



*Malankara Syrian Orthodox
Sunday School Association
Of North America*

Kindergarten Text book

2011



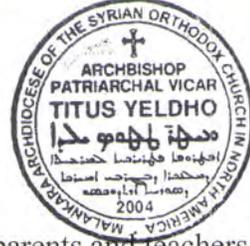
MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE

of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America

(Under the Holy Apostolic Throne of Antioch and All the East)

Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho
Patriarchal Vicar

By the Grace of God



No. 33/11

March 11, 2011

Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ to the parents and teachers of the Kindergarten wing of our Sunday School Association in our Archdiocese.

"Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul"
(Proverbs 29:17)

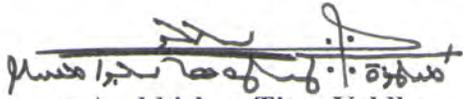
Dearly beloved,

The Holy Bible tells us that children are a blessing from God. As children grow up, they are heavily influenced by the things they see and the conditions in which they live. Their values are shaped by their experiences and the perspectives of their parents. They need training and instruction in how to live in harmony with God's laws of love. One verse we should consider in dealing with our children is Proverbs 22:6. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We can draw an obvious, direct conclusion from this verse—that a proper training will pay off in the long run.

From the beginning, God instructed parents to teach their children the religious values as we see in Deuteronomy 6:6-7. God's instruction begins with the expectation that parents will accept and fully live by His laws themselves. And they would teach their children *by example*—the most powerful teaching method of all. But that's not all. God not only told parents to teach their children His ways, but He instructed them to do it *diligently*.

In the present day, a proper and formal instruction is also very essential. This does not mean that just formal, classroom-style teaching is appropriate. It also involves practical, down-to-earth learning and application of God's way of life in the daily activities. This kind of teaching requires much more than a once-a-week session at Sunday school. It must be a *regular* practice, so that it becomes a way of life. Thus a combined effort of both parents and teachers is desired in this respect.

This booklet is a humble beginning of what we are planning for our new generation. We appreciate the effort of the leaders of the Sunday School Association, especially that of Ms. Betsy Thotakat, the former Director, who brought forth this booklet for our children. We hope that this will be a great starting aid for our teachers and parents to train our small children to walk in the fear of God. May God bless you,


+ Archbishop Titus Yeldho

PREFACE

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin”.
Zechariah 4:10

It is a long cherished dream to have a book like this. Over the past several years, I heard from parents and teachers from Sunday Schools within this blessed Archdiocese that the population of our youngest children is significantly growing. This is exciting and encouraging; unfortunately our Sunday school program was lacking a kindergarten curriculum. This is a very humble attempt to bridge that gap.

This book came into this form only through the blessings, support and encouragement of our beloved Archbishop Mor Theethose Yeldho. H.E. was kind enough to read line by line of each page of the draft multiple times and offer valuable recommendations.

I am indebted to many teachers and students in preparation for this book. Special thanks to Dr. T. V. John (MSOSSA- Director), Mr. Thomas Joseph (MSOSSA- Assistant Director) and the rest of the Sunday School Board. The illustrations are made possible by the support from Dr. Sunil Mathews, Stacy Mathews and Sarah Cheeran. I convey my gratitude to all of them. Mrs. Janice Mathew deserves special mention for her constructive criticism, useful suggestions and for revising the text during several rounds of review.

This is still a work in progress. A vibrant book review committee is established by the MSOSSA. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please don't hesitate to voice them to the Sunday School Board.

The mindset while preparing this book was that this is the entry point for our Sunday School ministry where we attempt to lead our children through the path of disciplined grace. It is discipline, because there is work for us to do. It is grace, because this is an opportunity given to us by our Lord Almighty. Discipline and grace together will prepare us to do the work of Lord's vineyard.

Let us all come together to enrich the lives of our young people to know God , love the Holy Church and it's faith and traditions as our parents and teachers have instilled in us.

In Christ's love,

BETCY THOTAKAT for MSOSSA

Dear Parents of our youngest children,

Spiritual enrichment is one of the most vital roles given to parents by God. In Psalm 12:3 it state “Children are a heritage of God”. As parents we sacrifice and strive for our children to experience life to a better degree than we did. It is also essential in that drive to ensure that along with physical and academic focus that we check the status of our child’s spiritual advancement as well. We are the first models and teachers of faith and spirituality. It is with our passion, commitment, and proclamation of faith, our children become members of the church at baptism. Let us not forget the oaths we take on behalf of our little ones – a lifetime to grow and strengthen our bond with God and our Holy church. We encourage our parents to spend time each day in family prayer and communication. Whether it is 15 minutes or an hour is not the point, it is the fact that we are taking time to convey to our children the importance of their relationship with our heavenly father. It is also beneficial to the children to have parent’s reinforce the lessons learned on Sunday and build on the study. Sunday School teachers may only get 30 – 45 minutes of class time per week. Imagine how much they can cover and explain in that short period of time. If parents and teachers will work together, we will not have to worry about the spiritual life of our children. Always keep in mind “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

We hope that this book will provide a basic outline for our parents and a guide for our teachers. As always we look to hear from you to improve and accelerate our Sunday School Program.

Prayerful Regards,

His servants

Dear Kindergarten Teacher,

We want to thank you for your dedication to our little ones. You have taken on a responsibility to supplement spiritual learning for our children. Due to the feedback of many, we felt the need to formalize the study for our Kindergarten level, thus the inspiration for this preliminary text book. We hope that it will provide a guideline for the teachers.

Our hope is that each class will begin with the Lord's Prayer and end with the intercession to St. Mary (Hail Mary full of grace). Since children of this age learn through repetition this will enable them through the course of a few months to master two of the most important prayers and once they feel confident will allow them to use it daily.

Although some activities and questions are included in the text, we are asking each teacher to add their expertise and uniqueness to the class by adding other review materials and activities to the class to ensure that the children are engaged and enjoying the class.

Remember this is their first official exposure to Sunday- school. As you review the text, you will realize very quickly that the intended usage of the book is not for our young children. Due to the fact that many of the students may not read at a proficient level and will need the strong guidance of teachers and parents, the book was organized for the teachers as a guideline. Please use the text as a tool to provide the information to the students in an age appropriate manner. Our teachers know how their students learn best, so please adapt the information in the textbook to the needs of your audience. We recommend you to send the coloring sheets as home- work assignment, if it is not completed in class. Make it a practice to meet with your students' parents on a regular basis. Ask them to encourage the child to recite the story taught in class as they are completing their home-work. Encourage your children to learn the songs by heart. Best wishes for an engaging and fruitful learning experience!

We hope and pray that this textbook will provide some assistance in preparing our little ones a lifetime of love and learning with God and our church. As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback, and ask that you share your thoughts.

Prayerful Regards,

His servants

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INTRODUCTION

Lesson 1

Loving My Sunday School!

Objectives:

Learn that by attending Sunday School, we learn about God, the Bible, and church. It helps us build our love for God!

Memory Verse:

Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

References:

Colossians 1:10

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you like to come to Sunday School?

Why do you think Sunday School is very important?

Lesson Outlines:

Sunday School is a time we join together with our friends and we learn about God Almighty.

Think to when you first went to pre-school...**you may not have been able to write your name** or read books. The teacher spent time to teach you letters, numbers, easy words and with time you were able to learn more and more. Sunday School is very much the same. Our parents teach us to pray and read Bible stories but Sunday School gives us a chance to come together **on Sunday and spend time to learn more from the Bible and show God's love.**

For example: Say your friend gets upset at you and starts yelling at you...how would you act towards your friend? The Bible says in Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. From the Bible we can learn about different stories with lessons God wants us to learn like love for others, respect for parents and elders, sharing with friends. The Bible also teaches us right from wrong and how to make good choices in our life.

Conclusion:

God is the Almighty loving God. He wants His children to do good always.

Applications:

Allow children to share their thoughts about what is happening in the picture below



Let us sing the following song. The * replaces a letter and represents a single hand clap

There is a book that has Good News, the Bible is its na-me.
B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

There is a book that is our guide, the Bible is its na-me.
*.. I.. B.. L.. E.. *.. I.. B.. L.. E.. *.. I.. B.. L.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

There is a book that gives new life, the Bible is its na-me.
*.. *.. B.. L.. E.. *.. *.. B.. L.. E.. *.. *.. B.. L.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

There is a book that has the truth, the Bible is its na-me.
*.. *.. *.. L.. E.. *.. *.. *.. L.. E.. *.. *.. *.. L.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

There is a book that gives us wisdom, the Bible is its na-me.
*.. *.. *.. *.. E.. *.. *.. *.. *.. E.. *.. *.. *.. *.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

There is a book that talks of Jesus, the Bible is its na-me.
B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. B.. I.. B.. L.. E.. the Bible is its na-me.

Lesson 2

Sunday Is God's Day!

Objectives:

Learn that Sunday is the day of the Lord, treat it as a Holy Day.

Memory Verse:

Exodus 34:21

Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest.

References:

Leviticus 23:3

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you have a favorite day?

Why is it special?

Take a minute to remind the children to be sure to come to church on time.

Lesson Outlines:

When God made the world, He gave us six days to use as we wish to work, play, attend school, play sports, then He gave us one day, Sunday—His day. For Christians the Sabbath, or Holy day is Sunday.

On Sunday, it is the hope that we will choose activities to remember all God has given to us (our family, friends, a house, food, etc). We should commit our Sundays to God by going to church, participating in the Qurbana, attending Sunday School. The **Ten Commandments** in the Bible, rules given to us by God tells us to **Remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy**. To keep Sundays as special and holy is also one of the **seven rules of the church**.

Keeping Sunday, the Lord's Day special is our way of honoring God. We take time to **remember God's goodness, kindness, and mercy towards each of us**. We should set Sunday aside to praise and worship God. We should take time and give thanks to God for this special day.

As part of keeping Sunday Holy, we should attend church as a family, spend the day together, and enjoy the many blessings God has given you and your family.

Conclusion:

We should not make excuses and miss church on Sundays. If we do, we lose a special time with God.

Applications:

Color the picture of a Christian family.

Ask them whether the family is happy? If yes, why?



Lesson 3

The Holy Sanctuary

Objectives:

Learn that Church is a holy place and that there are things we have to do to be ready to be in this special place

Memory Verse:

Psalms 61: 8

In reverence will I enter thy house and offer my vows to thee.

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you enjoy your time at church? Why or why not?

Is the church a holy and special place?

How many of you pray the night before coming to church?

Lesson Outlines:

In preparation to go to school, many of us will pick our outfit for the next day before bed, **maybe our parent's pack our lunch, and of course we make sure we finish our homework to be sure we do good in school.**

The same way, God has brought His children together in a special place to worship together so there are some things we should do to prepare in order to make sure our love for God is strong.

Night Before:

1. Self-examination – think about anything you have done over the course of the week (lied, disobeyed parents, etc-- ask God for forgiveness of your sins)
2. Read Psalm 51 or have your parents read it for you if you have trouble
3. Try to skip worldly things like watching tv, playing video games
4. **Get a good night's sleep so you can stay awake and participate in the Holy Qurbana**
5. Pick out cloths the night before to help you be ready in the morning as you would do for school.

Dress: Since the church is a Holy Place and we want to be sure we look and feel our best.

1. Try not to wear jeans or shorts when coming to church.
2. Wear formal cloths at all church occasions.
3. Girls make sure the dresses you wear are good for **the church environment and don't wear a bhindi/pottu on your forehead.**
4. **Don't wear shoes in the sanctuary, as the ground you are stepping on is holy.**

General:

1. Get to church on time in the morning.
2. **Enter the church with the prayer "in reverence will I enter thy house O Lord and offer my vows to thee"**
3. Girls should cover their head with a shall or veil
4. Participate in church. **DO NOT stand silent saying you don't know or understand. Ask** questions to Achen, parents, or Sunday school teacher to help you learn and grow your love for God.

During Qurbana:

1. **Don't play or run in the church.** Keep the church a holy place.
2. **Don't chew gum**
3. Read the prayer before Communion found in the Holy Eucharist Books, ask for help if you are not sure
4. Make the sign of the cross before taking Holy Communion
5. **When receiving Holy Communion do not stick your tongue out as you don't want to take a chance at dropping the body of Christ**
6. Stand while the Holy Qurbana is going on. Only sit when it is an extreme situation. At the end, sit only when Achen gives you permission.
7. Put the offertory –with your right hand.

By thinking about these things the night before and during the Holy Qurbana you can remember how special you are to God and you can show your love by keeping His church a special and Holy place.

Ask the children to color the picture of good children attending Holy qurbana.



Lesson 4

Be Awake, Learn Good Habits Now

Objectives:

The Creator is able to bring life out of death.

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 4:1 – *"Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, and give attention to know understanding."*

References:

Acts 20:9-12

Introduction:

Ask the children to list some of their daily chores to at home.
How should you join the Services at Church?

Lesson Outlines:

There was a young man by the name of Eutycus. **He was sitting, listening to Paul's sermon.** The Bible tells us he was sitting in a window. The Bible also tells us that as Paul went on and on. The room probably was crowded and very warm and the smoke from the lamps was filling the room, and as Paul continued to speak. Eutycus fell into a deep sleep.

You know what happened to Eutycus. He fell out of the window, fell three stories, hit the ground, and he died.

Thank God, St. Paul and the others went to him, and Paul embraced him and Eutycus came back to life. God raised Eutycus from the dead.

Do you sit and sleep in church or when Achen is giving the sermon?
Do you bring toys to church to play with?

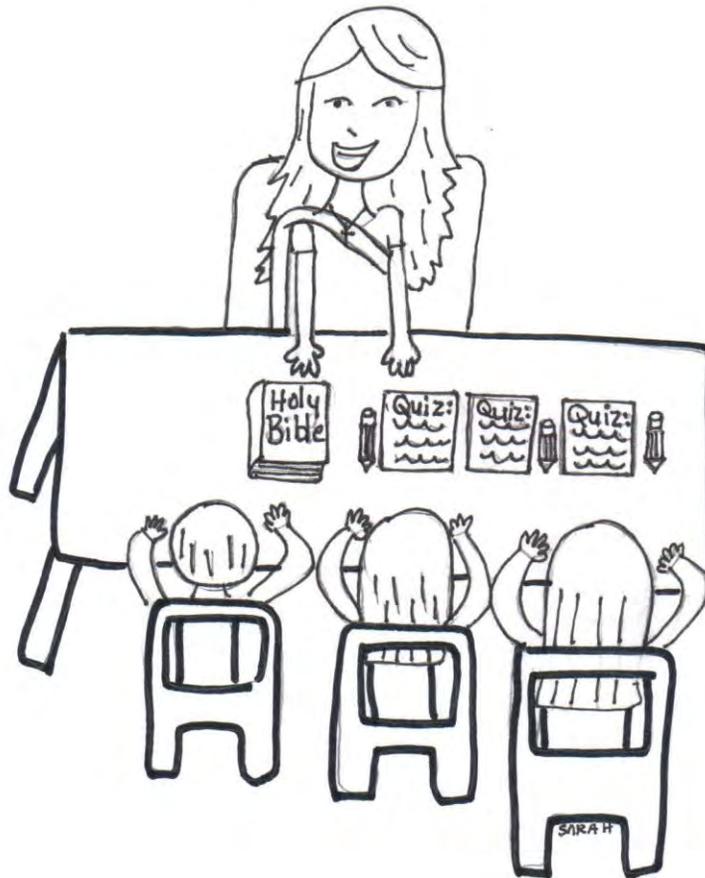
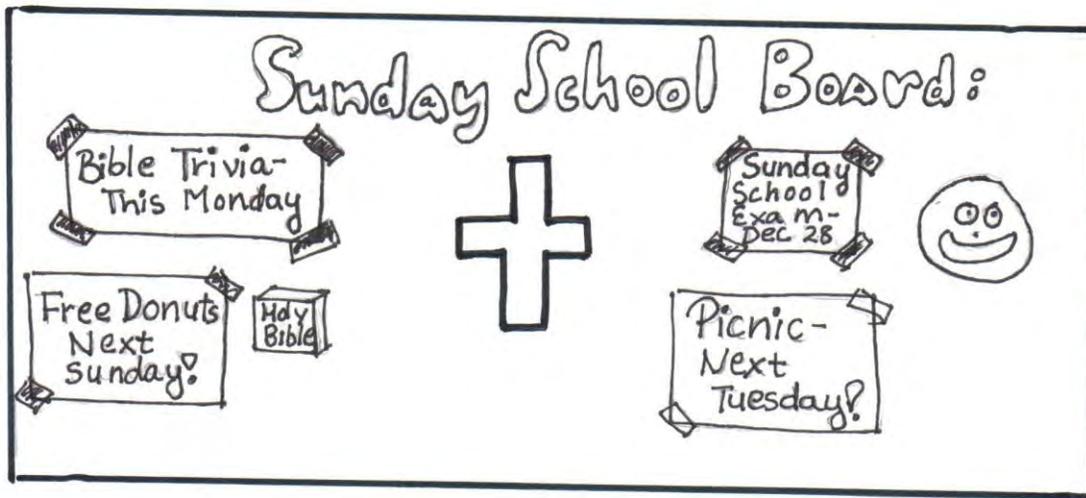
Always be alert while you are in church and actively participate in singing hymns and prayers.

Conclusion:

If you listen to your parents, teachers, Priests in God's Church and God's advice, you will begin to build success that will last your entire life.

Applications:

Ask the children to color the picture given below.



Lesson 5

God Does Not Approve Sibling Rivalry

Objectives:

God gives each person different roles and tasks.

Memory Verse:

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

References:

Numbers 12:1 - 16

Introduction:

Ask the children do they like their brother or sister?

If someone were to ask you are you jealous of your sibling, how would you answer?

Lesson Outlines:

Miriam was the oldest among the three children of the family. She complained to her brother Aaron – **"It's just not right. Why Moses gets all the credit?"**

"You're right. I don't see eye to eye with him all the time myself," Aaron sided with her. They were criticizing Moses and his wife. Miriam and Aaron thought no one could hear them. But they were wrong. God heard. God was not pleased. God disciplined them.

He had given specific responsibilities to all three siblings. Miriam was good at singing and **leading people in worship. Aaron served as high priest for God's people in the desert. Moses** was uniquely called by God to a high position of spiritual and political leadership.

When the older two began criticizing the brother God had chosen as the primary leader, it **threatened to create disunity in God's family. Family members may ask, "Am I not important in this family?"**

ASK:

How does God want us to treat our brothers and sisters?

How does God want us to act when we disagree?

Maybe remind about the commandment obey your parents, elders....

Each person in the family plays a unique role. Remember to verbally complement each family member.

Conclusion:

We are here as servants of the Lord, not servants of our own passions apart from God. We should each do our part to spread God's love and glorify Him.

Applications:

Ask the children what they like or appreciate about each of their family members.

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OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 6

How Did The World Begin?

Objective:

Learn how God created the world.

Memory Verse:

Genesis 1: 31 "Indeed, it was very good"

References:

Genesis - chapter 1

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you like to stay in a dark room where you can see or hear nothing? Why?

Take a minute to remind the children that we can see many beautiful things around us.

Ask the children who made the world?

Lesson Outlines:

Long time ago, before the world **began, everything was quiet and dark. No people...No birds and No animals.** Then God made everything in the following order:

First Day:God made heaven and earth, and light which was day and dark which was night.

Second Day:God made Bodies of water like lakes, ponds, rivers, oceans, and the sky.

Third Day:God made land. He created plants and trees on the land, and gave them seeds to make more trees and plants to grow.

Fourth Day:God made the sun, the moon, and the stars.

Fifth Day:God made fish for the waters and birds to fly in the sky.

Sixth Day:God made animals – moo moo cows, baa baa sheep, oink oink pigs all shapes and sizes! He also made His most special creation, PEOPLE! He made us in His likeness and image. God made each of us special in His own way!

The world became very noisy. God was happy with all what he made and he thought indeed that everything was good. On the ***seventh day*** God rested.

Conclusion:

God Almighty created all that we see in the world. Let us give thanks!

Applications:

Let us sing the song:

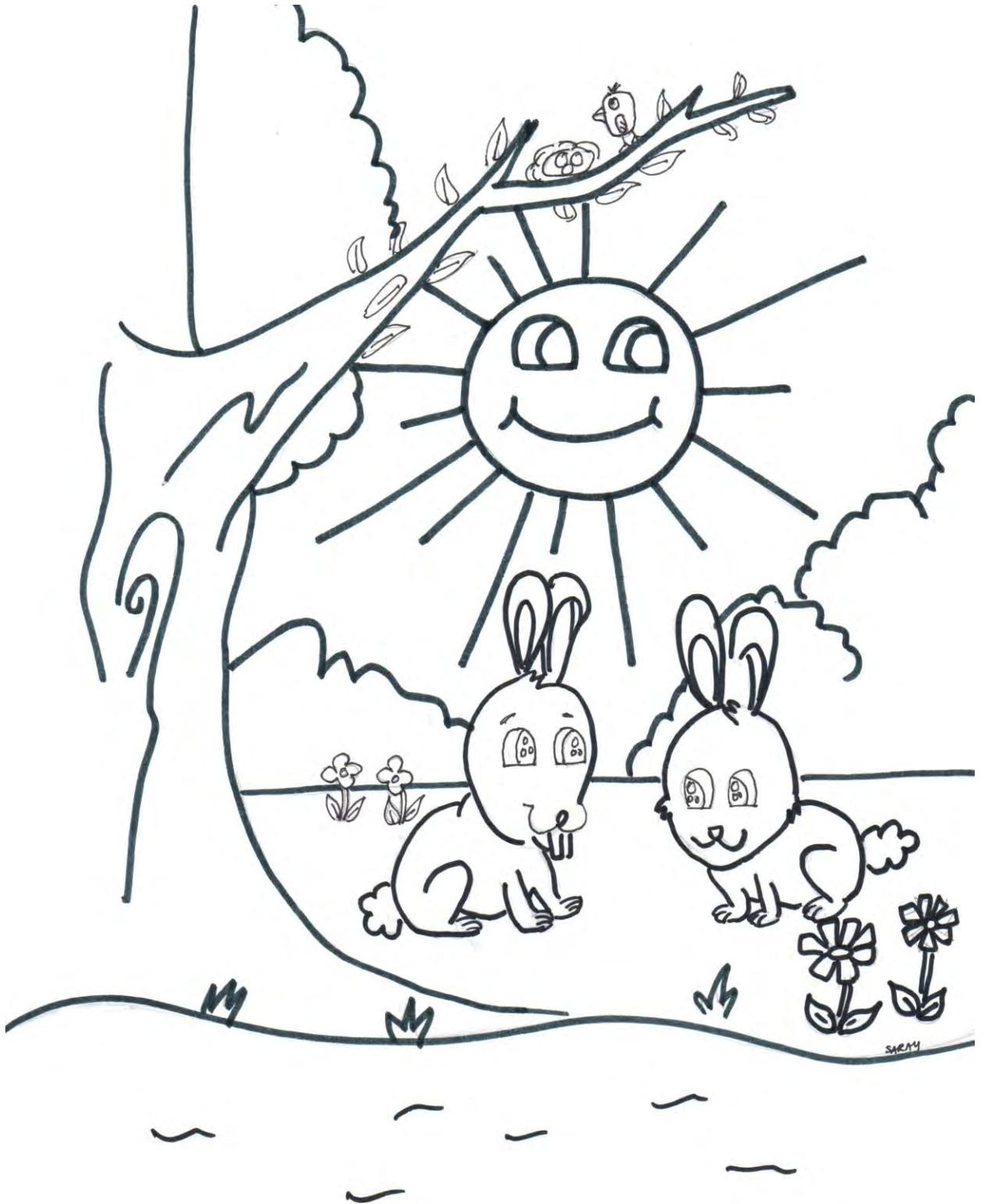
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:

Ask the children to color the picture below and identify the items made by God on the third day of creation.



Lesson 7

Forty Days and Forty Nights of Rain!

Objective:

If you obey God's ways, you will be saved.

Memory Verse:

Genesis 6:14 "Make yourself an Ark"

References:

Genesis –Chapter 6

Introduction:

How many of us ask "Why", when our parents ask us to do something.

Lesson Outlines:

There once was a man named Noah who loved God very much. During this time God was very unhappy with the people as they were not obeying his rules and they were doing bad things. Seeing Noah's love, God asked Noah to build a BIG boat. Without asking "WHY?", Noah began planning, sawing, hammering, building... all because God asked him to.

Once he finished, he waited for God's next direction. God then told Noah to bring together two of every kind of animal, birds, even bugs! Again he listened. Then Noah took two of every kind of animals and birds in the Ark. The animals were so excited...Quak..Quak ..said the duck. Moo...Moo..said the cow.....Hurry...Hurry... said the geese and Baa...Baa... said the sheep.

Finally God said He is going to send a heavy rain that will last for 40 days and 40 nights until everything is washed away. So Noah, his wife, his three sons, their wives, the animals, birds, bugs all boarded the boat for the journey, imagine all the sounds... **the ROAR of the lions**, the chirp chirp of the birds, the moo moos of the cows. After they entered, the sky grew dark **and the rain poured from the sky! Noah's boat floated to the top of the water. Because of Noah's faith and love to God, he was able to save his family and all the animals.**

Conclusion:

If you love and obey God, He will stay with us and keep us safe.

Applications:

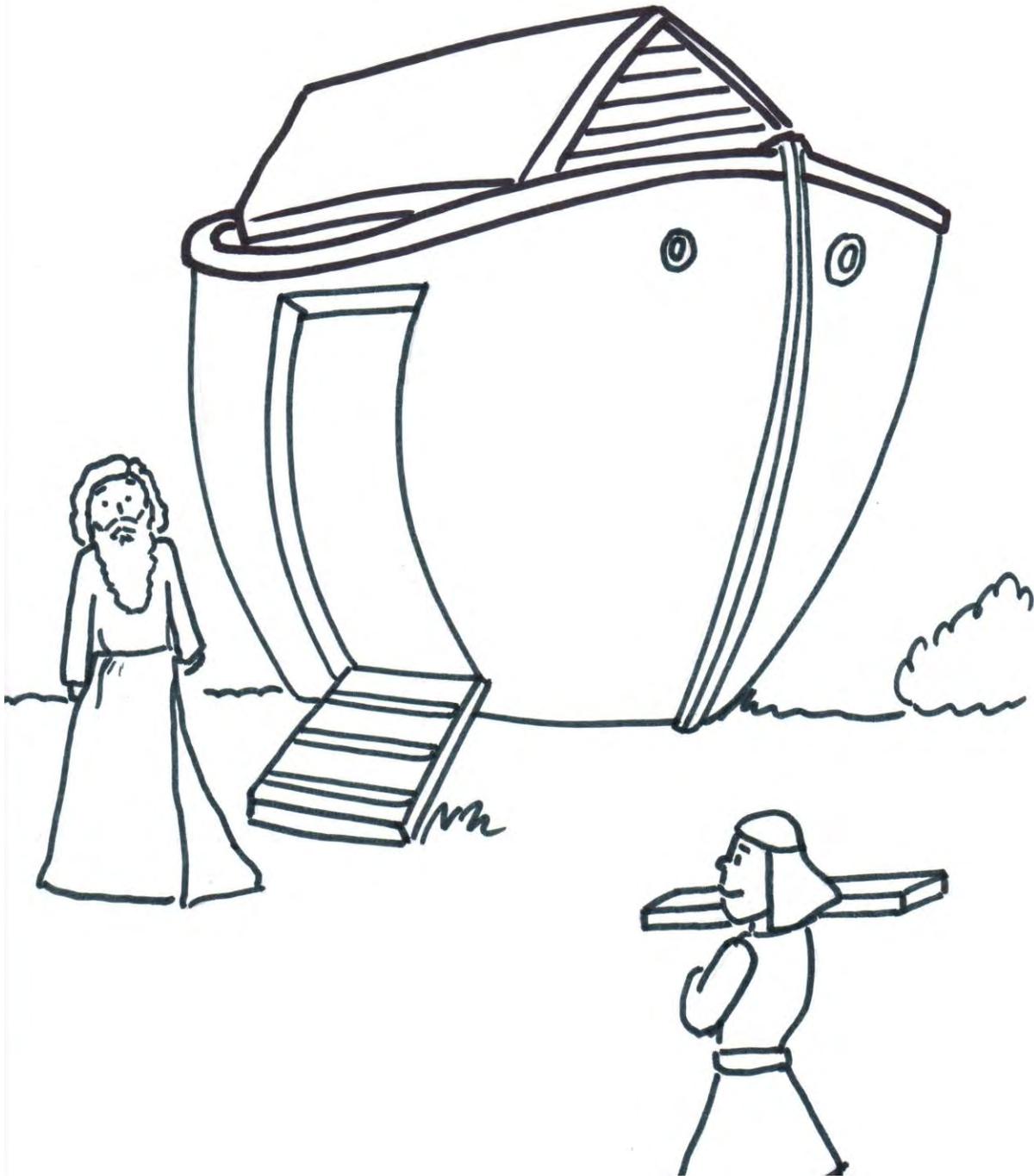
Discuss why it is important to follow God and draw a comparison to obeying parents.

Let us sing the song:

(To the tune of *Old MacDonald*.)

Good old Noah built an ark,
Like God told him to!
And on that ark he took two lions
Like God told him to!
With a roar, roar here and a roar, roar there.
Here a roar! There a roar! Everywhere a roar! roar!
Good old Noah built an ark
Like God told him to!

Ask the children to color the picture below:



Lesson 8

The Talking Donkey

Objective:

Animals are God's creation and we must treat them with love and respect.

Memory Verse:

Numbers 22:28 "The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey"

References:

Numbers – chapter 22-23

Introduction:

ASK:

Do animals talk?

How many of us have pets?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a ruler, King Balak who did not love God's people. He called for his Prophet Balaam. Prophets are special people chosen by God to share messages to people. King Balak asked Balaam to hurt the people of God by saying bad things.

The next morning, Balaam woke up, saddled his donkey and was to follow the orders of the King. This upset God. While Balaam was traveling an angel stood in the middle of the road with a sword, seeing this, the donkey took Balaam to a field. Balaam hit the donkey as it was **not going in the right way. The donkey said EeAww, EeAww and wouldn't move. Balaam** thought what is wrong with this donkey, why he is just standing still and again Balaam hit the donkey.

Then God made the donkey talk and she said, "What did I do to you to make you hit me three times?"

Balaam answered, "You teased me! I wish I had a sword so I could kill you."

The donkey said, "Aren't I your donkey which you rode ever since I was yours? Did I ever want to ride you?"

"Well, no," said Balaam.

Then God let Balaam see the angel standing in the road with a sword. Balaam bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

The angel said, "Why did you hit your donkey three times? Look, I was trying to stop you because you weren't doing what I wanted you to do. Your donkey saw me and got you out of the way. If she hadn't, I would have killed you and let her live."

Balaam said to the angel, "I did a bad thing. I didn't know that you were in the road. If you

want, I'll go back."

And the angel said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only say what I tell you to say."

Balaam realized that he did not obey God's rules and that the donkey loved his master and was trying to save him and he had made a mistake to punish him. Balaam decided to follow God's command.

Conclusion:

Nothing is impossible for God. He heals the sick, helps the needy and even makes animals speak! From the story we learn that we should love, respect and be kind to animals. Always think before taking actions and take an action which will be approved by God. The angel was angry with Balaam because he hit his donkey and he was not going to do the right thing.

Applications:

Ask the following questions:

What is the name of the King?

What is the name of the prophet?

Ask the children to color the picture below:



Lesson 9

Lord, I Am Listening

Objective:

We should always be ready and willing to serve God.

Memory Verse:

1 Samuel 3: 9 "Speak Lord for your servant hears"

References:

First Samuel - chapter 3

Introduction:

Ask:

Do you pray every day?

When do you pray? Do you pray with your family before you go to bed?

Lesson Outlines:

Long ago, there was a small child named Samuel. He was a special gift from heaven to his parents Hannah and Elkanah. Because he was special, his parents let him live at the temple with a priest named Eli.

One day as Samuel finished praying and lay in his bed, he heard a voice saying "Samuel, Samuel, Samuel", he ran to Eli and said "Here I am". Eli looked and said I did not call you go back to sleep. It happened once more the voice called "Samuel, Samuel, Samuel" and again Eli said it is not him that is calling. A third time the voice called "Samuel, Samuel, Samuel" and he eagerly ran to Eli. By this time Eli realized what was happening and told Samuel if you hear the voice again answer "speak Lord for your servant is listening". Just as Eli told him he followed when the voice called "Samuel, Samuel, Samuel" he answered "I am listening Lord" and God spoke to Samuel about many things that were going to happen. Samuel was a very special helper of God and was able to amazing things because he was willing to listen to God.

Conclusion:

We should talk to God through our prayers and build our relationship with God just as Samuel did. The church tells us to pray seven times. We should at least try to pray when we get up in the morning and before bed.

Applications:

Ask two children to play the role of Eli and Samuel and act the story.



Lesson 10

He Was Fed By Ravens!

Objective:

Listen to God, He will take care of your needs.

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 6:1 "Obey your parents in the Lord"

References:

First Kings – Chapter 17

Introduction:

Ask:

Do you obey our parents?

Do you know God has given us parents to teach us what is right and wrong and how to follow God's commandments?

Lesson Outlines:

Long ago there was an evil king named Ahab and his **wife's name was Jezebel**. They would build altars and pray to statues. God was not happy with them since they did not follow His commandments and treated the people very rudely. The people of Israel began to follow the worshipping of statues and moved away from God. They forgot how God saved them when they were in need and in times of trouble.

Elijah was a strong and brave man of God. He was teaching the people how to obey, follow, **and pray to God. When God asked Elijah to do something, he always said "Yes Lord" never asked why or said I will try to do it later.**

Elijah warned King Ahab that his behavior was not good in the eyes of God and there would be a punishment. No rain will fall which would mean the people and animals would have no food to eat. During this time the people were suffering.

God asked Elijah to go to a faraway place. He told him that he would get water by drinking from a stream and food would be brought by ravens, a type of bird that likes to snatch food not share. After a long journey, Elijah was at the place God commanded him to stay. He was alone and only God was with him.

As he got hungry he wondered and prayed for food. As evening came, still no food to be found then all of a sudden a raven flew over him and dropped it. Elijah was so happy and **thankful to God. As the food fell from Heaven Elijah remembered God's promise to have ravens provide for his hunger.** The ravens brought him bread and meat in the mornings and evenings and whenever he was thirsty he would drink from the stream of water.

Every day, Elijah grew stronger in his love for God.

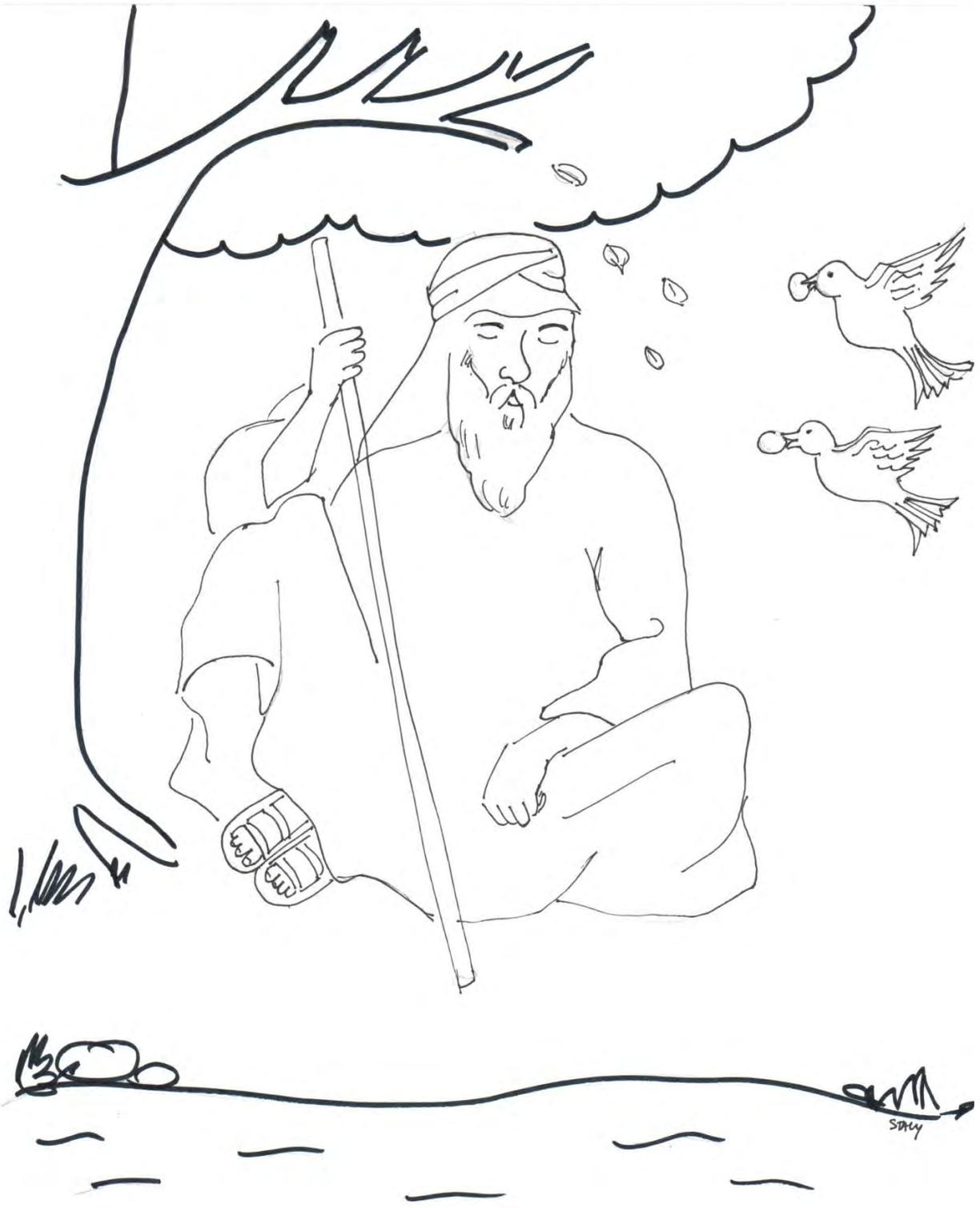
Conclusion:

God knows our needs and will provide.

Applications:

Discuss how God's love and the love of parents are similar.

Ask the children to color the following picture of Elijah and the raven.



Lesson 11

Elisha performed many miracles

Objective:

God uses His people to do great things.

Memory Verse:

Philippians 2:4 "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

References:

Second Kings – Chapter 4, 5 and 6

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you believe in miracles?

What are some miracles you have seen or heard about?

What would you do if you can do magic or miracles?

Lesson Outlines:

Elisha was the son of a rich farmer. Elijah was a prophet of God. God chose Elisha to follow Elijah and they became good friends. Elisha served Elijah faithfully.

But one day, Elijah said, "Elisha, you stay here. God is sending me away."

"As God lives, I will never leave you," said Elisha, and he continued to stay with Elijah. Each time Elijah told Elisha to stay behind, Elisha refused to leave his friend.

"What can I do for you before I go?" asked Elijah.

"I want a double share of your spirit," said Elisha.

Then a chariot of fire swept down from heaven and took Elijah away. But God answered Elisha's request, and like his friend, Elisha became a powerful prophet too.

Elisha wanted to do great things for God... **with Gods help he was able to do miracles.**

Elisha's Miracles:

* *Elisha caused widow's jar of oil to increase so could pay her debt (2 Kings 4:1-7).*

* *Elisha caused a dead child to live (2 Kings 4:8-37).*

* *Elisha made poisonous food safe (2 Kings 4:38-41).*

* *By God's power, Elisha cured Naaman, the captain of a foreign army (2 Kings 5).*

** Israel even won battles without a fight, because of Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-23).*

When asking God for things in prayer, we should think about the reason we are asking. When our motive is for the good, to glorify and serve God, he often answers in ways beyond our imagination.

Conclusion:

Because Elisha trusted God, when he asked he received his request. If we do our part, God will take care of the rest.

Applications:

Discuss how each of us has our special gifts and we can use that to praise God.

Color the picture of the miracle that happened through Elijah.



Lesson 12

David and Goliath

Objective:

When we give ourselves to God, He will fight for us.

Memory Verse:

1 Chronicles 17:44 "I come to you in the name of the Lord"

References:

First Chronicles - Chapter 17

Introduction:

ASK:

Who is the strongest man you know?

Why is he strong?

What do you do if you meet a strong man?

Today's story is about a very strong and big man whom the young David defeated.

Lesson Outlines:

Long ago, there was constant wars between the Israelites, God's people" and the Philistines. The Philistines man on their side Goliath, a nine feet tall giant that was extremely strong. When he yelled the Israelites would be frightened. The ruler of Israel, King Saul fought the Philistines for a long time. Goliath continued to make fun of the Israelites and everyone was afraid to come to face him.

Jesse had three sons that were fighting in the war. David was the smallest son of Jesse and spent his time looking after sheep. When David heard that Goliath was hurting the Israelites he wanted to do something to help.

He went to the battleground to give food to the men. He saw Goliath dressed in heavy armor and ready with his weapons.

David, with the help of God, decided to take the situation in his own hands. He picked up a stone and a sling shot. Goliath of course seeing this tiny boy trying to attack him, laughed and poked fun at David. Without any hesitation David used his sling shot and hit Goliath in the head with the stone. He fell to his death.

Conclusion:

With God on our side, we can also defeat any giants in their lives.

Applications:

Ask a child is there anything that he or she worries about such as darkness, snakes or bullies in school?

Remind the children that if they are trusting in Jesus, they are actually attached to God, and no matter how big their giant may appear, they will be able to overcome it because God is far, far bigger.

Wrestling match (Optional game): I invite one of the bigger boys to come out for a wrestling match. Explain that it is a handicap match – all of him against the teachers little thumb!

The volunteer can **use both hands, and all he has to do is wrestle the teacher's little thumb to the ground! After he has failed to do that, ask Why wasn't that big boy able to defeat the little thumb?** Answer. Because the little thumb, small as it is, is attached to something far bigger – it is attached to me! Remind the children that if they are trusting in Jesus, they are actually attached to God, and no matter how big their giant may appear, they will be able to overcome it because God is far, far bigger.

Sing the following song in class:

I may never march in the infantry
Ride in the cavalry
Shoot the artillery
I may never fly o'er the enemy
But I'm in the Lord's army!
Yes Sir!

I'm in the Lord's army!
Yes sir!
I'm in the Lord's army!
Yes sir!

I may never march in the infantry
Ride in the cavalry
Shoot the artillery
I may never fly o'er the enemy
But I'm in the Lord's army!
Yes sir!

Lesson 13

Meribah- The Place of Testing

Objective:

God always cares for you.

Memory Verse:

*Psalms 95:1 "Come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation."*

References:

Exodus 17:1 - 7

Introduction:

ASK:

Do they get upset when your parents do not get the toy that you wanted the most?

Do you get everything you want to have?

Lesson Outlines:

Israelites were slaves in Egypt for a long time. The Lord saved the Israelites from the Egyptians and Moses was the appointed leader for them. They traveled to the place promised by God – the land flowing with milk and honey, Caanan.

But it was a long journey. The children of Israel traveled in the wilderness and through the desert. They came to a place where there was no water for them to drink. They began to doubt and question whether God was really with them or not. They murmured against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites' complaining reached dangerous levels - they were "almost ready" to stone Moses.

The Lord then provided for them, through Moses. God told Moses to command the rock to let the water flow out. Moses tapped the rock with his rod and water flowed forth from the rock. **He called the name of the place 'Meribah' the place of arguing, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, "is the Lord with us or not?"**

Conclusion:

Even when situations get difficult or seem impossible, be certain that God will provide. We as the children of God should always and forever trust God. Then only can we have His grace shine on us.

Applications:

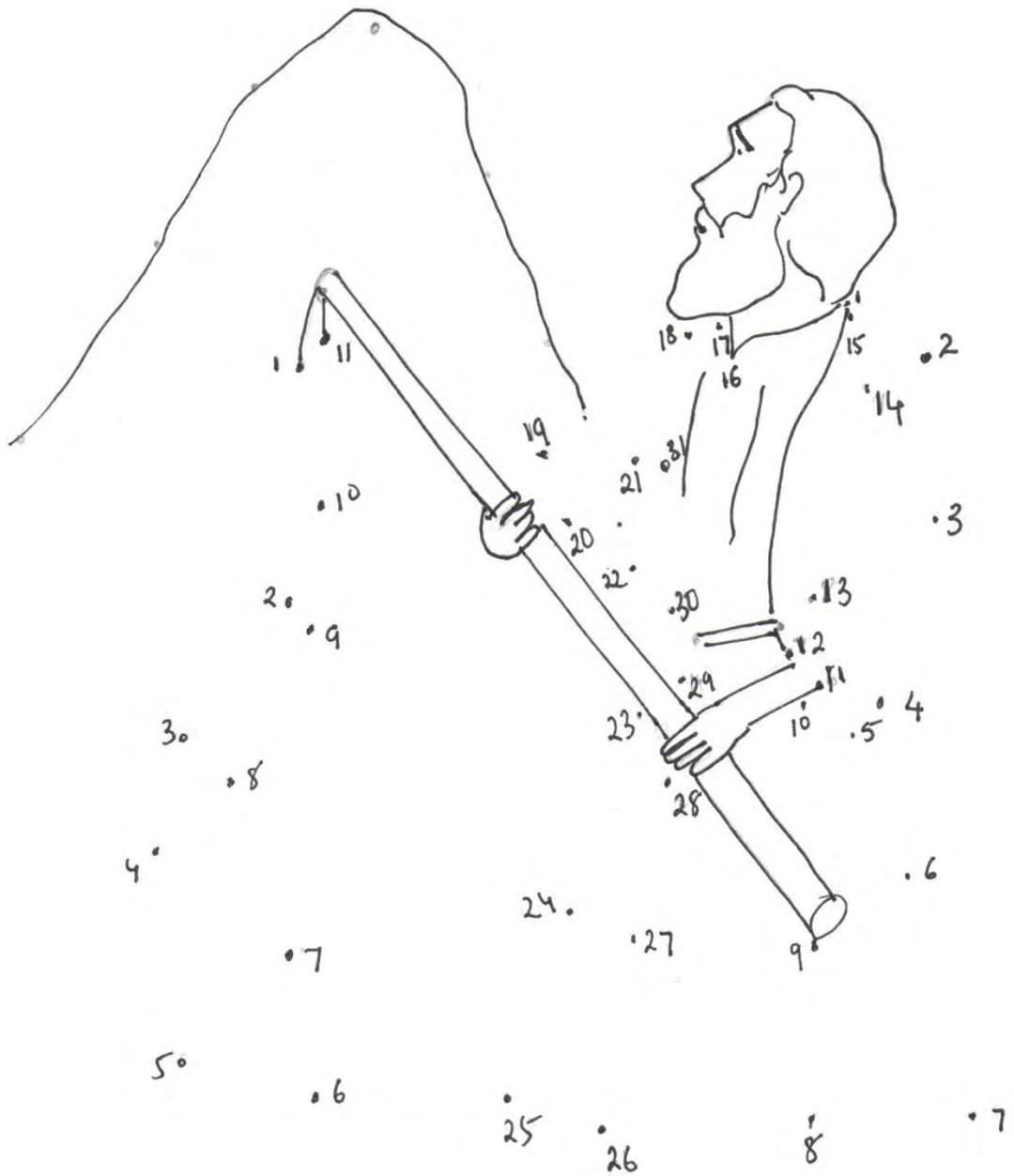
Discuss just as God knew what was good for the people, parents have the best interest of their children at heart.

Teach the following song:

Jehovah Jireh my provider
His grace is sufficient for me
For me, for me
Jehovah Jireh my provider
His grace is sufficient for me

The Lord shall provide all my needs
According to His riches in Glory
The Lord shall provide Himself a lamb for sacrifice
Jehovah Jireh takes care of me
Of me, of me

Trace the picture given below:



NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson 14

Special Visitors of Baby Jesus

Objective:

To learn the happiness and blessing received by the shepherds and wise men when they saw Jesus.

Memory Verse:

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest"

References:

Luke - Chapters 1, 2

Matthew - Chapters 1, 2

Introduction:

ASK:

Do you remember visiting a new born baby?

Do you know where baby Jesus was born?

Lesson Outlines:

The night that Jesus was born, shepherds were in a field watching and resting with their sheep. All of a sudden, a bright light came upon the night sky and an angel of God looked to **them and said "Fear not, I bring you glad tidings of great joy. For born to all this night, in the City of David, is the Saviour, who is Christ the King. You will find the Child in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger."** The angels in heaven began singing together "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, Peace and Goodwill toward men."

Hearing the news, the shepherds hurried to see baby Jesus. Once they arrived, they fell to their knees and gave thanks to God.

In a faraway land, three wise men saw a bright star in the sky. They knew the star meant that a great King was born. They followed the star to the town of Bethlehem where they found

Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus. The men worshipped God and gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

During the Christmas service we join the procession holding lit candles and chanting joyful hymns. When the procession reaches the western side of the Church we stop for the Fire-side service. The procession goes three times around the fire made with palm leaves and the deacons frankincense into it. The fire-side service reminds us the angelic announcement of Jesus' birth while the shepherds keeping watch over their flock at night when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Conclusion:

When Jesus Christ is part of your life, you are filled with joy and happiness just as the shepherds and wise men experienced.

Applications:

Have the children dress up in costumes of the various characters involved in this story. Teach the song:

Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head

The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

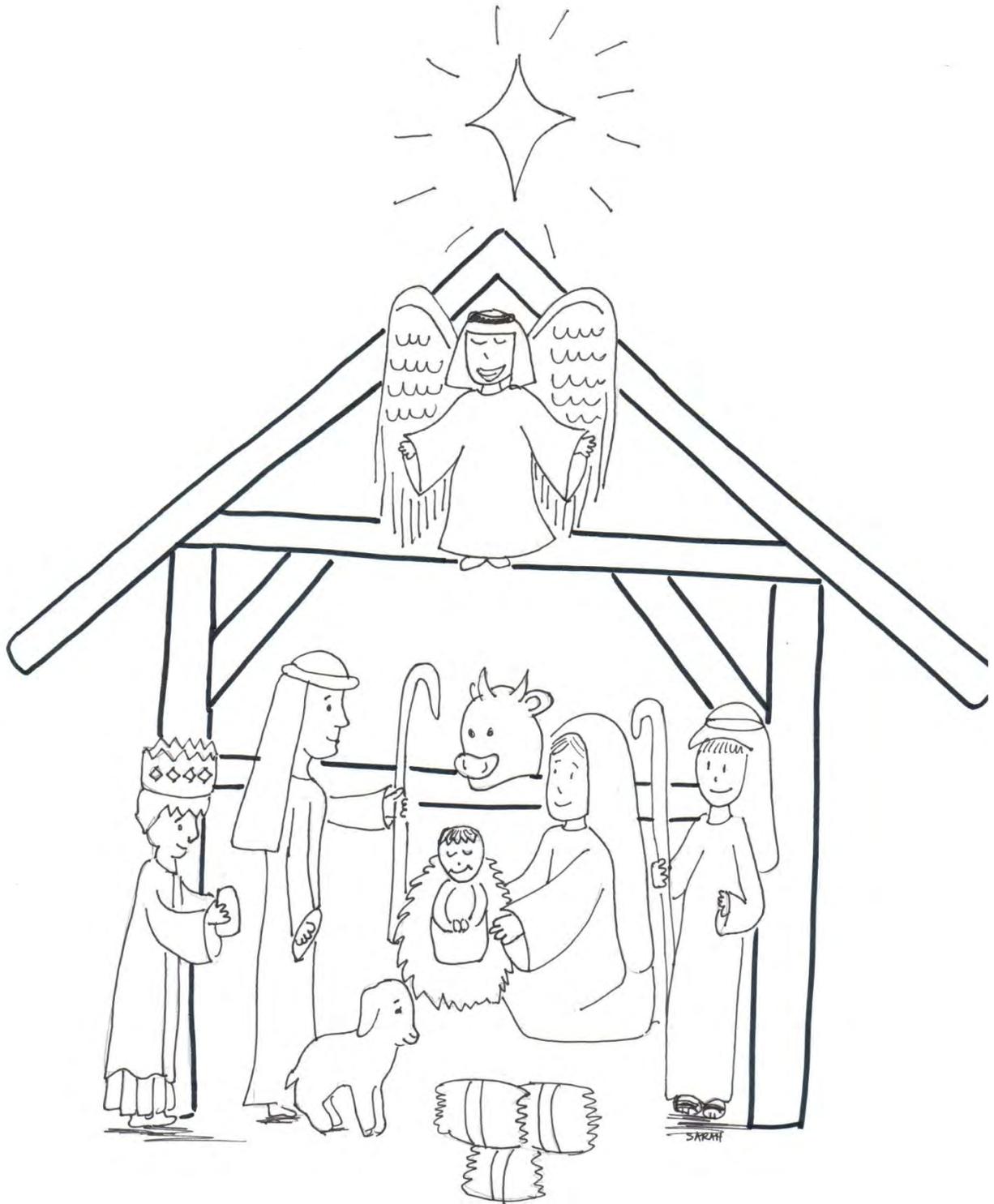
The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

Ask the children to color the following picture:



Lesson 15

Say Thank You

Objective:

To learn to give thanks to God for all the blessings He gives us.

Memory Verse:

Luke 17:16 "Giving Him Thanks"

References:

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:

Ask the children when do we say thank you?

To whom do we say thank you?

Lesson Outlines:

Long ago, Jesus entered a village and saw that ten men were very sick. Their skin was looking very bad because they had a disease called leprosy. Leprosy is a skin disease that causes open sores and would spread easily to one person to the next. There was cure for their sickness. They were not allowed to touch anyone. Seeing Jesus they asked him to make them well. Jesus told them to go to the temple and see the priests. On their way their skin became smooth and they were healed.

Nine of the men went their own way, one man seeing that he got better went to Jesus and said " **Thank You Jesus for healing my sickness**". Jesus was very happy to see the man return to thank him but was very sad the other nine did not come back. God blessed this man and he lived happily with his family from that time forward.

Conclusion:

We should never forget to say thank you!

Jesus loves the children who say thank you to Him. Always remember to thank God for all the blessings He gives us, our families, shelter to live in, food to eat, etc.

Applications:

Discuss the importance of gratitude.

Tell them they have to say thank you to God when they pray and when anybody give them something.

Teach one of the following songs:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t9rsktQmkE&feature=related>

Nanniyode njaan sthuthi paadidum
Ente yesu naa-dha
Enikkai nee chaithoro nanmakkum
Innu nandhi chollunnu njaan
Arhikka-thha nanmakalum
Enikke-kidum krupaanidhe
Yachikkatha nanmakal polume
Enikekiyone sthuthi.
Nanniyode njaan sthuthi paadidum
Ente yesu naadha
Enikkai nee chaithoro nanmakkum
Innu nandhichollunnu njaan
Sathya daivathin eka puthranai
Nine viswasikkunnu
Varum kaalamokkayum
Nin krupaavarangal choriyukennil
Nanniyode njaan sthuthi paadidum
Ente yesu naadha
Enikkai nee chaithoro nanmakkum
Innu nandhi chollunnu njaan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp3GUmGszbU&feature=related>

*If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings
If I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord that I could sing
If I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you father for making me, me*

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child
And I just thank you Father for making me, me*

Ask the children to color the following picture of the thankful



Lesson 16

The Fish Came With Money

Objective:

Learn to depend on God in everything.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 17:27 "Take the fish that comes up first"

References:

Matthew 17:24-27

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have a real pet fish? Where? And what color is it?

Prepare pictures of different kinds of fish to show the children.

Lesson Outlines:

One day the tax collectors, people who collect the money for the temple (building like the church) came to collect money from St. Peter and Jesus Christ. They told Peter: You and your master Jesus should pay the money soon. Peter was not sure how to get the money. He went inside the house to ask Jesus if He will pay the money. As soon as Jesus saw Peter walking in Jesus answered him, before he asked the question, and said that He will pay the money for the temple. Peter asked: How are we going to pay? **I don't have** any money with me. Jesus told Peter to go fishing. Pick up the first fish that comes up in the hook and look in its mouth. He he will find the money just enough to pay taxes. He then can take the money to pay to the temple. Peter did exactly as Jesus Christ told him. He was so happy and was amazed how Jesus told him everything even before it happened. Even though Jesus was the son of God He chose to be obedient and follow the rules.

Conclusion:

God can arrange everything for us and he knows the future. We thus depend on Him to take care of us.

Applications:

Give the children paper shaped like fish and let them either stick craft material to it or color it.



Lesson 17

The Children Receive Jesus on Palm Sunday

Objective:

Teach the children that Jesus is the King of Kings.
We should receive Jesus with joy.

Memory verse:

Matthew 21:9 "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD"

References:

Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction:

When you go to Church on Palm Sunday, you will get something special. Do you remember what it is?

Do you remember what is special about Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday is the glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem.

Lesson Outlines:

Jesus was preparing to go with His disciples to Jerusalem where they would celebrate the Passover feast. Jesus called all His disciples to go with Him to Jerusalem. As they were walking, **Jesus told two of His disciples "Go to the nearest town and bring a foal of donkey. If anyone asks you what are you doing? Tell them: The Master needs them."**

The disciples obeyed Jesus and went and brought to Him the colt. Jesus rode on the donkey and continued His journey towards Jerusalem. When people saw Jesus coming to Jerusalem riding on the donkey they started to wave and shout. A big crowd gathered on the road, men, women and children were all very happy to see Him. Some of them spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road to make a carpet worthy of a king.

The children were very happy to see Jesus. Some ran in front of Him and some behind Him **waving with Palm branches and everyone was shouting saying "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest"**.

On Palm Sunday, the faithful joins the procession holding palm leaves. This procession signifies the glorious entrance of our Lord Jesus into Jerusalem. The children get to throw **flowers and sing 'Hosanna' as the children did on the streets of Jerusalem.** The word Hosanna means "glory".

When the Procession comes to the western side of the Church they stop for Gospel reading. During the ceremonial reading of the Gospel, Achen chants these words three times - "Hosanna! Blessed is he who has come and is to come in the name of the Lord God". In response the people repeats this and children joyously throw flowers up into the air. It is a beautiful sight to see the entire Church holding the palm leaves, blessed by the priest, during the Holy Qurbana. After the Qurbana, people can bring these leaves and place it with reverence, inside their car or houses. These palm leaves are considered as source of blessing and protection.

Conclusion

We have to prepare to come to church very early to sing the hymns and bring our palm tree branches and flowers to celebrate Palm Sunday.

Applications:

Give each child a small tree branch. Make them form two lines.

Let each child pass in between the two lines and get them to shout the memory verse.

Teach the one of the hymns of Palm Sunday:

Yerusalemilevanmalamel
Orukilennyaretti
Varavahananaipuripookum
Parasuthanenjaankaannunnu
Nibiyenmaarutethirunivaham
Nadakollunnupurobhoovil
Sleeheenmaarutedivyaganam
Pinnanichernnuvarunnallo
Saiththinkombukalenthiiyithaa
Pinjukidaangalpaadunnu
Bhooswargangnaliloossaana
Daveedaathmajenoossaana
Vannavanumvaruvonumaho
Dhanyannikhileshasthothram.

Ooshanaooshanadaveethalmajaooshana
Ooshanaooshanadaveethalmajaooshana

Let the children sing the following song:

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Give me joy in my heart, I pray
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Keep me praising 'til the break of day

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings

Lesson 18

The Happiest Day

Objective:

Learn the story of the resurrection.

Memory Verse:

Luke 24:6 "He is not here, but is risen"

References:

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

Introduction:

ASK:

What happened to Jesus after he died on the Cross?

Show the children the picture of the resurrection and ask them who is in the picture?

What is Jesus Christ doing in this picture?

Lesson Outlines:

After Jesus Christ died on the cross two rich men took His body and put it in a clean and new tomb in a garden. Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and few other women were present at the burial of our Savior on Friday evening. Jesus stayed there for three days and three nights.

On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, went with the other ladies to see the body of Jesus Christ in the garden and put nice smelling perfume on His body. But, when they arrived at the tomb in the garden they were surprised because the big stone that was on its entrance was removed. They were surprised and did not believe that anybody can move this big and heavy stone. At the entrance they met two angels, in bright white cloth. The angels told them that Jesus is not here anymore. He is alive now and He is not here. They were very happy to hear **this so they ran to the rest of Jesus' friends and told them what the angels told them.**

They were all very happy because Jesus is risen and He is alive again!

On Easter Sunday we feel the joy of Risen Christ, the Sanctuary is brightly decorated. While we join the procession holding lit candles, the priest holds the cross, covered in the red veil. Then Achen announces the resurrection of Jesus by saying, **"Dearly beloved, I bring you all news of great joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ has resurrected from the dead and defeated His enemies."** Amid the ringing of the hand-bells and church-bells, the **congregation responds, "Truly, we believe that He is risen!" This is done three times.** At the end of the Holy Qurbana, everyone in church will kiss the Easter Cross and places their offerings.

Conclusion:

He was risen! Jesus was crucified on Friday and resurrected on Sunday. So, He is alive again.

Applications:

Show the children a video about the story of the resurrection.

Let's sing the song:

Rejoice in the Lord always
And again I say rejoice
Rejoice in the Lord always
And again I say rejoice
Rejoice, rejoice
And again I say rejoice
Rejoice, rejoice
And again I say rejoice

Lesson 19

All Are Invited!

Objective:

Learn the story of St. Peter's visit to Cornelius and family.

Memory Verse:

Acts 10:44 "The Holy Spirit fell upon all"

References:

Acts - Chapter 10

Introduction:

Prepare a vessel and either paper or toy animals to fill the sheet and act the story for the children. *Ask the children*, what is this animal? And what is the sound of this animal? What is it called? Quiz them all about the names and sounds of the different animals you brought.

Lesson Outlines:

Long ago there was a man named Cornelius. He was a very good man who prayed to God always. An angel appeared in a vision and asked that Cornelius find Peter. So he prepared his men in search of Peter.

Around that time, St. Peter was praying and fell into a deep sleep. In a vision he saw the heaven open in a dream and a vessel coming down that had all kinds of animals. There was a lion, tiger, elephant, dog, cat, etc. All the animals in the vessel had four legs. Let us count the **legs of this animal...one...two.....three...and four. The vessel landed on the floor with all the** animals in it. When St. Peter woke up from his dream, he was wondering what the dream meant. Then immediately after he woke up three men came from a very good man called Cornelius and they were looking for St. Peter. They informed him that the centurion Cornelius had been visited by an angel. The angel directed Cornelius to send for Peter who was lodging at **Simon's. St. Peter went with them to Cornelius. When** St. Peter got to Cornelius house, there were many people waiting to hear the word of God from St. Peter.

Peter quickly realized the meaning of the vision; it was God's intention for Peter to go and be with the Gentiles, (people who were not Jews) and teach them God's ways.

St. Peter talked to them about God and how good God is to everyone and how much He loves us. They were very happy to hear his words and they wanted to become to worship God and become Christians.

Everyone is important to God. God wants all people to be good Christians just like you and I.

Conclusion:

Gentiles were being blessed by God just as the Jews had been blessed!

Applications:

Let the children play with the animals in the vessel.

Let us sing the song:

I am a C
I am a C-H
I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

And if you are
You'll go to Heaven
And live eternally
Praise God!

FAITH

Lesson 20

The Veneration of the Cross

Objectives:

Learn about the importance of Feast of the Holy Cross.

Memory Verse:

Mark 10:21 "Take up the cross and follow Me"

References:

Feast of Cross – September 14.

Introduction:

Ask the children who knows how to make the sign of the cross?

Teach every child in the class how to make the sign of the cross if they do not know.

Lesson Outlines:

On the 14th of September of every year, we celebrate the Feast of the Cross. This is when we remember the discovery of the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord on which he was crucified. After Jesus was crucified, many miracles were happening near Jesus' tomb. When the Jews were aware of these miracles, they became very angry. They asked everyone in the entire nation to dump all of their garbage on the site, in an effort to bury it.

For 300 years, this was the case. For 300 years, everyone placed their garbage at Jesus' tomb, until a big pile of dirt had accumulated there.

As Emperor Constantine was preparing for his first war he realized that relying on human powers was not enough. He then remembered the one true God and began praying to Him, asking for help from above. And the Lord sent an extraordinary sign. On the eve of a decisive battle, Constantine and his whole army saw in the sky the sign of a cross, made up of light and **spread across the sun, with the inscription: "With this you shall defeat"**. Constantine was perplexed. However, the very next night Jesus Christ Himself appeared to Constantine with a cross in His hand and told him that with this sign he would defeat his foe; and He commanded him to make a banner with the **image of the holy Cross. Constantine followed the Lord's** command and defeated the enemy, becoming the ruler of the entire western half of the Roman Empire.

Saint Helena, who was the mother of King Constantine, loved the cross. She loved the cross, because it appeared to her son before he went into a war over which he was victorious.

She went to Jerusalem to look for the Cross. She asked many people regarding its whereabouts, but nobody knew for sure. Finally, she met an old man who informed her that the Cross was buried underneath the large pile of dirt. She immediately ordered her soldiers to clean the site. This made it easy to find the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ. Then, at this location, she built a church in the name of the Cross.

Placing a cross in churches and homes, in cars, or wearing this image on ourselves, is for a constant reminder – and witness – **of Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death.**

Conclusion:

The Cross is power.

The Cross is glory.

The Cross is majestic.

Applications:

- 1) Give the children a picture of the cross and have them color it with any desired color(s).
- 2) **Cut out the cross, and paste it on a sheet of the child's desired color of construction paper.**
- 3) Cut out the Bible Verse and paste it under the Cross.
- 4) **Write the child's name on the bottom.**
- 5) Allow the student to add any extra desired decorations to their creations (glitter, stickers, etc.).

Teach your class this song:

Malayalam:

Shubhachinam than sleeba
Vijayakodi than sleeba
Nammerakshichhetum
Sleebayilpukazhunnunaam

Syriac:

Sleeboosodsaino
Sleeboneeso d' Sokuzo
Sleebo d behhufreekeenan
Behkulanmesthabhreenan

English:

Cross, the sign of glory
Cross, flag of victory
We take pride in the Cross
That gave us sal-vation

Lesson 21

The Fig Tree

Objective:

Remember that God is watching us closely.
God always wants us to do the right things.

Memory Verse:

Luke 13:8 "Let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it"

References:

Luke 13:6-9

Introduction:

ASK:

Have you seen a fig tree?

Do you have a tree which bears fruit near your home?

Draw a picture of a tree on the board without any leaves. Then ask the children what is wrong with the tree.

Lesson Outlines:

A man had a big garden full of trees and pretty plants. One day the man decided to plant a fig tree in his garden. He liked to eat figs and wanted to eat from the tree he planted. He waited a year for the tree to grow and bring forth figs, but the tree didn't produce any figs. He decided to wait another year, and again it didn't bear any figs for him to eat. He wanted to eat from the tree and so he waited a third year, but guess what? Nothing happened and it didn't have figs. So he got really mad and told his gardener "I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It is taking up space we can use for something else." But the gardener didn't want to cut the tree. He told the man that he should give the tree another chance and that he will give it extra attention, feed it and water it really well for it to grow. And the man agreed and gave it an extra year but if it didn't bear any fruit, he will cut it down and plant something else.

In this story God is the man and we are the tree. God comes to be with us and we turn him away because we are not doing what God wants us to do. The man was upset that the tree didn't bear any fruits and God gets upset when we do something wrong. Like lying to our parents if we did something wrong. We should always try to be good so God can be happy with us. God always gives us several chances to correct what we did wrong. For example, if we didn't listen to our Mom when she told us to do something, we can go say "sorry" and do what she told us to do.

Conclusion:

We should always pray to God that He would help us to be good and do the right things.

Applications:

Ask the children to examine the picture below. Are they at Church?

When you are attending the Holy Qurbana do you really join in singing and praying?



Lesson 22

Saints Are "Friends" Of God

Objectives:

Man becomes holy by his participation in the work of God.

Memory Verse:

Galatians 3:27 *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

References:

2 Thessalonians 1:10-12

Introduction:

Ask the children do they know the names of any saints?

The word **saint** means holy, consecrated, set apart from others. A saint, therefore, is different from common people. They are the Apostles, the Prophets, the Martyrs, the Fathers and monks of the Church.

Lesson Outlines:

On April 23rd we commemorate one of the greatest saints of the Christian Church – ***the Great-Martyr Saint George.***

St. George served in the Roman army of Emperor Diocletian, and for his bravery in battle the Emperor awarded him great honors and a high military rank. However, when Diocletian started upon a harsh persecution of Christians, St. George, who had been raised a Christian from childhood, bravely stood before the Emperor and confessed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Diocletian ordered St. George to be beheaded. Even after his death the holy martyr performed many miracles.

One of his greatest miracles was the deliverance of the inhabitants of the city of Beirut from a fierce dragon. This terrible monster lived in a lake near Beirut, not far from the mountains of Lebanon. Emerging from the lake, the monster abducted many people and devoured them. Finally the people of Beirut came to their king and asked him for help. The king announced the following: every day the inhabitants of Beirut must draw lots and feed one of their children to the dragon.

And so it was that every day the people of Beirut drew lots and, dressing up one of their sons or daughters in their best clothes, would take them to the lake and leave them to be **devoured by the dragon.** When the king's turn finally came, he was forced to give up his daughter, although he wept and grieved for her, since she was his only child. The princess was dressed up too, and left at the usual place on the shores of the lake. But at that moment, by **God's providence, which desired to save the inhabitants of Beirut** from both physical and spiritual destruction, the Great-martyr St. George, carrying a spear, rode up on his horse. The

terrified princess begged him to leave immediately, so that he would not perish, but when he learned of the dragon, St. George promised her that he would save her in the Lord's name. At that moment the terrible monster emerged from the lake and approached his victim. The princess screamed, while St. George, making the sign of the cross and rattling his spear, rushed at the dragon, struck his throat with great force and pinned him to the ground. After-wards St. George killed the dragon with his sword. Seeing such a miracle, all the inhabitants of the city came to believe in Christ, and were baptized.

Conclusion:

The ultimate goal of the saint is to imitate God. We should each do our part to spread God's love and glorify Him.

Applications:

Let us sing the song:

Malayalam:

Undakette nallorma
Nibiyer sleeher sahadenmaar
Ella punyamezhunorkkum
Thalpraarthana thunayakkette, Halleluiah

English:

Lord, give good remembrance to
Prophets and Apostles true,
Martyrs, just and righteous ones
Help us by their Prayer's for us, Halleluiah

Ask the children to color the picture of St. George given below.



Lesson 23

The Lost Sheep

Objective:

God always wants us to be with Him.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 18:13 "He rejoices more over that sheep"

References:

Matthew 18:11-14

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have seen a sheep before. How does it look? What is the sound of the sheep?

Lesson Outlines:

Today's story is about a cute little white sheep, his name is Kuttus. Kuttus was a merry little white sheep who loves to play with many other sheep. Every day the good shepherd will take the sheepfold to the pleasant valley nearby. While being in the sheepfold and under the watchful eye of the shepherd Kuttus can always play with his friends. All the sheep together were 100 sheep. That includes his parents, brothers and sisters and many friends.

The good shepherd used to make sure that all the 100 sheep are eating and drinking well. He makes sure they all are safe and was always checking the number of the sheep? 1, 2, 3 ...100. **But one day** he was checking the number and He found only 99 instead of a hundred. **This means one of the sheep is missing. Guess who is missing.... Yes it is Kuttus. Kuttus went** running away from his mommy and daddy and from the shepherd. He kept running up a mountain without paying attention that he went too far. Then he was very tired and could not find his way back to the rest of the sheep and the shepherd. He was the lost sheep. He was getting afraid and started to cry. He kept on crying. There was nothing else that he could do.

The shepherd left all the 99 sheep and went running everywhere looking for Kuttus. He went up the mountain and looked all around. Finally he found Kuttus. When Kuttus saw the shepherd he was very happy and felt safe again. Kuttus was sure the shepherd would take him back to his mommy and daddy. The shepherd also was very happy when He found Kuttus. The shepherd carried kuttus on his shoulder and took him back to the sheepfold. Kuttus was finally back to the safety of home. All the other sheep were so happy to see the safe return of the little wanderer.

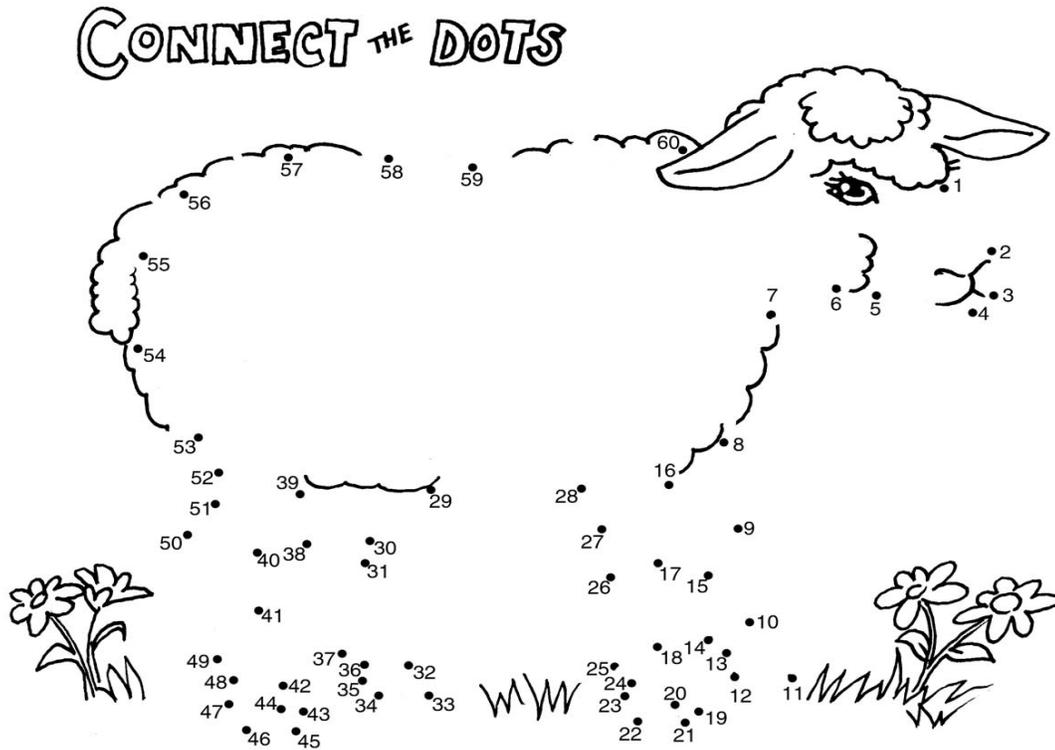
Conclusion:

Jesus is the good shepherd. He is always checking on us. If we go away from Him, or his Church (the sheepfold) we could end up in trouble. So Jesus comes looking for us where ever we go.

Applications:

Bring a sheep soft toy and let the children play with it and act the story of Kuttus the lost sheep.

Ask the children to connect the dots below to find one lost sheep.



Lesson 24

Are Angels Real?

Objective:

To learn about angels and what they do.

Memory Verse:

Luke 2:13 "There was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host"

Introduction:

Ask the children if any of them knows a story about an angel.

Lesson Outlines:

There are millions of angels in heaven. The angels spend their time praying and singing songs to God. In times of trouble or need, angels protect us from bad things or can even bring us messages from God.

In the Holy Qurbana we remember the angels and archangels, the many-eyed cherubim and the six-winged seraphim who, covering their faces and feet, fly to one another, saying Holy HolyHoly.

Angels are beautiful, kind, and calm, they can have wings or they can appear like people. We all have angels that protect and help guide us in our daily life.

The Marvahso is a metal fan placed on the end of a long stick. During certain occasions in Holy Qurbana altar boys shake the marvahso. The presence of these fans reminds the angels present around the altar. The sound that comes from the shaking of the bells on the fan symbolizes the fluttering of angel's wings at the most important parts of Qurbana.

Let us sing as the angels do:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty;
heaven and earth are full of His glories.
Hosanna in the highest.

Conclusion:

We can be like angels by being calm, kind, loving and following God's rules.

Applications:

Remind the children to actively participate in worshipping God like angels in heaven.



Lesson 25

House Built On The Rock

Objective:

To learn the story of the house built on the rock.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 7:25 "It did not fall"

References:

Matthew 7: 24-27

Introduction:

Ask the children what are houses made of? Would they like to live in a strong house that would not fall or in a weak house that would fall with the first storm or rain.

Show them pictures of different houses and ask them is this a big or a small house? What color is this house?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time Jesus Christ was telling a story about two men building houses. They both wanted to build a house in the same neighborhood. They both decided to build the same kind of house.

One of the men went around and around looking for strong land to build his house. He went **to some land and said "No, this is not strong enough". He went to another land and said "No, the house will fall if I build it on top of this weak land". He looked around and around till he** found a strong rock that was very hard and stable and he built his house on it. The other man chooses the first piece of land that he came across. He did not take the time or effort to look any further. This land was sandy and weak, yet he built his house on it.

When both houses were complete, the only difference between the two houses was the foundation. In other words, from the outside, at least, the two houses, looked exactly the same: the doors, windows, and chimneys were in the same place; the roof line was exactly the same; perhaps they even had the same landscaping.

Then the rain came and the wind blew very strong ...Voo...Voo...Voo. So, guess which house fell and which one stayed? Yes the house built on the rock stayed and did not fall and the house built on the sand fell and was broken into small pieces. It is clear that the foolish man did not think about the future. But his work was lost too quickly.

Good Christian children are like the wise man. They will come to Sunday school to learn. They will pray every day and become strong in faith. Yes, it is not easy. But they will grow up and become smart.

Conclusion:

When the children of God listen and trust in Jesus Christ they will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock.

If we don't listen to Jesus Christ then we would be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand so it was broken in the storm.

Applications:

Teach the song below:

The Wise Man Built His House

The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
And the rain came tumbling down

Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the wise man's house stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
And the rain came tumbling down

Oh, the rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
The rain came down
And the floods came up
And the foolish man's house went "splat!" [clap hands once]

So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ

Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
Build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ
And the blessings will come down

Oh, the blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayers go up
The blessings come down
As your prayer go up
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let the children color the picture below:



ABC BIBLE VERSES

A	All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.	Romans 3:23
B	Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.	Acts 16:31
C	Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right	Ephesians 6:1
D	Depart from evil, and do good	Psalms 34:14
E	Even a child is known by his doings.	Proverbs 20:11
F	Fear not: for I am with thee.	Isaiah 43:5
G	God is love.	I John 4:8
H	Honor thy father and thy mother.	Exodus 20:12
I	If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.	John 14:14
J	Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.	John 14:16
K	Keep thy tongue from evil.	Psalms 34:13
L	Look unto me, and be ye saved.	Isaiah 45:22
M	My son, give me thy heart	Proverbs 23:26
N	No man can serve two masters	Matthew 6:24
O	O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good	Psalms 118:1
P	Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto	Psalms 147:1
Q	Quit you like men, be strong.	I Corinthians 16:13
R	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.	Exodus 20:8
S	Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.	Isaiah 55:6
T	Thou God sees me.	Genesis 16:13
U	Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks.	Psalms 75:1
V	Verily, verily, I say unto you, What so ever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.	John 16:23
W	What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.	Psalms 56:3
X	Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us.	II Peter 1:4
Y	Ye are the light of the world.	Matthew 5:14
Z	Zion heard, and was glad.	Psalms 97:8