome and Constantinople accepted the Chalcedon Council.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px;"> <p>The Churches of Antioch and Alexandria rejected the Council.</p> </div>

Answer the Following:

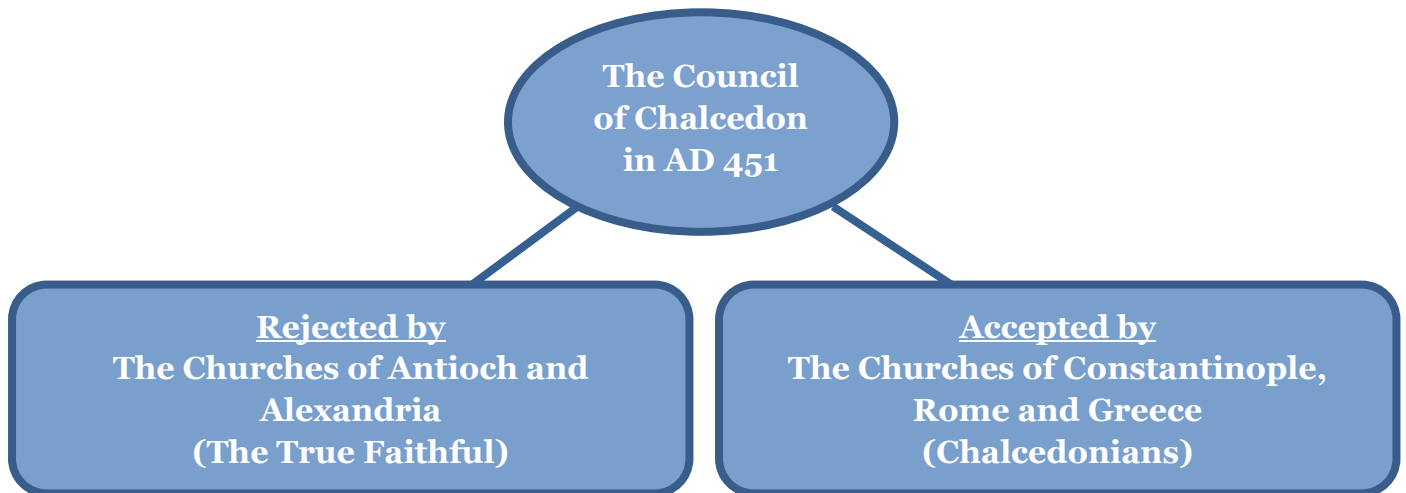
1. Write the year in which the Council of Nicaea was held?
2. How many Church Fathers did attend the Council of Nicaea?
3. Name the Emperor who summoned the Council of Nicaea?
4. Name the person who presided the Council of Nicaea?
5. Who heresy was resulted in convening the Council of Nicaea?
6. Write the year in which the Council of Constantinople was held?
7. Name the Emperor who summoned the Council of Constantinople?
8. How many Church Fathers did attend the Council of Constantinople?
9. Name the persons who presided the Council of Constantinople?
10. Name the Council which declared that 'St. Mary should be called as 'Mother of God''?
11. Write the year in which the Council of Ephesus was held?
12. Name the Emperor who summoned the Council of Constantinople?
13. Write the year in which the Second Council of Ephesus was held?
14. Write the year in which the Council of Chalcedon was held?

Make a Note:

Write the decisions of the Councils of Nicaea, Constantinople and Ephesus?

2. Universal Syrian Church

After the Council of Chalcedon in AD 451, the first schism happened in the Universal Christian Church. The Church was divided into two.



Our Jacobite Syrian Christian Church stands firm in the group of the Antiochene Church which strongly holds the true faith.

Holy Throne of Antioch

Establishment: Established by St. Peter, the Apostle, in AD 37.

Current Patriarch: His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aphrem II

Persecutions from the Chalcedonians

With the help of Roman emperors, the Chalcedonians had persecuted the true faithfuls and imprisoned various bishops. The Patriarchs were made captives and enforced not to consecrate any further metropolitans. Let us learn about two Church Fathers who fought for the sustenance of true faith during this time.

Mor Jacob Baradaeus (Mor Yacob Burdono)

Mor Jacob Baradaeus, son of Priest Theophilos, was born in the city of Tall Mawzalt (Turkey). After securing great knowledge in history and faith of the church, he spent his life in prayer, meditation and theological learnings. The dress he used, while travelling, was disguised as ragged leather, and therefore he was called as *Burde'ana* meaning "man in ragged clothes", from which the sobriquet 'Baradaeus' (Burdono) is derived. In order to protect the true faith, he had travelled various countries and ordained 120,000 priests, consecrated 89 bishops and enthroned the



Patriarchs at Antioch and Alexandria. His tireless and determined efforts resulted in the decline of Chalcedonians in the Middle East. Syrian Christians, as followers of Mor Jacob Baradaeus, have been called as 'Jacobites', even since the 6th century. Mor Jacob Baradaeus entered the eternal abode in AD 578 and his feast is commemorated by the church on November 28.

Mor Severios of Antioch (Mor Severus)



Mor Severios was born in the city of Sozopolis (Turkey) in AD 460 in an affluent Christian family. The Holy Father, a scholar in theology and law, was enthroned as the Patriarch of Antioch in AD 512. But, with the influence of Chalcedonians, the emperor had exiled him.

In the 5th Tubden, Mor Severios is remembered as "the crown of the Syrians, the eloquent mouth, the pillar and the doctor of the Holy Church of God as a whole, the meadow abounding in blossom, who preached all the time that Saint Mary was undoubtedly the God bearer."

Contributions: The author of the prayer, "O Lord, who sits in the shadow of the most high, protect us under the wings of Your mercy, and have compassion upon us..." (*Mahonnathante maravil irikkunnavanaaya Karthave...*)

The author of the responsorial, "By Thy mother's earnest prayers, by Thy saints entreaties..." (*Nin Mathaavu vishudhanmaar, ennivar than praarthanayaal...*)

Answer the Following:

1. Write the year in which the Throne of Antioch was established?
2. Name the person who established the Throne of Antioch?
3. What is the meaning of the term 'Baradaeus'?
4. Where did Mor Jacob Baradaeus born?
5. What is the other name in which the Syrian Christians known?
6. Name the birthplace of Mor Severios?

Make a Note:

1. How does the 5th Tubden elucidate Mor Severios?
2. Explain the contributions of Mor Jacob Baradaeus?

3. Malankara Church

Syrian Migration (AD 345)

Apostle St. Thomas, who had reached Kerala in AD 52, led many people to Christian faith. And thereby Christianity had flourished in Kerala even in the first century itself. Yet, the church in Kerala neither had a proper leadership nor a unified liturgy during that time. However, the Syrian Migration held in AD 345 paved the way for an ecclesiastical structure. As the title indicates, bishop Joseph of Edessa, some priests and Christian families from Syria had travelled by ship under the leadership of a business man named Thomas of Cana and reached the port city of Kodungalloor. The Christians in Kerala welcomed them gladly. The arrival of the bishop and the priests gave a new awakening to our ancestors who had been left without spiritual leadership. Thomas of Cana presented gifts to the ruler of the State, Cheraman Perumal and informed him about the needs of Christians. Special statuses, carved on copper plates, were granted to Christians. It is called 'Chepped'. Tax-exempted land properties were also given to the Christians. Gratefulness for helping him in a battle, the ruler had also gifted wealth and slaves to the Christians. The successors of Thomas of Cana are called the 'Knananites', who form the communities of both Jacobite Knananites and Catholic Knananites. Since the bishop and priests who came with Thomas of Cana were the admirers of the Throne of Antioch, Syrian liturgy and tradition had flourished in Kerala. And as the Christians in Kerala started to use the liturgy in Syriac language, they came to known as 'Syrian Christians'.

Roman Domination in Malankara Church

Later on, attempts were made by the Roman Church (Catholic Church) to subdue the Malankara Church which had been nourished under the Throne of Antioch. This was happened by the arrival of the Portuguese in AD 1498 when Vasco Da Gama reached Calicut. Their intention was to seize the Malankara Church and to take it under the tradition and custom

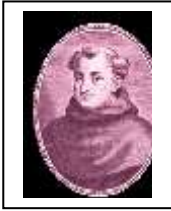


Archdeacons

Archdeacons were the administrators of the Malankara Church until 16th century. They had their own soldiers, yet they were not bishops. People only from the renowned family of 'Pakalomattom' were ordained as Archdeacons. Pointed headgear was their peculiarity. The first metropolitan Mor Thoma and Archdeacon Geevarghese are entombed at St. Mary's Jacobite Soonoro Cathedral, Angamali.

of the Roman Church. During that time, the administration of the Malankara Church was done by Archdeacons (*Archadiakon*) under the spiritual leadership of Antiochene Prelates, where Archdeacon Geevarghese was the then leader. In AD 1597, after the demise of Mor Abraham, Menezes, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Goa took control over Archdeacons. And he summoned a Synod at

Diamper (Udayamperoor) in AD 1599 in order to make the Malankara Church a part of the Roman Catholic Church under the supremacy of the Portuguese.



Synod of Diamper (Udayamperoor)

This Synod was convened on 20 June 1599 at Diamper (Udayamperoor) under the presidentship of the Archbishop Aleixo de Menezes. He himself wrote the decisions and forcefully pushed everyone to accept it, which subjugated the Malankara Church under the dominion of the Roman Church. Menezes, who enforced to use Catholic liturgy in parishes, appointed one of his admirers as Archdeacon. And thereby, the deliberate movement of overpowering the Malankara Church under the supremacy of the Roman Church had fulfilled through the Synod of Diamper.

Oath at the Bent Cross (Coonan Cross Oath)



The faithful of the Malankara Church, who had become distressed because of the Roman rule, desired to go back to their own Syrian liturgical tradition. A delegate from the Throne of Antioch, metropolitan Mor Ahatallah had been captured and imprisoned by the Portuguese at Mylapore (Chennai). Thomas, one of the prominent of the Church, visited Mor Ahatallah Bava at the prison, and the metropolitan consecrated him as the successor of Archdeacon Geevarghese. The Syrian Christians cried out for the release of Bava. Having heard that the Portuguese were bringing the metropolitan to Cochin by ship, nearly 25,000 Syrian Christians gathered and tried to rescue him. Yet their efforts were in vain that the provoked Portuguese murdered Mor Ahatallah Bava by tying a big rock on his neck and drowning him in the sea.

The desperate faithful had gathered at Mattancherry church on June 03, 1653, and tied a rope on the stone cross in front of the church. Holding on that rope, they took an oath that thereafter they will never accept the Roman supremacy. As thousands of faithful held tightly on the rope, the cross had become bent towards that side and therefore the oath is called as "the Oath at the Bent Cross". Thus the Malankara Syrian Church, which was under the clutches of the Roman dominance for half a century, had regained their Syrian tradition.

A glimpse of the Malankara Church History (From First Century to Seventeenth Century)



AD 52
St. Thomas reached Kerala. Christianity began here.



AD 345
Arrival of Mor Joseph of Edessa and Thomas of Cana. Malankara Christians accepted the Syrian liturgy and the spiritual leadership of Antioch.



AD 1599
Synod of Diamper. Enforced the supremacy and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church



AD 1653
Oath of the Bent Cross. Holding the true faith, Syrian Christians denied the yoke of Roman supremacy.

From the History of Blessed Apostles

ST. PHILIP

The name 'Philip' means 'friend of horses'. He was from the city of Bethsaida, the city of St. Peter and St. Andrew. He, who was also a fisherman, went to the banks of Jordan River along with Peter, Andrew and the Sons of Zebedee in order to listen to the words of John the Baptist. And Jesus met him there and told him, "Follow me".



Read the Bible - St. John 1:43 - 51

After receiving the call from Jesus, Philip invited his friend Nathaniel to Jesus.

Write down their conversation:

St. John 1:46

Philip shared his desire with Jesus. Let us write it down:

St. John 14:8

From the reply of Jesus, Philip realized that in order to see and know Jesus, one has to observe and follow him. He started to propagate the gospel. Philip was the one who introduced the salvific act of Jesus Christ to the Greek. And after the death of St. Stephen in AD 36, Philip even went to Samaria and preached there the gospel of Christ.

Answer the Following:

1. What is the meaning of the name 'Philip'?
2. Name the birthplace of Philip?
3. What did Jesus say when he met Philip?
4. Who was the friend of Philip?
5. What did Nathaniel ask to Philip?
6. What was Philip's desire?
7. What did Philip realize from the reply of Jesus Christ?

ST. THOMAS



The name 'Thomas' means 'twin'. Thomas, who reached Kerala in AD 52 with the Holy Gospel, is known as the 'Apostle of India'.

The desire to know where Jesus was going:

During the Last Supper at the Mansion of Jerusalem, Jesus told his disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know way to the place where I am going." (St. John 14: 3-4)

When the disciples heard this, all of them were quiet. But Thomas asked Jesus:

St. John 14:5

Jesus replied:

St. John 14:6

Thomas had the desire and conviction to know the truth. Thomas, who had strongly expressed his view that without clear evidence he would not believe that 'the Lord had risen', had been given evidences by the Lord Himself.

Find out the evidences:

St. John 20:27

But without examining the evidences, Thomas accepted Jesus as his Lord and God. He said:

St. John 20:28

Apostle Thomas gives sufficient evidences for those who do not believe in the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thomas went from Kerala to Mylapore (Tamil Nadu); but there he was stabbed with a spear and thereby entered martyrdom. Later, his relics were taken to Edessa (Uraha) and the Church commemorates it on July 3rd as the 'Dukrono' of St. Thomas.

Let us sing together...

*Oru pol ingum Mor Thoma
Unde melum nin orma
Uthakaname nin praarthana nin
Ormaye bahumaanichorkkai*

“O St. Thomas as in heav’n
Keep we here thy memory
Hear us as we honour thee
Thy entreaties be our aid.”

Answer the Following:

1. What is the meaning of the name 'Thomas'?
2. Write the year in which St. Thomas reached Kerala?
3. What did Thomas ask Jesus at the Mansion of Jerusalem?
4. What are the evidences given to Thomas by Jesus?
5. Write down as it is in the Bible, the reply of St. Thomas while Jesus showed him evidences?
6. When does the Church commemorate the 'Dukrono' of St. Thomas?

Story Writing (Assignment):

There is a propagated story that St. Thomas was invited to India for constructing a palace for the King of Punjab, Gondophares. But the Apostle had constructed it in the heaven. Write the story. (You may either seek help from your teachers and elders or make use of other reference books.)

Part V True Faith

HOLY SACRAMENTS (CONTINUATION)

Refresh Your Memory

What are Holy Sacraments (Koodasha)?

The Holy Sacraments are the visible holy performances of the invisible gifts of blessings that are essential for the salvation of the human race, as commanded and instituted by our Lord. The word 'Koodasha' has originated from the Syriac origin 'Kadesh' meaning 'that which purifies'.

How many Sacraments are there? Which are they?

There are seven Sacraments. They are Holy Baptism, Holy Mooron, Holy Eucharist, Holy Confession, Holy Matrimony, Holy Priesthood, and Anointment of the Sick with Holy Oil.

Which are the Sacraments that can be obtained only if interested?

Holy Matrimony and Holy Priesthood

HOLY QURBANA (EUCCHARIST)

Holy Qurbana is one of the sacraments instituted directly by Jesus Christ. It is known as the 'Queen of Sacraments' as all the other sacraments are getting completed only through Holy Qurbana. The term 'Qurbana' is derived from Syriac term 'Qurobo' which means 'offering', or 'sacrifice'.

At the upper room of Mark, Jesus took bread and wine and blessed and sanctified and after converting them into His body and blood gave to his disciples. He commanded them to receive them and eat; and it should be continued in the memory of the Lord until the end of the world.

Find out and Write: (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



The important objects in the Holy Qurbana are the leavened bread made of wheat, wine extracted from grape fruits and cold water. Remission of debts, deliverance from sins and everlasting life are the significant divine gifts received from the Holy Qurbana.



Have you already written the words of Jesus sanctifying the bread and wine? When a priest, who is the anointed nominee of the Lord, utters those words of our Lord instituting the Holy Qurbana, the Holy Spirit descends and transforms the bread and wine as the body and blood of Christ. This transformation is a great mystery, and therefore Holy Qurbana is also known as 'Mystery' or 'Secret' ('Rosu').

Only those Bishops (Episcopos) holding apostolic succession have the authority to celebrate the Holy Qurbana. This authority is conferred on priests through the Sacrament of Holy Priesthood. No one else has the right to celebrate the Holy Qurbana.

Partakers of the Holy Qurbana should receive it with prayer, devotion and faith after have Holy Confession. One should receive it with proper fasting and with necessary preparation. Receiving the Holy Qurbana is essential for being with the Lord after attaining eternal life.

If we receive the Holy Qurbana without enough preparations, what are the consequences?

Read and Write: (1 Corinthians 11:27-30)

Answer the Following:

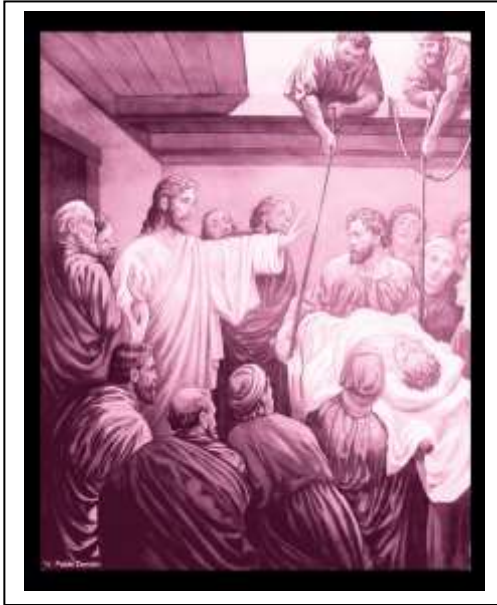
1. Which is the Holy Sacrament known as the 'Queen of Sacraments'?
2. Who did institute the Holy Qurbana? When?
3. Who has the authority to celebrate Holy Qurbana?
4. From where does a priest receive the authority to celebrate Holy Qurbana?
5. What are the important objects in Holy Qurbana?
6. "One should not receive Holy Qurbana without enough preparations" - why?

Let us prepare ourselves

- * To be a part of the Holy Qurbana with calmness, reverence, sober minds, holiness, love, true faith, and fear of God.
- * To say the responses clearly and loudly.
- * To use the Service Book throughout, even though we know it by heart, in order to avoid mistakes, if any.
- * To get away from all hateful thoughts and vile passions and to attend the Holy Qurbana with good, righteous and heavenly thoughts.

HOLY CONFESSION

Are you familiar with the picture?



Let us know more:

Write down St. Matthew 9:1-8

Discuss the Picture:

- ⤴ Who did forgive the sins?
- ⤴ What did Jesus say to the paralysed man?
- ⤴ Having seen this, what did the teachers of the Law say?
- ⤴ Who is having the authority to forgive sins in this world?

During his lifetime, Jesus had forgiven the sins of many in various occasions, which is evident in the Holy Bible. And thereby Jesus reveals that the Son of Man had the authority to forgive sins. Jesus had entrusted this authority to his disciples. Through apostolic succession, this authority has been given to metropolitans (episcopos) and to the priests; and is still continuing in the Church.

Write the Occasion:

St. John 20:21-23

It is to confess before a priest, who has the authority to forgive sins. After Holy Baptism, when one lives in this sinful world may fall down in various sinful deeds. The sins which we commit through our deeds are called mortal sins. Mortal sins equally destroy one's body and spirit. And therefore one needs to confess it before a priest and to receive absolution. This is the Sacrament of Holy Confession, which is also known as the 'Sacrament of Reconciliation'.

This authority conferred on the disciples was exercised by them, and was handed over to the succeeding generation. This will be continued till the second coming of the Lord.

Let us write down:

And many(Acts 19:18)

Preparation for Holy Confession

The person who comes for Holy Confession should at first make an introspection. He/she should recollect all sins that have been committed since last confession till the present date. Find out if there is any sin left out in the last confession. All such sins, recollected by self-examination, should be confessed before a priest without leaving anything undisclosed. After confession, listen carefully to the instructions given the by priest; and execute without fail the penalties imposed by him. After all, a person who has done a true Holy Confession should take a determination not to repeat the confessed and forgiven sins anymore in his/her life.

Answer the Following:

1. Name the Holy Sacrament which forgives mortal sins?
2. What is Holy Confession?
3. What are the responsibilities of a person who approaches for Holy Confession?
4. What is the other name of Holy Confession?
5. Write an occasion from the lesson where Jesus forgives sins?

Assignment:

Write down a Psalm of Repentance written by King David? (Eg. Psalm 6)

Part VI

Songs of the Holy Liturgy

Rekshakane nin gaathrathe bhakshichum nin
Vilayerum rektha kaasa paanam cheithum
Murtharayore naasham neekki jeevippi-
Chaniyenam ninne nokkunnavaril kaanthi.

Barekhamor.

Mruthare jeevipppan ezhunnellum raja
Mukhil azhakin mel aakoshithan aayidunnu
Nayavanmaar nin mun kompinn naadham ketti-
Ttanki aninj ethirelppaanaai poyeedunnu.

Moriyo rahem elian novadarain.

Grant, O Saviour, that the dead who ate thy flesh
Who drank Thy blood, the chalice of salvation
May be raised up from their graves uncorrupted
Clothed in glory full and bright; lo, they wait thee.

Barekhamor.

Born aloft in state upon clouds of glory
Comes the prince who giveth life to departed
Righteous one the trumpet hear of his angels;
They proceed in glorious stoles to his presence.

Moriyo rahemelainovadarain.

Bovooso of Mor Balai

Karuna niranjavane punarudhaanathil
Ninnude shrushtiye nee puthuthaakkeedaname.

Ninnil Sharanathaal nidrayil aayi ninte

Varavinu kaatheedum mrutharil kaniyaname.

Avar Abaraahathin-teyum Isahaakkudeyum

Yaacobinnudeyum madiyil paarkkaname.

Vannavanum varuvonum mruthar than uyarum

Sthuthan ennu shareeraathmaakkal paadaname.

Bovooso of Mor Balai

Oh Merciful Lord! renew Your creation on
the day of resurrection. Oh Lord, grant
rest and comfort to our beloved departed
ones who have lived and died with hope
in You. Oh Lord, grant rest to our faithful
departed in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac
and Jacob. May the souls and bodies
together cry aloud and say, "Glory be to
the one who has come and is to come to
resurrect the departed." Amen.

Enyono

1. Mahimayodaa kabareenu pura-ppetti shrushtikale
Shobhippichoru shobha yathaam yeshu sthuthyan aho.

2. Shemavonum Yohannanum chenna-kabarinkal
Sthuthi paadi shanthoshatho-de poi avar thirike.

3. Aazchayil aadyatheth aayeedunnee shudha dhine
Aadhyaan uyir poond ezhunnelppi-chee

4. Konnavare jeevich eshu lajjippichathinaal
Pallikalum dhayaraakalum inn-aanandhikkunnu.

5. Mruthar than aathmaakkalum inna-nandhikkum krupayaam
Panineer avar mel uyir poondo-reshu veezhthiyathaal.

Barekhamor.

6. Rakshakane ninneyum nin - udhaanathayum
Kondaadunn adiyaarkk uyire-kenam nin arul pol.

Enyono

Adored is Jesus who rose, in magnificence
From the tomb; He illumined, creatures by His light.

Disciples Simon and John, hastened to the tomb
And they returned all in joy, singing all the way.

On this day, first of the week, maiden and holy
First Born Son came back to life, and raised all the dead.
Churches and monasteries, rejoice on this day
For, those killers, Jesus did, rise and put to shame.

Jesus rose, and poured on souls of departed ones
Dew of mercy, and that made, them all jubilant.

Barekhamor.

Savior, Lord bless us with life, as you did promise
Adore we Thee Lord and Thy resurrection great.

Enyono

Dheivam uyarthu mahathvathod aadhamineyum
than
Makkaleyum jeevippichu
Dhoodha geñam thal pathiye vazhthi bhoomi
vilangi
Bramamodu kaavalkaar ninnu.

Shemaon keppa yohannanodu-monnichi naal
Aa kabaridam-athile-kkodee
Yackob aananthichu Thoma thripthippettu
Mathayi sthothram paadee.

Paathaalam pukkidayan vigraha seva vidurthi
Thannude sabhaye rekshichu
Jeevichu mahatvathodezhunne-ttathina shakthya
Shathrukkalil ninnum veendu

Veenjin lehari ozhinjanepol karthaveenaal
Maranathe vittuñarvode
Mrithiye konnu thakartha paathalatthin vaathil -
Theerthoru nithya kalpeedam

Dheivam uyarthu marichavareenni-nnezhunne-
tettam
Kaavalkkaaril bhremametti
Mashiha jeevichennavar oorslem
pukkaarthatthinaal
Krooshichavar lejji-chettam, Barekmor.

Nin varavorthu vasichu marichavar khinnare
modhi-
ppikkum nin thejass-athine
Kaandinne dhivasam thangalude thalakai uyarthi
Nin kripaye sthuthi cheiyunnu.

Enyono

Arose from death God in glory
And gave life to
Adam and all his children
Angels on high adored their Lord
Earth was made bright
And trembling stood watchers then.

Simon Peter and Yuhanon ran along to
Tomb of Jesus this morning
Joyous was James and contented
Was Saint Thomas
And Saint Mathew sang for joy.

Lord God descended into Hades
And saved the Church
From worship of idols mute
Defeating death rose in glory
And in His might
From her en'mies saved the Church.

This day Lord as one out of that
Stupor of wine
Rose alive from sleep of death.
He slew death; and gates of Hades
Came crashing down
Built His altar for ever.

This day God did rise from the dead
And those watchers
He made them all sore afraid
They made known in Jerusalem
"Christ is risen"
Crucifiers were ashamed. Barekhmor

Those departed waiting for Thy
Second coming
Today saw Thy glory that
Gladden all those sorrowful ones
They adore Thee
Rejoicing they raise - their heads.

Part VII

Syriac Lessons

Let us join vowel sounds to the consonants which we have learnt in previous class. (Note: Short vowels are represented by a curved symbol above the vowel (ă - a), while long vowels are represented by a horizontal line above the vowel (ā - aa).)

ܐ - ă ā	ܒ - Bă, Bā
ܐ - ۆ ō	ܒ - Bۆ, Bō
ܐ - ے ē	ܒ - Bے, Bē
ܐ - ܝ ī	ܒ - Bܝ, Bī
ܐ - ܘ ū	ܒ - Bܘ, Bū

Friends, let us write down the vowel sounds for all the other 20 consonants:

ܓ -	ܕ -	ܕ -
ܚ -	ܚ -	ܚ -

75

6 -

9 -

0 -

7 -

8 -

1 -

8 -

4 -

9 -

3 -

6 -

9 -

1 -

2 -





أَبُ

Father

Ābö
(Aabo)



أُمُّ

Mother

Ēmō



كِتَابُ

Book

Kthōbö



نُورٌ

Fish

Nūnō



فِيلٌ

Elephant

Phīlō



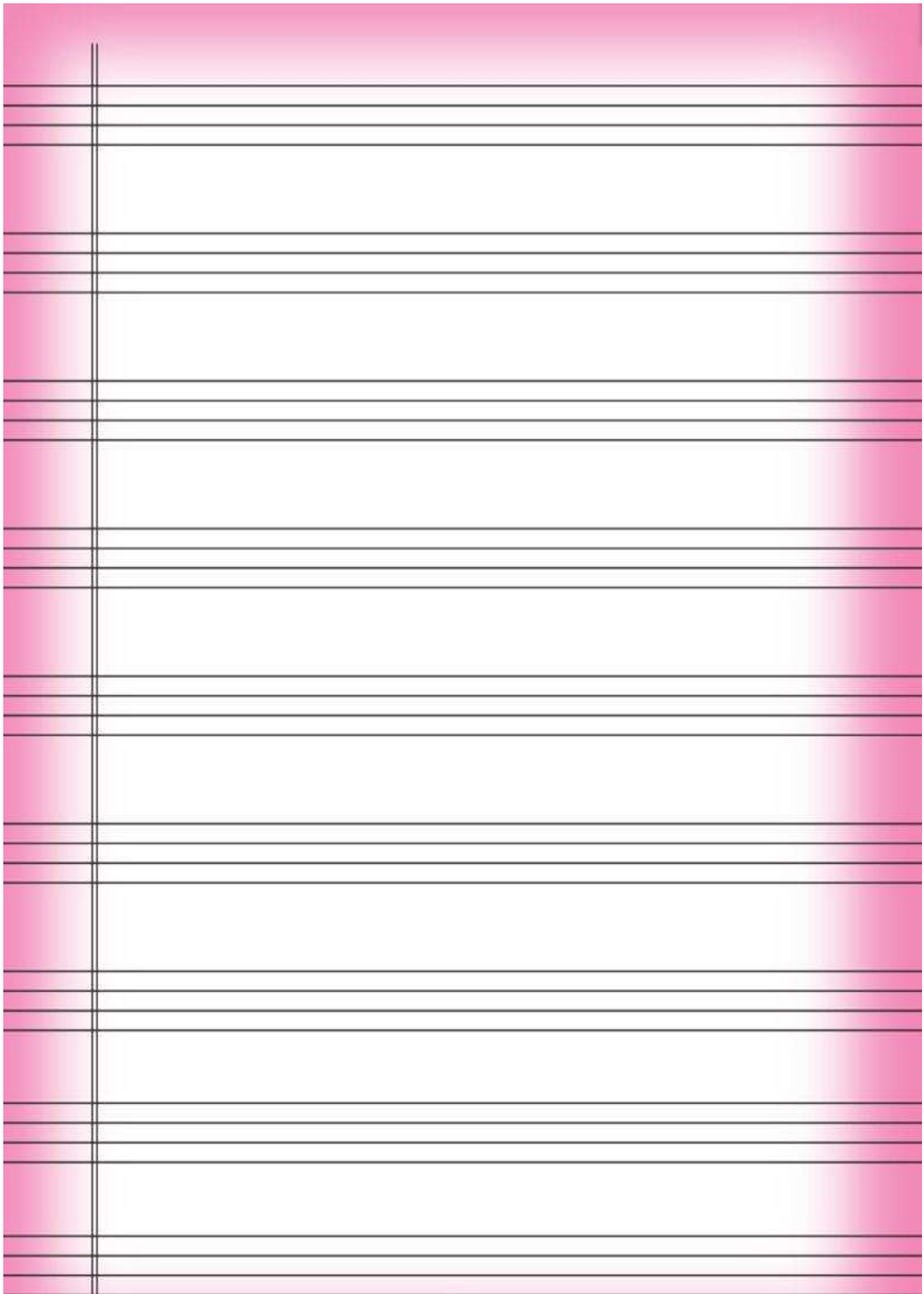


1. An Olaph (ا) is written at the end of every word which ends in a vowel sound. It does not have any particular meaning.

2. The Vowel (ا) is followed by the consonant (و). Eg: نَوَا

3. The Vowel (ا) is followed by the consonant (ب). Eg: فَبَا





Notes

Date

Date