

**MALANKARA SYRIAN ORTHODOX
SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA**



TEXT BOOK CLASS I

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

PRAYER



Introductory Prayer

Leader: + In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God.

People: Glory be to Him; and may His grace and mercy be upon us for ever. Amen

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, by whose glory, the heaven and the earth are filled; Hosanna in the highest

People: Blessed is He who has come, and is to come in the name of the Lord; glory be to Him in the highest.

Qawmo

TRISAGION

(Repeat three times)

Leader: Holy art Thou, O God;

People: Holy art Thou, Almighty;
Holy art Thou, Immortal;
+ Crucified for us, have mercy on us.

Leader: Lord, have mercy upon us,

People: Lord, be kind and have mercy;
Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

Leader: Glory be to Thee, O God;

People: Glory be to Thee, O creator;
Glory be to Thee, O Christ, the King who does pity sinners, Thy servants.
Barekhmore.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

LORD'S PRAYER

(St. Mathew 6: 9-13)

Leader: Our Father, who art in Heaven,

People : Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one; for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HAIL MARY

(St. Luke 1: 28,42)

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,

People: Our Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, our Lord, Jesus Christ. O Virgin Saint Mary, O Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at all times, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

FAITH OF OUR CHURCH

1. Who is your creator?

God is my creator or I am created by God.

2. How do you believe in God?

I believe in is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the only one and true God. (The Holy Trinity)

3. What is the name of our Holy Church?

Holy Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.

4. Who is the founder of our Church?

Our Lord and God Jesus Christ is the founder of our Church.

5. Which is your Parish?

(Parishes may be different. Some students may not know it. But the name of the parish church which is conducting the Sunday school can be taught as the parish church.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

LESSON - 1

GOD, THE CREATOR

(Genesis: chapter 1, 2: 4 - 8)

Aim: To understand God as the creator of all

There was a time when the earth or anything in that did not exist. During that time God only existed. God created us and all the things we see.

God created everything other than man by his word. God commanded each and everything to come into existence. At god's command, by His word, each and everything sprang up. But God created man with his own hand. With soil he molded the body of man. Then he blew his own breath into the nostrils of the human frame the breath of life. Thus man became a living being. God appreciated all that he created and found them good. He loved man more than all his creations. God gifted everything to man for his use.

God made a very beautiful garden for man. It was named Eden and made him live there. He found man alone. God made him sleep. From man's ribs God took one and a woman was created. Woman was given to man as his companion.

God named man "Adam", means "taken from soil". Adam named the woman Eve, - "Mother of all living people". Adam and Eve lived in Eden comfortably.

God is the creator of all. God loves us. We will praise the Lord.

Memory Verse:

Know that the Lord is God: It is He that made us, and we are his. (Psalm 100: 3)

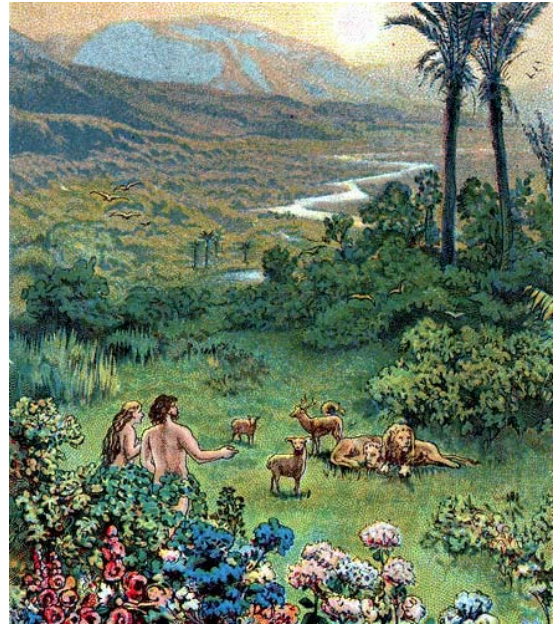
Model Questions

I fill up the blanks

1. _____ is the creator of all.
2. God created man with his own _____

II Answer in one word

1. Which was the place given to man as his abode by God?
2. Whom did God give man as his companion?
3. What was the name given to man by God?
4. What was the name given to woman by man?



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CLASS I

LESSON - 2

TREACHERY OF SATAN

(Genesis 3: 1-7)

Aim: To know that disobedience is sin.



Adam and Eve lived very happily obeying God, their Lord. Satan was very jealous on it. Satan is very cunning and disguised himself as a snake and approached Eve.

"You are very happy here"? Asked the Snake in a honey sweet voice.

"We are very happy" Eve answered. "We have all the freedom. We can eat the fruits of all trees except that one standing in the middle of the garden. God has said that if we eat the fruit of that tree we will die". Satan said, "No, not so. On the day you eat the fruit you will be like God."

A doubt crept into Eve's mind. She looked at the tree again and again. Hai' what a beautiful fruit! It was very difficult for her to suppress the desire to eat it. She plucked one fruit and ate. She gave one to her dear Adam. He also enjoyed. At once their eyes were opened. They realized that they were naked. They felt ashamed.

God was angry with Adam and Eve for their disobedience. They were thrown out of the garden. They were sent to the hard and difficult life of the earth.

Disobedience is sin. One who does not obey the commandments of God is doing sin. We shall obey His commandments, and laws.

Memory Verse : "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22)

Be ye careful and vigilant, Satan looking for a chance

To catch ye in a trap of sin, To fasten ye in a pit of death.

Model Questions

I. Fill up the blanks.

1. Eve plucked and ate. _____

2. Disobedience is _____

II Write the answer in one word.

1. What happened to Adam & Eve immediately after eating the fruit?

2. What did God do against them in his wrath?

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LESSON - 3

SACRIFICE PLEASURES GOD

(Genesis - 4:1-15)

Aim: - To understand that we shall present offerings with good and virtuous heart.

Adam and Eve had two sons. The elder one was Cain and the younger Abel. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd.

One day both went to worship God. Cain offered a portion of his harvest and Abel a good lamb. God was not pleased with Cain, but he was immensely pleased with Abel in his offering. When Cain understood that his offering was not accepted he had severe displeasure. He was very angry. His face faded.

"Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen? If you do well you will be happy. If you do bad you become sinful. You must win over your evil heart" God said to Cain.

God will be pleased in the offerings we made with good heart. Cain was furious. He was jealous of his good brother.

Pretending love Cain took Abel to the field. Then he rose up against Abel and killed him. What a terrible sin! The sin which comes out of jealousy! Cain thought nobody had seen his action. But God sees everything we do.

From the heaven God called Cain. God asked. "What have you done?" "You are cursed as you have killed your brother". God had thrown away Cain from his very presence. A man who is persecuting his brother will find no place before God.



Memory Verse

"He who loves his brother abides in the light, and he who ever hates his brother is in the darkness." (1 John 2:10)

Model Questions

I. Fill up the blanks

1. Cain was a _____

2. Abel was a _____

3. God is seeing _____

II Answer the following

1. What was Cain's offering?

2. What was Abel's offering?

3. Why Cain was angry?

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4. What did Cain do against Abel?
5. What was the punishment given to Cain?

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LESSON - 4

FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

Genesis 22.1-19

Aim: - To learn that misfortune or sorrow should not shake our faith in God

Four thousand years ago, in Canaan, the Israel, there lived a man named Abraham. He was faithful to God and God loved him dearly. His wife was Sarah. They had no children. As they were getting old they lost all hope of having a child. But their faith and belief in God never decreased.

At last, God was pleased with their devotion and blessed them with a son. A lovely son was born to Abraham. He was named Isaac. Abraham was hundred years old and Sarah ninety when Isaac was born.

One day God said to Abraham. "Children of your son will multiply and will become great and the whole country will become their own" Abraham did not possess even a square inch of land in that country. Yet he believed the words of God.

Isaac grew up. One day God commanded Abraham "You sacrifice your son whom you love more than your life. I will show you the place of sacrifice". Abraham did not hesitate. "All is possible to God" Abraham believed.

Abraham started with Isaac. God showed him mount Moriah. In that place Abraham raised an altar for sacrifice. Isaac, the good son also did not protest against sacrificing him. Abraham tied the hands and legs of Isaac and placed him on the altar. He took the knife to slay his son.

"Abraham" suddenly a voice from heaven called. "Never do harm to the boy. You did not hesitate to give your son as a sacrifice to me. Your faith is great" God showed him a lamb to sacrifice in the place of Isaac. Abraham sacrificed that lamb.

What a wonderful faith!

Abraham is called the "Father of the faithful"

Memory Verse

"Faith is the assurance of things we hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
(Hebrews 11: 1)

Faith gives us life

Faith gives us hope

Faith gives us strength and

Faith leads us to salvation

Model Questions

I. Fill up the blanks

1. Abraham was living in a place called _____



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2. Abraham named his son _____

II Answer the following:-

1. What was the age of Sarah at the time of the birth of Isaac?
2. What was God's command to Abraham when Isaac became a grown up boy?
3. Which was the place God had shown for the sacrifice?
4. What was given for sacrifice in the place of Isaac?
5. What is the title given to Abraham?

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CLASS I

LESSON - 5

MOSES - THE CARE OF GOD

Exodus 2:1 - 10

Aim: - To learn that God cares for those who trust in Him and depend on Him.

Children of Abraham multiplied. They grow to a great race. They were called Israel. Israel was known as the "people of God." They happened to live in Mizraim (Egypt) as slaves. Pharaoh the king of Egypt once ordered to kill all the newborn male of Israel.

At that time in a pious Israelite house a boy was born. His father was Amram. Amram already had a son and a daughter. They were Aharon and Miriam. They hid the child for three months. Then they prayed and took a decision. The mother bought a basket made of reed, and coated it with bitumen to prevent water entering inside the basket. The child was placed in it. The basket was placed among the reeds at the rivers brink. Miriam, boy's loving sister was hiding nearby to see what would happen to her brother.

After a few minutes the princess of Egypt came with her servants for a bath in the river. Seeing the basket in the rivers she asked a maid servant to take it.

She opened it and saw a lovely infant boy. The princess had no children. She wished to adopt the child. The princess asked the maid whether she could get any woman who could bring up the child giving breast milk. At that time Miriam came near the princess.

She told "There is a very good lady nearby. She has given birth to a child recently." The princess ordered Miriam and she brought her mother. The Princess entrusted her with the child "You should bring up the child properly. I will pay you. When the breast feeding ends you should bring the child back to me" Miriam and her mother thanked God for his great mercy. When the breast feeding was over the child was brought back to the princess. The princess named him Moses meaning, "Pulled out of water". Moses grew up as the step son of the princess. He became wise and strong. God used Moses for liberating Israel from the hands of Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to lead them to Canaan the Promised Land.



Memory Verse

"Behold the Eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in his steadfast love." (Psalm 33:18)

Pray, God will hear you

Ask him, He will answer you

These are the words of the lord

No doubt, you need have about it

Model Question

I Name the following

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1. The name of the country in which Israel stayed as slaves?
2. What is the official title of the king of Mizraim or Egypt?

II Answer the following

1. How long was the child Moses hidden from the sight of people?
2. Where was the reed basket placed?
3. What did the princess do when she saw the reed basket?
4. What is the meaning of the word 'Moses'?

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LESSON 6

THE GOD WHO HEARS THE PRAYER

(I: Samuel 1:1-28)

Aim: - To understand that God will surely hear the prayers with tears and deep conviction.

Canaan was taken in possession by Israel and they lived there. At that time, God's temple was in a place called Shiloh. God's priest was Eli.

During that time there lived a man named Elkanah in the village of Ramah in Ephraim. He had two wives. Hannah and Peninnah.

Hannah had no children for which she was very sad. Due to this Elkanah loved Hannah more. Elkanah, along with his wives and children used to go to the temple in Shiloh for praying. One day Hannah went to the temple alone. She prayed there for a child with sorrow and tears. "God, give me a child. If you bless me with a child I shall bring him up well without any blemish and shall dedicate him to you as an offering."

When she prayed with great sorrow in her heart her lips trembled but no sound came out.

Eli, the priest was watching her closely. Seeing her lip's movement, he thought that she was drunk and rebuked her. Hannah told him "I am not drunk I was placing my grief before the Lord" Eli felt pity for her. May God grant your prayer" Eli blessed Hannah. Rejoicing she returned home. She believed God had heard her prayer.

Next year a son was born to her. Hannah named him Samuel - Which means obtained by "asking God" - He was brought up very carefully. While he became a boy he was taken to Shiloh and was dedicated to God as an offering she had promised. After that the boy Samuel lived in the temple. Wearing white long dress he served the Lord there. He studied sitting at the foot of Eli. Samuel also served Eli the priest.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous." (Proverb 15:29)

Model Questions

1. Who is Samuel's Father?
2. Who is Samuel's Mother?
3. Why did Hannah pray with tears and sorrow in the temple?
4. What is the meaning of the word Samuel?
5. To whom was Samuel offered?
6. What is the name of the priest of that time?
7. What was Samuel doing in the temple?

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LESSON - 7

THE CALL OF GOD

(1: Samuel 3:1 - 21)

Aim: To understand that to hear the call of God we should be keenly attentive.

Young Samuel grew up in the temple. As he grew up he became more and more pious and devoted to God. All people loved him.

Eli had two sons. They were worthless men who had no regard of the Lord. However Eli loved them very much. Eli never cared to correct them. So God was angry with all the three.

One day after finishing his duties Samuel prayed and went to sleep. In sleep he heard a voice calling him "Samuel". He thought Eli called him. Samuel went before Eli. But Eli said that he had not called him. Samuel went back to sleep. Again he heard the same voice "Samuel" Samuel again went before Eli. But Eli had not called him. Samuel went to sleep again. But he heard the call again. Third time also Samuel went before Eli. Now as the call repeated there Eli understood that it was God. This time Eli said "If you hear the call again answer 'Lord, please speak, your servant is hearing'" Samuel went back and lay before the Sanctuary again and began to sleep. Ho, the voice came "Samuel, Samuel" "Lord, kindly speak, your servant is listening" Samuel answered.

God revealed to Samuel the punishment which is coming on the children of Eli.

In the morning Eli called Samuel and asked him what God had revealed. Samuel told him everything. Eli understood that Samuel is surely the prophet of God. After Eli, Samuel became the Judge of Israel.

We should be prepared to hear the voice of God. Only those desirous to hear His voice, will here it.

Memory Verse

'Speak Lord, for thy servant hears.' (1 Samuel 3:9)

Model questions

Fill up the blanks.

1. In sleep Samuel heard the voice that _____him.
2. Eli understood that _____had called the boy.
3. Eli understood that the boy is the real _____of God.

Answer the following

1. How were the children of Eli?
2. When did God call Samuel?



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3. What was the reply of Samuel?
4. What did God reveal to Samuel?
5. Who can hear the voice of God?

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LESSON - 8

THE TRUE FRIEND

(1 Samuel 19: 8-24, 20:1 - 42)

Aim: To understand that a true Friend helps his friend selflessly.

Samuel was the last Judge of Israel. During that time Israel had no kings. Israel desired to have a king for them. God selected Saul as the king of Israel. Samuel ordained Saul the first king of Israel. After becoming king Saul felt proud of himself. He showed disobedience to Lord. God was angry with Saul. God elected David as king of Israel in the place of Saul.

David was only a young boy. He was very pious. He knew to play lyre very melodiously. King appointed him to play the lyre in the palace. Though he was only a little boy, David was brave. People loved him very much. Saul was really frightened thinking that David would displace him as the king of Israel. Saul became very jealous and he in his mind decided to kill David.

Jonathan, Saul's son and David were of the same age. They were intimate friends also. Jonathan loved David very much.

One day David was playing lyre before Saul. Suddenly Saul threw a spear on David to kill him. David slipped out cleverly and escaped to hide some where. Next day David secretly approached Jonathan and narrated everything that had happened. Jonathan took David to a safer place to hide. Jonathan assured David to inform him about the mind of Saul after knowing it. He also assured that if Saul is against David, he will help David to escape to another safer place.

While David was absent in the palace for two days continuously Saul began to enquire David. Jonathan informed the king that David had gone home after taking permission from him. King was very angry. King scolded Jonathan, "David should be killed. If David is alive Jonathan will not become king, Saul said to Jonathan. Jonathan understood what is going on in his father's mind.

Next day Jonathan, the best friend of David came to his hiding place and revealed the intention of his father. Jonathan helped David to escape from that place. David bid farewell to Jonathan with sorrow and escaped. What a good friend Jonathan was!

Later Saul and Jonathan were killed in a battle. David became the king of Israel. He was the greatest king of Israel. David remembered the love of Jonathan. Jonathan was survived by a son who was lame on both legs. He was brought to the palace and there he was brought up as a Prince.

Memory Verse

"Love springs from God. Every one who loves has been born of God."

1 John 4:7

Model Questions

I. Fill up the blanks.

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1. Samuel ordained _____ as the first King of Israel.
2. God elected _____ as the king in the place of Saul.
3. David played _____ melodiously.

II Answer the following

1. Why was God angry with Saul?
2. Who was Jonathan?
3. Why did Saul plan to kill David?
4. What did Jonathan say while Saul enquired David?

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LESSON- 9

TRUE GOD

(2 Kings 5-1-19)

Aim: - To understand that Yahweh alone is the True God.

In the town of Samaria, in Israel there lived a prophet called Elisha. He taught the people about the true God. But the people of Israel sinned. They worshipped heathen Gods. So god punished them. The King of Aram in Syria attacked Samaria. He conquered the city and looted it. He took many people to Syria as slaves. Among them there was a very beautiful girl. Naaman, the commander in chief of the army gave her as a maid servant to his wife. She called her "Judith". Judith was very pious. She had great respect for Elisha the prophet.

The King of Aram honoured Naaman with high positions and titles. But he couldn't rejoice for he had become a leper. Many doctors treated him but could not cure him. Judith was very desirous to help her master. Taking courage she told her mistress wife "If only my master goes to Elisha, the prophet in Samaria surely he will be healed." Naaman was in despair because of the disease. When he heard this he immediately set out to Samaria with an order from the King of Syria. The King of Syria had written to the King of Samaria to cure Naaman, his servant, of leprosy. King of Israel was rather astonished and cried out "who can cure leprosy!" He thought The King of Syria was seeking reason for another attack. The King was very much worried and he really wept. Hearing the King of Samaria is upset, Elisha sent a messenger to him requesting him to send Naaman to him.

In response to this, Naaman came before the door step of Elisha. The prophet sent his servant and asked Naaman to go to the river Jordan and immerse himself seven times in the river for getting cleaned. Naaman was really annoyed thinking that the prophet did not respect him. Naaman had expected the prophet would come near and pray to cure him. Naaman felt insulted and became angry. He said, "We have better rivers in Syria" and decided to return home.

But his servants pleaded with him, "It is something very simple, please just try it". Even though Naaman did not like it he went to Jordan reluctantly and immersed himself seven times in the water. What a miracle! He was completely cured. All were astonished. Naaman came before Elisha's door step again with great joy. Prostrating before the prophet he said, "Yahweh is the true God and we will worship him only".

The ways of God are mysterious. We may not understand them. They, who obey God with faith and without any doubt, will receive many many blessings.

Due to the love of Judith, Naaman got an opportunity to get himself cured and to know the true God.

Memory Verse

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord." Isaiah 55-8

Judith means Jew girl (Jewess)

Model Questions

1. What was the name of the prophet who lived in Samaria?
2. Name the King who conquered and looted Samaria?
3. Who was the master of Judith?
4. By what reason Naaman was not in a position to rejoice?

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5. What did Elisha communicate to Naaman through his servant?
6. What did Naaman and his servants confess before the prophet?

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LESSON 10

MARY'S DEDICATION

(Luke 1: 26-38)

Aim: To teach that God lives in those who are humble.

(Note: Luke 1:28 in English and Syriac authorized versions, it is written, "Blessed art thou among women". But in Malayalam Bible it is omitted.)

Disobeying God, Adam and Eve sinned against God. God was pleased to give his only Son to the world to liberate man from sin through his incarnation. Nothing is impossible for God.

In Nazareth in Galilee, there lived a girl, Mary, who was pure at heart. She was betrothed to Joseph, a carpenter. But the marriage ceremony was not over. God selected Mary as the mother of the Son of God. God sent the angel Gabriel with his message. Gabriel saluted Mary and said, "Mary, full of grace! Peace be with you. God is with you and you are the most blessed among women." What a glorious salutation!

Mary was worried about this salutation. She wondered what it meant. Gabriel further added, "Mary, do not be afraid. God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and will give birth to a son who shall be named Jesus. He will be called the Son of God." This was the message of salvation.

"I am not yet married. Then how can this happen?" Mary asked. Gabriel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come onto you. God's power will rest upon you. For this reason, the Holy Baby will be called the Son of God." Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit through the power of God. "Nothing is impossible for God", Gabriel further added.

Mary bowed her head in humility. Dedicating fully to the will of God, she said, "Here am I, the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." In Mary, we see unparalleled humility. Due to this amazing incomparable humility, Mary earned the eligibility to become the mother of the Son of God.

Gabriel disappeared from Mary's eyes. God himself selected Mary as the mother of the Son of God, and she delivered the Son of God.

Memory Verse:

It is not the man who commends himself that is accepted, but the man whom the Lord commends. (2 Corinthians 10:18)

Model Questions:

1. From whom was the Son of God born as man?
2. Which was Mary's village?
3. Who was Mary betrothed to?
4. What is the name of the Angel who came to Mary to give God's message?
5. What was the name that Mary should give to her son?



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6. "Nothing is impossible for God". Who said this?
7. "Here am I, the servant of God". Who said this?
8. What is the most valuable quality in Mary?

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LESSON 11

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

(Luke 2: 1-20)

Aim: To learn that those who are pure at heart will hear the Good news from God.

At the time of the birth of Christ, Israel was under the rule of the Roman Empire. Augustus Caesar was the Emperor at that time. (Caesar is the official title of the Roman Emperor) The Caesar ordered an enumeration in his empire. This is just like the present day census. At that time, the census was taken clan by clan. One would go to the original place of his clan to register the name, even if one was living far away. Joseph belonged to the clan of David. So Joseph along with Mary went to Bethlehem, the town of David, to register their names. Mary was in her advanced stage of pregnancy. When they reached Bethlehem, Mary became very tired. The labor pain also started. There was a heavy rush in Bethlehem. She had not even a place to rest or sleep. At last Joseph found a cattle shed. He made a little space among the cattle for Mary to lie down. There she gave birth to the Son of God, who humbled himself for us and was pleased to be born in a modest place among the cattle. Mary wrapped the child in clothes and laid him down in the manger.

This wonderful news was made known to the whole world by the angels themselves. In the night, in a field near Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep around a fire. Suddenly, a heavenly light shone over them. The angel of God stood beside them. "Don't be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy which is meant for all people. This very day in David's town, your savior, Christ the Lord, is born". The angels told them the place of birth. At that time, a group of angels stood in a line over them in the sky. They sang a heavenly song.



'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth. And good hope for the humans.'

The shepherds were wonderstruck. God selected the shepherds who were pure at heart to hear this divine gospel. The shepherds believed what the angels told them. They went to Bethlehem that very night and got inside the cattle shed. Just as the angels informed them, they saw the child lying in the manger. They bowed before him. They said all the things they saw and heard to Joseph and Mary. All were amazed. Praising God, the shepherds went back to their sheep.

Memory Verse:

"And we have seen and will testify that the father has sent his son as the Saviour of the world." (1 John 4: 14)

Model Questions:

1. Name the ruler of the Roman Empire at the time of the Birth of Jesus.
2. Joseph belonged to which clan or tribe?
3. To which town did Joseph and Mary go to register their names?
4. Where did Mary deliver the baby Jesus?
5. To whom was the birth of Christ first announced?
6. Who gave them the message of the birth of Jesus?

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7. What was the song of the angels?
8. What did the shepherds see in the cattle shed?
9. To whom did the shepherds inform all the things they saw and heard?

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Lesson- 12

THE STAR THAT ROSE IN THE EAST

(Matthew2:1-23)

Aim: To learn that human strength cannot defeat the will of God.

(For the teacher: Number of the wise men (Magi) is not mentioned in the Bible. It is not mentioned if they were kings or not but definitely they were wise. That they were three in number is traditionally accepted as there were three gifts. It was in a house that the wise men worshipped baby Jesus. Matthew 2: 11).

When Jesus was born a new star rose in the east. The wise men realized that this signified the birth of the redeemer and eternal king God promised the Jews. So they started their journey to Jerusalem to see this king. After traveling for several days they reached the palace of the king in Jerusalem. The king of Judea that time was Herod. They told the king that they have come to pay homage to the king of Jews whose star they saw in the east. The king was greatly disturbed on hearing this. He knew that the Jews were waiting for the Messiah. He called upon the chief priest and teachers of the law and asked them where the Messiah would be born. They answered that according to the scriptures it would be in Bethlehem of Judea.

King Herod found out from the wise men the time they saw the new star. He told them to let him know if they found the baby, as he also wanted to go and worship the baby. But the king had cruel thoughts in his mind. He decided to kill the baby somehow.

The wise men started towards Bethlehem. Suddenly, the star they saw in the east was in the sky in front of them. They were very happy. The star traveled in front of them and stopped at the place in Bethlehem where baby Jesus was present. The wise men went to that house. They found baby Jesus along with His Mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped Him. They gave gifts of gold, myrrh and incense to the baby.



Since the angel of God warned them in their dreams not to go back to King Herod, they returned to their country by another route. God's angel appeared to Joseph in his dream and told him to escape to Egypt with mother and baby because King Herod was planning to kill them. He was to stay in Egypt till God ordered. Joseph obeyed.

King Herod realized that the wise men had fooled him. He became furious. From the time the star was seen, he calculated the age of baby Jesus. He sent soldiers and killed all the babies of age 2 yrs old and under, in and around Bethlehem. He believed that Jesus also got killed. But baby Jesus had escaped already. After sometime, King Herod died. As ordered by the angel of God, Joseph returned with baby Jesus and Mary. They lived in Nazareth of Galilee. What God has planned cannot be changed by human strength.

God's Son was born as a human being to give salvation to all humanity.

Memory verse

He lifts up a banner for the distant nations, he whistles for those at the ends of the earth (Isaiah 5:26).

Model Questions:-

1. What happened in the east when baby Jesus was born?
2. Who came from the east to worship baby Jesus?

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3. What is the name of the King of Judea that time?
4. Write the name of the place where Christ would be born according to the teachers of law of Israel.
5. What did the wise men do when they saw baby Jesus?
6. What were the gifts given by the wise men?
7. Where did Joseph flee with baby Jesus and Mary?
8. Why was King Herod furious?

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

Lesson- 13

JESUS IN TEMPLE-THE MODEL BOY

(Luke2:41-51)

Aim: To learn that going to church is to pray and listen to the words of God.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth with his mother and stepfather Joseph. As he grew older he was getting wiser.

Joseph and Mary used to go every year to the Jerusalem temple for the Passover feast. They used to take boy Jesus along with them.

Jesus was 12 years old. As usual they went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. City of Jerusalem and the temple would be crowded that time. Boy Jesus entered the temple and prayed and offered sacrifice along with his parents. Temple is the place to pray and worship God.

Boy Jesus saw teachers of law sitting in one part of the temple and reading and learning the laws. He went to them. Those scholarly people asked Jesus some questions from the laws and they were amazed at his answers.



His knowledge was so deep. Those teachers made him sit among them. They discussed the words of God.

In the meantime Joseph and Mary started their journey back to Nazareth. They were unaware that Jesus was left behind. They thought that he must be amongst friends as usual. Those days people used to walk from place to place. After one day of travel only they looked for their son. They were very worried when he was not found among relatives and friends. With great grief they returned to Jerusalem looking for their son all along the way. 3 days later they found him in the temple sitting amongst the scholars and discussing with them. Everyone was amazed at his wisdom.

Mary went to him and said "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you". Jesus answered, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house"?

Then boy Jesus got up and went with his parents to Nazareth. He was an obedient son to them. God is our father. Church is the house of our father. Jesus taught us that. Like Jesus who obeyed his parents and grew up as a model boy we must also obey our parents and grow up as good children.

Memory verse

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere (Psalm 84:10)

Model Questions

1. Why did boy Jesus go to Jerusalem with his parents?
2. What is the church meant for?
3. While returning from Jerusalem what did the parents of Jesus think?
4. After how many days did they find Jesus?

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5. According to Jesus where should he sit?
6. How old was Jesus at the time of this incident?
7. How did Jesus live in Nazareth?

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

LESSON - 14

WATER BECAME WINE

THE FIRST MIRACLE OF JESUS

(JOHN 2:1 - 11)

Aim: - To learn that Jesus is the Creator of every thing.

When Jesus was thirty years old he began his public Ministry of salvation. He preached the Gospel of the kingdom of God in the towns of Galilee. He had many disciples too.

He selected twelve from them and named "Apostles".

There was a marriage at Cana a village in Galilee. Mother Mary was there. Jesus also was invited to the marriage with his disciples. Jesus and his disciples came just at the time of the feast. While the feast was going on there arose a shortage of wine. Wine was a very important item in a feast. When wine became out of stock the host felt ashamed. Mary saw this and felt sympathy.

Mary approached Jesus and said to him "They have no wine".

Mary was confident that only Jesus could solve the problem. But Jesus said ". What have you to do with me; my hour has not yet come." But Mary never thought that Jesus had turned down her request. On the other hand the Mary knew what her son is going to do. She called the servants and said "Do whatever he tells you".

There were six large stone vessels in the house. Jesus said to the servants to fill jars with water. They filled them up to the brim. Then he asked the servants them "Now serve it to the steward of the feast". An item could be served to the guests only if the chief of the feast allowed it. The servants did as Jesus ordered.

The chief of the feast found it very good. "What a fine wine"! He wondered. He called the bride groom and complemented, "You were keeping high quality wine up to this time". Only the disciples of Christ and the servants of the house knew from where this wine had come. Water had been changed to super quality wine. All were amazed at it. His disciples believed in him. This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana and showed his glory, his disciples believed in him. Jesus performed the first miracle in obedience to his mother.

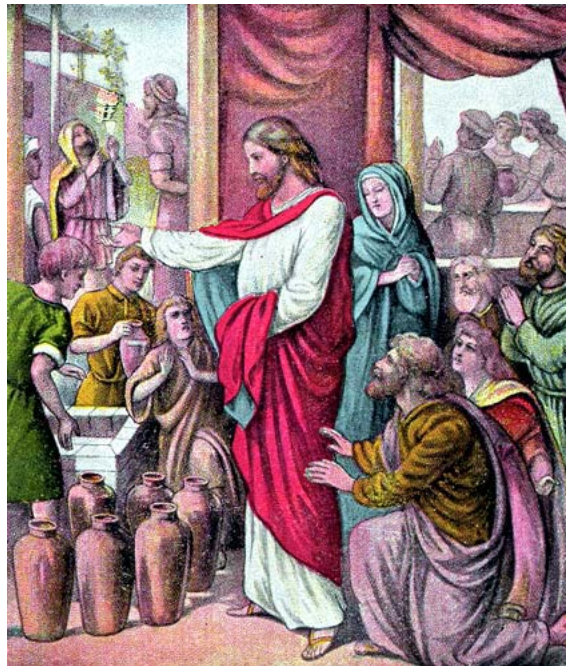
This miracle teaches that Jesus is the Son of God who created everything in this world.

Memory Verse

"The father loves his son and has given all things in to his hand." John 3: 35

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?
2. What happened during the feast?



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3. What did Mary say to Jesus?
4. "Do whatever he tells you". Who said to whom and when?
5. What did Jesus say to the servants?
6. "You had kept the good wine up to this time? Who said this?
7. At whose request did Jesus perform the first miracle?

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

CLASS I

LESSON - 15

JESUS EMBRACES YOU

(Mark 10:13 - 16 Mathew 19:13 - 15

Luke 18: 15 - 17)

Aim: To teach that one should strive to reach Jesus.

The fame of Jesus spread through out the country. Wherever he went large crowds gathered around Him.

Once Jesus entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. Disciples also reached there. A large crowd followed him. Jesus preached and taught them the words of God. He also healed the sick. In the evening Jesus wished to have some rest. His disciples dispersed the crowd away.

There were many women in the crowd. Many of them had taken their infants. Those mothers wished to take their children to Jesus. They wanted to pray to Jesus that he might bless their children placing his hands on their heads. Really a good wish! Does your mother usually ask you to go to the church and Sunday school? There is the presence of God in the church. In the Sunday school we learn the word of God, We get blessing only from the presence of God.

Mothers with their children proceeded to meet Christ. Children were immensely happy. The women approached Jesus, the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus did not like it and said to them. "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Mother and children were very happy. They came to Jesus joyfully. Jesus embraced the children. He placed his hand on the forehead s of the children and blessed them.

How loving is our Jesus. Jesus loves you all very much. You should go unto Jesus. He will embrace you and bless you.

Disciples might have got embarrassed. Jesus consoled them "Only those with pure hearts that of infants will inherit the Kingdom of God" Jesus told them.

Memory Verse

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." John: 6:35

MODEL QUESTION

1. Why did the mothers wish to take children to Jesus?
2. From where did we get blessings?
3. What did the disciples do with the children and their mothers?
4. "Let the children come to me "who said this?
5. What did Jesus do with the children?
6. Who will inherit the Kingdom of God?



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CLASS I

LESSON 16

FATHER FULL OF LOVE

(Luke. 15: 11 - 32)

Aim: -To understand that God the Father loves us.

God is our father, God loves us. While we disobey the commands of God and commit sin, God, become sad. He is extremely glad when we repent and give up our sins. To teach this Jesus told the parable of prodigal son.

A rich man had two sons. The younger one demanded his share. The father was very sad about it. Yet the loving father divided the property in between his sons. Without delay the younger one sold his part and left home with the money. He might have thought that without any control from his father he could live as he wished. Because there was cash in his hand and he had many friends, he enjoyed life eating and drinking. He spent every thing he had. Then the friends also left him one by one. He became alone without any means even for a single meal. While we select friends we should be careful. We need friends with good character and faith in God as our friends.

A severe famine spread over the country and he began to be in want with hunger. He was compelled to work in a farm to take care of the pigs. Even then he could get food only once or twice a day. He wished to satisfy his hunger by eating the food of pigs. His master did not allow even that. What a pitiable condition! All this happened only because he abandoned his father.

One day he remembered his father. He deeply felt his wrongs He decided return to his father. He returned to his house with repentance.

Father had been very sorry about his son. One day he saw the son coming from a distance. Seeing his son wearing dirty clothes, father felt sad at his heart. The Father rushed to embraced his son and kissed him, The son said, in weeping, "father I have sinned against heaven and before you I am no longer worthy to be called your son" The Father rejoiced very much in getting back his lost son. He called the servants and asked them to arrange a very good feast. Bathed him, and put on him the best robe and put a ring on his finger.

By this time the elder son came from the field after work. Seeing the feast and celebration he enquired the reason for it. He was very much annoyed. He remained out side the house. His father came out and tried to console him.

"You have arranged this feast for the son who has wasted everything you gave him" the elder son protested. But the father said "your brother was dead but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he has been found. So shall we not rejoice?"



When we forsake God we commit sin. When we sin we become dead. When we repent and returned to the fold of God we get life again.

Memory Verse

"I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven, over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Luke 15: 7

MODEL QUESTION

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1. When does God become sad about us?
2. What did the younger son demand from his father?
3. What did the friends do when the money was completely spent?
4. What did the younger son do while he cannot satisfy his hunger?
5. What is the reason for the pitiable condition of the younger son?
6. What was done by the younger son on repenting?
7. What did the father do when he saw the son?
8. What did the father arrange for the son?

