



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

1st Grade





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Introduction

September 11, 2020

"Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide."

St John Chrysostom

The book of Proverbs tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6) Although our Orthodox faith never changes, the society and challenges our children face are always evolving. In light of this constant change, and in honor of the 100 year anniversary of establishment of Sunday school in 2018, the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States began working on a new curriculum named "Children of Light" to equip and educate our children in order to live a life pleasing to God in the midst of the world we live in. St Habib Girgis rightly reminds us that "education is the first need for the community after bread." Seeing the importance of educating our children, great effort was put over the past few years into ensuring a curriculum is developed that would feed our children with the proper foundations and tools appropriate to their age. Every grade will equip the child with strong biblical, liturgical, spiritual and morally appropriate lessons allowing them to grow in faith while providing them with tools to navigate the day to day issues they face in society so that they may be the true light of the world they are each called to be.

May this new curriculum be a tool that allows our children to grow in wisdom and in love of God, living up to their calling of being light of the world and true children of Light.

Bishop Youssef

Bishop Basil

Bishop Gregory

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



Overview and Milestones

Theme of the Year

The Mighty Fatherhood of God

Rationale: *Fascinated by rules, superheroes while surrendering to adult principles, it is fitting to speak to the children of our God's mighty Fatherhood. His power, authority, blessings & representatives are explored throughout the year.*

Psych Analysis



Physical:

Active, Noisy, Sloppy



Intellect:

Extremes in morals, adopts adult principles



Social:

Fascinated by rules, Needs Love



[Detailed Characteristics](#)

Building Blocks

BB1: God's Authority

Nayrouz, The Magnificent Creation, Our Father..., Calling in the Storm, Calling from the Den, The Moving Mountain, Raising Lazarus, One True God

BB3: Representatives

Delegated Church Authority, David respects King Saul, Nineveh responds, Respecting the Delegated Authority, Trusting God's Representative, Honoring Parents, Samson and the Lion, St. Peter Raises Tabitha, Respecting worldly authorities

BB5: The Powerful Word of God

Books and Sections of the Bible, The Inspired Word of God, The Parable of the Sower, Introduce the Sermon on the Mount

BB2: Blessings

Blessings in the Great Catch, Providence to the Multitudes, The Holy Spirit Works Within Us, Blessing the family of Abraham, Sarah, & Isaac, Story of Esther, St. Maximos & St. Domatius, The Journey, The Birth & The Shepherds, Gratitude of 10 lepers, Friend of the Poor and the Needy, Lighting Candles, Adopted in Christ

BB4: Forgiveness

The Prodigal Son, John the Baptist & Repentance, Baptism, Confession, House Blessings, St. Demetrius the Vinedresser brings unity, The Lost Sheep, St. Monica Intercedes

BB6: The Transforming Power of God

Forgiveness Through Love is Transformative, Moses Leads the Israelites to Cross the Red Sea, Turning Water Into Wine, No Way Out, David and Goliath, The Life of St. Pachomius

BB7: God's Holy Days

Introduction to Holy Days, Jesus Heals on the Sabbath, Overview of the Holy Days in the Church, The Liturgy, Making Korban, The Parable of the Great Feast, Gathered in His Name

End of Year Milestones & Objectives



Scripture

- + Begins reading bible on their own with parents & servants encouragement
- + Know difference between Old & New Testament
- + Understand the bible as a guide
- + Written long ago and by many people



Spiritual

- + Prays without parents as Christ taught us
- + Prays before meals, sleeping & car rides
- + Knows God is All-Powerful & always present
- + Church unifies us in prayer with God



Social

- + When offended, they are receptive to forgive as God forgives us.
- + Be kind to those around you as you represent God
- + Knows there are different faiths



Rituals

- + Considers themselves a member of the church, a child of God
- + Participate in small portions of church fast
- + Understand role of priest



Acknowledgements

The Diocese would like to thank all those who helped in this curriculum. There were collaborators and volunteers from across the globe throughout the US, Canada, and Qatar. We would also like to thank St. Mary and St. Mark of Edmonton for their significant collaboration in this service. May God bless and reward all to those who have labored and prayed for this curriculum.

Providing Feedback

Feedback, suggestions and material may be submitted at any time in the following [form](#).

Disclaimer

Only the content presented on this curriculum has been reviewed and verified. The provided links have also been reviewed. However, the remainder of the content of these websites were out of the scope of the review.



Building Block I: God's Authority

Lesson I.IS - SPECIAL (NAYROUZ): The Feast of Nayrouz

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Copies of the icons of martyrs for the children to color and frame, preferably on card paper, crayons, colored pencils, frames, decorations for the frames, and markers.

Video: [CYC: Happy Nayrouz \(1:09\)](#), [Leading children to heaven: The Feast of Nayrouz \(6:19\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

By the end of the lesson, the children should have a deeper understanding about the feast of Nayrouz and learn to love God with all their heart like the martyrs did.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Sacrificial Love



MEMORY VERSE:



*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.*



Deuteronomy 6:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

If the church is blessed to have the relics of the saints, the servant may consider taking the children to visit the relics of the saints, and take their blessing. The servant may also ask the children the following questions:

- Does anybody know what is inside them, why they are so special? (There are relics of the saints inside them!)
- What is a relic? (It is part of the body of a saint.)
- Does anybody know which feast we anoint all of them? (Nayrouz).



The church celebrates the Feast of the Nayrouz, the beginning of the Coptic New Year, to remember the martyrs who gave up their life because of their great love for Christ the King. It is celebrated every year in September.

Martyrs are people who gave up their life because they loved our Lord Jesus with all their heart. On the Feast of Nayrouz, we remember the martyrs and we celebrate them (because we are happy that they were victorious on earth and are now with God in Paradise), we celebrate with them (because the church in heaven and the church on earth together worship and praise God joyfully), and we also thank God for giving the martyrs to His church.



LESSON BODY:

On this feast day of Nayrouz, we honor those who stood and confessed their faith in God with commitment, even giving their lives up for the faith.

Take one copy of each one of the icons so that every martyr is represented and put them up on the board or at the front of the room so all the children can see them. Tell the children the names of each one of the martyrs. Explain to the children that each of them will get to choose one of these icons, color their own icon, sign their name on the back, frame it, and then walk in the procession at church on Nayrouz vespers with their icon, showing the church this martyr so that the people can honor him/her.

Have the children choose their icons and have the ones who chose the same icons sit in groups. As each group is coloring their icon, one servant will come and sit with the children and explain the story of that martyr to them while they are coloring. Servants will also help the children sign their names and frame their icons when they are finished coloring.

Icons can be stored in the classroom and distributed to the children before the Nayrouz vespers or they can take them home and bring them during vespers for the procession. Try and get the children ready and excited about walking in the procession.

Servants should carefully plan and assist children to participate in the procession in coordination with the priest, deacons and parents.

If dates are distributed in church/if they are available, the servant can explain to them what it symbolizes:

The red skin represents the blood of the martyrs. They gave up their lives to preserve the faith for us. The white inside represents the purity of their hearts. The hard pit represents their strong faith in Christ.

All the martyrs that gave their life up for Christ, acted in a way that made the church stronger and allowed her to grow in numbers. When people would see how much the martyrs loved our Lord Jesus, and how they were willing to give everything they had to Him, they too desired to give everything to Christ.

"As often as we are cut down by your persecutions, we spring up the more abundantly: the blood of Christians is the seed of the faith."

- Tertullian



The servant may emphasize that even though the martyrs were giving up their lives, it paradoxically made the church stronger and allowed her to grow in numbers. This concept is explained by the early Church Father Tertullian in his Apologeticus¹ which was written in the second century.

The servant may emphasize how the church was strengthened and grew through the martyrs.

You may use some of the following martyr stories, or refer to the Synaxarion.

St. Abanoub:

Abanoub was only 12 years old when he was martyred by the Roman ruler. Abanoub was born in a town called Nehisa. He was the only son to Christian parents who died when he was a young child. At age 12, Abanoub entered the church to hear the priest asking the congregation to remain faithful during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian.

Abanoub received the Holy Sacraments, then he prayed to God to guide him to where he could confess his faith in Jesus our Lord. After that Abanoub went out, and gave all his possessions to the needy. Then he set off to a city called Samanoud, on foot. While he was walking, he saw the Archangel Michael. When he saw him, Abanoub fell to the ground, the Archangel raised him up, and told him that he must suffer for three days in Samanoud and he would witness our Lord Jesus Christ in other places also.

Once in Samanoud, Abanoub went to the Roman ruler and declared his faith openly. He also insulted the ruler's idols. The ruler was mad and gave orders to whip him but Archangel Michael miraculously healed him. Then the ruler put him in jail with other Christians who were encouraged by his presence among them, and later were martyred for the name of our Lord Jesus.

After many tortures, one of the ruler's advisers told him to behead the saint and put an end to that episode. So the ruler ordered the soldiers to kill St. Abanoub with the sword. A faithful man called St. Julius wrapped Abanoub's body in fine linen and sent him to his hometown Nehisa where he was buried.²

St. Demiana:

St. Demiana was the only daughter to her parents. When she was one year old, her father took her to the church of the monastery and he made an offering there that God might bless her and keep her in His care.

When she was fifteen years old, her father wanted her to get married. She refused and told him that she had vowed herself a bride to the Lord Christ. Her father was pleased with her intention and built her the house that she wanted. She lived in it with forty other virgins. They spent their time reading the holy scripture and in worship.

Shortly after, Emperor Diocletian sent for Mark, St. Demiana's father, and ordered him to worship the idols. He refused at first, but after the Emperor tempted him, he obeyed his order and worshipped the idols and forsook the Creator of the Universe. When Mark returned to his official seat, and St. Demiana knew what had happened, she rushed to meet him. She did not greet him, but said, "What is it that I heard about you? I would have rather heard about your death than to hear that you have left your faith and forsaken the God

¹ Tertullian, & Souter, A. (1926). Apologeticus. Aberdeen: University Press.

² (n.d.). Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <http://www.copticchurch.net/topics/synexarion/abanoub.html>



Who created you from non-existence into being, to worship gods made by hands....you are not my father and I am not your daughter," and she left him.

Her father was greatly moved by the words of his daughter, and he wept bitterly. He went quickly to Diocletian and confessed the Lord Christ. When the Emperor could not convince him with threats and promises, he ordered him beheaded.

When Diocletian knew that the one who turned Mark from worshipping the idols was St. Demiana, he sent her a prince to try gently to convince her to worship idols, and if she disobeyed him, to behead her. The prince went to her with two hundred soldiers and instruments of torture. When the prince told her to worship idols, the saint shouted in his face saying "...I confess and upon Him I depend, and in His Name I die, and by Him I live forever."

The prince became angry and tortured her in many ways. Through it all, the Lord raised her up safely. When the prince saw that all his attempts were not successful, before the steadfastness of this pure virgin he ordered her beheaded, and all the other virgins with her. So, they all received the crowns of martyrdom.



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Coloring Time!: The servant may print an assortment of saint coloring pages and have the children color them using markers/crayons.

List of saint coloring pages:

- [A-D](#)
- [E-K](#)
- [I-P](#)



VIDEO:

[Leading children to heaven: The Feast of Nayrouz \(6:19\)](#), [CYC: Happy Nayrouz \(1:09\)](#)



SONG:

The servant may sing "My Coptic Church" with the children (the servant may choose one or two of the verses if the children are not engaged.)

*1. My Coptic Church. The church of the Lord
Ancient and Strong, I wish her long life
In the early years, After the birth of Christ
St. Mark came bearing, The light of the true faith
He dwelt in the land, proclaiming salvation
In the name of our Redeemer, Christ who
removed our sins*

*2. The Copts then believed, in the Lord Jesus
And Joy filled all the cities of Egypt
In a very very short time, He abolished all idols
The cross was exalted, the sign of the faith
Satan quickly rose, to war the Son of God
He stirred the rulers, emperors and armies*

3. He then declared war, on the sons of the faith
Deny your Christ, or be thrown in the fire
Our honored fathers, elders and youngsters
Were not moved by pain, distress nor dishonor
But said courageously, forward no turning back
We don't fear fire, Our Lord is Jesus Christ

4. They were beaten and imprisoned, they lived in
oppression
They were burned and killed, and tasted every
pain

By the power of their faith, they overcame their
pains

And remained believing in, the King of Peace
With blood and suffering, they bought the faith
And preserved it for us, in the name of Our Savior

5. Let us all rise, from our laziness
With diligence seeking, the heavenly rewards
The Church of the Fathers, you are our pride
To her success, let us all join together
My Coptic Church, her faith is orthodox
Forever strong, Egypt is Christ's

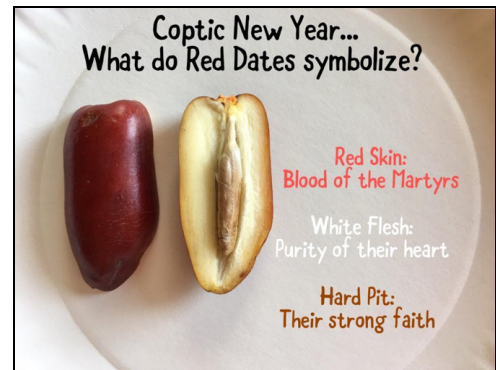
Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- What is Nayrouz? (The feast of the Coptic New Year.)
- Who do we celebrate in Nayrouz? (The martyrs of the Church.)
- How do we celebrate the Nayrouz feast? (By making a procession with relics and icons of martyrs. We do this to celebrate their lives and their sacrifice for the church.)
- What do the red dates symbolize? (The red skin represents the blood of the martyrs, the white flesh represents the purity of their heart, and the hard pit represents their strong faith.)
- What is a relic? (A part of the body of the martyr or saint.)
- What does the word "martyr" mean? (The word martyr means someone who has "witnessed" to our Lord Jesus Christ by giving up his/her life, in order to keep our Orthodox faith for us .)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



We heard about our beautiful saints who loved our Lord Jesus so much that they gave up their whole life for Him. Likewise, we may start by giving up some of our play time to spend time with our Lord Jesus in prayer or to do our bible study. We should act in a way that represents our Lord Jesus Christ, we should do good, “rejoice always,” and honor our parents. Through these ways, we can be witnesses to our Lord Jesus.

The servant should connect the lesson to the moral character focus. Just like the saints sacrificed themselves for our Lord, we can also sacrifice ourselves by sharing our toys, and by being obedient to our elders - even when we do not want to.



Lesson 1.2 - God the Magnificent Creator: The Creation

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:1-2:3

Craft: [Free template](#) printed on cardstock for durability, brads (to connect the cover with the day spinner), scissors, crayons, markers or colored pencil (Craft 1); Paper, paper plates, colors, [this template](#), scissors, colors, and this [sheet](#).

Video: [GreekOrthodoxChurch - Soak Up the Son: Ingredients of Creation \(3:25\)](#) and [Sharefaith Kids: The Creation story for kids \(3:02\)](#)

Song: [TheHappyApe: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of how God is a magnificent Creator and incorporate "Praise" in their prayers.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect



MEMORY VERSE:

“

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

”

Genesis 1:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have you ever wondered about our world, what makes us have day and night, why we have the water and the land, where all the plants and animals came from, and even about yourself? These are all important questions that people have always asked.

Just looking around can help you know something about the answers. There had to be Someone very wise to know how to make such a wonderful world. Someone had to be very powerful to put the sun, moon and



stars in the sky. There had to be Someone very big to be able to provide for such a big world. There had to be Someone who loved us very much, who thought about all of our needs and planned for them so carefully.

Today, we are going to start from the very beginning - the beginning of creation, that is. The first book of the Bible is called Genesis.

Let's read the story of God's creation together. **Read Genesis 1:1-2:3**



LESSON BODY:

In this lesson, a good visual aid would be useful, like [this](#) poster of the seven days of creation or something similar.

Consider beginning the lesson with the lights off, then turning them one once you reach the part of the story in which God created the light.

In the beginning the world was empty and darkness was everywhere. But God has always been there and He had a plan!

Day 1 (Light and Dark): First, God separated the light from the darkness. He said, "Let there be light!" And there was light! He called the light "day" and called the darkness "night." This was the end of the first day (Genesis 1:3-5).

If needed, the servant may consider explaining to the children that "the end of the first day," does not mean a literal day of 24 hours. Our Church teaches us that the "days" of creation are not a 24-hour time period, but rather they are an unspecified period of time.

Day 2 (Clouds and Oceans): Then God said I will divide the waters, so he separated the waters in the clouds above from the waters in the sea below. That space He called "sky" (Genesis 1:6-8).

Day 3 (Land, Plant and Trees): Then God pulled back the waters and some dry ground appeared. He made beautiful plants of many shapes and colors and also made mountains. Do you see all the trees and flowers that we have all around? These were all created by God on day three (Genesis 1:9-13).

Day 4 (Moon, Sun and Stars): Then God created the shining sun that we see every day for daytime. He also created the moon and stars that shine at night and make the sky so beautiful (Genesis 1:14-19).

Consider discussing with the children how God first created a place for all the living creatures to live before creating them. He first had to create a home to welcome them into.

Day 5 (Birds and Fish): Remember how He created the waters and the seas? Who remembers which day (Day two)? But the sea had no fish and the sky had no birds! So on the fifth day God created all the colorful fish that live in the ocean. He also created all the birds that fly in the sky (Genesis 1:20-23).

Day 6 (Man and Animal): Now there were fish in the sea, there were birds in the sky. What's left? Animals! So He created all the animals that we see today, the elephant, the lion, the jumping monkey, the turtle, the rabbits, the cats, the dogs, and everything!

So now everything was so beautiful with the birds flying in the sky and the fish swimming in the ocean and the beautiful trees, but there was one last thing that was very important! What do you think it was? Mankind! So on the sixth day God created man and God called them male and female! Mankind was very, very special because he was created in God's image and God gave him everything so that he would enjoy it! (Genesis 1:24-31) God created Adam as the first male, and then created Eve as the first female, and God loved them so much and gave them power to rule over creation!

Day 7 (God Rested): After God created everything and He saw that it was all very good, He rested on the seventh day.

Discuss with the children the beauty of creation, encouraging them to share what their favorite parts of creation are and why. Foster a discussion of praising God for how beautiful His creation is and how powerful and magnificent He is for creating it all. When we realize the beauty of His creation, we should thank Him for it and praise Him for being the Creator. The focus should be on praising God as the creator of the beautiful world in which we live, which St. Augustine explained in his commentary on Psalm 135³. This quote demonstrates that the beauty of creation reflects the majesty and beauty of the Creator - God Himself.

"He made the sky and earth, and all things which are in them good, and He made them very good. If He made all these things good, of what sort is He who made them?"

- St. Augustine

Now that we have seen the way God created the universe, we should praise Him for His magnificent creation whenever we pray.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Days of Creation Spin Wheel⁴:

1. After printing [the template](#), cut one segment off the top part of the spinner.
2. Allow the children to color the pictures as they like.
3. Help the children to attach the top part of the brad to the bottom.
4. The children can now enjoy the spinner and learn the days of creation.



The Days of Creation Craft:

1. The servant should prepare [this template](#).
2. Using coloring pencils, allow the children to color the plate to look like the Earth.

³ A. (n.d.). Exposition on Psalm 135. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1801135.htm>

⁴ Gorden, B., Says:, D., & Says:, B. (2020, January 26). FREE Printable Creation Craft for Kids. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from https://www.123homeschool4me.com/creation-craft-for-kids_36/

3. Then, allow them to color the template as they like.
4. Then cut the template out, but only on the vertical lines leaving the white margins on the top and bottom of each strip.
5. Connect the strips by cutting off the margin above Day four.
6. Now glue the Day four to the margin under Day three.
7. Now you have one long strip with all the Days of Creation.
8. Grab the dry paper plate and turn it over.
9. Use the strip as a guide and mark two cutting lines so that the strip will fit through the plate and show one day at a time.
10. Next, gently fold the plate in half and cut along the two lines.
11. Finally, feed the strip up the first slit and down the second.”



Draw the Creation!⁵:

1. Give each student a [sheet](#) to keep track of the story and draw what happens each day.



VIDEO:

[GreekOrthodoxChurch - Soak Up the Son: Ingredients of Creation \(3:25\)](#)

[Sharefaith Kids: The Creation story for kids \(3:02\)](#)

Questions:

- What did God create? (EVERYTHING!)



SONG:

[TheHappyApe: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- What was our lesson about today? (God created heaven and earth.)
- Who made day and night? (God).
- Who made the sky and water? (God).
- Who made land and vegetation? (God).
- Who made the sun and stars? (God).
- Who made the sea creatures and the birds in the sky? (God).
- Who made the animals? (God).

⁵ Barnaclebrain. (n.d.). The Christian Creation Story Storyboard. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/the-christian-creation-story-storyboard-6116370>



- Who made us? (God).
- What was the first thing that God created? (Light and darkness).
- What was the last thing that God created? (Mankind – male and female.)
- Why did God create mankind last? (Because mankind is so special, we were made in God's image.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We saw today how everything God made is so beautiful and He made it all for us to enjoy. From now on, every time you stand up to pray make sure you tell God that He's so great, He's so awesome, He made all these beautiful things. Also thank Him for creating all these things for us to enjoy. We should spend time telling God how amazing He is and how he is the greatest Creator of everything (that's called Praise). Since God created everything for us, we must also respect His creation!

We can also start noticing the beauty of creation more. Notice that ants can carry 20 times their own body weight. That is like you lifting a car! Notice that the birds are chirping, each their own song. Notice the breeze, the sounds of the leaves, and the smell of the flowers. We can all live with thankfulness for God's creation.



Lesson 1.3 - God, Our Father: The Lord's Prayer, Jesus Taught His Disciples How to Pray

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:8-14; Luke 11:1-4

Craft: [Coloring book](#).

Activity: [This worksheet](#) (cut into pieces)

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Prayer \(4:35\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children should know the Lord's Prayer, as the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. The children should develop a deeper understanding of the prayer, and should take away some contemplations about it.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerful



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...Lord, teach us to pray...

”

Luke 11:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Who knows how to recite the Lord's prayer? We say it at the beginning of every single prayer and we end with it as well, right? Where else do you hear it? In Liturgy, Vespers, at the beginning of the Agpeya. Again, we start any prayer with it. So how do you think this prayer came about? Who wrote this prayer? Today we will see why this prayer is so special.

Let us say it together.



LESSON BODY:

Read the Lord's Prayer in the Bible.

The disciples asked Jesus, saying, "Lord, teach us to pray." Our Lord Jesus gave them this prayer.

Our Lord told them, "When you pray, say: **'Our Father...'**"

The servant may ask the children about the significance of saying "Our Father", as opposed to "My Father".

When we pray this special prayer, we are praying together with the rest of the Church since we all have God as our Father! When we say "our Father" we are telling God that we love Him as our Father, and that we care and love all of our brothers and sisters since we share the same Father! This is why we say "our Father", not "my Father".

The servant here may place the emphasis on the communal aspect of the prayer. The prayer is a way of reconciling all of humanity together through the understanding that we all share one Father in heaven. The goal here is for the children to understand that all of us, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or social status, share the same Father so we should remember that each time we pray the Lord's prayer. St. John Chrysostom teaches us this in his 19th Homily of the Gospel of St. Matthew⁶, explaining that when we start our prayer by recognizing our common Father, it takes the focus away from oneself, and places it on our brothers and sisters.

The servant may also ask the children about God's Fatherhood.

How lucky are we, that the Creator of all things, the Mighty God, we get to call "our Father!" Think about what a father is like. A father is loving and protective of his child. God does the same with us.

"Who are in Heaven, hallowed be Your name": What does it mean to say "holy be your name"? In saying this, we are telling God to allow us to glorify His name in all we do! What our Lord has taught us before, is, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." We should then remember to ask ourselves, "Am I living in a way that gives glory to God?" If I shout at my friend, am I giving glory to God? If I yell and decide to not share my toys, am I glorifying God?

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven": In saying this phrase, we must be wanting to live with God. We must be longing for Heaven. We should be looking forward to that which "Eye

"He teaches, moreover, to make our prayer common, in behalf of our brethren also. For He says not, "my Father, which art in Heaven," but, "our Father," offering up his supplications for the body in common, and nowhere looking to his own, but everywhere to his neighbor's good... we are all of us knit together, and no one has anything more than another; neither the rich more than the poor, nor the master than the servant, neither the ruler than the subject, nor the king than the common soldier, nor the philosopher than the barbarian, nor the skillful than the unlearned? For to all has He given one nobility, having vouchsafed to be called the Father of all alike."

- St. John Chrysostom

⁶ Chrysostom, J., St. (n.d.). Homily 19 on Matthew. Retrieved August 10, 2020, from <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/200119.htm>



has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

The servant may engage the children in a discussion about how beautiful Heaven is! It is beautiful to the extent that even the best, best things that we see here on earth are not as beautiful as Heaven.

“Give us this day our daily bread”: St. John Chrysostom teaches us that God understands that we need food. But, God is also telling us to ask for bread on a daily basis, so that we are not worrying about tomorrow.

“Forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted for us”:

The servant may ask the children about their thoughts: Do we ever do anything wrong? Do we need forgiveness? Has anyone ever done anything unkind to you? Have you forgiven that person? How important is it for us to forgive others? Bring the children's attention that we may sin against God so many times a day, and He in His mercy is willing to forgive us all of our sins. So then, when someone else sins against me should I not then also forgive them?

“And do not lead into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one”: We should ask God to save us from the evil one, the devil. We should ask God for help when we want to sin.

The servant may discuss the broader topic of prayer: Can we pray before meals? Can we pray in the morning or the evening? Can we pray at bedtime? Remind them to say the Lord's Prayer every morning and evening.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Lord's Prayer Activity:

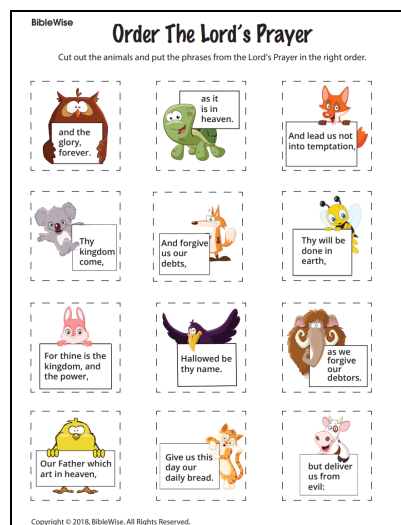
1. Allow the children to order the Lord's Prayer by giving them [this worksheet](#) (cut into pieces).
2. The children can be in pairs or in larger groups if they find it difficult.
3. Similarly, if they find it easy, it might be good to have them do it individually.
4. Alternatively, write each line of the Lord's Prayer on a card.
5. Read them out loud at random and have the children put them in order. Then say the whole prayer together.

Lord's Prayer Craft:

1. Have the Lord's prayer printed out onto paper for the kids, get them to decorate it and frame it so that they can take it home to always see and use.

Take Home Coloring Notebook:

1. Provide [this coloring book](#) at the end of the Sunday School class, and allow the children to color it during the week!





SONG:

[Our Father Lord's Prayer \(2:34\)](#)

Questions:

- What are the different ways we can pray (Praise, Repent, Ask).
- How can we repent? (Moving away from bad habits.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- Why do we say “Our Father”? (So that we remember to always pray for others.)
- When we ask God to forgive our sins, what should we also be doing? (Forgiving others.)
- When we say “And do not lead into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.’ Who is the evil one? (The devil.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We should ask the Lord to teach us to pray, just as His disciples asked Him. Also, we should try to pray the Lord’s prayer often, remember some of the ideas we discussed in class - how when we pray, we should look beyond ourselves and unto our neighbors, for example. Every time we pray the Lord’s prayer, let us remember to think about others and how great and loving our Father in Heaven is. Let us this week take one person and pray for them everyday.



Lesson 1.4 - Calling on Our Father: Calming the Storm

Building Block I
God's
Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Luke 8:22-25, Mark 4:35-41

Craft: Pie pan, blue food coloring, a tablespoon of vinegar, a small plastic boat, and a small amount of baking soda.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids - Jesus Calms the Storm](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn to call on our Lord Jesus when they are afraid because God is above everything including nature.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!

”

Mark 4:41

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Turn the light of the room on and off. Then ask the children: I can control the light in this room, but can I switch the sun on and off? (No!) Do I have a button to turn the rain on and off? (No!) What about thunder? Can I mute it with a remote control? (No!)

How many of you have ever been in a storm? How about a hurricane? Do you know what to do in these situations?

Create discussion with the children by asking them how they felt/would feel during the storm.



Today we are going to talk about a really bad storm recorded in the bible. In this storm, Jesus' disciples were in the worst place they could possibly be— in a boat!



LESSON BODY:

Jesus said to His disciples, *"Let us cross over to the other side of the lake."* And as they launched out, our Lord Jesus fell asleep on a pillow (Mark 4:38).

The wind started to blow and it was getting stronger, and then the waves started to rise and crash on the boat! What do you think the disciples did? They woke Him up and said, *"Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"* (Mark 4:38). (Which means, do You not care that we are going to drown?) The disciples were terrified, and they felt that Jesus did not care that they were in danger! The boat was filling up with water and they were in trouble. What were they going to do?

Engage the children in a discussion concerning what they would do if they were in that place? (Accept all answers. Direct them to the lesson objective: to call upon the Lord God in all circumstances).

Jesus got up and said to the sea, *"Peace, be still."* And the wind immediately died down and everything became perfectly calm.

The servant should consider pausing after each word in this sentence, emphasizing the difference between the chaos of the storm and the peace. The servant may consider having storm noise in the background, and stopping them when the quote "Peace, be still" is said.

Imagine the look on the disciples' faces! Can you show me what their reactions were? They were probably in complete shock with their mouths wide open!

Jesus said to His disciples, *"Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"*

Then they became very afraid and said to each other, *"Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*

Just as we said at the beginning, I can control the lights in the room or our TV, but I cannot control the wind, rain, sun, moon! But God, the Creator of all things can control everything, not even with a switch but with just His words! And they all obey Him!

*The servant can make the comment that within the church, we call our Lord Jesus the "Prince of Life," as is said in the litany of the ninth hour: "When the thief saw the **Prince of Life** hung on the cross, he said: "Had not the One crucified with us been God Incarnate, the sun would not hide its rays, nor the earth have quaked trembling."*

Our God is the Almighty One, Creator of all things seen and unseen. He has authority over all the earth, and dominion over all creation.



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Storm Dish Craft:

1. Fill a pie pan (or other shallow pan) with water.
2. Add some blue food coloring and a tablespoon of vinegar.
3. Float a small plastic boat in the water.
4. Sprinkle a small amount of baking soda into the water like rain.
5. Watch the “storm” of bubbling waves and the boat.

Have the children imagine they are in a storm. Are you afraid of the thunder or lightning? Why or why not? Is God in charge of the world, even in a storm? Can we trust God?



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids - Jesus Calms the Storm](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- Who was in the boat in our story? (The disciples.)
- What happened after the disciples got into the boat and everything was fine? (A storm).
- What do you think the disciples were most afraid of? (Dying, drowning).
- Who did the disciples call on when they got afraid? (Jesus).
- How did Jesus calm the storm? (With just a word, He said to the storm “Peace, Be Still”)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples? That they should have more....? (Faith).
- Who should we call on when we are afraid? (Jesus).



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

In today’s story we saw how the first thing the disciples did when they saw that the storm was so bad is that they ran to our Lord Jesus to help them! They learned that no matter how bad a situation seems, the first thing they needed to do was turn to God.

Same thing today, even with our advanced technology, we do not have control over the weather or the rain or thunder. So if we find ourselves afraid of something that is not in our control, the first thing we do is run to our Lord and ask Him to help us. But, we are not in a boat with Jesus like the disciples, so how do we ask him



to help? Let us be aware that God lives in us - *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.”*

If there is a very bad storm and the thunder is so loud it is so scary, should I sit and cry? Or be afraid? No, I have to stand up and pray and ask our Lord to protect my family, my friends, and I. Our Lord God is so powerful, He can do all things!



Lesson 1.5 - Trusting God's Delivery: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Daniel 6

Craft: Yellow, orange, white, black construction paper, scissors, markers, and glue.

Video: [friendsandheroestv: Daniel and The Lions' Den - Friends and Heroes - English Animated Bible Story \(2:20\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn to trust God's protection in times of trouble and identify Daniel as a prophet.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Courage



MEMORY VERSE:



Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him...



Psalm 62:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have you ever been to the zoo and seen a lion before? They are some of the scariest animals in the world because they are so big and strong.

The servant may consider showing images of a lion to the children to help them visualize.

Now, can you imagine getting thrown into a den of lions with no one to protect you?! A den is like a big cage where they used to keep the lions, and today we are going to learn about the story of Daniel the prophet who was thrown into a den of lions but miraculously came out alive because of God's protection.



LESSON BODY:

Daniel was a prophet (a man who delivers messages from God to the people). He lived at a time of a King called King Darius. Daniel was more successful than all the other governors (*can be communicated as 'rulers'*) around him, since *"an excellent spirit was in him"* (Daniel 6:3). Because of his success, the King wanted to promote Daniel (to make him even higher) to become a ruler over the whole kingdom. So these other governors looked carefully at Daniel to find a fault in him and could not. They tried to find anything that Daniel did wrong but they could not because Daniel loved God and was always doing the right things and faithful in his job.

Engage the children in the following discussion: How would you feel if you were one of those other governors? Would you be envious [The servant may explain the meaning of envy, that is, the desire to have someone else's position, or possessions]? Do you think that it is right to be envious? (No, because, as the Bible teaches us, we should "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15))

But they knew that Daniel loved God so much and always prayed to God. So, they decided to hold that against him! The governors decided to put together a plan to get rid of Daniel! A very, very evil plan!

Consider asking the children: But, do you think that God did not see what they were doing? God looks and sees not only the outside, but also the heart of the human race "I, the Lord, search the heart" (Jeremiah 17:10).

So, the men walked up to Darius and convinced him to order the whole kingdom for 30 days to pray only to him, to the king and no-one else, for after all, they convinced him, he was the king! And if anyone does not do that, then their punishment would be to throw them into a den of lions.

Unfortunately, the king signed this official order!

The servant may lead the children in the following discussion: Now, what do you think Daniel did when he heard that? Do you think Daniel will follow the rules of the king and stop praying to God - the Creator of all things? No way!

Daniel loved God. When he heard about the written order, he went home, entered his room, and with his windows down, he knelt down on his knees three times that day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, just like he did before.

The men who got the king to sign the order found Daniel praying and they went to the king and told him what Daniel was doing and reminded him of the order. The king was very unhappy because he loved Daniel but what can he do? The king tried to save Daniel, but the men told him that this order can not be changed.

The king then gave the command, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the den of lions. But the king knew that Daniel's God was very, very powerful, and he knew that his God could do anything, he said to Daniel, *"Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you"* (Daniel 6:17).

That night the king was so upset - he spent the night fasting and did not bring musicians to him. He could not sleep - for he loved Daniel. Very early in the morning the king woke up and ran to the den of lions. He called



with a loud voice, *“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?”* (Daniel 6:20).

Discuss with the children: do you think Daniel was still alive?

Daniel responded from the lions’ den saying, *“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you”* (Daniel 6:22).

Then King Darius wrote another order to all peoples and nations on the earth to fear the God of Daniel, *“For He is the living God...He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth”* (Daniel 6:16,27).

See how courageous Daniel was? He had faith in God that He would protect him since Daniel was willing to stand up for His faith. After being saved, Daniel gave God all the glory for saving him.

Supplementary



VIDEO:

[friendsandheroestv: Daniel and The Lions' Den - Friends and Heroes - English Animated Bible Story \(2:20\)](#)



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Paper Lion Craft:

1. Fold the yellow construction paper into halves vertically
2. Cut following the fold
3. Take one half and fold it in half and then fold in half again
4. Same with the other side
5. So now you have a half paper folded to make 4 boxes
6. One end will be folded in half and on the other end of the vertical strip of paper make two cuts in the center making a rectangle that is still connected (this will be the tail), the bigger two rectangles will be the arms.
7. Glue down to make the body, fold the rectangle so it's pointing out
8. Round the corners of the legs to make it smoother
9. Cut out a yellow circle (this will be the head) and a slightly bigger orange circle (the mane)
10. Make halfway cuts all around the orange making sure that the center of the circle is still connected together
11. Make two smaller yellow circles (ears)
12. Glue the two small yellow circles to the big yellow circle
13. Then glue that on top of the cut-up orange circle
14. Cut two small white circles and two smaller black ones (together they'll make the eyes)
15. Cut a small black triangle (the nose)





16. Draw on the mouth and toes with a marker
17. Glue the head to the body

For further instructions, consider watching this YouTube [video](#).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- Who was Daniel? (He was a prophet.)
- What unfair law did Daniel's enemies convince the king to pass? (A law against prayer. Whoever prays to any god except the king would be thrown into the den of lions.)
- Why did Daniel's enemies convince the king to pass an unfair law? (Because they were jealous of Daniel since he was a good man and favored by the king.)
- Why did Daniel not stop praying? (He loved God so much and wanted to obey Him.)
- What happened when Daniel was thrown in the den of lions? (He was not harmed. God sent the angels to shut the mouths of the lions so that they do not hurt Daniel.)
- Who really saved Daniel? (God. He is always with us and protects us.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

1. **Courage/ I will not be afraid.**

Whenever we are in a position where we could be hurt or feel afraid, we should be courageous and have faith in God. We should do our part, but trust and pray that God will help us. (e.g. If we are being bullied, we should pray to be brave and courageous in facing those who want to hurt us by getting help from the teacher.)

*Consider emphasizing that this is different from tattling. Tattling is when you tell on someone for the sake of getting them **in trouble**, as opposed to telling, which is done for the sake of getting someone **out of trouble**.*

2. **I should not be envious**

In the story we saw how the men were envious that Daniel was liked by the king more than they were. So, they made an evil plan to hurt him, but in the end, God was with Daniel and saved him.

We should learn from that, if my teacher picks someone in class to help or if my friend gets a nicer gift than I did, should I be envious of them? (No! I should be happy for them, not like the governors.)



Lesson 1.6 - Pope Abraam and the Miracle of Mokattam Mountain

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Mustard seed.

Craft: Rocks or several decks of cards (Build a Mountain Craft), colored paper and white construction paper, scissors, glue, marker, and decorative tools ('Mountain Slider' craft).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will understand that God can do all things and nothing is impossible for Him. Also, they will understand that God's words are always true.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:



*...If you have faith as a mustard seed,
you will say to this mountain 'move from here to there' and it will move...*



Matthew 17:20

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Who here has seen a mountain? Are they small, or big? Has anyone ever seen a mountain move?

Consider showing a mustard seed and passing it around so the children may understand how small it is.

Now, who has seen a mustard seed before? Look at how small it is, but if it is planted, it creates a very large tree.



Do you know that our Lord Jesus told us that if we have faith as small as this mustard seed, you can tell a mountain to move, and it will move? Today we will see how this actually happened.



LESSON BODY:

St. Abraam was the Pope many years ago, and he was a very righteous man. All of the Christians loved him because he was very humble and kind, and treated everyone with respect.

At that time, there was a ruler named Al-Muizz, and he did not like the Christians. One of his servants who also did not like the Christians came to him and said that there is a verse in the bible that says *"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain move from here to there, and it will move"* (Matthew 17:20 & Mark 11:23). He thought he had a very clever idea: if he told the Christians to prove this verse, they would be unable to move the mountain and would be embarrassed.

Consider asking the children: Do you think that this is possible? (Yes of course! The Bible teaches us that with God all things are possible, even moving a mountain.)

Al-Muizz did not believe that this verse is in the bible, so he sent for the Pope and asked him if such a verse really existed. When Abba Abraam confirmed that it was true, Al-Muizz challenged him to prove it. The Pope asked for a chance of three days.

Discuss with the children to see what they think the Pope wanted to do in these three days?

He went directly to St. Mary's Church and sent for the bishops and priests and asked them to fast and pray for the duration of those three days so that God would help them and save His people. After all this fasting and praying, the Virgin Mary appeared to the Pope before the third day and told him about a very holy man called Simon the Tanner who would help him with this problem. The Pope went to St. Simon the Tanner, and they all along with the bishops, priests, and people went out to the mountain of Mokattam. There was a large gathering of the Christians and they all had strong faith that God would help them.

But, who else was there? The Governor and his ministers who, of course, were so sure that this can never happen! They were just watching and waiting to make fun of the Christians because the mountain could not move on its own, could it?

The Christians then started to pray and knelt down and said "Kyrie Eleyson" (which means Lord have mercy). Every time the Christians knelt down and said Kyrie Eleyson the whole mountain was lifted off the ground and lowered down again with a big bang! When they knelt down again for the second Kyrie Eleyson the same thing happened again! It happened three times.

Consider reminding the children that we say Kyrie Eleyson throughout our prayers in the liturgical services. To engage the children, the servants may lead the children in prostrating three times, while saying "Kyrie Eleyson."

*"For he who has all faith - which is like a grain of mustard seed - moves not just one mountain but also more just like it. And nothing will be impossible for the person who has so much faith."
- Origen of Alexandria*

At this awesome sight, Al Muizz proclaimed, “God is Great!” Turning to St. Abraam, he said, “This is enough to prove that your faith is true.” Now he knew that our God is powerful and our Bible is true! He asked the Pope “Now, ask whatever you wish and I will give you” but the Pope did not want to ask for anything.

The servant may ask the children what they think the Pope should ask for now that he has proved the ruler wrong.

When he insisted, the Pope just asked for permission to fix the churches. He was given a lot of money, but he refused it. Ever since then, the Governor liked and respected the Pope very much and they became good friends.

Consider sharing this quote from Origen of Alexandria⁷.

Of course this is a great miracle, but does that mean that if anyone goes out and does that the mountain will move? God can do anything! But only if He sees that this is what is best. So God allowed this great miracle to happen because otherwise all the Christians would be insulted and embarrassed and God saw that this was best. What is important is that we have faith and believe that God can do anything since He is the Almighty.



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

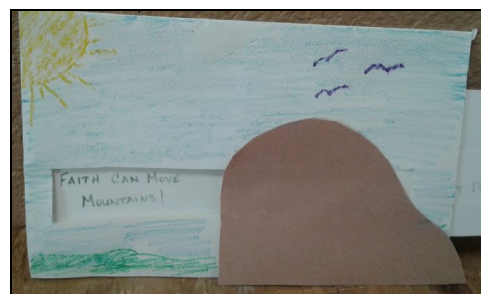
Build a Mountain:

1. Guide the children to collect and stack the rocks to make the highest mountain possible.
2. The winner is the person who has the highest mountain of rocks that is self-standing.
3. As an alternative, if the weather does not permit, the servant may use a deck of cards.



Mountain slider⁸:

1. Take a full-sized paper cut a rectangle in the middle towards the lower part of the paper (to be decorated at the end)
2. Take a smaller piece of paper and cut out a slightly bigger rectangle (this will be the slider)
3. Cut any desired mountain shape out of brown construction paper
4. Put the paper we made in step one in front of the rectangle and place it so that the center of the paper in step one is aligned with the rectangle in step two
5. Then glue the mountain towards the left side of the page only to the single rectangle though



⁷ Origen, Roberts, A., & Donaldson, J. (2006). *Commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew*. Grande Prairie, Alta.: Red Pill Press.

⁸ Faith Can Move Mountains Craft (part 2) Slide tab to move mountain and reveal text: Mountain crafts, Bible lessons, Faith moves mountains. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/403846291572419439/>



6. Cover the back with a page of colored construction or paint white and decorate the front with scenic greenery
7. Write a message like "Faith Can Move Mountains" (optional)
8. The end product should look similar to the image on the right.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why did the Governor ask the Pope to move the Mountain? (The Governor wanted to disprove the verse in the bible that says "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain move from here to there, and it will move.")
- Who was the Pope at the time of this story? (Pope Abraam).
- What did the Pope do when he was asked to move the mountain by the governor? (He asked for three days.)
- What did the Pope do during those three days? (He asked everyone to pray and fast.)
- Why did they pray and fast? (So that God would help them. This can only be done through the power of God)
- When St. Mary appeared to the Pope, she asked him to look for someone called...? (Simon the Tanner)
- Is it Simon the Tanner that made this mountain move? (No, it's through God's power)
- When they all went to the mountain, what did they do and say? (knelt down three times and said "Kyrie eleyson" meaning Lord have mercy)
- What happened when they knelt down and stood up? (The mountain was lifted up so high and brought down again.)
- What did this show the governor? (That our bible is true and that our God is powerful and can do anything.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When we are faced with an issue or situation that may scare us, we should have faith in God and trust that He will be with us since He is the Almighty. (e.g. If there is a loud thunderstorm, remember that God is in control and we should have faith that He is doing what is best for us.) Next time there is a fast in the church, try to participate, even if it is only for a few days. Let us hold on to the word of God in scripture - let us start to read the Bible little by little with our parents.



Lesson 1.7 - Raising Lazarus

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: John 11

Craft: Plastic spoons, googly eyes, and gauze or strips of toilet paper.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' club: God's Story: Lazarus \(3:43\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will know that when we ask God for something we want, sometimes God wants us to have something even better. We have to wait for His right time. God has a great plan for each and every one of us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust



MEMORY VERSE:

“

I am the resurrection and the life.

”

John 11:25

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have you ever asked God for something that maybe you did not get? Or, maybe you asked Him for something, and He was slow in giving it to you or gave you something much better?

Well, today we will learn about a story of one of Jesus' best friends who became really sick, but Jesus did not do what everyone expected Him to do.

The servant should clarify that sometimes we may think that God has not given us something, and we may complain about it. However, God in His infinite knowledge and

“If God is slow in answering your request, or if you ask but do not promptly receive anything, do not be upset, for you are not wiser than God.”

- St. Isaac of Syria



wisdom knows what actually is good for us. And since we are His children, He cares to give what is best for us. The remainder of the lesson should be conveyed through the lens of what St. Issac of Syria has said⁹: that if God is slow to answer, one should not be upset, for God is all-knowing.



LESSON BODY:

Our Lord had a very special friend whom He loved; his name was Lazarus. One day Lazarus was very sick. Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha. They all lived in a town near Jerusalem called Bethany.

The sisters sent to our Lord telling Him that Lazarus, whom he loved, is very sick. Now when the Lord knew that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Our Lord told His disciples that Lazarus whom they love had died.

Consider engaging the children in a discussion: Why do you think God did not go and heal Lazarus right away? Guide the children to the response as mentioned in John 11:4, "The sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." St. Cyril of Alexandria teaches us that Christ waited so that an even greater work could be done: raising Lazarus from the dead¹⁰.

Instead of leaving right away to heal Lazarus of his sickness, Jesus chose to wait, which confused all those around Him. But we know that Jesus waited so that He could perform an even greater miracle, one that those around Him could not even imagine!

"And He deferred His arrival in order that He might not heal him while sick, but raise him when dead; which is a work of greater power, so that He would be more greatly glorified."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

When our Lord went to Bethany, Lazarus' sister, Martha, saw him and said to Him, "If you were here, my brother would not have died". Martha was crying and was very sad. Our Lord felt very sad for her. But He encouraged her and said, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection (to come back to life after death) on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Martha called her sister to meet our Lord. All the people who were with her, trying to comfort her, came with her to the place where our Lord was. When she saw our Lord, she cried and said to Him, "Lord, if you were here my brother would not have died".

Our Lord cried because He loved Lazarus, Mary and Martha and those around Him could see how much He loved them by His tears.

Our Lord asked, "Where did you lay Lazarus?" They said, "Come and see". They took our Lord to where Lazarus' tomb was. Lazarus was buried in the family tomb outside Bethany. The tomb was like a cave with a

⁹ The Syrian, I. (n.d.). The Ascetical Homilies of Saint Isaac The Syrian.

¹⁰Randell, T. (1885). Commentary on the Gospel According to S. John. Walter Smith. <https://books.google.ca/books?id=jtsIAQAAMAAJ>



big stone on its door. Our Lord asked the people to take away the stone. Martha said to our Lord, "Lord, by this time there is a very bad smell, for he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "*Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?*" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. Our Lord knelt down on his knees and prayed. Then He shouted loudly "Lazarus come out!" Immediately, Lazarus came out all bound. Our Lord asked the people to loosen him and let him go. Our Lord knew from the beginning that He would raise Lazarus from the dead.

Guide the children to understand that we should trust in God's Goodness, and Authority. Knowing that we, His children, are His, and that His thoughts towards us are ones of hope and prosperity (Jeremiah 29:11) and above all, thoughts of eternal life. We ought to live with God trusting Him. As we live with God, be assured of His goodness, and trust in how He "manages our life, as deemed fit."

Supplementary



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' club: God's Story: Lazarus \(3:43\)](#)

- Who were the three friends that were very dear to Jesus? (Martha, Mary, Lazarus.)
- When Jesus came to check on Lazarus, how long was Lazarus dead for? (Four days.)
- Why did Jesus cry? (Because He was sad that His good friend had passed away.)



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Mummy Spoon Craft¹¹:

1. Each child will take one plastic spoon and a strip of toilet paper skinny enough to be wrapped several times around the spoon.
2. Instruct each child to fully wrap the spoon, but leave a small opening at the top to put the goggle eyes.
3. Once finished wrapping, tuck the end of the toilet paper in for the children so it doesn't unravel and place the googly eyes on the spoon, giving the resemblance of a mummy.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider having a discussion with the children and asking the following questions:

- What was the name of the man that Jesus raised? (Lazarus.)
- How many sisters did he have? What were their names? (Two sisters: Mary and Martha.)

¹¹ Gorden, B. (2019, April 02). Lazarus Craft for Kids. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.123homeschool4me.com/lazarus-craft-for-kids/>



- Why did our Lord wait two days and not go to see Lazarus when He knew that Lazarus was sick? Did he not love Lazarus enough? (No, our Lord Loved Lazarus very much, but He had a plan and needed to wait. Our Lord knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead.)
- How did Jesus feel when He went to the tomb? What tells us that? (He was sad, He cried because he loved Lazarus so much.)
- How long had Lazarus been dead? (Four days.)
- What happened when Jesus called on Lazarus who was dead? (Lazarus rose from the dead and came out of the tomb all bound.)
- What is the meaning of the word “resurrection”? (To come back to life after death.)
- Why does God sometimes not give us what we ask-for immediately? (God always listens, but He always has the best plans. We need to wait for His right time.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When you ask God for something, remember always to ask for His will. When you do so, you learn that God has His timing and knows what is best for us. Everytime we pray this week, let us remember to ask God to do His will and not ours since He knows what is best. Sometimes, God may do/allow for something to happen that does not make sense to us, but we should trust that He always does what is best for us.

Lesson 1.8 - Our God is the True God

Building Block I
God's Authority



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Glass jars (transparent, same-shape jars), and candles/glow sticks.

Craft: Glow sticks, paper cut outs, and markers, handkerchief for blindfolding, obstacles in the way (can be toys, etc.), and a treasure in the middle.

Song: [Steve Green - Topic: You Are The Light Of The World - Matthew 5:14 & 16 \(1:47\)](#) or [Daniel Girgis: Matins Adam Doxology for our Lord Jesus Christ - Erin Melek & Daniel Girgis](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that we, as Christians, are called to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14) for God lives in us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Holiness



MEMORY VERSE:

“

You are the light of the world...

”

Matthew 5:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider engaging the children through the following demonstration.

Bring several transparent jars and place lit candles in them. Bring similar jars without any light and place them beside. As an alternative, you may use glow sticks for the same demonstration.

Discuss with the children the following questions:

- Do you realize how all the jars are the same, though some had candles and some did not?



→ *Was one jar better than the other? (No, it is the light that shines through them that separates one jar from the other.)*



LESSON BODY:

Ask the children, how is it that some jars had light shine through them while others did not?

As Christians, through the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation (The Sacrament of Myron), we receive the Holy Spirit, meaning, we receive God in us - who is the light of the world (John 8:12). So, although by ourselves, we are all the same, the one true God who lives in us sets us apart from different religions like Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism. We are all like these jars. We all sin, as is said in Job, *"Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one! Since his days are determined"* (Job 14:4-5) but, the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, teaches and guides us to be light of the world. This means that without the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we are like any other jar. These jars are not bad, they just do not have God in them, so we should pray for them and love them so that they can one day also have God in them.

Consider the following quote from St. Basil the Great.¹²

"When a sunbeam falls on a transparent substance, the substance itself becomes brilliant, and radiates light from itself. So too Spirit-bearing souls, illumined by Him, finally become spiritual themselves, and their grace is sent forth to others."

- St. Basil the Great

Ask the children, if we have the light in us, what then is our responsibility towards others? In other words, why does it matter that we have the lights in us?

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). We should try our best that through our actions, we may bring the attention of those around us that we are different - we have God dwelling in us. So that when they see us, they may realize that we are His,

and they may glorify Him. Once they glorify Him, and see that God is He who made us who we are, they will realize they can be that too.

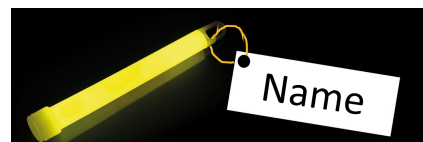
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Glow Stick Light¹³:

1. Each child will take one glow stick, with a blank white card tied to it.
2. Each child can label their card with their name and decorate as they like to take home.



The servant may consider playing the following game along with the suggested craft.



¹² Basil, & Hildebrand, S. M. (2011). *On the Holy Spirit*. Yonkers, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.

¹³ Little Church Childrens Ministry. (2020, July 10). Jesus is the Light of the World d YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUYJdAYAzrg>



Eyes Closed Activity¹⁴:

1. Break the children into pairs.
2. One child will have their eyes blindfolded, while the other child will be behind them, and holding on to their shoulders.
3. The child in the back will try to guide the blindfolded child to the middle of the room, where there is a treasure, but avoiding the obstacles.
4. The child in the back can only guide the blindfolded one through tapping their shoulder on the left and right.
5. Put some obstacles on the ground, and have a target in the middle of the room for the children to reach.

At the end of the activity, link this game to the lesson: through our actions, we should set an example to those around us, guiding them to Christ.



SONG:

[You Are The Light Of The World \(1:47\)](#), or [Morning Doxology](#)

You are the Light of the World

You are the Light of the World

Let Your Light Shine before Men

You are the Light of the World

You are the Light of the World

You are the Light of the World

Let Your Light Shine before Men

You are the Light of the World

Let Your Light so shine

That they may see Your Good Works

And glorify Your Father in Heaven

¹⁴ Pin the Spider on the Web Halloween Party Game. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/pin-the-spider-on-the-web-halloween-party-game>



You are the Light of the World

You are the Light of the World

Let Your Light Shine before Men

You are the Light of the World

Let Your Light Shine before Men

You are the Light of the World

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have everyone sit down. Every time they answer a question correctly and with guidance, they can stand up to encourage kinesthetic learning.

- Ask them if they are better than others? (No).
- Ask them if they are supposed to be different from others? (Yes).
- Ask them why? (They are the light of the world.)
- Who makes us the light of the world? (Jesus).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We should not be like the rest of the world. If we see our peers saying bad words, bullying others, or lying, we should not follow them. We can learn from our Lord Jesus, His saints, and the Church about how we should behave. When we follow our Lord we will be the light of the world. We should also remember that we are not better than others. If we are good it is because of our Lord and not ourselves. His light shines through us.

As our lesson discussed, our religion is different from other religions and we should be grateful that we are children of God.



Building Block 2: God, the Giver of Blessings

Lesson 2.1 - Christ Provides: The Miracle of Catching Huge Amounts of Fish

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of
Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Paper net.

Scripture Reference: Luke 5:1-11

Craft: Paperclips, fish image, pencils, string, thumbtacks, and magnets, small twine or polypropylene rope, string, or twisted sisal rope, scissors, and one lighter.

Video: [Crossroads Kids Club - God's Story: Peter Fishes for Man \(2:20\)](#)

Song: [The WonderKids: I Will Make You Fishers of Men](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn the story about four fishermen called as disciples. Children will learn that they should trust that God always provides for us when it is His will.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust and Thanksgiving.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

*Ask, and it will be given to you;
Seek, and you will find;
Knock, and it will be opened to you.*

”

Matthew 7:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



The servant can begin by asking the children the following questions: Have you ever gone fishing before? What did you fish with? How many fish could you catch in one day?

Today, we will learn a Bible story about a time some of Jesus' disciples went fishing.

The servant may hold up the paper net and explain that when Jesus' disciples went fishing, they used a net.

Their net was sort of like this one, but it was much, much bigger and stronger. They would throw their net out into the sea and wait for the fish to swim into it—just like this (show them how to throw the net).



LESSON BODY:

The servant should read Luke 5:1-11 and prepare a summary for the children.

One day as our Lord Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret preaching to a crowd of people, he saw two boats on the seashore. He got into the boat, which belonged to Simon Peter and taught the crowd of people from the seashore. When Jesus was done teaching, He told Simon Peter to put his nets into the water to try to catch some fish.

The servant can prompt the children with this question: What did Jesus ask Simon to do? (To put the net down again.)

Imagine what Simon Peter must have been feeling. He had been up all night long, and had not caught even a single fish! He was probably so frustrated and exhausted, and then Jesus came to him telling him to try one more time. Peter did not know who Jesus was. To him, He was just a carpenter who probably did not know anything about fishing. It may be easy to trust in God when it is convenient, when it is according to what we want. But, to be able to trust in God when it does not make sense, when it goes against our reason, against what we think is right, it is much harder. Peter said to our Lord Jesus Christ, “**Master**, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” (Luke 5:5). Simon Peter accepted our Lord Jesus to be His Master. When Jesus told Peter to throw his net in the water, he obeyed Him. That takes a lot of trust!

The servant may compare this scenario to the children's lives. For example, it could be compared to them learning to ride a bike and failing over and over again and deciding on giving up. But, then someone whom they think does not know how to ride a bike themselves, comes and tells them to try one more time, and they listen to them. This obedience shows an immense amount of trust, a quality that should be emphasized in the lesson.

When Simon Peter did this, the net became so full of fish that the net began to break. He had to call a friend to help bring in the nets and the fish. Simon Peter was amazed by all the fish they had caught and was embarrassed because he knew that he was a sinful man.

Consider prompting the children with this question:

- Jesus did not tell Simon that he would catch any more fish, but Simon still listened to our Lord Jesus and let the net down. What happened when Simon let the net down? (When the net was down Simon caught more fish than they could carry.)

He told Jesus to leave because he knew that he was sinful and did not deserve all of the fish that they had caught. But Jesus told Simon Peter and the other men that they would become fishers of men. When Simon Peter and the other men heard this they parked their boats and left everything they had and followed Jesus.

Consider prompting the children with these questions:

- What does Jesus tell the men at the end of the story? (He told them that they would be fishers of men.)
- What does it mean to be a fisher of men? (It means that they will be the ones to tell everyone else about Jesus and convince them that Jesus is the only way to have life.)

We should be like Peter and have faith and obedience when God tells us to do something that might seem impossible to us. Imagine if Peter had given up and not obeyed Jesus. He would have missed out on catching all the fish. If we have tried something many times, and have not been able to do it, never give up and have faith that God will help you!

The servant may give examples of not giving up that can relate to struggle the children may have, such as: learning to ride a bike, learning to spell/read, or learning to play an instrument. These examples will allow the children to apply the concept of trusting in God despite when something seems impossible to them to their own lives.

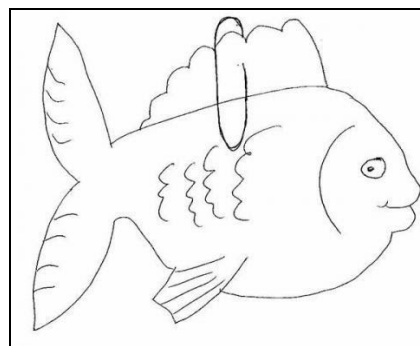
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Make Fishers of Men Activity:

1. Cut out about 20 fish for each child.
2. Write the name of a disciple on 12 of them and other names on the rest.
3. Clip a paperclip to each fish.
4. Make a fishing pole with pencil, string, thumbtack, and a piece of magnet for a hook. To play the game, put the fish in a bowl. Catch a fish with the magnet and pull it up. The child should decide whether the name is a disciple or not. Keep the disciples and throw the rest in a pile as discards. Continue until all fish are caught.



Making a Fishing Net:

1. On a wall place a piece of already cut rope vertically on the wall and keep it in place with thumbtacks
2. Cut another piece of rope and double it to make a loop at the end
3. Tie the loop end to one end of the vertical rope





4. Repeat step 2 and tie it to the other end of the rope
5. Repeat step 2 three times and space then all along the vertical rope
6. Grab the right side of the double ropes and the left side of the one beside it and tie them together that should create a diamond shape
7. Repeat until the whole net is tied and connected together
8. Cut a piece of rope the same length as the one done in step 1 but now it will be placed on the bottom of the net
9. Connect the rope in step 8 to the end strands
10. Then connect the middle strings with the bottom vertical one
11. Cut off or burn off (teacher only) the extra string/rope

Video showing how the net is made: <https://youtu.be/JAMqZA27iA0>

Questions:

After watching the video, discuss the following questions with the children:

- Who was Simon Peter's brother? (Andrew)
- When Jesus told Peter to put down his net and catch fish, what did Peter do? (Peter still chose to obey, although he was fishing all night.)
- What happened when Peter obeyed? (His net was so full of fish, it almost broke!)
- How did Peter feel after this miracle? (So grateful and amazed!)
- What did Jesus tell Peter after the miracle? (He told him to follow Him as a fisher of men).



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids Club - God's Story: Peter Fishes for Man \(2:20\)](#)



SONG:

[The WonderKids: I Will Make You Fishers of Men](#)

*I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men
I will make you fishers of men
If you follow Me (x3)
I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me!
Hear Christ calling, come unto Me, come unto Me
Hear Christ calling, come unto Me,
I will give you rest (x3)
(repeat)*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Did Simon Peter think he was able to catch more fish? (No).
- Did God still provide for Simon Peter despite this? (Yes).
- Why did the fishermen choose to follow Jesus? (They were obeying His command to follow Him as fishers of men.)
- If we have tried something and failed one hundred times, should we give up? (NO! We should always keep trying, having trust that God sees our work and efforts.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When we are struggling, or in need of anything, we should not be afraid to ask God, because He will provide for us just like He did for Simon Peter. God will provide if what you ask is good for you. If we feel like we are unable to do something after trying countless times, never give up and trust that God sees and knows your struggles, and weaknesses.

This week, trust that God has good things in store for you, even if your fishing net seems empty right now. If there is something you have been trying to do for as long as you can remember, but you have not been able to do it, do not give up but persevere knowing that God sees your efforts.



Lesson 2.2 - Christ Multiplies Our Offering: The Five Loaves and the Two Fish

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of
Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Brownies (or other item to share if the servant does not want to bring food to class), a loaf of bread, two fish toys/images.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, and/or John 6:1-14.

Craft: Legal size paper, [print out of five loaves and two fish](#), glue sticks, markers, and one slip of paper with the memory verse written on it per child.

Activity: Soft object to pass around (e.g. ball, stuffed animal, etc.).

Video: [The Beginner's Bible Collector's Edition - Jesus Feeds Thousands](#)

Song: [InfinityPointOne: The Sharing Song](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will know the story of the five loaves and two fish, and that Jesus fed five thousand from this small offering from a little boy. The children will understand that similarly, Christ is capable of providing and taking care of each and every one of them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Thanksgiving.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Give, and it will be given to you.

”

Luke 6:38

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may begin the lesson with a sharing demonstration.

Bring a batch of brownies to class (or another item to share if the servant does not want to have food in the classroom). Only bring enough for half of the class. Hand out the brownies to half the children; let the others see that there are no more.

When the children realize there is not enough, ask the children what they can do about this situation. Wait for them to suggest solutions.

Propose that the group can cut each brownie in half to provide for all children and then eat the brownies together!

Today, we are going to learn about a little boy who shared what he had with Jesus, which Jesus turned into a miracle!



LESSON BODY:

Read the story of Jesus feeding the multitude in Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:12-17, or John 6:1-14 and summarize:

One day, all the people in the towns near the place our Lord lived woke up and said to each other, "Where is Jesus going to be today? We want to go find Him and listen to His teachings! We need Him to heal our family and friends." They left their houses to look for Him, and do you know where they found Him? Our Lord was next to a lake with His disciples. When He saw the huge crowd of people coming towards Him, He sat down to wait for them because He loved them very much. When the people came to Him, there were more than five thousand people!

Consider pausing here to clarify by asking: Does anyone know how much five thousand is? It is a lot!

The people sat down all around Him and waited for Him to speak. Even though there were so many people, everyone was quietly listening. All the people were very quiet because they were very excited to listen to our Lord; they loved all the things He would say to them. Christ stayed with them and talked to them and healed the sick people among them for the whole day!

When it started to get close to evening, our Lord's disciples came to Him and told Him that it was time for the people to leave because they had not eaten for the whole day and they were very hungry. Our Lord told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." So, the disciples looked around them – they were on top of a mountain.

The servant may pause here to ask: Has anyone ever been on top of a mountain before? Is there any food there? Not at all! There are no stores or restaurants on top of a mountain!

The disciples started to look around nervously. The Lord had asked them to feed the people and they didn't want to let Him down, but where could they find food? They started to ask each other, "Where are we going



to find food for all these people? There are just so many of them!" (Remember – there were thousands of people there).

Then one of the disciples, his name was Andrew, noticed something. He saw that there was a boy there in the crowd, a boy about the same age as you, and this boy had with him 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish. Andrew said to the other disciples, "Well, there is a boy here who has five loaves and two fish, but how are they going to feed all these people?"

The servant can ask: What do you think? Do you think it is possible for these five loaves of bread and two fish to feed thousands of people for each person to be full? If the kids say, "no" then tell them that they felt just like Christ's disciples did at that time! If some of the kids say "yes," tell them that they must know something special about our Lord and ask them to share why they said yes.

After Andrew asked this question, our Lord told His disciples "Have the people sit down in groups of 50 each." So, the disciples agreed and obeyed. After this, our Lord took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, which the young boy had shared with the disciples, and He gave thanks to God for the food. Why do you think that our Lord Jesus, gave thanks before giving the food to the people? (He did this not for His own sake, but to teach us the importance of always giving thanks, especially before a meal.)

The servant should consider emphasizing the importance of giving thanks to God before we eat, since He is providing us with nourishment. St. John Chrysostom discusses this, showing the importance of thanksgiving prayers before a meal.¹⁵ St. John Chrysostom is teaching us that prayer before we partake of a meal is crucial, but that does not mean we should not be praying before other activities.

"But why is it that He did not pray when He was about to cure the paralytic, or to raise the dead, or to calm the sea, while here in the miracle of the loaves He did so? It was to show that those who are beginning to partake of food ought to give thanks to God."

- St. John Chrysostom

Then He started to give bread and fish to the disciples for them to pass out to the people. This is where something very special happened. The food did not run out! He kept giving more and more and more and more and more to the disciples and they kept giving it out to all the people until everyone had enough and was full! Thousands of people were full!

Even if we do not have much to give to others, we should know that it is plenty in God's eyes. A small amount can go a long way if we share.

Consider demonstrating with the loaves and fish brought by the servant to illustrate to the children how miraculous this is.

Our Lord did a wonderful and awesome miracle – He multiplied the little food that was there until it was enough to feed everyone. No one went home hungry. And even more so, the disciples cleaned up the food after the people and they picked up all the leftover pieces, and there was enough left over to fill up twelve whole baskets!

¹⁵ Chrysostom, J., & Goggin, T. A. (1957). 42. In *Fathers of the Church, Volume 33: Commentary on Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist: Homilies 1-47* (pp. 450-451). Washington, D.C: Catholic University of America Press.

Not only were the disciples in awe of Christ because He did this, but all of the people were too. They had never seen or heard of anything like this before. So, they followed our Lord around and did not want to leave Him.

The five loaves and the two fish were very small but when they gave them to our Lord they were more than enough because Christ always multiplies our offerings. He takes the small things we give Him and makes them big!

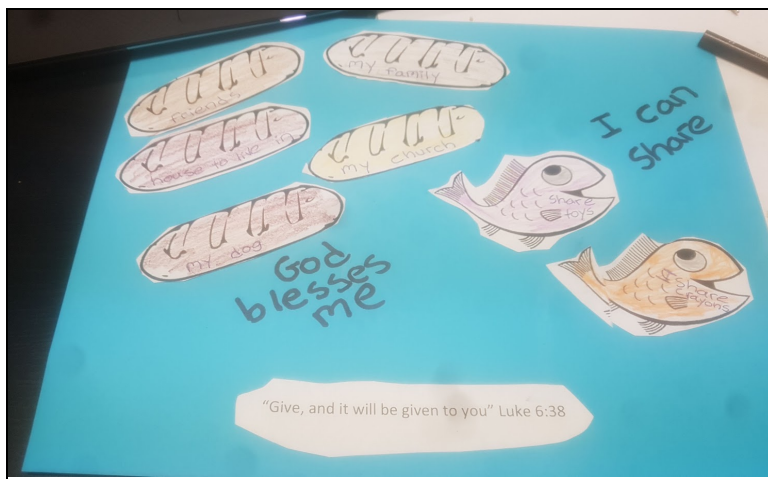
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Five Loaves and Two Fish Craft¹⁶:

1. Preparation: cut out the [five loaves/five fish cut out](#), as well as the memory strips.
2. Glue the memory verse strip on the top or middle of the page.
3. Brainstorm one word answers to the question: How has God blessed you? Summarize these words on a whiteboard to be referenced by the children.
4. Have the children write one way God has blessed them on each of the five loaves e.g. "God blessed me with a house" or simply the word "house"). Invite children to draw their responses if they are not comfortable writing.
5. Brainstorm one word answers to the question: How can I share my blessings with others? Summarize these words on a whiteboard to be referenced by the children.
6. Have the children write one way they can share on each of the two fish (e.g. "I can share my toys" or simply the word "toys"). Invite children to draw their responses if they are not comfortable writing.
7. Have the children glue all of their cut outs on the page wherever they please to make a collage.
8. Allow the children to colour and decorate the page.



Sharing Potato¹⁷:

Use this game to help teach the children to share with one another. The goal is to share as fast as you can to avoid being "out."

¹⁶ Preschool, S. (n.d.). Login. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/FreeDownload/Fish-Loaves-Craft-4075158>

¹⁷ Game adapted from WikiHow. (2019, March 29). How to Play Hot Potato. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Hot-Potato>



1. Pick one object to pass around (e.g. ball, stuffed animal, etc.).
2. Play the song below and have the children pass around the object gently while the song is playing. Explain that the goal is to not be the one holding the object when the music stops.
3. As the children get better at the game, consider adding more objects to make it more exciting.



SONG:

[InfinityPointOne: The Sharing Song](#)



VIDEO: [THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE COLLECTOR'S EDITION - JESUS FEEDS THOUSANDS](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How many people came to see Jesus? (Five thousand.)
- How did the disciples feel about having to feed to many people? (Nervous; it seemed impossible.)
- How many loaves of bread and how many fish did Christ start with to feed the thousands? (Five loaves, two fish.)
- How did Jesus and the disciples get this food? (A little boy decided to share.)
- What did Christ do before He gave the people the food? (He gave thanks to God.)
- How many baskets of food were left over? (Twelve baskets.)
- If we only have something small to give to God or our neighbor, should we still give it? (Yes, since we know that God will bless it!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Remind the children that this big miracle Jesus did started when a little boy decided to share. Likewise, they should also share because God can do great things with our little offerings.

The servant should stress that even if the children have something small to share, they should since God will bless the little they give.



Ask them to try this week to share with their siblings or friends. Invite them to discuss and suggest scenarios where they can share so the lesson is as practical as possible. Tell the children that they can tell the class about what they shared next week in class.



Lesson 2.3 - The Holy Spirit, Gift & Blessing to Mankind: The Holy Spirit Works Within Us

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Bible passages (see below) with visual supports for children, chart paper or whiteboard, makers.

Scripture Reference: John 14:25–29, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 4:30

Craft: Index cards, papers, glue, and crayons.

Video: [Sciboy's: The Holy Spirit - experiment \(3:59\)](#)

Song: [SUS Copts: The Trinity Revealed \(2:09\)](#) (audio explanation and song)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that the Holy Spirit is God's gift and blessing to us and that He is dwelling in us, meaning we should turn to Him in times of need.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Thanksgiving and Trust.



MEMORY VERSE:



You are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you.



1 Corinthians 3:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Begin the lesson by asking if the children can tell you about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. When Jesus left the disciples, He said He would send the comforter, His Spirit. He was the greatest gift He could have ever given us. Someone who would help us and lead us and guide us. A gift of a person, a gift of God.



Consider the following demo as an introduction to the lesson.

To help the children understand that the Holy Spirit is a helper, place a Bible high out of their reach on, for example, a cabinet or shelf. Ask for volunteers to reach up and grab God's Word. You can let them all try and jump high enough to touch it. Then ask them the following question: Can you jump high enough to get God's Word? (No, it is too high.)

Tell them that you can help them reach the Bible. Take one volunteer, lift them up, and say out loud, "I'm your helper." Lift them high enough to reach the Bible.

The servant may ask the children why the volunteer could reach the Bible. (They could reach it because you helped them.) Was it important to have a helper? (Yes, he could not do it by himself.) Who grabbed the Bible? ((insert his or her name) grabbed the Bible.)

Share with the children that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow God, to speak to Him, to hear Him, but we still need to work with the Holy Spirit and reach out to God to know, love, and follow Him. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word and how to speak to Him, but we still need to reach out and grab for it ourselves.

Explain to the children that because the Holy Spirit is God we should pray to the Holy Spirit and ask Him for help and comfort.



LESSON BODY:

Read John 14:25–29 and summarize with the children:

This Bible passage shows us that Jesus gave us a beautiful gift: The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit was given as a promise to the disciples to be our Helper. But not just any old helper! The Holy Spirit is such a good helper that one of His names is Helper. How wonderful it is that Jesus left to heaven, and He did not leave us alone but gave us a Helper to be with us!

Consider including visuals or some other creative support to assist the children with the Bible reading throughout the body of this lesson. Without these visuals, this lesson might be too complex for the children.

You may wish to pause here and ask: Why is it a blessing to us that we have the Holy Spirit as our Helper? Discuss with the children that this Holy Spirit helped the disciples (and us) understand God's Word, share the love of God with others, and allow us to be in loving union with God since He now can dwell in us. When the Holy Spirit dwells in us, He transforms us and helps us live a spiritual life, as St. Cyril of Alexandria teaches us.¹⁸ By having the Holy Spirit, we are able to live a righteous life, in which we can have true Christ-like love for one another.

"But when the time came for him to ascend to his Father in heaven, it was necessary for Him to be united through His Spirit to those who worshiped him and to dwell in our hearts through faith... You see that the Spirit changes those in whom he comes to dwell and alters the whole pattern of their lives.

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

¹⁸ Cyril of Alexandria, St. (2006). 16:7b Jesus Will Send the Counselor. In J. C. Elowsky & T. C. Oden (Authors), John (p. 287). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



Let us see what else the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit!

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and summarize with the children:

This is our memory verse for today! The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit lives in you and will be with you always. In fact, that means your body is a home for the Holy Spirit!

Pause and ask the children: If the Holy Spirit lives in us, what kind of home would He want to have? How can I make my life a nice home for Him?

If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, then we should make ourselves a nice home for Him. We can do this by following His commandments and listening to Him when He speaks to us. When He tells us to do a good deed, we should listen to Him so that He does not feel ignored! This obedience will make sure He is welcome inside of us.

Pause and ask the children: How would the Holy Spirit want you to take care of this home of His? What would He want you to do? What would He want you to stay away from? Consider recording these ideas and suggestions on chart paper or a white board to review at the end of the lesson.

Now that we know that God lives in us and helps us, we should always be thankful of Him for this amazing gift!

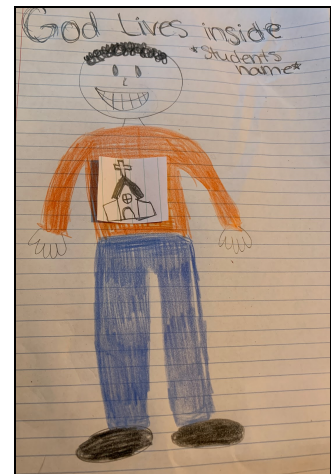
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

God Lives In Me Craft:

1. Provide each child with a small card (1inch x 1inch). Ask them to draw a church on the card.
2. Give each child an additional piece of blank paper and ask them to draw an image of themselves that takes up the entire page.
3. Help the children glue the small card on the center of their stomach on the image of themselves.
4. Title the drawing: "God lives inside of (insert child's name)."



VIDEO:

[Sciboy's: The Holy Spirit - experiment \(3:59\)](#)



SONG:

[SUS Copts: The Trinity Revealed \(2:09\)](#) (audio explanation and song)

Questions:



- Who is the Trinity? (God the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit)
- How is the sun like the Trinity? (The sun generates light and heat and is also a star, all without being separated).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why is the Holy Spirit a gift from God to us? (The Holy Spirit is our helper and guide in all things; it is as if God gave us Himself to be our best friend!)
- Where does the Holy Spirit live? (In me!)
- What can we do to make ourselves a nice home for the Holy Spirit to live in? (Following His commandments and listening to Him when He tells us to do good deeds.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Review the suggestions the children gave for ways to make themselves a better home for the Holy Spirit. Explain to the children that there are many things we can do to make ourselves a good home for the Holy Spirit - pray, read our Bible, spend time with our family, share, etc.

Above all, we should all try our best to not sin, to run away from it! Sin is what makes our house messy and sad for the Holy Spirit.



Lesson 2.4 - Families, a Blessing From God: Blessing the family of Abraham, Sarah, & Isaac

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A bag of play sand.

Craft: Colored construction paper, scissors, staples or glue sticks, and markers/pencil crayons.

Activity: Two plastic rings, two styrofoam cups, and blindfolds for team members.

Song: [Father Abraham \(SUSCopts Children's Corner\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of God's love, His blessings, and His promises. They will also learn that He gives us unique blessings and promises in due time according to His Goodness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Patience and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great...



Genesis 12:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Get the children ready for today's lesson with this fun, tactile activity!

Before the lesson, purchase a bag of play sand. Put the play sand in a large container that all the kids can sit around. Let the kids spend some time running their hands through the play sand.

Consider discussing with the children: How does the sand feel between your fingers? Can you hold a bunch of sand in your hand?



Can anyone count all the little pieces of sand in your container or hand? Let the kids try to count. That's impossible, is it not? We can not count all this sand, there is just so much! This reminds me of a promise God made to a man named Abraham a long, long time ago. Come on over here and let me tell you more about it!



LESSON BODY:

The servant should read Genesis 17 prior to the class and give a summary to the children:

Abraham and Sarah were married, Abraham loved Sarah so much but they had no children. One day Abraham moved to a new piece of land and a new home and at that time God promised him that all this land would be his and that he would be blessed with so many children. Abraham was so excited that he would finally have a son! But then he waited and waited and waited, and still no children. Abraham and Sarah knew that God would keep His promise, but now they had been waiting for so long!

Pause and discuss: How many years do you think they had to wait? (Wait for answers.)

They waited twenty-five years! That is a long time! And, all the while they were waiting, they felt like time was running out. After all, they were getting older and older! But they knew that God is the only one who can give them this blessing of a baby; no one else could but Him.

Now, do you think God keeps His promises? Yes! God ALWAYS keeps His promises. At just the right time, God gave Abraham and Sarah a beautiful baby boy. His name was Isaac. Not just that, but, God gave them even more blessings as He promised.

This was the baby through whom God would bless Abraham and make him a great nation, and that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. Later on, Isaac would have a son, and he had a son, and he had a son... and much later on... baby Jesus would be born! And through Jesus, all the people of the earth were blessed!

The servant may consider emphasizing that Abraham was confident in the promise of God, which is what allowed him to faithfully wait for 25 years. St. John Chrysostom teaches that it is likened to someone on a ship who sees the destination in which they are heading, and so they act as though they have already arrived at their destination.¹⁹ The servant should consider this metaphor when delivering the lesson.

So as we saw today, God is the only one who gives us all these blessings and He will always keep His promise but not at the time that we want, but when He sees it is the right time.

"The metaphor is of persons on shipboard, seeing from afar the longed-for cities. Before they enter, they by their words of greeting already are beginning to occupy.... Do you see that they received the promises in this sense, in their already accepting them and being confident respecting them? If then to be confident is to receive the promise, it is in your power also to receive."

- St. John Chrysostom

Supplementary

¹⁹ John Chrysostom, St. (2005). 11:8–10 Abraham Went Out, Not Knowing Where. In E. M. Heen & P. D. Krey (Authors), Hebrews (p. 290). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



Promise Ring Relay Activity²⁰:

Purpose of Game: The Promise ring symbolizes a promise to be faithful. This relates to how Abraham and Sarah remained faithful to God as they believed in his promise! The blindfold represents trust as we place our trust in God to fulfill his promise to us.

1. Divide the children into 2 teams.
2. Place 2 rings in cups on a table in front of the 2 teams.
3. Tell the children that they will be doing a relay race! All of the team members will be blindfolded except one. This team member will be designated as the “Guide” and will have to guide each team member to the cup table and back using only their words! The first team member will walk blindfolded to the table, put on the ring, and walk back to their team with the ring. The second team member will put the ring on while blindfolded, walk to the table, and put the ring in the cup before walking back to their team. The third team member will walk to the table while blindfolded, put on the ring, and walk back to their team. The goal of the game is for each team member to wear the ring!
4. Model the game for the children before playing so that children can have a visual example of how to play the game.
5. Once each student has been able to wear the ring, tell the children about how God made a promise to Abraham and Sarah and how he kept that promise because Abraham and Sarah were faithful to him. They had to place their trust in God, similar to how the children had to place their trust in the “Guide” to lead them to the ring!



Promise Chain Craft²¹:

Purpose of Craft: The Promise Chain will consist of all of the children’ individual promises to God linked together in one big chain! This chain will be hung up in the room so that children can remember their promises that they made to God. This will also be a reminder of the promise that God gave to Abraham and Sarah.

1. Give Strips of Colored Construction Paper to each student.
2. Instruct the children to write and/or draw a promise that they want to make to God on their strip of paper.

²⁰ Williams, C., & Kirkpatrick, C. (n.d.). Promises Fulfilled Group Group Activities. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/promises_fulfilled_group_activities.htm

²¹ Lenten Prayer Chain. (2020, March 17). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.freekidscrafts.com/lenten-prayer-chain/>



3. Once children are done writing/drawing their promises to God, the teacher can form each strip into a ring and staple the rings together to make a chain that can be hung up in the room!
4. Tell children that this chain is a reminder of our promises to God and that God always fulfills his promises if we remain faithful to him! It also can be a reminder of how many promises God fulfills.



SONG:

[Father Abraham \(Music Ministers Hub\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Waiting on God is hard. Abraham and Sarah waited a very long time (over 20 years) for God to fulfill His promise of sending them a son of their own (Isaac).

Isaac is the Son of Promise, and as such his birth foreshadows the birth of Jesus Christ many years later. God cares about our families, we can rely on God to keep His promises, even though sometimes we must wait upon Him to do so. Sometimes, obeying God means waiting on His timing.

- Sarah was not patient on God and because of this she suffered consequences, what did we learn from this? (When we do not trust God and wait, we have to carry difficult consequences that we will not like.)
- How would you describe how Abraham took his relationship with God? (Very seriously.)
- How should we take our relationship with God? (Very seriously, just as Abraham did.)
- Was Abraham patient? Is it important to be patient? (Yes he was. Being patient means we trust in God's timing. We need to remember that he knows best and his timing is perfect.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We saw in our story today how Abraham and Sarah were so patient. They knew that God can do anything especially if He promised it to them and that He will do it at the right time.

We should also be the same as Abraham and Sarah, maybe when we pray we ask God for a lot of things (for example, I want this toy that I saw, or that I want a baby brother or sister, or that God would help me be better in my school or a certain sport). These are all great requests that we make to God but then after we pray to Him we trust that God hears our prayers and He will do what is fitting to us and will do it at the right time.



If I keep asking for a bike, and the next day, I pray again and ask for a bike, and the next day and I keep asking week after week but I don't get the bike. I need to do what Abraham and Sarah did, I keep waiting and praying until God sees it's the right time to give it to me. So when I pray I ask for something and then say "God, I would like this but according to Your will and Your timing" which means, I am asking for something if you see it is good for me and whenever you want to give it to me.

Practical exercise: Ask them this week to say "according to your will and timing" after any request they make.



Lesson 2.5 - Diversity of Families: Story of Esther

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Floor size puzzle.

Scripture References: Esther 2:6-7

Craft: Scissors, pencil, brown and green construction paper, glue; [paper crown](#) printed or paper bags, markers, crayons, craft glue, stickers, pipe cleaners (optional), glitter, and acrylic jewels.

Activity: Puzzle pieces (preferably floor size)

Video: [Esther saved her people \(3:40\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the story of Queen Esther. They will also understand that each family is a blessing from God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Boldness of Faith and Humility



MEMORY VERSE:

“

When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

”

Esther 2:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Begin the lesson by brainstorming different kinds of families with the children. For example:

1. Families with one parent.
2. Families with two parents.
3. Families with lots of children.
4. Families with only one child.



5. Families with lots of aunts and uncles.
6. Families with no aunts and uncles.
7. Families with grandparents.
8. Families with no grandparents.

Discuss with the children how each family is different. Despite this, they are each a blessing from God.

Tell the children that today, they will be learning about a queen in the Bible who stood up for her family. Let's get right into the Bible story for today. It is found in the Book of Esther.



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if any of them already know the story of Esther. Invite them to share the story with their peers if they do.

Read Esther 2:6-7 and then summarize with the children:

God created you and I. He tells us in His Word that He knit us together while we were inside our mothers' wombs (Psalms 139:13-15). He knows every little detail about us. He knows how many hairs we have on our heads (Matthew 10:30). He knows what we like and what we do not like. He made each of us unique and there is no one created exactly like us in the whole world.

Consider prompting the children with this question: What makes each of us different? (e.g., the way we look, where we live, the things we like, our families etc.).

We know that Mordecai took care of Esther and raised her as if she was his own daughter. As we travel through the book of Esther, we will learn that Mordecai was a Jewish man who loved and obeyed the One True God. Since he loved and obeyed the One True God, he must have taught Esther to love and obey God as well. We do not know how Mordecai felt about his life or if he understood God's plans for him.

You may wish to prompt discussion using the following questions:

- *What happened to Esther's parents? (They died.) Who raised Esther as their own daughter? (her cousin, Mordecai.)*
- *Esther's family was different because she lived with her cousin. How are your families different?*
- *We learn from this passage that Esther is a young Jewish woman. When we say Jewish what does that mean? (A person who is a descendant of Abraham, also known as an Israelite or Hebrew.)*

During this time, the king that ruled over the country of Persia was named Xerxes. He chose Esther to be his Queen. The king then made a great feast, the feast of Esther, and proclaimed a holiday and gave gifts to the people. The king was very happy to find the beautiful and lovely Esther.

Esther was one of God's people when she was chosen as queen. However, one of the king's ministers hated the people of God and so he arranged a trick on all of God's people so he could kill them. He convinced the king of his idea and got him to sign it. However at that time, the king did not know that Esther was one of God's people. When Mordecai, Esther's uncle, heard of this, he sent queen Esther to talk to the king and ask

him to change his mind since she is one of God's people. Esther then asked all God's people to fast for three days before she would talk to the king. So, they all fasted for three days.

Consider prompting the children with this question:

→ *Why did Esther ask God's people to fast? (Esther was asking for the Jews to pray for God's help.)*

The king did not allow anyone to meet him except for those he called for or extended his golden staff to. Esther was worried because she wanted to talk to the king, but he did not call her. So, she prayed and courageously decided to go on her own to try to talk to the king. She dressed very nicely and went to the king's palace and waited to see if the king would extend his golden staff to her. The king was happy to see Esther and he extended his golden staff to her. Esther's faith allowed her to humble herself before the king and put herself in danger because of the immense love she had for her people. St Clement of Rome praises Esther for this great act of courage which she displayed before God as King Himself²².

"Many women, fortified by the grace of God, have accomplished many heroic actions...To no less danger did Esther, who was perfect in faith, expose herself, in order to save the twelve tribes of Israel that were to be destroyed. For by fasting and humiliation she begged the all-seeing Master of the ages, and He, seeing the meekness of her soul, rescued the people for whose sake she had faced danger."

- St. Clement of Rome

Esther went to talk to the king. Esther then invited the king and his wicked minister (Haman), who hated the people of God, to a party twice in a row. The king was very happy at the party that Esther threw for him. The king asked Esther if she needed anything and promised to give her anything she asked for, including up to half the kingdom. Esther then asked the king to get rid of the wicked minister Haman who planned to get rid of God's people which were also her people. The king immediately listened to her and ordered that no one should touch or hurt God's people. The king also got rid of Haman.

In this story, Esther's family was her nation (the Israelites). When she knew they were in danger, she did everything she could to save them. As you can see, family does not always just include parents and siblings, it can also include

our friends and the Church.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Family Tree Craft²³:

1. Begin by helping the children trace their hands on green construction paper. Each child will need about five hands traced.
2. Once all the hands are traced, assist the children in cutting their hand shapes out.



²² Clement, O., & Clarke, W. K. (1937). *The first Epistle* promoting Christian knowledge.

²³ Family Tree Craft for Kids. (2018, Septe <https://www.powerfulmothering.com/family-tree>

3. Create the trunk of the tree using brown or black construction paper. The trunk can be a simple brown rectangle.
4. Once the trunk has been created, use the glue to attach the green hands to the top. Have them branched out so it looks like a nice full tree.
5. Tell the children to use markers to write out the various members of their family on the branches. Have them start at the top with their parent(s) names. Branch off further to add siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, pets, etc.

Remind the children that everyone's family tree will look different. Emphasize that it is okay and that each family is unique and diverse, and is a blessing from God - just like Esther and her uncle Mordecai!

Crown²⁴:

1. Give each child a precut [paper crown](#) .
2. Give the children the option that they can make a crown for Queen Esther or a crown for the king
3. Provide each child with the following materials in order for them to decorate their crown: markers, stickers, glue, pipe cleaners, glitter, and acrylic jewels.
4. Have children decorate their own king or queen crown.



Puzzle Activity: For this activity, you will need a puzzle (preferable floor size but if one is not available then a normal sized puzzle will work).

1. Give each student a piece of the puzzle.
2. Let the children observe their individual piece.
3. Tell children that with just our one piece of the puzzle we cant see what the whole puzzle will look like when put together. We can see bits and pieces of what the picture from our pieces might be but as each of us begins to assemble the puzzle with our pieces we see the bigger picture.
4. Everyone starts to assemble the puzzle with their pieces.
5. Explain to the children that every family, no matter how different, everyone plays a specific part or role. The puzzle pieces signify each person in a family and when one piece is missing the puzzle is incomplete. When the whole family is together the puzzle is complete.



VIDEO:

[Esther saved her people \(3:40\)](#)

Questions:

- What is the name of the woman that married the king? (Esther).
- What did Haman want to do? (Get rid of God's people.)
- What did Esther ask the king to do? (To save God's people).

²⁴ FirstPalette.com. (n.d.). King and Queen's Crown Templates: Free Printable Templates & Coloring Pages. Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <https://www.firstpalette.com/printable/king-queen-crown.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

Review the following question with the children to review their learning:

- Who has a plan for each of His children? (God!)
- Who was Mordecai? (Esther's uncle)
- Who hated the Jews and made a plan to have them destroyed? (Haman)
- Why should we follow God's instructions and trust Him for His timing in our circumstances? (Because He has a plan for all of us.)
- How did God use Esther to save His people? (By doing a party for the king.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

How can God use you in your circumstances to be a positive influence? (based on my behaviour in that specific circumstance.)

Have faith that God has a plan for each of us even if we do not see the whole picture right away.

This week, be grateful that you are one of God's children and be thankful for your family which God blessed you with, no matter how different they are from other families.

As we learned in the lesson, family does not only mean our parents and our siblings, it can mean our friends, our church, and people around us that we care about. This week, remember to defend those you care about, even if they are not your parents and siblings.



Lesson 2.6 - Siblings, a Blessed Support: St. Maximos & St. Domatius

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [The story of St. Maximus & Domatius](#), [CYC: Different Life \(Ep. 8\): St. Maximus and Domadious](#), jar, socks, and gloves.

Scripture References: 1 John 4:21, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Craft: 11 x 17" paper (one per child), markers, poster paper, and scissors.

Song: [The Gospel in One Word Is Love](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of St. Maximus and St. Domatius as an example of how we should support one another, as siblings, in our relationship with Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...he who loves God must love his brother also.

”

1 John 4:21

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Begin the lesson with an activity that illustrates to the children that ‘two is better than one’ (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Let’s see how well we can do the following tasks using only one body part!

1. Walk with one leg.
2. Open a jar with one hand.
3. Read a word with one eye.



4. Put on gloves or socks with one hand.

Give the children time to struggle doing these things. After everyone has a turn, transition into the body of the lesson.

This activity teaches us a very important lesson - two are better than one! We need two legs, two hands, two feet, two eyes, etc., to do things well.

The same thing applies to us as people! When two people work together, they can be a team. What are some examples of two people who can work together? (Siblings, married couple, best friends, etc.). *"Two are better than one...For if they fall, one will lift up his companion."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

Today, we are going to learn about two brothers who worked together because they loved God: St. Maximus and St. Domatius.

Consider holding up an icon of these saints and asking the children if they already know anything about these brothers.

What we will see is that because they loved God, they loved each other. As a result, they became closer to God too!



LESSON BODY:

For servant preparation and information on St. Maximus and St. Domatius: [The story of St. Maximus & Domatius](#) and/or [CYC: Different Life \(Ep. 8\): St. Maximus and Domatius](#).

Read the story of St. Maximus and St. Domatius and summarize with the children:

Many years ago, there were two brothers named Maximus and Domatius. These brothers were the sons of a Roman Emperor named Walendianus. This Emperor loved God and taught his sons to also love God. They prayed, read the bible together, and lived in a Christian manner.

Consider pausing here and asking the children: Do you do these kinds of things with your siblings? Why/why not?

The two brothers were very holy. They decided that they wanted to live a holy life as monks in the desert. When they asked their father if they could go pray in another city, their father was so happy! The Emperor sent his two sons with an army of soldiers and servants to protect them. But the brothers wanted to be alone in a simple life of prayer. When they arrived at the city, they asked the soldiers to go back to the Emperor.

While they were in this city, they found another saintly monk that they went to for advice about monasticism. But this saintly monk was scared to accept them as monks because he was scared of their father, the Emperor! He sent them to another place called Syria instead. The two brothers obeyed and stayed there for six years.

Consider pausing here and asking the children: How do you think the brothers felt about not getting to be monks? They were probably discouraged. How do you think they encouraged and supported each other through this? (Prayed together, continued reading holy books, spending time with one another, not fighting and splitting up, etc.).

God still blessed the two brothers. They became famous in many countries for their abilities to heal. They worked in the city making ship sails, and used the money they made to give to the poor. One day, one of their

father's stewards saw a sailboat on which it was written, "Maximus and Domatius." He tried to get some information from the ship owner who said to him, "These are the names of two monk brothers which I have written on my ship as a blessing, so that God may prosper my business." He described them to him. The Emperor sent the brothers' mother and the princess, their sister, to meet them. When the mother and sister came to them, they started crying because they wanted Maximus and Domatius to come home. They comforted their mother and sister, but refused. They wanted to live with Christ in the desert.

"Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ."

- St. Anthony the Great

Eventually, the two brothers left and went to the wilderness to live away from the world. In the desert, they met St. Macarius and became his disciples. They dug a cave and lived there so that their father, the Emperor, could not find them and bring them home. St. Macarius taught them many things, and they lived in the desert for three full years. They never talked to anyone. They only went to church on Sundays to have communion.

One night, St. Macarius woke up and saw the two saints praying and a ray of light like fire was coming out of their mouth to heaven. There were devils surrounding them like flies, but the Lord was protecting them with a sword of fire.

Consider pausing here and discussing the children: Look how powerful the two brothers' prayers were when they did it together! At this point, the servant may choose to link this concept of praying together to the concept of love. The servant may choose to emphasize its importance by referring to the words of St. Anthony the Great²⁵.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

All Hands In Craft²⁶:

Explain to the children that we all work better when we support one another and encourage each other. This is how we share the love God has given to us. This craft will show our commitment to loving and helping one another.

1. Have each child trace their hand and arm on an 11 x 17" piece of paper. Assist them in cutting these tracings out.
2. Allow the children to decorate the hand and arm with images and words that describe their gifts and talents that they can offer to the group to support one another (e.g. I am funny, I will encourage my brother to pray, etc.).



²⁵ Anthony the Great. (n.d.). On Love: Sayings & Stories of the Desert Fathers. Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <https://christdesert.org/prayer/desert-fathers-stories/on-love/>

²⁶ M., S. (1970, January 01). All Hands In! Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.teachinginroom6.com/2013/08/all-hands-in.html>



3. Glue all of these hands and arms together on a poster with the memory verse written underneath.

The Human Knot Activity²⁷:

1. Have everyone stand in a tight circle facing each other.
2. Have the children put their arms into the circle and grab the hands of two different people across the circle (not the people standing next to you).
3. Invite the children to untangle themselves without letting go of any of the hands.

Explain to the children that when we tie ourselves together in love, we are much stronger - just like St. Maximus and St. Domatius!



SONG:

[The Gospel in One Word Is Love](#) (2:30)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children sit in a circle and invite them to go one-by-one to identify something they learned from the lesson today. In this review discussion, highlight the following:

- St. Maximus and St. Domatius teach us that our siblings (and family in general) are a blessing from God.
- Instead of fighting with and contradicting my siblings, I should support them and pray with them so that we can get closer to God together. Why? (Because two are better than one of course!)
- I must love others because God loves me. This love should be extended to my siblings and family, even if they are annoying sometimes!



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Using the same seated circle as in the review of the lesson, invite the children to go one-by-one to identify one way they can love and support their sibling this week. If the child does not have a sibling, allow them to identify a friend or other family member they will support in the same way St. Maximus and St. Domatius supported one another.

“Two are better than one...For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

²⁷ Fit Kids Healthy Kids. (2015). Human Knot. Sport Manitoba. <https://fitkidshealthykids.ca/node/43>



Lesson 2.7S - SPECIAL (NATIVITY FAST): Christ, Gift & Blessing to Mankind: The Journey, The Birth & The Shepherds

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Nativity scene picture](#)

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:1-20

Craft: A manger, figured, free printable Nativity craft [template](#), [colored cardstock](#), [gold glitter](#) (Optional), glue, scissors, and markers.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: The Birth of Jesus for Children \(5:53\)](#)

Song: [Joy to the World](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will understand the birth of His Only-Begotten Son Jesus Christ as a great gift of love, so we should receive Him with joy and gladness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Joy



MEMORY VERSE:



For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



Luke 2:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Hold up a picture of the nativity scene and ask the children if they recognize the picture? Do you know the story behind this picture?

Other discussion questions you can prompt the children with are:

→ *Who do you recognize in the picture?*



- What do you think is happening in this picture?
- Where did this biblical scene happen?

Today we are going to talk about the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of our Lord, and the shepherds.



LESSON BODY:

Consider using visual pictures either printed or electronic that illustrate the following short stories on the Nativity.

The Journey to Bethlehem:

When the Virgin Mary was in her last days of pregnancy, the Roman emperor of those days ordered all people to go to the city of their grandparents to write their names in his records. The king wanted to count the people. St. Joseph had to take Virgin Mary and go to Bethlehem (the city of king David) because king David was a "great great great.." grandfather of St. Joseph. After a long journey, they arrived and it was a hard journey for St. Mary.

The Birth:

It was night when St. Joseph took the Virgin Mary to the inn in Bethlehem, but there was no place for them in the inn. All the rooms were full because of all the people who came to Bethlehem to write their names. St. Mary was in labor about to give birth to our Lord. Because there was no place for them in the inn, St. Joseph and St. Mary went to the manger. St. Mary gave birth to our Lord Jesus in that manger. Our Lord did not have a place to be born because His family was very poor.

"Beautiful is the Night on which the
Beautiful One came to make everything
beautiful."
- St. Ephraim the Syrian

The Shepherds:

Somewhere in the countryside around Bethlehem there were shepherds (people who take care of sheep) who were staying up late to watch over their sheep in the fields. Suddenly an angel from God appeared to them

and great light shone around them. The angel said to them "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." There were other angels who were singing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!". When the angels left, the shepherds said to each other: "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord sent the angels to tell us." They went and saw Our Lord Jesus in the manger as the angel told them. They saw St. Mary and St. Joseph. The shepherds told all people about what happened. St. Mary remembered all these things by keeping them in her heart. It was a day of great joy for everyone. St. Ephraim wrote a hymn about today.²⁸

²⁸ The Syrian, E. (n.d.). Hymns on the Nativity. Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3703.htm>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Nativity Card:

Suggestion: have cut outs of template, stable, star, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus prior to class.

1. The nativity craft [template](#).
2. Trace around the stable template pieces onto the colored card and then cut them out. We used brown for the stable walls, yellow for the, and pink for the background. Of course you could choose any colors you like.
3. Fold the background piece in half to make a card that hinges open and shut at the top.
4. Glue on the stable walls and add the Star of Bethlehem on the top.
5. To make Mary and Joseph cut out two figure shapes in different colors. Cut out two skin-colored circles and draw on faces then glue them on to the bodies.
6. To make baby Jesus, cut out the manger, a yellow, the baby.
7. Cut the yellow rectangle into thin strips to make straw for the manger.
8. Draw a face onto baby Jesus or cut a skin-colored circle and draw it onto that.
9. Glue the manger, straw and baby Jesus in between Mary and Joseph.
10. Finish the nativity craft by drawing some swaddling on Jesus and gluing some gold glitter onto the Star of Bethlehem.



Build a Manger:

Option 1: Group

1. Gather figures of our Lord as a baby, St Joseph (old aged), St Mary, shepherds, lambs, other animals and birds.
2. Use a box as a manger or a print out of a manger.
3. The children would take different roles in telling the story and putting the statues in their places.



Option 2: Individual

1. Have a manger print out for each student.
2. Have a print out of the Lord as a baby, St Joseph, St Mary, the shepherds, lambs and other animals
3. Have a star print out.
4. Have a base cardstock paper.





5. Ask the children to glue the pieces together to illustrate the Nativity scene.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: The Birth of Jesus for Children \(5:53\)](#)



SONG:

[Joy to the World](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Where was our Lord born? (In a manger in Bethlehem.)
- What were the shepherds doing? (Watching over their sheep.)
- What was the sign the Angel gave to the shepherds? (A baby in a manger.)
- What is a manger? (The place in which the animals eat.)
- The angel told the shepherds that the birth of our Lord will be for great Joy (Happiness). Why? (Because our Lord is the Savior God promised Adam and Eve to bring them back to God.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We can appreciate our gift, God Himself, by spending time with Him in church. We can do this by focusing on His words in His house. We should also always be so grateful that we have received such a great gift on Christmas.



Lesson 2.8 - Responding to God's Blessings with Gratitude: Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Small items for each child (stickers, snacks, etc.).

Scripture Reference: Luke 17:11-19

Craft: Paper bags or popsicle sticks, glue, crayons, stickers, felt, and decorative supplies.

Video: [The Holy Tales: Jesus Heals Ten Men \(4:51\)](#)

Song: [Sus: I want to stop and give my Lord thanks](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn to be thankful for all things and properly express their gratitude to God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude



MEMORY VERSE:



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks...



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Give each child a small item, like a sticker or a little snack. Wait to see who says “thank you” in response to the gift. For bonus emphasis, you might take back the item if a student does not say thanks! Or merely give lavish praise for those who do remember to say thank you.

Explain to children that they will be discussing the importance of being thankful and talking about how we can show appreciation to God and to one another.



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 17:11-13 and summarize with the children:

Briefly explain how, in the time of Christ, having a sickness was often seen as a sign of sin. These men are begging for mercy, recognizing that only God could heal them. They had probably heard of what Jesus had done for people, and sought His help with faith that He could provide. So, what did Jesus do?

Continue reading Luke 17:14-16 and summarize with the children:

At this time, when a person was healed from illness, they were supposed to go to the temple and show themselves to the priest. Jesus told these men to do this even before they were healed, but they had faith that God would heal them, so they followed Christ's instructions.

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children: Imagine being physically ill, cast out, and considered "unclean", and then being made new! How would you feel? Surely these men must have been incredibly excited and grateful.

Did any of the men whom Jesus had healed come back to say thank you? Only one of them did! This one man was also a Samaritan, which means he was from another town that was usually considered bad by the Jews. Yet, he was the only one who came to give Jesus praise and thank Him for His healing.

Read Luke 17:17-19 and summarize with the children:

It sounds like Jesus might have been a little disappointed that more of those men who received healing did not come back and give thanks. Jesus demonstrated grace and mercy. He told this man to go on his way and was surely glad that at least someone thanked Him for healing them.

We might hear this story and think that the nine "ungrateful" lepers seem terrible. Do we always give thanks to God? Do we remember how much He gives us every day? Do we recognize His constant hand in our lives and praise Him always? We should remember that God is even better than the good things we receive because He gave them to us. St Athanasius said this was what the other nine lepers forgot about in one of his festal homilies²⁹.

"They thought more highly of their cure from leprosy than of Him who had healed them."

- St. Athanasius the Apostolic

Remind kids that God is not only good when things go our way. He is always present, allowing all things for His will. So, we can give thanks and pray not only when things seem to go our way, but all of the time!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Thankful Leper Craft:

²⁹ Athanasius, T., & Cureton, W. (2003). *The festal letters of Athanasius*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press.



This craft is a fun way to show the thankful leper from before and after his miraculous healing!

1. Decorate a paper bag or popsicle stick by drawing a face on both sides.
2. Add drawn or glued spots on one side for the “leper.”
3. Add eyes and embellishments on both sides as desired.
4. Attach a slip of paper with the verse on the bottom.

Thankful Seat Activity³⁰: Have one child sit in the “thankful seat” and have everyone else share one thing that they are thankful about for that child. Rotate so that each child has a turn.



VIDEO:

[The holy tales: Jesus Heals Ten Men](#)

Questions:

- Why were the lepers not allowed in the city? (They were contagious and very sick, and the people thought they were unclean. They were not accepted by the people in the city.)
- How many lepers went to Jesus for healing (10).
- What did Jesus say to the lepers who asked for healing? (Go to the priest and show you are healed.)
- How many lepers came back to say thank you? (1).
- How did Jesus respond to this one thankful leper? (He praised him for his faith and gratitude.)



SONG:

[Sus: I want to stop and give my Lord thanks](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How many lepers returned to thank Jesus? (Only one).
- What did the other lepers do that was right? (They obeyed Jesus and went to the priests to show they were healed.)
- What did the other lepers do that was wrong? (They did not return to Jesus and give thanks for their healing.)

³⁰ Jessicamorris. (2016, November 03). Games that teach Thankfulness. Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <http://www.jessicalynette.com/12-habits/games-that-teach-thankfulness/>



- How do you feel when you do something nice for someone and are not thanked? (Disappointed, sad).

Conclude by reiterating that God wants a relationship with us where we appreciate His many gifts to us and obey His commands.

Consider including and mentioning other verses about thankfulness, such as 2 Corinthians 9:7, Romans 1:28-31, and Philippians 4:6.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Brainstorm some practical ways that we can show God we are grateful for Him with the children (e.g. prayer, Bible reading, being obedient, etc.).
- Follow up with some suggestions for how to show other people in our lives (parents, friends, siblings, teachers, etc.) we are grateful for what they do for us too.
- Sunday School servants should follow up with the children the following Sunday to see if they implemented any of these strategies over the week.



Lesson 2.9 - Anba Abraam: Friend of the Poor and the Needy

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: “[Anba Abraam: Late Bishop of Fayoum, Merciful and Giving](#)”, *A Friend of the Poor: St. Abraam Bishop of Fayum* by Sherry Fanous on [Amazon](#) (optional; online reading in video link below).

Scripture References: Proverbs 19:17

Craft: Construction paper, markers, stickers, and lidded cans (one per child).

Video: [Sciboy's: Why give cheerfully experiment \(3:35\)](#)

Song: [Blessed are those who have mercy \(CYC\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn the story of Anba Abraam, the friend of the poor and needy. They will also learn that there is a blessing in giving and that God does not abandon us when we give from the little we have.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity and Mercifulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



God loves a cheerful giver.



2 Corinthians 9:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Ask the children to tell you who their favourite saint is and why. Invite them to share with you and their peers about this saint.

Today we will learn about Bishop Abraam. Anba Abraam was known as the friend of the poor and the needy.



Maybe pause here and allow the children to guess why Anba Abraam was given this title.



LESSON BODY:

*Servants can use the following [resource](#) for more information on the story of Anba Abraam. Alternatively, consider purchasing *A Friend of the Poor: St. Abraam Bishop of Fayum* by Sherry Fanous on [Amazon](#). A reading of this children's book is provided in the linked video below.*

Summarize Anba Abraam's biography with the children:

Anba Abraam was a very intelligent young boy who was born to a Christian family. His parents were very righteous and loved God. Since he was young, he loved prayers and psalms, and discovered in them how God can bless his life and fill his heart.

When he was 15 years old, Anba Abraam was ordained a deacon. He loved praying to God and he joined a Monastery. He was tonsured as a monk when he was 19 years old. He worked day and night under the Bishop and he changed the Bishop's house to a shelter for the poor.

Anba Abraam eventually became a bishop. During this time he became famous for many things: he was patient, loving, and had self-control. He was also famous for his prayer of faith and ability to perform many miracles. His fame was spread to all parts of Egypt and also to some parts of Europe. Many sick people of different religions came to him seeking his blessings and healing. He always gave his visitors advice, instructions and sermons which showed the depth of his knowledge.

Most of all, Anba Abraam was famous for how generous and loving he was to the poor; he was not selfish. His food and clothing were very simple. He never wanted to be famous or seek glory.

Anba Abraam gave all his belongings to the poor and offered clothing to those who had no clothes and food to those who were hungry. He never allowed anyone to offer him food that was better than what was offered to the poor. Once he went down to visit the poor while they were eating and found that the food he was offered that day was better than that offered to them. He became very upset and asked her to not serve the kitchen anymore.

There are so many stories that show how generous Anba Abraam was. Here is one: One day, a poor woman came asking for money, but Anba Abraam did not have any money to give her.

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children: If you did not have money to give this poor woman, what would you do? What do you think Anba Abraam will do?

However, he did have a shawl that someone gave him and he had never used. He apologized to the woman for not having money, and gave her the shawl instead. He told her to go to the market and sell it to make money. The woman obeyed, but the person who gave Anba Abraam the shawl was at the market! They bought it back from the woman and returned the shawl back to Anba Abraam. The person who owned the shawl asked the Bishop, "Father, why did you not use the shawl as it is cold these days?" Anba Abraam replied, "The shawl is upstairs my son," meaning that it is with the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much."

- St. John Chrysostom

St. John Chrysostom teaches us that those who give are the ones who have the most because of their generosity³¹.

Anba Abraam departed to the heavens on the third day of Baouna, or (June 10, 1914 A.D.).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

My Giving Bucket Craft: This craft will help kids to think about giving, both with money and in other ways.

1. Prior to the lesson, cut pieces of construction paper for each child to fit around the lidded can.
2. Assist the children in writing "My Giving Bucket" on the paper and invite them to decorate the can.
3. Give the children pre-cut strips of paper and instruct them to write on the paper things that they have that can be given to others. Encourage them to think of things that do not require money (hugs, prayers, kind words, time, etc.).
4. Instruct the children to put their ideas in their can and then, a few times a week, to take out a strip of paper and give this priceless gift to someone who needs it. Explain that these buckets can also be used to save money to donate to the church, and will always serve as their reminder to give to others regardless of if they have money or not - just like Anba Abraam!



VIDEO:

[Sciboy: Why give cheerfully experiment \(3:35\)](#)



SONG:

[Blessed are those who have mercy \(CYC\)](#)

Review

³¹ Chrysostomus, J., & Roth, C. P. (1984). *On wealth and poverty*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is a bishop? (He looks after and leads the other monks of the monastery).
- Why is it amazing that St. Abraam gave the woman his shawl? (It was his only shawl that was supposed to keep him warm in winter).
- What are some ways I can be a cheerful giver? (My time, my gifts and talents, helping my parents, etc.).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Invite the children to contribute optional tithes if they are able, reminding them that this is giving to the needy. However, it is important to emphasize with this age group that like Anba Abraam, our charity to the poor is not just money. If we have anything we do not need, we should share with those who are needy.
- Brainstorm some practical examples of things they can give, drawing from the suggestions in the craft activity above. Encourage the children to use one of the paper slips from their bucket this week and to share their experience sharing next Sunday.



Lesson 2.10 - Blessings from Church Worship: Lighting Candles & Venerating Icons

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Icons (or pictures of saints that can be shared with the children).

Craft: Pictures of icons, paper, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors, stapler, and craft decorations.

Activity: Pictures of icons, paper, and crayons or markers.

Video: [Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church of East Brunswick: Coptic - Sign of the Cross \(1:25\)](#)

Song: [Coptic Bulgaria: Saints Morning Doxology \(1:57\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn what icons are and how to venerate them and ask for blessings. This will enhance their ability to participate in the life of the Church.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect



MEMORY VERSE:



But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.



Psalm 5:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Bring the children to the church and show them the icons then ask them:



What is the first thing we do when we enter the church? (Make the sign of the cross, light a candle, and kiss the icons, bow down before the altar (and say the psalm *“But as for me, according to the multitude of Your mercy, I shall enter Your house; I shall worship before Your holy temple in Your fear.”*)

How should we enter into the House of God? (Respectfully, quietly, etc.). We do this because Christ is in our midst.

Do you know what veneration means? (Veneration is a way to show great respect and love for the holy. It is to treat something or someone with deep respect, and honor.)

Explain to the children that when we enter into the church, we must venerate or kiss the icons. This shows love and respect. To show reverence and veneration to icons, however, is not directed to paint, wood, or stones, but towards the saints who are shown.



LESSON BODY:

Tell the children that when you walk into an Orthodox Church, you will see a lot of special pictures, holy pictures called icons. An icon is like a window that helps us look into heaven. It shows us the holy people and saints who lived before us, that we may look at them, learn from them, and hopefully imitate their virtues.

The servant should convey that icons in the Orthodox tradition are not to be taken as art for art's sake but rather, they are to be used as windows into the spiritual world, designed to help us achieve a prayerful mind set and lead us into a life of prayer and contemplation. An icon is meant as a reminder of events in the Bible, the life of Christ and the Saints, but never as an object of worship.

Consider prompting the children with this question:

→ *What pictures/icons do you see or recognize in the church? (e.g., St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mark the Apostle, Jesus's Baptism etc.)*

Remind the children to not lay the icons on the floor, but rather place them somewhere special, such as a stand, etc.

Show where to place icons after taking them out of the box: a shelf or icon stand. They may want to find a special place to put their icon.

The servant may consider showing the importance of icons, by linking it to the images of loved ones in our homes. A sample analogy is shown as follows:

“Many of us have pictures of loved ones in picture frames at home, on our desks at work, or even on our phones. We can all agree that it is common for people to crack a smile and be filled with emotion when they see a picture that was taken at a special time and place – like a wedding or family vacation. Sometimes we see grown men and women kiss the picture of a child that is saved in their wallet. Now none of us would dare accuse any of these people of being crazy, would we? We all understand that these actions are not simply the kissing of ink on paper, or the talking to picture frames... No! We can all understand that these images, while physically there is no denying that they are nothing but ink on paper, they represent something so much more meaningful than what we see. It is the child, the grandparent, the friend or the wedding day that brings so much emotion within the human heart. And so, even in our daily lives we can relate to how we sometimes

treat images as if they were the person themselves standing before us. Now how much more should this apply to us as Christians when we greet our mother the Theotokos in her icon. Or when we remember those awesome moments of the crucifixion, the transfiguration, and the entry into Jerusalem as we pass by their icons in Church. Or when we see the priest censing and kissing the icon of Christ our Saviour. None of these actions are directed to the actual material of the icon, but to them, the saint or our Lord Himself - that are depicted in the icon, those who have truly walked among us.”³²

Tell the children that when we kiss an icon, we want to show our love to that saint. There are many ways to do this. Demonstrate how to venerate an icon, explaining the difference between venerating and worshipping: we do not worship icons. The servant here may refer to the saying by one of the Eastern Church Fathers.³³

“In former times, God, who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now when God is seen in the flesh conversing with men, I make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake.”

- Eastern Church Father

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Icon Photo Album Craft:

1. Preparation: create small booklets that the children can use as albums
 - a. take a blank piece of paper and cut it in half
 - b. Fold both sides in half
 - c. Using a stapler, staple the creases together to create a small booklet
2. Bring a selection of different icons or pictures of saints that the children can keep.
3. Give each child a booklet where they can place their chosen icons.
4. Give them time to decorate their albums.

Copy an Icon Activity:

1. Hand out blank papers and pencils or crayons to the children.
2. Allow the children to choose an Icon (either inside the church or from icons the servant has brought in.)
3. Give time for the children to draw their chosen icon.
4. Allow them to share their finished product with one another.



VIDEO:

[Coptic: Sign of the Cross \(1:25\)](#)

³² Mourad, A. (2019, May 22). What does the Church believe about icons and their use? Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <https://copticorthodoxanswers.org/faith-sacraments-theology/what-does-the-church-believe-about-icons-and-their-use/>

³³ Ibid.



Questions:

- How do we say "In the name of the Son" in Coptic? (Nem ep sheeri)
- How do we say "and the Holy Spirit" in Coptic? (Nem pi epnevma ethowab)



SONG:

[Saints Morning Doxology \(1:57\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How should I enter the church? (quietly, respectfully, pray, etc.)
- Why is it important to do these things when I enter the church? (because God is in our midst.)
- Do we worship images of Christ? (No, we worship Christ Himself, the creator of all things.)
- Why are icons important? (An icon is like a window that helps us look into heaven.)
- Should we be respecting the icons? (Yes!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This lesson will give the children an opportunity to go into the church, light a candle and ask saints for their prayers, intercessions and blessings. Each saint can be asked for different things.

Tell the children that next Sunday before Sunday school, they should enter church with the same respect to show their love for the House of God. Encourage the children to build a relationship with one of the saints, to have them as their intercession (the one who asks on their behalf before God.) They can build that relationship with the saints by speaking to them, and asking for their help.

Lesson 2.IIS - SPECIAL (THE EPIPHANY FEAST): Adopted in Christ

Building Block 2
God, the Giver of Blessings



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Icon of the Epiphany](#), [icon of Nativity](#).

Craft: Mason jar, ribbon, acrylic jewels, cross cut out, cardstock paper, scissors, and glue.

Video: [What's in the Bible: What is the trinity \(1:27\)](#)

Song: [SUS Copts: The Trinity Revealed \(2:09\)](#) (audio explanation and song)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the feast of Epiphany, knowing that through it, the Holy Trinity was revealed to us.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Unity



MEMORY VERSE:



...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.



Matthew 3:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Hold up a picture of the Epiphany icon and a picture of the Nativity icon (or any other icon). Which one of these icons illustrate the Epiphany?

Consider having the two pictures posted on opposite ends of the classroom and get the children to go stand by the picture they believe illustrates the Epiphany.





LESSON BODY:

The Holy Epiphany

Continue to use the icon as a visual representation as you take the children through the story.

The baptism of Jesus is known as the Holy Epiphany. This feast is a very special feast and moment, does anyone know why? (The Holy Trinity is revealed at the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River.)

John the Baptist had been preparing the way for Jesus by telling all the people that the Messiah was coming so they must repent! Imagine if you were in your room and it was very messy, and your brother/sister came in and said "Hurry! Mom and Dad are coming so you need to clean your room to prepare for them!" This scenario is similar to what John the Baptist was doing.

Now one day, Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John said to Him, "I need to be baptized by You, and You are coming to me?"

Jesus answered him saying, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

When John had baptized Jesus, He came up immediately from the water. The heavens opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and resting on Him.

A voice came from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The servant may emphasize that Our Lord Jesus Christ had no need of the holy baptism, since the Holy Spirit is equal to Him in substance. Yet, He was baptized to set an example for mankind, and be able to have the Holy Spirit live in us and be part of the Body of Christ.³⁴

Remember, through this baptism, God gave us the right to be His children. In John 1:12, it says, "...He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

When we got baptised, we got this privilege to become children of God. Therefore, if God is our Father we need to act and behave as His beloved children.

"He (Jesus) had no need of holy baptism. He was wholly pure and spotless, and the holiest of the holy. He did not need the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit that proceeds from God the Father is from Him and equal to Him in substance... The communication of the Holy Spirit enriched us, made us partakers of the divine nature and gained for us the grace of adoption as God's children. It was necessary, therefore, that the Word of the Father become for our sakes the pattern and way of every good work when he humbled himself to emptiness and deigned to assume our likeness.

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

Servants can provide children with more insight on the church prayer for Epiphany Feast and the purpose of the priest blessing the water.

Consider discussing with the children how each Person of the Trinity was present. (The Father through the voice from Heaven, the Son as Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove which appeared.)

³⁴ Cyril of Alexandria, St. (2006). 3:21–22 The Baptism of Jesus. In J. C. Elowsky & T. C. Oden (Authors), John (p. 111). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Holy Water Mason Jar:

Each child will decorate a mason jar that will hold the Holy water.

1. Provide each child with a mason jar.
2. Give each child a sticker or cutout of a cross.
3. Give the children the material they can use to decorate their mason jar.
4. Have children glue and decorate their jars.



VIDEO:

[What's in the Bible: What is the Trinity \(1:27\)](#)

Questions:

- Who is the Trinity? (God the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit).
- How many Gods do we believe in? (One!)



SONG:

[SUS Copts: The Trinity Revealed \(2:09\)](#) (audio explanation and song)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Stand up, sit down: true or false. Say the following statements and have children stand up if it is true, and sit down if it is false.

- Jesus was baptized by John (True.)
- The Holy Spirit did not descend (False.)
- Jesus was baptized with sand (False.)
- Jesus was baptized with water (True.)
- The Holy Spirit descended as a dove (True.)
- Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River (True.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Today we have learned about the Holy Epiphany, that God is our Father and we are His children. Being His children means we need to behave how He wants us to. What can we do to behave like children of God?

- Always be kind.
- Love on another.
- Respect others.



Building Block 3: God's Authorities and Representatives

Lesson 3.IS* - SPECIAL (JONAH'S FAST): Responding to God's Representative - Nineveh's response to Jonah

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and
Representatives

**Note this Lesson will need to be moved in order to be given the Sunday prior to Jonah's Fast. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).*



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Jonah 3:1-2, 3:3-5

Craft: Two red solo cups, dice or Ping Pong balls, a pitcher of water and a clear or low bucket.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids - Jonah and the Whale \(5:51\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of the authority of God's word and His prophets and that their guidance is from God and for our benefit.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Guidance and Fasting.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

”

Jonah 3:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today we will see how God gave Jonah a second chance to do what he was supposed to have done the first time.



Do you remember what Jonah was originally supposed to do? (God told Jonah to go to Nineveh.)

What do you think Jonah will do? Will he run away or will he learn his lesson after spending three days and nights in the fish's belly? (He will listen!)



LESSON BODY:

Consider reading Jonah 3:1-2 to the children

This time we see that Jonah obeyed God. Jonah obeyed God's word and plan even if he still did not want to.

Consider asking the children if there have been any times in their life when they have had to do the same thing. Encourage the children to share, by saying that maybe there was a teacher or parent who asked them to do something that they did not want to do. Explain to the children that sometimes we do not always understand why we are told to do something, but because the Bible tells us to obey, we should. Our obedience pleases the Lord.

Continue the lesson by reading Jonah 3:3-4. After reading the verses, rephrase the lesson:

When Jonah was alive, Nineveh was a huge city. It took three days just to walk through the whole city. Since the city was so big, there were lots of people, but all of these people were disobeying God's commandments. Jonah had a big job to do.

What was the message Jonah delivered to the city of Nineveh? (Jonah told the people that their city was going to be overthrown in forty days.)

What would happen if someone came to them and said that the place where they lived would be taken by the enemy in forty days?

- They might ignore the message, thinking the whole thing was ridiculous
- They might become angry with the messenger, and try to stop him from spreading the message any farther.
- They might start gathering weapons to defend themselves.
- Families might begin stocking up food and water to prepare for trouble.

Continue the lesson by reading Jonah 3:5.

After reading the verse, the instructor may want to ask the children what the people of Nineveh did in response to Jonah's message.

- *They believed God.*
- *They called for a fast.*
- *They put on sackcloth, which was a sign of mourning.*

The servant may then comment on the importance of fasting. The children should be encouraged to participate in small portions of the fast. St. Basil the great comments on the importance of fasting in his quote. This quote should be

"Fasting gives birth to prophets and strengthens the powerful; fasting makes lawgivers wise. Fasting is a good safeguard for the soul, a steadfast companion for the body, a weapon for the valiant, and a gymnasium for athletes. Fasting repels temptations, anoints unto piety; it is the comrade of watchfulness and the artificer of chastity. In war it fights bravely, in peace it teaches stillness."



made appropriate to the grade 1 level. For example, consider telling the children that fasting helps us learn self control, and that it protects us. The servant can then link the benefits of fasting (as a means to repentance) by continuing the story of the people of Nineveh.

And this amazing reaction came from everyone throughout the city, from the poorest to the greatest; even the king of Nineveh humbled himself, and called for repentance in his city. Then, scripture says, “God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.” (Jonah 3:10).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Be an Empty Cup Activity:

1. Place both cups in the bucket, fill one cup halfway with dice
2. Ask the children which cup they think will fill first with water.
3. Begin to fill the cups with water and fill until the water gets to the top of the cup
4. Explain to the kids that when we fast we are like the empty cup, ready to be filled with all the great things God wants for us but when we do not fast, we have so many things going on that we can not really hear what God wants to say to us.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids - Jonah and the Whale \(5:51\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

1. God gave Jonah a _____ to obey, and go to Nineveh. (Second chance.)
2. Jonah’s message was that Nineveh would be _____ in 40 days. (Overthrown).
3. The Ninevites responded by _____ and putting on sackcloth. (Fasting.)
4. The king of Nineveh urged _____ to turn from their evil ways. (All the people.)

Questions:

1. Jonah obeyed and went to Nineveh when God gave him a second chance. (True).
2. Nineveh was just a small, insignificant town. (False – it was an “exceedingly great city”).
3. Jonah wanted the Ninevites to be saved. (False).
4. God wanted the Ninevites to be saved. (True).
5. We can escape God’s presence. (False).
6. The people of Nineveh believed God. (True).



7. The king of Nineveh became angry and threw Jonah in prison. (False – he humbly repented, too.)
8. After 40 days, God punished the city, as He said He would. (False – He “relented of the evil that He had said that He would do”.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When fasting, how do we feel? (Happy, closer to God).

Fasting is a way to respond to God. Let us participate in Jonah’s fast as the church teaches us to. Let us obey God and let Him guide us. Let us listen to the guides whom God has put in our lives: our priests, our parents, and our servants. We know that they can guide us in the path, just as Jonah guided the city of Nineveh to repentance.



Lesson 3.2 - Delegated Authority in Church: Roles of the Deacons, Priests and Bishops

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Prepare pictures or actual deacon [tunics](#) and [stoles](#).

Scripture Reference: John 15:16, Acts 1:26, Acts 6:1-6, Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:1-13, I Timothy 5:17-22, Revelation 3:7-13, I Peter 2:25.

Craft: Poster board, printed and cut out names of the vestments, and tape.

Video: Use any videos online of bishop/patriarch ordination.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn the “orders” of the church and the function of each; they should also become familiar with the deacons’, priests’, and bishops’ vestments.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect



MEMORY VERSE:



Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money...



I Timothy 3:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Has anyone ever seen or met a bishop? *Let the children share their experiences.*

Does anybody know what a bishop is before he becomes a bishop? (He is a monk.)



Prepare pictures or actual deacon tunics and stoles to show the children.



LESSON BODY:

The Holy Spirit kept the continuity of the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Each man is called by God through His people to stand among the community as a representative of the parish before the altar. Each is also a living icon of Christ among His people. According to Orthodox teaching, the process of ordination begins with the congregation; but the bishop alone, who acts in the name of the universal Church, can complete the action. He does so with the calling of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of his hands on the person being ordained.

There are three major orders in the Church, each of which requires a special ordination. The first of these is the bishop, who is viewed as a successor of the Apostles, followed by the priest, and then the deacon. Each order is distinguished by its responsibilities. Only a Bishop may ordain. The Orthodox Church permits men to marry before they are ordained, but bishops have been chosen from monasteries and are not married.

The Bishop is the head of a diocese (*Explain to the children that a diocese is a group of churches in one state or one area headed by one bishop.*), and has the authority of the apostles and he submits to the holy synod. (*Explain what the synod is; it contains the Patriarch and bishops*)

The priest is usually a deacon in the church who loves the church and he desires to dedicate his life to serve God in the world. Ordained priesthood is one of the seven sacraments of the Church.

Introduce the children to the ranks of the diaconship:

1. Archdeacon (head of deacons) - The First Archdeacon is St. Stephen. The archdeacon is in charge of managing the other deacons.
2. Deacon (Diakon) - is responsible for serving in the altar. The first deacons were listed in Acts 6:3.
3. Sub-deacon (Epi-diakon) - helps the deacon, responsible for order in church.
4. Readers (Anagnostes) - the rank responsible for reading and interpreting the church books.
5. Chanter (Epsaltos) - the singing rank of the deacon. The main role is learning the church hymns, the Coptic language, and the rites of the church.

Deacons are the helpers of the priests and the bishops. To go from one rank to another, a deacon has to spend time perfecting the current duties. A reader should know the Church tunes; a sub-deacon should be very clever in reading, interpreting, and singing, etc.

The role of deaconesses: They help the priest and the bishop serve women. They take care of the sick and needy, the widows and the orphans and they help the priests baptise women. They can be responsible for teaching in Sunday school.

If the servant is asked about the possibility of girls becoming ordained deacons/priest like boys, the following may be discussed: We are all members of the one Church and each of us has a role. The Holy Bible speaks only about male deacons in the letter of St. Paul to his disciple St. Timothy. Let every one of us be satisfied with the role God has given them. "But now indeed there are many members, yet one body...But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in

the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor 12:15-26).³⁵

Roles of the various clergy (Consider making three columns on the board, and brainstorm for these before reading them aloud):

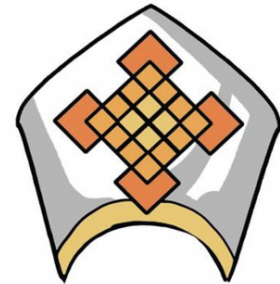
Priestly Garments:

Bornos (Bishops & Priests)



The Crown (Bishop Only)

The Taylassan (Priest & Bishop)



The Presbyterial/Episcopal Stole (Sadra) (Bishops & Priests)



The Tunic (Tonía) (Deacon)



³⁵ Bishop Youssef, H. (n.d.). Why can't girls become deacons like boys? Retrieved from <https://www.suscopts.org/q&a/index.php?qid=1143&catid=442>



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Deacon, Priest, or Bishop”: Servant calls out the name of an article of vestment, and the first student to stand gets to name the minister. He/She can continue standing as long as he/she gets the right answers. When he/she gets a wrong answer, he/she must sit. Consider including visual prompts for the different categories to support the children who are not strong readers.

Deacon	Priest	Bishop
Priest’s helper when he celebrates church services	Assist the bishop	Teaching
Servant of the Church	Father of local church	In charge of diocese
	Divine Liturgy	Administer sacraments
	Administer sacraments (except ordination)	Ordination
	Teach and counsel	
	Voice of the bishop	

Label the Chart: Prior to the lesson print out and cut out each role as listed in the table, then in class with each role discuss with the children about where each role should go. Encourage the children to go tape each role in its correct section.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is a bishop before he becomes a bishop? (A monk).
 - What does a bishop oversee? (Diocese).
 - Who has the ultimate authority within a diocese? (The bishop).
 - The call from God to serve in the priesthood comes from where? (Outside and inside)
 - What is an Archdeacon? (Head of deacons).
 - Who is the First Archdeacon? (St. Stephen).
 - What is the role of a deaconess? (They help the priest and the bishop take care of widows, orphans and baptism of women.)
 - Why do clergy wear white during service? (It is the color of the clothing of the heavenly.)
- Show a picture of the different pieces of clergy vestment and ask the children to name them.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Understand and respect the different Orders of the Church (deacon, priest and bishop). We should all serve the lord in our own roles, and in our abilities. Also, we should all participate in the chanting of the congregation hymns during the liturgy.



Lesson 3.3 - David Respects King Saul

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Pencils, crayons/markers/colored pencils, and [cube printable](#).

Scriptural Reference: 1 Samuel 26

Video: [Superbook: David spares Saul's Life \(5:00\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn that prophets are anointed and chosen by God to represent Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Patience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed...

”

1 Samuel 26:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

You may want to introduce the lesson to the children by first asking them if they have ever woken up in the night because they heard a sound? Consider asking the children what noises wake them up in the night?” (Share your own story if you have one.)

For today's lesson we will learn about someone that was sleeping so deeply that they did not hear someone walk right beside where they were sleeping.



LESSON BODY:



At first, Saul was a good leader of the Israelites, but then he stopped following God's commandments. Because of this, the Lord guided Samuel to anoint David, Jesse's youngest son as the new king.

Knowing that David was chosen by God to be king, Saul became very jealous of David; he got so jealous that he tried to kill David. David had his own armies and he could have fought Saul but he did not. He respected Saul as a king, and David trusted the Lord to know when it was time for him to become king.

David travelled all around the country trying to stay away from King Saul but still the king continued to try to find David.

One time King Saul gathered 3,000 soldiers and went out looking for David. David had heard about Saul and his army so he sent scouts to see where Saul was. David wanted to go and see Saul's camp so he asked his friend, Abishai, to go with him. They waited until dark to sneak up very close to King Saul's camp. All of the king's soldiers were sleeping so soundly that not one of them woke up.

David and Abishai walked right up to where King Saul was sleeping. Even though David could have hurt the king, he decided not to. David reminded Abishai that Saul was still the King that God had chosen. Someday, Saul would die and David would be king but David wanted to wait until God thought it was the right time.

Look how patient and trustworthy David is! Can you imagine if you were promised a great gift, and it was right in front of you to take, but you decided to be patient and wait for it to be given to you.

The servant should consider emphasizing David's patience, for he decided not to take matters into his own hand, but rather left it up to God. St. Gregory of Nyssa discusses the patience of David, in how he decided not to attempt to avenge the life of King Saul, even though he was actively trying to kill him out of jealousy.³⁶ We should learn from him, and strive to be patient, especially when dealing with one of God's appointed.

David noticed that Saul's spear and water jug were right beside him so he told Abishai to take the spear and water jug with them. David and Abishai then walked away from the camp and still no one woke up. God had caused a deep sleep to come upon the whole camp.

"But this is marvelous not only for the fact that he (David) grants life to the one (King Saul) who is doing everything against his life, but because David, although he had been anointed to the office of king and knew that he would not otherwise partake of that position unless Saul were out of the way, judged it better to suffer ill patiently in his private low estate than to enter upon the kingship by satisfying his anger against the one who had caused him grief."

- St. Gregory of Nyssa

David and Abishai kept walking until they reached the top of a hill where they were far enough away that Saul's army could not reach them quickly.

David called out to Saul's camp, specifically to a man named Abner. Abner was the commander of Saul's army and he was supposed to protect the king but he never woke up when David and Abishai walked right beside him.

³⁶ Gregory of Nyssa, St. (2019). 26:8–11 David Refuses to Kill Saul. In T. C. Oden & J. R. Franke (Authors), Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel (p. 375). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

“Wake up, Abner!” David yelled out. “Why didn’t you protect your king?”

At first Abner did not understand what David was saying; then David said, “Have you not noticed that King Saul’s spear and water jug are no longer beside his head?”

When Abner looked down and saw that the spear and jug were missing, he knew that David had the chance to kill King Saul but he chose to show mercy instead.

Emphasize to the children that David could have killed King Saul in his sleep and no one would have noticed, but David respected that Saul was chosen by God to be an anointed king.

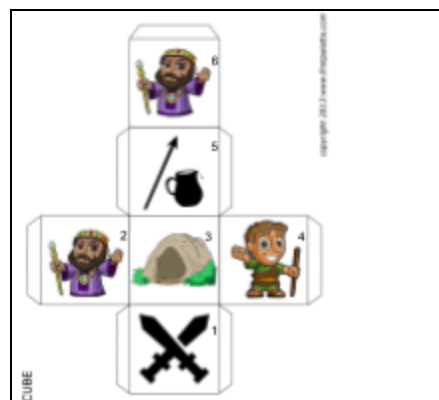
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Story Cube³⁷:

1. Have the children draw a diagram in each box that represents a part of the story.
2. Cut out the cube and glue the tabs together.
3. Allow the kids to retell each other the story using their story cube.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How do you think God felt when Saul disobeyed Him? (Disappointed).
- Why did David have to keep travelling all around the country and finding places to hide? (Saul was trying to kill him.)
- Who went into King Saul’s camp at night? (David and his friend, Abishai.)
- Why Did Saul want to kill David? (Because he was jealous of David since David would be the next king.)
- Why did David refuse to kill Saul? (Because he wanted to respect that God chose Saul as a king. He decided to wait patiently)
- Why do you think David respected Saul enough not to kill him? (David knew that Saul had been appointed as king by God, and David respected god’s authority, which is why he respected Saul and did not kill him.)
- Why did Abishai take Saul’s spear and water jug? (To prove that he and David had been right beside him while he was sleeping.)
- What does David taking Saul’s spear and jug show about him? (It shows that even though David had the opportunity to kill Saul, he did not.)

³⁷ Retrieved July 14, 2020, from

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/05/saul-and-david-story-cube-1-samuel-24.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We should learn to respect those that God has put as leaders such as our priests and parents. We should also learn to not retaliate, or pay evil for evil. Just like David did not take revenge on King Saul for trying to kill him, we should not show revenge to someone if they are not being kind to us.

Let us also try to be patient for things promised to us. If our parents have promised to give us something like a gift, we should be patient and wait for it, rather than try and take it before we are supposed to.



Lesson 3.4 - Respecting the Delegated Authority (Priesthood) - Korah and Dathan

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Pictures and words showing a police officer, coach, grandparent, parent, babysitter, teacher, etc.

Scripture Reference: Numbers 16

Craft: 12" x 18" brown construction paper (one per student), three 2" x 4" different colored scraps of paper, three 5" x 1" strips of white paper, tape, scissors, crayons, and markers.

Video: [SSPM: Primary Year B Quarter 2 Episode 7: God's Choice \(6:35\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of why we must show respect to our priests and obey them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Obey those who rule over you...for they watch out for your souls...

”

Hebrews 13:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Place images with text of the following on the board: police officers, coaches, grandparents, babysitters, teachers, friends, parents.

Consider asking the children how we should show respect to each of these people. (Don't break the law, do what they ask you to do, speak to them politely, etc.)



Discuss: how is the authority of these people similar to God's authority? How is it different? How do you feel when you are required to show respect? (I feel like I'm forced; I want to show respect. It depends on the person and/or situation.) How do we show respect to God?

Today's message tells us that we obey God when we respect His bishops and priests.



LESSON BODY:

When the Israelites were in the wilderness after they left Egypt, three men named Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 others chose to rebel (work against) against Moses.

Consider pausing here and inviting the children to tell you what they remember about Moses and Aaron.

They said to Moses: "We have had enough of you! Why should you be our leader and Aaron be the high priest? God is with all of us, not just you and Aaron." God was not pleased; He saw it as disobedience against Him!

Moses told Korah and his supporters to come to the tabernacle tomorrow, and bring their fire holders filled with incense. Moses told them that God would show them who He had chosen.

The next day, Korah and the 250 men went to meet Moses at the tabernacle. There, they burned incense as if they were priests. God told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from Korah and his men.

Although Korah had gone to Moses at the tabernacle, Dathan, Abiram, and their families had refused to go. God told the Israelites to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Immediately, the Israelites moved away. Dathan, Abiram, and their families stood outside their tents when suddenly the ground split apart and swallowed them up! At the tabernacle, a fire came down and burned Korah and his men.

God then told Moses: 'Take a staff from the leader of each tribe, and write his name on it. But on the staff of the tribe of Levi, write Aaron's name. Put them inside the tabernacle, and the staff of the man who I choose will grow flowers.'

"In like manner let everyone respect the deacons as they would respect Jesus Christ, and just as they respect the bishop as a type of the Father, and the presbyters as the council of God and college of the apostles. Without these, it cannot be called a church."

- St. Ignatius of Antioch

The next day, Moses brought out all the staffs and showed them to the leaders. Aaron's staff had flowers growing on it and ripe almonds on it. This way, they all knew that God confirmed that he had chosen Aaron to be the high priest.

In this story we learn how God has chosen some to be bishops, priests and deacons and how we should not take the roles assigned to others but be content with what God has given us. St Ignatius was the bishop of Antioch who was martyred at the beginning of the

second century in Rome. He wrote a lot about how Christians should respect their bishops, priests and deacons as if obeying God Himself because they look out for us and represent Him.³⁸ It is in our best interest

³⁸ Ignatius, & Stewart-Sykes, A. (2013). *Ignatius of Antioch: The letters*. Yonkers, NY: St Vladimirs Seminary Press.



to heed and respect what our bishops, priests and deacons (make sure this is differentiated from chanters and readers) tell us.

Consider concluding the story by discussing with the children that this story shows us that God always has a plan! We might not always know His plan, but we must obey and trust that God will show us the way to Him.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Korah's Rebellion³⁹: Great visuals to the story can be created using this craft. Open the referenced link below for images illustrating the steps of this craft.

1. Hand out brown paper to children. Fold the paper in half, length-side.
2. Fold paper in half again, so there are four panels when unfolded.
3. Re-fold panel one and panel four so they both meet in the middle. This creates the "pit." Crease all folds well.
4. Unfold paper. Place on table, landscape-style.
5. Between first and second panels and third and fourth panels, cut 1 1/2" slits on top and bottom. (Total four slits.)
6. Fold the inward point of the slit to the inside middle half of the entire paper.
7. Hold up brown paper, so that inward triangles met. Tape on each side.
8. Fold any-color strips of paper in half, and in half again. This is a tent.
9. Unfold small strips of paper, fold like a 'tent' and tape. Make three tents.
10. On white paper, write "Korah", draw his family; leave an extra inch of blank, white paper on one side to fold so the triangle will stand up. Tape to secure.
11. On white paper, write "Abiram", draw his family; leave an extra inch of blank, white paper on one side to fold so the triangle will stand up. Tape to secure.
12. On white paper, write "Dathan", draw his family; leave an extra inch of blank, white paper on one side to fold so the triangle will stand up. Tape to secure.
13. Write "Korah's Rebellion" and "Numbers 16" on the edge of the brown paper.
14. Place tents and families on top of flat 'ground.'
15. Have the children practice holding the pit with the three tents and three families on the top of the "ground." Open up the "earth" and let the families and tents fall in!



VIDEO:

[SSPM: Primary Year B Quarter 2 Episode 7: God's Choice \(6:35\)](#)

Questions:

- Why did Korah and his friends decide to rebel? (They wanted their way and wanted to be leaders like Aaron. But their way was not God's way!)

³⁹ Wooten, R. (1970, January 01). Korah's Rebellion. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <http://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2014/05/lesson-rebelling-against-god.html>



- Why were only Moses and Aaron's family in the leader positions? (Because God told them to be. This means the men were actually grumbling and complaining against God.)
- How did God show the people Aaron was His chosen priest? ((Aaron's staff was the only one that had flowers growing out of it.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What was the man's name that led the rebellion? (Korah)
- What were the names of Korah's friends? (Dathan, Abiram)
- In what book of the Bible can this story be found? (Numbers)
- Why did Korah and his supporters rebel against Moses? (They were jealous of Moses and Aaron's given power by God.)
- How do we know that God chose Aaron to be the high priest? (Aaron's staff was the only one that had flowers growing out of it.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- If we want to please God, who do we listen to? (Priests, parents, etc.).
- How should we treat those who have authority over us? (With respect.)

When your priest asks you to do something, listen to him, and do not doubt.



Lesson 3.5 - Trusting God's Representative - Water From the Rock

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Balloons (dark-colored ones that look like rocks), water, nail or knife (servant only), tape, small bowl (to put the balloon in), and a big container (for the mess).

Scripture Reference: Exodus 13:20-22, Exodus 17:1-7

Craft: Scissors, glue, blue glitter, paint, sharpie markers and blue sequins.

Video: [Christian Songs and Videos: Exodus 17: Water from the Rock \(0:00-1:06\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of trusting God completely and know that He gives authority to His representatives to do His work.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust



MEMORY VERSE:



By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will.



Numbers 16:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Tell the children to do 50 jumping jacks (while counting along) and then gather them around again. Then proceed to ask them who is thirsty right now? Those who raised their hands can be given water or juice boxes that are ready to be given out in class. When they are done drinking, ask them how being thirsty made them feel.



LESSON BODY:

When the Israelites were wandering in the desert for 40 years, God looked out for them in a number of ways. They were walking around in the desert for such a long time, but they did not have any directions. God did not give them a map, He gave them something even cooler!

God went before the people of Israel, by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire. That is how God led His people around the wilderness.

Consider asking the children this question: How would you feel if they were in the desert? (Let the children share their thoughts.)

The Israelites felt the same way, but God took care of all of them. He was showing them that He can be trusted.

When the Israelites ran out of water, they began to complain. So Moses talked with God, and He told Moses, “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” Exodus 17:6

Consider using the following [demo](#)⁴⁰:

1. Fill the balloon with water and tie it up.
1. Cut four pieces of tape and place them on the balloon in an # sign shape, making sure to leave a small square in the middle without any tape.
2. Put the balloon in a bowl inside the big container.
3. Poke the balloon part in the center of the tape.

You may wish to ask the children this question: Why did God pick this way to give water to the children of Israel? Why didn't God just let rain come out of the sky and let the people get water that way? (So that the Israelites understood that it was God's power.)

One reason why God chose to give water through the rock was because He wanted to prove to the children of Israel that it was He who was providing for them. God did not want them to doubt that the water was from the all-mighty, all-powerful God. He wanted Israel's trust and He wants yours.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

For this lesson, you will need a bag of smooth rocks and white paint marker.

You can write 'PROVIDES' on them. Then let the kids pick a rock, and write "GOD" on the other side with a Sharpie.

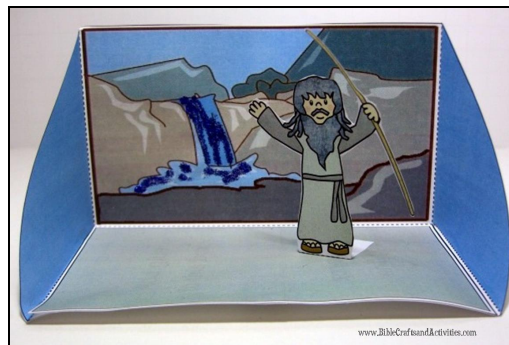
⁴⁰ Mystery Lab. (2020, February 13). *Laminar flow balloon I testing viral Tiktok Balloons* (Video). YouTube. <https://youtu.be/vsccjAGU7mo>.



Moses Diorama⁴¹:

Template: [Diorama PDF outline](#)

1. Cut on the solid lines
2. Fold on the dotted lines.
3. Add glue where marked.
4. Encourage the children to add blue sequins glitter to the water



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

You may want to review the lesson by getting the kids to retell the story by doing a skit.

Questions:

- The Israelites had lots of reasons to trust God. (True).
- We should trust God, knowing that He is our Father, who cares for us. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

How should we react when we feel God is not with us? (We must trust in the Lord, He has an awesome plan for all of us! Always believe this, knowing God's love and care for us is unconditional.)

Always remember that God never leaves us and that we should always trust Him!

⁴¹ Craft for Water from the Rock. (2014, August 01). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://biblecraftsandactivities.com/craft-for-water-from-the-rock/>



Lesson 3.6 - Obedience: Honor your Father & Mother

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Card stock, scissors, pre-cut yarn, hole punch, precut keys template (one set per child), and crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will demonstrate an understanding of God's commandment of obeying their parents.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
Honor your father and mother...*



Ephesians 6:1-2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Before reading the memory verse, ask the children to listen carefully for the answer to these questions:

"What can I do to make my life better? What could I do to make my life worse?"

Consider emphasizing this by displaying these questions on a marker/poster board. Perhaps choose red for the negative question and green for the positive one.

Write the memory verse on the board and carefully read it:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother" (Ephesians 6:1-2)

Ask the children if they can answer those two questions. Use these questions to introduce the lesson.



LESSON BODY:

Let's talk about the bible verse and what it means:

- **Obey your parents in the Lord** *(What does that mean?) Give the children a few minutes to come up with some answers.*
 - "In the Lord" means that what our parents ask us to do must be something good that God would want us to do as well. For example, if my parents ask me to do something wrong then I should not do it. If we are unsure, we can ask Abouna, our Sunday School teacher, or any other trusted adults who can help us. However, we must always remember that our parents are always seeking to do what is right for us.
- **Honor your father and mother** *(What does that mean?) Give the children a few minutes to come up with some answers.*
 - It's more than just obeying but treating them like important people with love and respect. For example, I don't raise my voice when speaking with them or answer back in a rude way. Our parents deserve our respect because they raise us to grow up and provide for all of our needs. They know us better than anyone and we have to honour them since they are given to us by God to raise us!

Consider telling the children the following story so they can understand obedience.

Demiana wanted to go to her friend's house. Her friend lives a few houses away from her, but when Demiana asked her mom if she could go to her friend's house, she said no because she did not know her friend's parents and was scared for Demiana. One day, Demiana was playing with her brother in the backyard and she decided to go and play with her friend.

Consider stopping and asking the children the following questions: Was it right for Demiana to go to her friend's house even if her mom said not to? What was Demiana supposed to do before she left?

Even though Demiana's mom said no, and she knew that she was disobeying her mom, she went anyways. During her walk to her friend's house, Demiana knew in her heart that she was not following God's command and was disobeying her mother. A few hours later, Demiana's mom came home and was really scared because she did not know where Demiana was. When Demiana came home, her mom told her, "I am sad that you did not tell me where you were going, I am very disappointed." Demiana felt really bad and apologized to her mom.

We can learn from this story that we should always obey our parents, since they love and care for us. When we do not obey them, we can cause them to worry and we do not want to do that! Our parents have the job of raising us and teaching us to love God. They know us better than anyone and provide for all of our needs. Parents are one of the greatest gifts God has given us, and we should show we value them by obeying and honoring them.

"It's your parents you see when you first open your eyes, and it is their friendship that lays down the first strands of this life. If anyone fails to honor his parents, is there anyone he will spare?"

- St. Augustine

The servant should aim to convey the value of parents, and how much they ought to be cherished. Parents are our closest friends, and they know us better than anyone. St. Augustine teaches that parents ought to be cherished and valued, since they have been with us from our first moments on this earth.⁴²

⁴² Augustine of Hippo, St. (2019). 20:12 Honor Your Parents. In T. C. Oden & J. T. Lienhard (Authors), Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy (p. 150). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

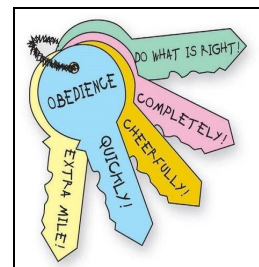
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Keys to Obedience:

1. Draw a “key” template as seen in the picture below and print it on cardstock.
2. Give a pre-cut set to each child, along with a verse.
3. Allow the children to color the keys and verse, then have them hole punch each one.
4. Help them pull a string through all the holes and tie a knot to hold them all together.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

Have the children respond as a group to the following questions. If the statement is right they should stand up, if wrong they should stay seated and cross their arms.

- Disobeying is okay if you know your parents will say “no”. (Disagree)
- If you always obey your parents, your life will always be perfect. (Disagree)
- God does not care if we have a bad attitude when we obey. (Disagree)
- God promised a better life for those who obey. (Agree)
- It is not really disobeying if your parents did not actually say “no”. (Disagree)
- When my parents ask me to do something, I should obey them right away. (Agree)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

What is one way you could obey your parents better and practice it throughout the week and then continue to practice it all the time?



God wants us to obey our parents!

Consider introducing different examples, and having the children answer what they would do if they were in this situation.

- Example 1: I am playing with my toys and mom keeps calling me to come and do my homework. I keep ignoring her and just continue to play with my games. She then calls again and again and only on the third time do I stop and do what she asked me to do. Is this right?
- Example 2: I am sitting playing and my mom tells me that I have to stop and go to bed. I beg her for some more time but she still says I have to go to bed. So I get up angrily, I shout at my mom and then go into my bedroom and slam the door. Is this okay?



Lesson 3.7 - God Strengthens His Representatives: Samson and the Lion

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Box, toys, rocks, and weighted objects.

Scripture Reference: Judges 13-14

Craft: Paper, [Samson coloring page](#), crayons, toilet paper tubes, tape/glue, and yarn.

Video: [THE STORY OF SAMSON BIBLE STORY | Kids on the Move \(6:37\)](#)

Song: [God Makes Me Brave](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of the strength God gives His people.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Strength and Courage.



MEMORY VERSE:



*For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*



2 Timothy 1:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

People often use heavy weights to build up their strength. Our Bible story today is about a man who had great strength, but that strength was not because of anything he did, it was a gift from God! His name was Samson.



For the children to gain an appreciation of the fact that Samson did not have to practice lifting weights to be strong, have them participate in this activity.

Weight Lifting Activity⁴³: Tell children that they will be lifting objects of different weights to see if they are as strong as Samson! Ensure that none of the heavy objects can cause harm to the children. Arrange items for the teams from lightest to heaviest. Each team can take turns lifting the objects to see who is strong like Samson!

Once the teams have finished lifting the objects, tell them how strong Samson was (pushed down 2 huge pillars holding up a temple) and that he did not have to practice lifting anything to get stronger because God gave him the gift of strength!



LESSON BODY:

Today's lesson is found in Judges 13 and 14.

The Israelites were disobedient to God, so He allowed them to fall under Philistine rule for 40 years. There was once a man named Manoah and he had a wife who could not have any children. An angel of the Lord came to her and told her that she would have a son, so she should not drink wine or eat unclean meat. Manoah and his wife were also told that they could not shave the baby's head because he would be a Nazirite, which was a special promise to God. The angel also said that this baby would be the person to save the Israelites from the Philistines.

The woman told her husband of the angel's visit and Manoah asked God to help them do the right things for the baby who was to be born. Manoah and his wife had a baby boy who they named Samson.

When Samson was grown up, he saw a woman named Delilah in a nearby place called Timnah with Philistines, and told his parents that he wanted to marry her. Samson's parents wanted him to marry someone from their own people, and not a Philistine, but Samson insisted that he wanted to marry her.

So, Samson went with his parents to the vineyards at Timnah to meet with the woman. He was surprised when a young lion came roaring at him! The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands.

Possibly pause here and discuss the following with the children:

Wow, Samson is strong! Why do you think he was so strong? (God gave him this strength to fulfill His promise that Samson would be the one to save the Israelites from the Philistines.).

When he left the woman, Samson went back to see the dead lion, and there was a swarm of bees and honey inside of its body. He put his hands in and ate some of the honey, then he took some of the honey to his parents.

⁴³ God's Strong Man: Samson Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/gods_strong_man_samson_group_activities.htm

God gave Samson unbelievable strength which Samson used to serve Him by defeating the Philistines. Likewise, God gives us all different strengths and gifts which we can use to serve Him or to work against Him. Does anyone know what gifts God can give some of us?

Allow them to think of different gifts which God can give each of us.

How can we use some of these gifts to serve God like Samson did with His strength?

How can we use some of these gifts to sin against God?

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Samson, Delilah and the Lion Game⁴⁴:

1. Ask the children if they have played the game “rock, paper, scissors”. If some children haven’t played the game yet, give a demonstration of how to play. State that they will be playing a game that is just like rock paper scissors but it involves Samson, Delilah, and the Lion instead!
2. Tell the children that instead of using their hands, they will be using their entire bodies! Choose a student volunteer to model the actions for the other children. In each round, they can choose to be Samson (student makes a grunt noise and flexes their muscles), Delilah (student says “oooh la la” and places their hands on their hips), or Lion (children says “ROAR” and shows their fangs and their claws).
3. Explain to the children that Samson beats the Lion, the Lion beats Delilah, and Delilah beats Samson.
4. Play a couple of practice rounds with student volunteers so that everyone can see how the game works before playing.
5. Once the game has been demonstrated, instruct children to find a partner and stand back to back. The teacher will count to 3 and once the children hear 3 they will jump around to face the other student and will make both the noise and action of either Samson, Delilah, or the Lion!

Samson Tube Craft⁴⁵: The children will enjoy decorating their Samson tubes which will be a reminder of how Samson was strong because of God! See the referenced link below for an image of this craft.

1. Tell the children that they will be making Samson tubes which will be a reminder of how strong Samson was and that his strength was given to him by God!



⁴⁴ Samson, Delilah and the Lion (ICEBREAKER). (2011, May 29). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://teachingthem.com/2011/05/29/samson-delilah-and-the-lion-icebreaker/>

⁴⁵ Samson Tube. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from jenny.weebly.com/samson-tube.htmlhttps://biblecraftsb



2. Hand out the Samson coloring pages and the toilet paper tubes to each student. Ensure that the rest of the materials are easily accessible for the children.
3. Instruct the children to color their Samson pages that they have been given.
4. Once children have had time to color their Samson pages, instruct them to spread glue on their toilet paper rolls using the glue sticks. Alternatively, tape can be used if preferred.
5. Once the toilet paper rolls have been covered in glue, the colored Samson pages can be rolled around the toilet paper rolls.
6. Instruct the children to glue or tape yarn to their toilet paper rolls in order to give Samson some hair.
7. Instruct the children to write the words “Strength From God” on the Samson Tube to remind them that Samson’s strength came from God!



VIDEO:

[THE STORY OF SAMSON BIBLE STORY | Kids on the Move \(6:37\)](#)

Consider stopping the video around 4:00. The remainder of the video focuses on the relationship between Samson and Delilah, which is not the focus of this lesson.

Questions:

- What were the rules Samson had to follow? (He could not eat unclean food, he could not cut his hair).
- Why did Samson have to follow these rules? (God gave Samson a very special gift: his strength. This was needed to save his people, the Israelites, from the Philistines.).



SONG:

[God Makes Me Brave](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Let a few of the children tell the story again in class.

Questions:

- What did the Angel tell Manoah and his wife? (That they would have a child.)
- Why could Samson not cut his hair? (He would be a Nazirite, which was a special promise to God.)
- When did Samson encounter the lion? (When he and his parents went to the vineyard and Timnah.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



Remind the children that just like God made Samson strong, He has also made us strong through our own unique gifts and talents. Brainstorm with the children all the ways that the Lord has made them strong (e.g. 'I am smart,' 'I am kind,' etc.). Allow each child to take a turn identifying one thing about themselves.

Conclude by asking the children what they should do next time they feel weak, scared, or that they are not strong (i.e. when they are confronted by a lion like Samson was). Tell them that they should remember the story of Samson and all the gifts they have, and be confident that God will provide you with strength when you need it.



Lesson 3.8 - Representatives in the New Testament: St. Peter Raises Tabitha

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Acts 9:36-43

Craft: [T-shirt template](#), pencils, markers, pencil crayons, crayons, scissors, yarn, tape, and clothespins/paperclips (optional).

Video: [LifeKids: Tabitha \(2:20\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of God's work through His representatives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust and Service.



MEMORY VERSE:



Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.



Galatians 6:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may begin the lesson by discussing the different ways we can serve God and His people. They should highlight that God gives us talents and passions that we can use for His people as a form of service that may glorify Him.

What are some different ways we could serve God? *Collect responses from the children.* We can all serve Him and His children using the talents He gave us. Today we will learn about a young girl who was a disciple and she loved to use her talent of sewing to make jackets and clothing for all the widows and orphans of her



community. Her name was Tabitha, and she became very sick and passed away, but God used St. Peter as His representative to come and raise her.



LESSON BODY:

Before beginning the lesson, be aware that this story deals with the idea of death, an idea that some children might not know about. Consider using careful words throughout the lesson. Emphasize that even though Tabitha died, it was through the power of God that St. Peter was able to raise her from the dead.

To begin the lesson, consider describing to the children when the story, they will learn about, took place. In the early days of the church, disciples were doing all sorts of exciting and incredible things to tell other people about the faith. This story is about Jesus' disciple, Peter.

"At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds. In those days she became sick and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room."

Consider asking children what they learn about Tabitha? Allow the children to answer. Then explain that she did lots of good things and charitable acts. Encourage the children to mention what are some good things that we can do (Helping to clean up a park, donating to a worthy cause, being kind, holding a door for someone...) St. John Chrysostom teaches that what made her honourable was her desire to show generosity to those who were in need in her community.⁴⁶

"If you want to be remembered and are anxious for true repute, imitate her, and build edifices like that, not going to expense on lifeless matter but displaying great generosity in regard to your fellow human beings. This is the remembrance that is worth admiring and brings great benefit."

- St. John Chrysostom

After Tabitha died, Peter was in the same town so the other disciples sent some men to ask Peter to come quickly. When Peter came, the people took him to the room where Tabitha was; everyone in the room was crying. Peter knelt down and began to pray; he turned towards Tabitha's body and said, "Tabitha, arise." Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up when she saw Peter.

Imagine how surprised the people were when they saw Tabitha alive again. She was going to be buried, but she sat up right when she heard Peter's voice.

Consider asking the children what they consider to be a miracle? Allow them to answer.

Explain to the children that most people define a miracle as something that goes against the usual ways of nature. Peter raising Tabitha from the dead was not just a show, there was a reason for it.

The servant may then want to read Acts 9:41-42:

"Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord."

⁴⁶ John Chrysostom, St. (2019). 9:36 Tabitha, Which Means Dorcas. In T. C. Oden, F. Martin, & E. Smith (Authors), Acts (p. 162). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

Consider asking the children if they can figure out the reason as to why Peter raised Tabitha. Then explain to them that it was because “many believed in the Lord.”

Tabitha loved, helped, and served others through her works. God chose to bring her back to life, so that others could see how marvelous and amazing God is. When we serve people, we want to make sure it is for the right reason, which is to bring honor back to God. We shouldn’t anticipate miracles, though it never hurts to pray for them. Do positive things that no one will even find out about! These are methods to make certain we are not acting in our own strength or confidence.

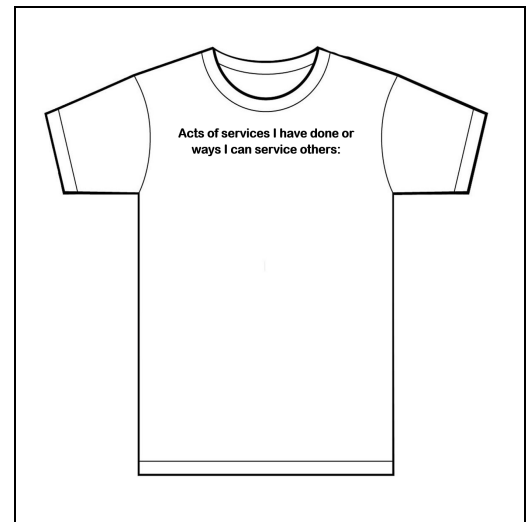
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Good Deeds I Could Do:

1. Prior to lesson, print out the [t-shirt template](#)⁴⁷ (or copy, paste, and adjust the image with the instructions.)
2. In this craft, children will draw out good deeds they have done or acts of service they want to do to help others onto the t-shirt. After the children are finished drawing, they will cut out their t-shirt.
3. Optional step is to cut a long piece of yarn, such that all the t-shirt craft from the class can fit along it. Stretch the length of the yarn out and tape each end of the yarn to the board/wall, tape the middle to reinforce, if necessary. When children are finished drawing they have their work put up (using either paperclips or clothespins). Children can see and share with the class the ways they have served.



VIDEO:

[LifeKids:Tabitha \(2:20\)](#)

Questions:

- What did we learn about Tabitha? (To serve others as much as we can.)
- What kind of work did Tabitha do? (She did lots of good charitable work.)
- What is a miracle? (Usually described as something that happens unexpectedly and is different than what is "natural", etc. Tabitha being alive again is a miracle, through this miracle, many people in Joppa believed in the Lord.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

⁴⁷ T-shirt Template #1827464 (License: Personal Use). (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/kcMK9ka6i.htm>



You may want to have a discussion with the children, you may want to use the following questions:

- Where did Tabitha live? (Joppa).
- What did she do to help the poor people in her town? (Sewed clothes for them.)
- When Tabitha died, what did her friends do? (Called Peter to help. They also cried and showed Peter all of the clothes she had made for them.)
- What did Peter do when he saw that Tabitha was dead? (He made her come alive again by the power of God.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We should learn to live a life like Tabitha, one of service and love for each other! We all have talents that God gave us, so we should use these to help each other. Let us try to do acts of service throughout the week. Even if they may seem small, God sees them and will reward us!

What are some good things or service acts that we can do?

- Holding the door for someone else.
- Cleaning up after others.
- Including others in our activities who may be left out.
- Making cards for people in need.



Lesson 3.9 - Respecting & Obeying Worldly Authorities

Building Block 3
God's Authorities and Representatives



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Drawing papers and markers.

Scripture References: 1 Peter 2:13-14 and Hebrews 13:17.

Craft: Colored craft sticks, low temperature glue gun, yarn, glitter glue and/or sparkling jewels.

Video: [Follow the Instructions | A Lesson About Obeying](#) (6:35).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of all kinds of authorities and why we should respect and obey them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, and be ready for every good work...

”

Titus 3:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Family Portrait:

Give each child a large sheet of drawing paper and markers. Ask them to draw a picture of their home and their family. After they have completed their drawings, allow them to show their pictures and introduce each family member.



Everyone's family looks different, but there is one thing in common with each family. Allow the children to figure out what it is. The one thing every family has is someone who is in charge.

It does not matter who the person is, but someone makes the rules and is in charge of the family. Since our parents are older and wiser than us and are looking out for our well being, they make rules and decisions for us.

Invite the children to share instances of times where their parents made a rule or decision they did not understand, but then later found out it was good for them. For example, not touching a hot stove. Thank God our parents did not let us do that when we were babies!



LESSON BODY:

The Bible teaches us that in our lives, there will be people with authority we must obey. To have authority means to have the power and right to make decisions, like our parents in our families. In the Bible, there were many people God chose and gave authority to lead us. Can anyone think of any examples of this?

Allow the children time to recall any examples from the Bible they can think of to exemplify this point (e.g. David obeyed King Saul)

Let us see what else the Bible tells us about obeying people with authority. In 1 Peter 2:13-14 and Hebrews 13:17, we are told to submit ourselves for the Lord's sake. To submit means to obey. So this verse is telling us that another reason we should obey (in addition to the fact that those in authority often are older and wiser) is because we do it for Jesus! We make Jesus happy when we obey those He placed in our lives to teach and guide us.

When God puts someone over us, that person is called God's authority or representatives. This means that this person represents God's authority. Since this person represents God's authority, he/she must be obeyed. When we disobey the people God puts over us, we disobey God.

It is encouraged to pause here and clarify that we should not obey these authorities that are from outside church if they teach us to do something harmful to ourselves or others. If someone tells us to lie or do something that is a sin, we should not do it.

Allow the children time to recall any examples of other people they should obey other than their parents (e.g. teachers, police officers, Abouna, etc.). Consider mapping out and visualizing the following types of representatives for the childrens to consolidate their learning.

1. God's Representatives in the Home: God's plan for the family is that the father is the head under God. The father is responsible to God for his family and he is to be under God's authority at all times. The wife is to be under the authority of her husband. The Bible says, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" (Ephesians 5:22). The children are to be under the authority of both parents.
2. God's Representatives in School: In your school God's authority representative is the principal. Since the principal represents God's authority in the school, he/she is to be respected and obeyed. In the classroom, the teacher represents God's authority, because this is true, the teacher is to be respected and obeyed.

3. God's Representatives Elsewhere: We need to obey police officers, fire men, politicians, etc., because they represent God's authority here on earth.

Invite the children to name any other God's representatives.

At this point, the servant may wish to introduce the memory verse for today's lesson (Titus 3:1) and have the children recite it together.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Wall Hanging Craft:

Prep:

1. Before children arrive to class glue craft sticks together to resemble a house using the low temp glue gun.
2. Place the craft stick house on a white piece of paper.
3. Trace out the house and cut any extra paper along the sides.

In class:

1. Give the children the pre-made craft stick house. Ask them to write the memory verse on the side of the house (the example in the image on the right displays the craft with another verse).
2. Make sure you instruct them to leave space to draw their family.
3. They can decorate the outline (craft sticks) of their house however they please.

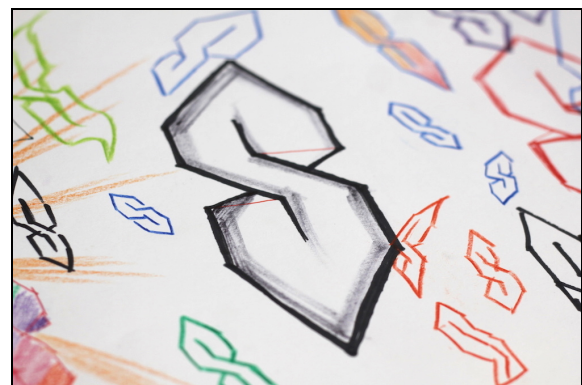


Follow the Instructions Activity:

This may also be used as a lesson opener.

1. Draw a complex image on the board (e.g. Superman S, see image on the right).
2. Tell the children they will have 5 minutes to try to draw this image on their own with no help.
3. Invite the children to show their finished products at the end. Some children will have been able to draw it, and others will not.

Conclude the activity by explaining that we need instructions to do things well. God gives us authorities and representatives in life so that they can give us instructions that we should obey to do tasks well.





VIDEO:

[Follow the Instructions | A Lesson About Obeying](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, split the classroom in half using tape or another piece of demarcating furniture. Tell the children that one side represents “True” and the other side represents “False.” Review the lesson by asking the following question and having the children move to the left or right side based on their answer and discuss after each question:

- Children should be their own bosses (False! Children are subject to the authority of their parents because God has created families with this system.)
- The people on earth that we should obey are called God’s authorities or representatives (True!)
- God’s authorities and representatives are no different from anyone else (False! These are people God has chosen to lead us.)
- If I disobey God’s authorities and representatives, I am also disobeying God (True!)
- In school, you should only obey your teacher when you feel like it (False! This would be disobeying God.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Brainstorm with the children some practical ways they can show respect to the various authorities and representatives of God they will encounter this week. Some suggestions include:

- Listen when my parents tell me to clean up.
- Say thank you to my teachers when they do things for me.
- Not getting upset when my parents make a rule for me I don’t understand right now.



Building Block 4: God's Power of Forgiveness

Lesson 4.IS* - SPECIAL (GREAT FAST): The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Building Block 4
God's Power of Forgiveness

*Note this Lesson may need to be moved to be in the Great Fast season. For dates, consult the [coptic calendar](#).



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper and markers.

Scripture References: Luke 15:11-32

Craft: Construction paper, white paper, printable (attached with the lesson), crayons, markers, scissors, and glue sticks.

Song: [SUS: Change my heart](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of our repentance and God's great forgiveness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Repentance and Forgiveness.



MEMORY VERSE:



*I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him,
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you."*

Luke 15:18

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Have two servants help with the following opening.⁴⁸ *Explain to the class that you are going to pretend these are two very different children. Choose pretend names for them that no children present have. If there are not enough servants, draw stick people on chart paper.*

Consider opening the activity by saying that, "The first child is named (person #1) and she/he never follows rules. Many people don't like her/his bad behavior. The other is named (person #2) and she/he always follows rules."

Ask the children to make up different good and bad things these two different pretend children might do. After each suggestion, have the adult helpers act out that behavior. Here are some examples.

- Person #1 throws fits, but Person #2 always uses good manners
- Person #1 steals, but Person #2 always share her things
- Person #1 calls people bad words, but Person #2 always says nice things
- Person #1 is lazy at school, but Person #2 always works very hard
- Person #1 thinks church is boring, but Person #2 loves going to church

After describing the two individuals, have the children consider who they would prefer to be friends with? *At this point consider asking the children if they think God has favorites. (The answer will be revealed by the end of the story.)*



LESSON BODY:

Today's story is called the prodigal son.

Consider asking the children this question: What does the word prodigal mean? (It means spending a lot of money on things you do not need and being very wasteful with what you have.)

This is the parable that Jesus told: There was a father who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "Father, could you give me my inheritance?" (Inheritance is money the father would give his children after he had died.) So the father thought about it and decided to give his son his share now, and he split it evenly between him and his older brother.

Very soon after the younger son received the money, he decided that since he had so much money he would move to a different city and have some fun with it.

When he left, he left for good. He took everything he had and didn't plan on returning. He left a big farm with many hired men with everything he needed. He left his family, and more importantly he left his father who trusted him enough to give him the money. This probably made his father very sad and his father missed him very much.

Consider asking the children this question: How would you feel if you were the father? (Encourage the children to share their thoughts with their peers.)

⁴⁸ Kummer, T., Diana, & Rachel. (2009, April 28). Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) Sunday School Lesson for Kids: Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/prodigal-son/>



While the son was gone he spent all the money he had right away. He did not think to save any of it. He ate out every day for every meal; he had parties and spent money on many other things that God would not be happy with.

After he had spent all his money, the city he was living in became very poor and they hardly had enough food for everyone. The son was in trouble. He had no money, no place to live, he had nothing to eat, so he had to get a job. The only job he could find was feeding pigs. He was so hungry he tried to eat the food that the pigs were eating. That night, as the son was walking home, his stomach would not stop growling, he was so hungry.

Consider asking the children this question: What do you think the young son was thinking now? (He had everything he wanted when he lived with his father. Now he was living with the pigs and eating their food.)

The young son began to realize that he had made a big mistake. He had nowhere to live and nothing but pig's food to eat. He began to see that he should have been happy with what he had at home. He did the wrong thing. He wasted all the money his father gave him. At that moment he made a plan. He decided to return home to his father, asking him for forgiveness and saying to him, "I have sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son, so hire me and I will work for you." He knew that if he worked like a servant in his father's farm he would still be better off than where he was right now.

He begins the long way back home. His father, who has been waiting for him, sees him from afar, runs to him,

"He falls on your neck to raise one prostrate and burdened with sins and bring back one turned aside to the earthly toward heaven. Christ falls on your neck to free your neck from the yoke of slavery and hang his sweet yoke upon your shoulders."

- St. Ambrose of Milan

hugs, falls on his neck and kisses him. But the son quickly said, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son..." The son wanted to continue but the father said to one of his servants, "Go quickly! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the biggest calf and kill it. "Let us have a party and celebrate because my son was lost and is found!" St. Ambrose of Milan has a beautiful quote about the prodigal son's encounter with his father⁴⁹.

The older brother returns from the field. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant answered, "Your brother has come home and your father is having a party for his return." This upset the older brother and he refused to join the party.

The father heard that he was upset, so he went to talk to him and invited him to join the party. But the son refused saying, "Look! I have been working for you all these years and I've never disobeyed you. Yet you never had a big party for me to celebrate with my friends. But now my younger brother has come home, spent all the money you gave him, and you made for him a big party!"

"But, my son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was lost and now he is found."

Refer back to the lesson opening. Discuss with the children which friend they would prefer to have. Now that they have heard the story, do they think that God picks favourites? Does God only love the people who do not make mistakes? (God loves us all and will always forgive us when we repent.)

⁴⁹ Ambrose, & M., N. R. (2001). *Commentary of Saint Ambrose on the Gospel according to Saint Luke*. Dublin: Halcyon.

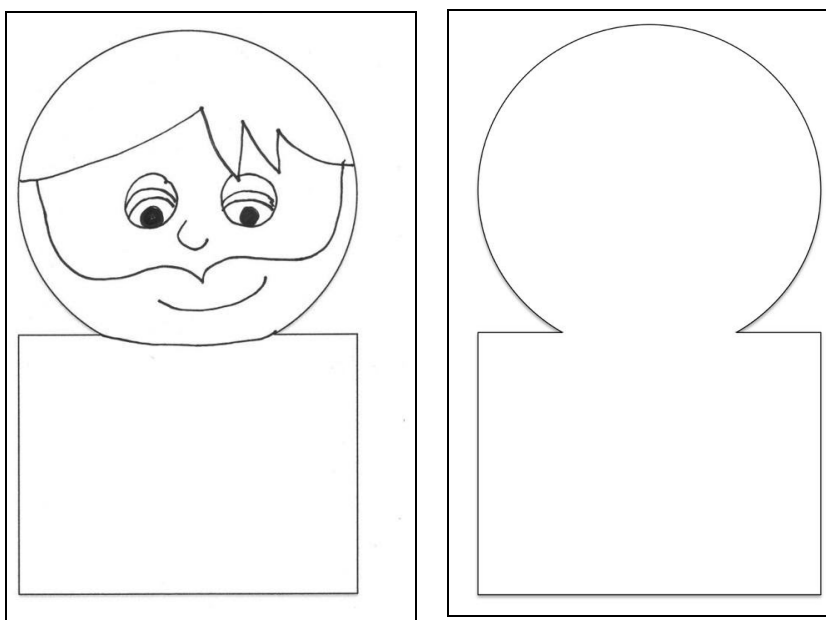
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Forgiving Friend⁵⁰:

1. Pre-write and cut the memory verse.
2. Pre-cut construction paper in the shape of a rectangle.
3. In class, have the children outline their hands on construction paper.
4. Have them cut out their hand shapes.
5. Assist them in glueing their hand shapes on to the rectangular cut out.
6. Glue the head shape on to the top of the rectangle.
7. Give the kids time to color and design their face.



⁵⁰ Durr, J. (2019, April 15). Teaching Kids Forgiveness - Parable of the Lost Son Craft. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <https://meaningfulmama.com/teaching-kids-forgiveness-parable-lost-son-craft.html>



SONG:

[SUS: Change my heart](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

In the parable of the prodigal son, we see that God loves us so much and he wants us to come back to him. God will forgive us for whatever we do wrong.

Questions:

- Who do you think the father in this story represents? (God).
- How do you think God reacts when we run away from Him? (Since He is like our father, He will be sad for us.)
- How do you think God would react once we find our way back to Him? (So happy! He is always waiting for us to come back to Him, regardless of how many times we run away.)

Ask the children to choose which of the following statements are correct. If the statement is correct they should stand, if it is false they should remain seated.

- God only loves people who never make mistakes (False).
- Some people make a lot of mistakes, but God still loves them. (True).
- We should be mad if we do not get credit for the good things we do. (False).
- God loves us even when we make mistakes. (True).
- The older brother was happy to see his younger brother again. (False)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Do not be afraid if we make mistakes, God loves us and wants us to come back to Him no matter what.

We should always repent our sins and God will always forgive us.

We should not judge others based on their mistakes. (Just like in the opening activity, God loves both of those people equally. We should do the same.)

God forgives us when we repent, so we must also forgive others.



Lesson 4.2 - Repentance: John the Baptist's Mission

Building Block 4
God's Power of Forgiveness



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Matthew 3: 1-12 and Luke 3: 1-20.

Craft: Construction paper, white paper, printable (attached with the lesson), crayons/ colored pencils, tan yarn, scissors, and glue.

Activity: Pieces of paper to crumple.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will build their understanding on who John the Baptist is and how he wanted everyone to repent and follow Jesus Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Repentance



MEMORY VERSE:



Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!



Matthew 3:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider opening the lesson using the following introduction.

What does it mean to prepare for something? (To prepare means to get ready.) If the President of the United States was coming over to your house, what are some things you would have to do to prepare for his visit? (Pick out a nice outfit, take a bath, clean the house etc.). Since the President is an important person we would probably spend a lot of time getting ready to see him. But there is someone even more important than the President who we need to prepare for...Jesus! Have you ever thought about what we need to do in order to prepare for Jesus? Today we will hear about a man named John the Baptist, who had a very important job



from God. He was a prophet, or messenger, and helped the people of Israel see that we must prepare our hearts for Jesus.



LESSON BODY:

John the Baptist was a messenger and he had an important job: to prepare the way for Jesus to come!

John lived in the desert and wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts and honey. The people were so fascinated by John that they would go out to the desert to see him and hear him preach.

The people were not ready in their hearts for Jesus. They needed to hear that Jesus was coming so that they would first repent, before Jesus could forgive their sins and bring their hearts back to life with the Holy Spirit. That is what John did! He helped them see they needed to prepare their hearts for Jesus.

Consider asking the children what it might mean to prepare their heart for Jesus.

John preached to the people saying, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” As they listened to John, the people realized how sinful they were, and they began to see their need for a Savior. They confessed their sins and John baptized them in the Jordan River. He told them, “I baptize you with water but there is one coming after me who is much greater than I am. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”

Consider discussing with the children how they can prepare their hearts for Jesus everyday.

The servant may then link this lesson to preparing to meet our Lord Jesus in the sacrament of Communion. The church emphasizes that we should be coming clean and pure, both from within and on the outside; we must be in the best image externally and internally, as we are appearing before God, the King of kings, Lord of lords and Master of all earthly masters. The servant may encourage the children to participate in the Vesper prayers to prepare for Liturgy.

The biblical reckoning of a day is from sundown to sundown, not from midnight to midnight as we think of it today. This understanding of a day can be seen in the Creation itself: “And the evening and the morning were the first day.” Orthodoxy has continued this ancient biblical orientation, as reflected by its evening Vesper service which is considered the first service of the new day. The Vesper service on Saturday evening focuses on Christ and His resurrection, anticipating the Sunday morning Liturgy. It prepares us for the Divine Liturgy through psalms, hymns and prayers, all of which have as their theme the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁵¹

The servant may also organize a day where the children attend Vespers together as a Sunday School class.

⁵¹ Najim, M., & Frazier, T. (1995). Understanding the Orthodox Liturgy: A guide for participating in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom [Ebook].

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

John the Baptist Coloring Page⁵²:

1. Children color the picture of St. John the Baptist.
2. Glue on small pieces of yarn to his clothes and glue it to the construction paper.
3. Cut out a conversation cloud and write the bible verse: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2) in the cloud.
4. Glue the cloud onto the picture.



Not in my Backyard⁵³:

1. Give each student a paper and ask them to crumble the paper into balls.
2. Divide the class into 2 teams and make them stand on opposite sides of the class.
3. Clear away all chairs and tables from the room.
4. Put a line of tape in the middle of the room to divide the 2 teams.
5. Set a timer for 1 minute and start.
6. The children have to throw the balls to the other side of the tape into the other team's zone. The goal is to have the least amount of balls in your team's zone by the end of the minute.
7. The balls represent sin that we throw away by repenting, and the ones we receive are temptation. It is not impossible for us to sin because we are human, but we have to strive to get rid of our sins.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Where did St. John the Baptist live? (The desert/wilderness.)
- Who was the man John said would come after him? (Jesus).
- Why was he called John the Baptist? (Because he baptized many people.)

⁵² Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). John the Baptist Bible Crafts For Children. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-john-the-baptist.html>

⁵³ Throw Away Your Sins. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/games/throw-away-your-sins>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Do you think it is important for us to repent when we do something wrong? (Yes).
- Do you think we need to prepare our hearts for Jesus? (Yes).
- How can we prepare our hearts for Jesus? (Repent/confess our sin.)

When we pray before we go to sleep let's tell God all about our day. And if we did something wrong we should repent by telling sorry to Jesus Christ.



Lesson 4.3 - Renewal: Baptism

Building Block 4
God's Power of Forgiveness



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Blue plastic cups, cut outs of Abouna and the baby (see below), popsicle sticks, scissors, and glue.

Video: [Holy Pimoly- HQ - Baptism And Chrismation Cartoon - Arabic subtitled](#) (16:34 - 27:40).

Video: [Sciboys: Experiment about Baptism](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding that through baptism we are born again and become children of God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Gratitude and Repentance.



MEMORY VERSE:



*Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins,
calling on the name of the Lord.*



Acts 22:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

“Baptism = Clean” Demonstration⁵⁴:

Hold up a glass of water for the children and tell them that the glass of water symbolizes us. When we make mistakes and sin, we become unclean inside (add a drop of food coloring to the water and stir).

⁵⁴ Family Home Evening: Baptism. (2016, October 19). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <http://newswithnaylor.blogspot.com/2016/10/family-home-evening-baptism.html>



Point out that the glass (us) isn't clear anymore because of the food coloring (sin), but when we are baptized, we can be made completely clean again (pour the bleach into the glass and wait a while for it to become clear)!

Remind the children that they do not need to be baptized every time they sin, Baptism is their initial cleansing, and now that they are Christians, they can continue to be cleansed through repentance and confession.

Consider asking the children if they have ever been to a baptism and what happens at a baptism.

Today, we will learn about what happens during the baptism!



LESSON BODY:

Early on Sunday morning, the whole family goes to the Baptism room in the Church.

Consider asking the children where the Baptism room in the Church is.

First, the priest prays on the water to make it holy before the baby is baptized in it. Then the mother holds the baby on her left arm, looking towards the West and lifts her right hand, reciting after the priest: "I renounce you Satan, and all your evil deeds and all your wicked powers".

The servant may explain that by doing this, the mother is making a commitment to resist against all the temptations of the devil.

After that the mother looks towards the East, she holds the baby on her left arm and raises her right hand to repeat after the priest: "I confess to you, O Christ my God, and to all Your redeeming laws and commands, and your life giving works".

Consider explaining that this means that the mother has now rejected the devil, and chosen to raise her child in God's ways, following His commandments.

Then the priest asks her three times: "Do you believe on behalf of this child?" and she answers him three times "I believe".

Abouna takes the baby from the mother and immerses him three times in the name of the Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Abouna breathes on him every time he brings the baby out of the water. The baby now is born again from God and is ready to receive the Holy Spirit.

Children who are baptized receive the Holy Spirit by the Myron (the most holy oil that is prayed over it by the Pope and the Bishops, and contains a very small amount of the spices that were around the body of our Lord in the tomb). We are anointed 36 times, all over our body. Abouna focuses on all of our senses.

Invite the children to name all the human senses (sight, touch, smell, taste, hearing). Describe why it is important that our senses are blessed.

Abouna anoints our eyes to bless what we see, our ears to bless what we hear, our arms and legs to bless everything we do, and our head to bless our thoughts.

As the priest anoints the baby, he says: I anoint you ____ with the Holy Oil in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”. After anointing the baby, the priest breathes into his face saying “Receive the Holy Spirit and be a pure vessel through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

After this, the baby is dressed in new white clothes, and tied a red ribbon on his chest. This red ribbon represents being sealed with the blood of Jesus. Now the baby is a Christian, and after attending the Holy Liturgy with their parents, he/she will have communion for the first time. The whole family is very happy on this blessed day.

Consider concluding the lesson by asking the children why they cannot just take communion without being baptized. Highlight to the children that they must first become part of the Church before they can participate in sacraments like communion.

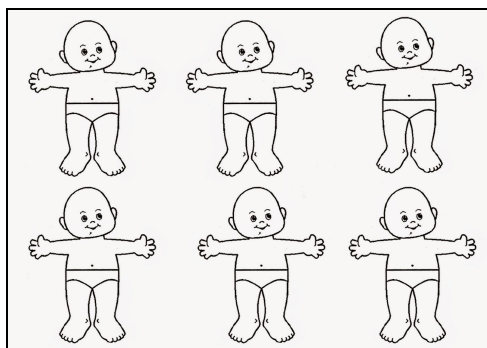
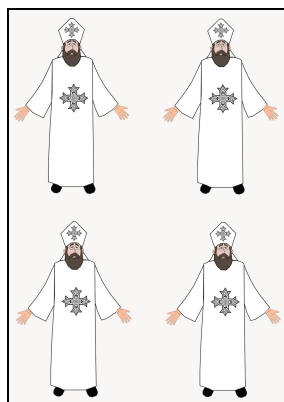
Supplementary



Crafts/Activities:

Baptism Cutout:

1. Cut out the baby and glue it to the popsicle stick.
2. Use the scissor to create a hole at the bottom of the cup (you can do this for the children before class).
3. Cut out the priest and glue it to the cup.
4. Insert the popsicle stick in the hole.



VIDEO:

[Holy Pimoly- HQ - Baptism And Chrismation Cartoon - Arabic subtitled](#) (16:34-17:51)

[Sciboy: Experiment about Baptism](#)



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How did we become children of God? (When we were Baptized.)
- How were we baptized? (Immersed 3 times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.)
- What is Myron? (The Holy Oil).
- If we are baptized, does that mean we will never sin again? (No, people still sin, but now that they are a part of God's church, they can confess and have their sins forgiven once again.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Everytime we take communion, we must remember that we are children of God who experienced this wonderful baptism. Baptism is a gift that cleansed us from our sins and prepared us to be part of the sacraments of our church. We can apply this by always preparing our hearts to be ready for communion.

Consider recalling the opening activity here and reminding the children that the goal is to have a clear cup with no drops of food coloring. When we make mistakes and there is food coloring in our cup, we should ask God for forgiveness and stop doing the things that cause the drops (this is called repentance). Our goal should always be to keep our cup clean and clear throughout our lives to show respect to our renewal in baptism and live a life close to Christ.

Brainstorm with the children: How can we show God how thankful we are to be a part of his church? (By attending church, taking care of our church and the people in it, respecting the church and the building etc.)



Lesson 4.4 - Continuous Renewal: Confession

Building Block 4
God's Power of Forgiveness



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Dark cola, a glass, and buttons.

Craft: Clean heart printable (attached) printed on colored paper, white crayons, and white glitter glue.

Activity: Jenga Blocks and a bin labeled "Confession bin".

Video: [Sciboy's: Experiment about Confession \(3:30\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children should understand the need to confess our sins and receive the Lord's forgiveness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Repentance



MEMORY VERSE:



*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*



1 John 1:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

To start the Object Talk, you will pour about 4 oz. of dark cola into a drinking glass. Then you will drop several buttons into the cola. The buttons will sink to the bottom where they will be out of sight, but in a few seconds, they will rise to the surface for all to see.

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they like drinking cola. Continue by asking them if they would still drink the cola if it had the buttons in it. Consider asking the children if they have ever done something wrong and felt like they had to hide it.



While showing the children the glass of soda, have them pretend that the glass of soda is a person and the buttons are their sins. Inform them that while the glass of soda may look good to drink on the outside, the hidden buttons make it taste bad. People can be like that too. No one can tell whether someone has sinned on the outside, but their sins can be hidden and weighing them down on the inside. Even though no one can really see the buttons, they are still there. If we want to be able to drink the soda, we need to get the buttons out somehow.

Consider asking the children this question: How can people remove their sins? (Introduce the term confession.)



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they like superheroes. Provide them with an opportunity to discuss their favorite superhero and their relevant power. During this lesson, Abouna will be compared to a superhero.

Abouna is a little like a superhero, but his superpower is more important than any other they could find in a movie. Inform the children that Abouna is given authority from God to ensure the forgiveness of our sins. However, Abouna cannot do this alone, his superpower requires that we go to him first, and tell him all the sins that we have committed.

Abouna uses this superpower every time someone confesses.

You may wish to ask the children if they know what confession is. (When we go to Abouna and tell him our sins.)

Define the term confession for the children. Confession is a sacrament of the Church, just like Baptism or Communion. Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross because He loves us so much. Jesus did not only do this to forgive our sins once, but He made it possible for our sins to be forgiven all the time as long as we confess. When someone confesses, they go to their Abouna and tell him all the sins they have committed.

Invite the children to consider any moments when they have had to admit something embarrassing that they had done to their parents or another authority figure. (Give them a few moments to think about it.)

Admitting one's mistakes can be embarrassing. However, when someone confesses it is just between them, Abouna, and God. It can be scary for us to say our sins out loud, but Abouna will never tell anyone what we confess.

The amazing thing about Abouna's superpower is that once we confess something, it is gone and we do not have to be afraid or embarrassed anymore!

Although all of these children are too young for confession, show them what occurs.

Consider role-playing the process of confession, with two servants one as the priest and one as a confessor. Ensure the sins the servants are portraying are sins relevant to the children, such as lying, not sharing, etc.

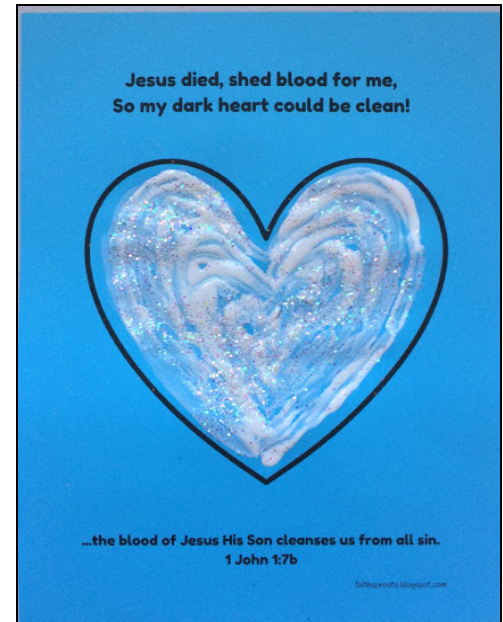
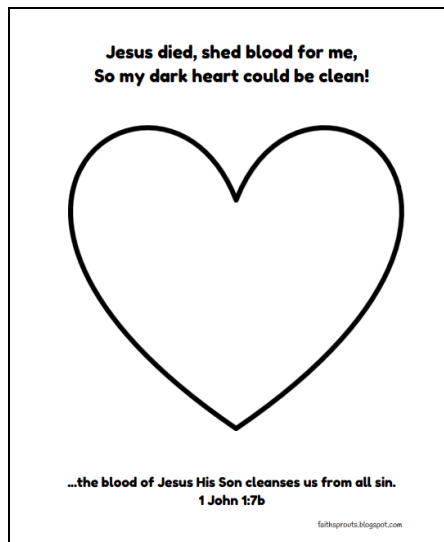
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

My Clean Heart⁵⁵:

1. Provide each child with a heart printable that has been printed on colorful paper, white crayons, and white glitter glue.
2. Inform children that because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, when we confess our hearts become clean again.
3. Instruct the children to color their hearts with the crayons and glitter glue to demonstrate what their clean heart will look like.



“Throw away the Sins” Jenga Game:

1. Tell the children that they will be playing a game similar to Jenga. If some of the children have not played the game before, model how the game is played with another servant or a student volunteer.
2. Children will take turns pulling out one Jenga block (sin block) at a time, with the goal of not having the tower fall over. When a student pulls out a sin block, they will put it into the “Confession Bin” so that the sin blocks are renewed again and are no longer sin blocks!
3. After the children have played, emphasize that God wants us to throw away our sins and that when they confess they throw those sins away and become clean again.



VIDEO:

[Sciboy's: Experiment about Confession \(3:30\)](#)

⁵⁵ Unruh, S. (2015, October 17). White Heart. Retrieved July 21, 2020, from <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/10/white-as-snow.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why do we need to go to confession anyway? (Just like the glass of cola, even though we may not see our sins on the outside, they weigh us down on the inside and cause us to move away from God. Confession helps us return to God again!)
- What do we need to do to make our hearts clean again? (We need to confess our sins to Abouna.)
- Is it good to hide our sins from God and from Abouna? (No.)
- Should we feel embarrassed to confess our sins? (No, once we confess our sins they are gone, and we do not have to worry about them anymore.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When we do something we were not supposed to, we should go talk to Abouna about it and confess.

We should try to stay away from sin and forgive others when they make mistakes.

It is important that we do not hide our sins, so that we can make our hearts clean.



Lesson 4.5 - The Lost Sheep

Building Block 4
God's Power of Forgiveness



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A picture of a sheep or small sheep figurine, a shepherd's staff (stick), and a picture of Christ.

Scripture References: Luke 15: 1-7 and Matthew 18: 12-14.

Craft: Cotton balls, black felt, wiggly eyes, bathroom cups, scissors, glue, and markers.

Activity: Construction-paper cutouts of sheep.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids - Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep and Coin \(1:19\)](#)

Song: [The Lost Sheep. Animated bible songs for children. Two By 2](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that God's love for us is personal and special. He loves us for who we are, His children.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.



Psalm 23:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

[The Lost Sheep | New Testament Stories | Animated Children's Bible Stories | Holy Tales Bible Stories](#) (3:35)

Consider asking the children, "Why does the shepherd search for the 1 lost sheep if he already has 99 sheep?"



Once children have shared their thoughts, tell them that the shepherd loves all his sheep so much that he wants all of them to be with him.

Remind the children that God is that shepherd. He loves us so much that He wants all of us to be in heaven. We are God's sheep and he is like a Shepherd. If even just one person becomes lost, God will never stop waiting until they return to Him!



LESSON BODY:

Consider using the visual aids mentioned in the Servant's Preparation section while telling the following story.

Today we are going to learn a story about a shepherd named Marcos and his sheep. Marcos has one hundred sheep, he loves them and knows each one of them by name. Every day the sheep go to the gardens and the fields to eat and play. There is a nice sheep among one hundred called Foufou.

The servant may describe the beauty of Foufou, its love for its brothers and its thin voice (the servant may make sheep sounds by saying "maa...maa...maa...").

One day, Marcos took sheep, which were gentle and sweet and said to them, "Today we are going for a walk in a very nice place. It is far away from here". They became very happy and shouted "maa...maa...maa..." When they arrived at the place they found that it was very nice. They stayed there for some time. They ate and played.

Consider pausing at this time to determine the children's understanding of the story so far.

A strange sheep came from another place but he was a little bit naughty. He said to Foufou, "There is another beautiful place where there are very beautiful things. Foufou thought about it for a while. While Foufou was still thinking, the foreign sheep pushed him and took Foufou away. They continued walking until they arrived at the place. They jumped, played, and they enjoyed themselves. Foufou asked where they could find food. The strange sheep said that there was no food but they came to play. They became tired and the naughty sheep left Foufou alone and went home quickly. Foufou tried to go back to his brothers but he lost his way. He said "maa...maa...maa" but no one heard him. Foufou called, shouted and wept "maa...maa...maa". No one heard him. He sat down at last and wept bitterly.

In the evening, all of Foufou's brothers and sisters went back home. When they entered the house, Marcos counted them by calling each one by its name...1, 2, 3, 4...99. "Where is my friend Foufou?" he asked. He called "Foufou, Foufou" but no one answered him. He asked the sheep, "Have any of you seen Foufou?" but no sheep answered. Marcos said to them, "Wait here and I shall go out to search for Foufou".

Marcos took a lantern and went out. He said, "Where are you Foufou?" but no one answered him. Marcos prayed, "O Lord, help me find Foufou and bring him back to his brothers." He asked a man who was walking in the street, "Have you seen my young sheep Foufou?" The man said, "What does he look like?" Marcos described him and the man pointed and said, "Yes, I have seen him. He is sitting there weeping." Marcos quickly went there and was very happy to find his sheep. He carried him, kissed him and was very happy. Foufou was very happy and said, "I'm sorry for leaving Marcos, I'll never go with that naughty strange sheep again." Foufou went back quickly to his brothers. When they saw him, they gave him a warm welcome. They

said, “Where have you been Foufou... Thank God you are back safely”. Foufou said, “Forgive me my brothers. I’ll never walk with anyone but you.”

Consider concluding this story by explaining to the children that we are like the sheep, and Marcos is like God. Whenever we sin, we become lost like Foufou, but God will never abandon us, just as Marcos did not abandon Foufou. When we repent and confess, we become reunited with God and our Christian family. Everytime even one person repents, heaven rejoices, because it means they are once again reunited with Him. Emphasize that God loves each and every one of us, even though He has many children to love. He will never forget about you!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Lost Sheep Craft⁵⁶:

1. Pre-cut out a sheep face along with ears using the black felt.
2. Glue the wiggly eyes onto the sheep’s face.
3. Glue the sheep’s face onto the cotton ball.
4. Once the sheep has dried, instruct the children to get into pairs. One of the children will hide the sheep under one of the three cups and mix up the cups. The other student will have to guess which cup the sheep is under! Children can then reverse their roles.



The Lost Sheep Game⁵⁷:

1. Tell the children that they will be playing a game similar to hide and seek involving sheep!
2. Hand out the construction paper cutouts of sheep to half of the children in the class.
3. Have half of the children sit on the floor and close their eyes while the other half hides the sheep cutouts somewhere in the room. Once the sheep have been hidden, instruct these children to sit on the floor while the other half (The Shepherds) search for the sheep.
4. Reverse the roles so that the children who were the Shepherds now have to hide the sheep and the children who hid the sheep now have to be the Shepherds.

Once the game has concluded, consider asking the children to turn to a partner and share how they felt about finding a sheep. Compare this feeling to how happy God must feel when a person returns to Him.

⁵⁶ Kirk, C. (2019, June 05). Lost Sheep Craft. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://churchleaders.com/children/childrens-ministry-articles/349008-lost-sheep-craft.html>

⁵⁷ The Lost Sheep Game. (2020, April 29). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/activities/the-lost-sheep-hide-and-seek-game/>



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids - Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep and Coin \(1:19\)](#)



SONG:

[The Baa Baa Song \(He's the Good Shepherd\) \(2:05\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have all the children sit in their seats. Explain to them that you will read them a series of statements. If the statement is true, they should stand. If it is false, they should remain seated.

- When Fufou was lost, Marcos abandoned him. (No! Marcos realized that Fufou was missing because he loved him.)
- Marcos left the 99 sheep to find Fufou because Fufou was in trouble for not listening. (No! Marcos went to find Fufou because he loved him.)
- The other sheep in the story were so happy when Fufou returned. (Yes!).
- We are like Marcos in the story. (No! We are like the sheep, and God is like Marcos. God will always come find us when we make mistakes because He loves us.)
- Sometimes God forgets to go find His sheep. (No, never! never abandons us, and will always wait for us to return to Him.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Remind the children that each and every one of them is seen and valued by God. God notices right away when you are not there and wants to bring you back home. God gives us an opportunity to experience His forgiveness.

Brainstorm with the children: What are some ways we can show God we appreciate His love and forgiveness?

- We should forgive others like God forgives us.
- We should not be upset when others make mistakes like Fufou. We should always welcome people back home.



→ When we pray, we should give thanks to God for loving us so much. We can return this love by being obedient to His commands.



Lesson 4.6 - St. Monica Prays for her Son's Forgiveness

Building Block IV
God's Power of Forgiveness



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Timer.

Craft: [St. Monica Coloring Sheet](#), markers, and crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the importance and power of praying patiently and fearfully.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Patience and Prayerfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.



Philipians 4:6

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have you ever prayed for something and not gotten it? How long did you pray for? A day, a month, maybe even a year? *The children may share their thoughts if they are comfortable.*

Today's lesson is about a saint who prayed for 9 years for God to save her son! Would you be able to pray for 9 years?

Quiet Game:

Have the class sit quietly in their seats. Nobody is allowed to make any sound or move around. Have them do this for 3-5 minutes. Use a timer so the children know how much time has passed. After the time is up,



discuss with the class how long even a few minutes can feel. Now imagine if you had to sit patiently like this for years!

Reflect back to this game after explaining the story, to show the immense patience and dedication that St. Monica endured while she prayed for God to save her son.



LESSON BODY:

The following is the entire story of St. Monica for the servant to review. Consider emphasizing the fact that St. Monica prayed for her son's return to God for nine years, and the fact that she never stopped believing that God would forgive her son.

St. Monica was born in North Africa of Christian parents. From the day of her baptism she lived a life of goodness. As soon as she reached the age of marriage, her parents gave her as a wife to a citizen of Tagaste called Patricius. Patricius was a pagan (someone who believes in idols instead of the one true God.), but Monica's prayers resulted in winning over both her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Monica and Patricius had three children, two sons and a daughter. Their oldest son, Augustine, was very smart and his parents sent him to the best school they could find. Two years later Monica was so sad when she found out that Augustine was leading a wicked life and started believing in other religions. Monica was so sad that when Augustine returned from school she would not let him eat or live with her.

Consider asking the children this question: When St. Monica refused to let St. Augustine live with her at first, did she still love him? (Yes, even when she punished her son, she still loved him and prayed for him.)

However, Monica still loved her son and never stopped praying on his behalf. St. Monica would pray, fast, and cry for **nine years** as she asked God to forgive her son and help him return.

Augustine was twenty-nine years old when he decided to go to Rome to teach. Even though Monica did not want Augustine to go, she was determined to go to Rome with him if he chose to leave. However, Augustine decided to go without her, while Monica sat in a church crying and praying for her son. As sad as Monica was when she found out her son had left her, she still followed him, but she reached Rome only to find that Augustine had gone to Milan. There he came under the influence of the great bishop St. Ambrose. When Monica at last tracked her son down, Augustine told her that he no longer believed in other religions. At last in 386 AD, Augustine announced his complete acceptance of the Christian faith. He declared that he would live a celibate life. At Easter 387, St. Ambrose baptized Augustine who soon after returned to Africa.

As Monica's life was drawing to an end she had a conversation with Augustine and told him how happy she was that he had finally become a Christian and returned to God. Shortly after Monica passed away to her eternal reward. She was fifty-five years of age. Christians now look to St. Monica as an example for mothers and prayer.

Consider engaging in the following discussion with the children: Did St. Monica give up on her son when he moved away from God? (No, she loved him so much and believed that God would forgive him.)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

St. Monica Coloring Sheet⁵⁸:

1. Provide the children with a copy of the coloring sheet, markers, and crayons.
2. The servant may write the memory verse on the bottom of the page once the children have finished.

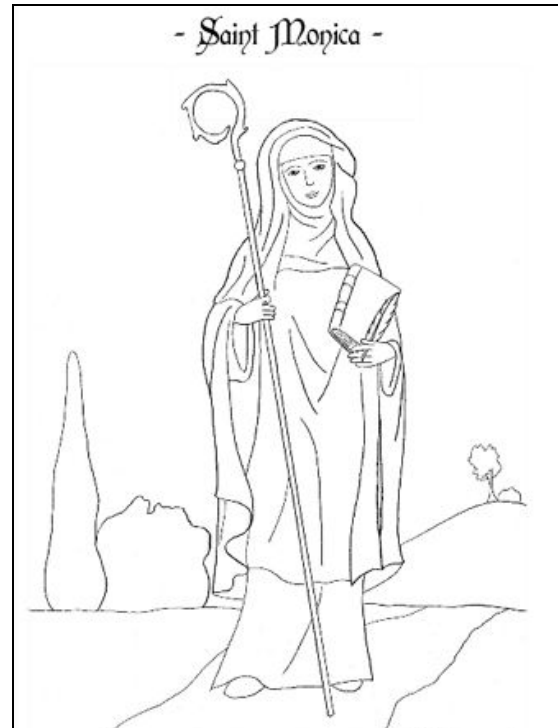
Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why was St. Monica praying for her son? (Because he turned away from God and she wanted him to return to the faith and away from the wicked life he was living.)
- Did St. Monica's prayer work right away? (No, it took 9 years of prayer.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

If we are worried about friends or family, we should be patient and continue to pray for them.

God hears us when we pray, but we have to be patient and know that praying can do a lot, even if it takes a long time before our prayers are answered.

⁵⁸ Saint Monica Catholic coloring page for kids to color. Feast day is August 27th.: Saint coloring, St monica, Catholic coloring. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/272256739946751671/>



Building Block 5: The Powerful Word of God

Lesson 5.1 - An Introduction to the Books and Sections of the Bible

Building Block 5
The Powerful Word of God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A Bible and printed out visual aids (attached).

Craft: Paper, colorful construction paper, glue, scissors, and markers.

Video: [The Gospel Project: The Big Story \(5:30\)](#)

Song: [KJV Songs: Books of The Bible Song \(2:24\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will reflect an understanding of the books and sections of the Bible to appreciate its value and importance in our lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Understanding.



MEMORY VERSE:



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



Psalm 119:105

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider showing the class the provided video, it acts as an overview of the story of the Bible and how everything leads to salvation through Jesus.

Consider starting the lesson by asking the children if they have already read the Bible.



LESSON BODY:

Today, we are going to learn about the different parts of the Bible. Understanding this will help us to read it more often and understand its value and meaning in our lives.

You may wish to introduce and paraphrase the quote on the right by St. John Chrysostom to reiterate this point regarding the importance of understanding the Bible.⁵⁹

Consider beginning this section of the lesson by showing the children a Bible from home. Explain to the children that when they open their Bible, the Old Testament is what comes at the beginning, and the New Testament is at the end.

"The Holy Scriptures lead us to God and open the path to the knowledge of God."

- St. John Chrysostom

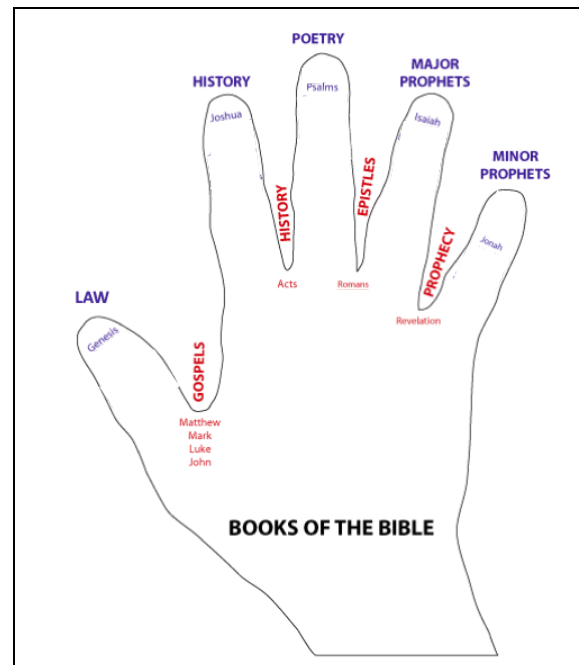
When you open the front of a Bible you are reading the Old Testament. The Old Testament comes first in the Bible. Once you reach the book called "Matthew" you have reached the New Testament!

The Old Testament includes the books of the Bible which describe everything that happened before Jesus came to Earth and the New Testament contains books that explain what happened while Jesus was on Earth and after He ascended into Heaven.

Consider using the attached visual aid of the hand analogy provided below to give examples of books from each of the following sections of the Bible, allowing the children to identify where various stories they have learned come from in the Bible.⁶⁰

Old Testament:

- **Law:** This is the first five books in the Bible. This is when God was establishing the law in his promises to the Israelites. This is when we received the ten commandments, which is what we still live by!
- **History:** This tells us many stores of the Old Testament about how the Israelites lived after Moses.
- **Poetry:** The psalms that we read in church are all from the book of Psalms which was written by David the prophet. These five books are filled with poetic words and advice for future generations (i.e Proverbs)
- **Major Prophets:** These are about prophets giving us various messages from God. Back when the Bible was being written, they used scrolls. If the



⁵⁹ St. John Chrysostom. (n.d.). "Conversations on the Gospel of John, 59:2." Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2013/07/12/st-john-chrysostom-the-holy-scriptures-lead-us-to-god/>

⁶⁰ STUDY. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <http://servantsclass.org/study/>

book required more than one scroll then this book was considered 'Major'.

- **Minor Prophets:** These are also books about various prophets giving us messages. Unlike the Major Prophets, if the only one scroll was needed to write the book then these were considered 'minor'.

New Testament:

- **The Gospels:** These are the books that we read the Bible from every Sunday when we go to church. These describe the life and teachings of Jesus.
- **Church History:** We also read the book of Acts every Sunday at church. Acts describes how the church began with the Disciples.
- **Letters/Epistles:** These are letters from Apostles like Peter and Paul who are giving advice to churches of the time.
- **Prophecy:** This is the book of Revelation. The book of the future! It tells us about the end of the world and about the second coming of Christ.

"The sacred Scripture, taken as a whole, is like a human being. The Old Testament is the body and the New is the soul, the meaning it contains, the spirit. From another viewpoint we can say that the entire sacred Scripture, Old and New Testament, has two aspects: the historical content which corresponds to the body, and the deep meaning, the goal at which the mind should aim, which corresponds to the soul."

- Eastern Church Father

To synthesize this knowledge, consider drawing from the commentary by an Eastern Church Father above.⁶¹ Emphasize that while the Old and New Testaments are separate and distinct, they work together for the completion of God's plan and salvation of our souls.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Make your own Bible⁶²:

1. Have a large blank paper, pre-draw 8 even rectangles.
2. Pre-cut the rectangles.
3. Have a different colored construction paper, fold in half once.
4. Start glueing the rectangles to the different colored paper. (This should create pages)
5. Cut off any excess paper around the edges.
6. Have the children draw images of their favorite Bible stories in the created pages.



VIDEO:

⁶¹ Maximos the Confessor. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2013/08/07/st-maximos-the-confessor-the-sacred-scripture-taken-as-a-whole-is-like-a-human-being/>

⁶² Digital by Design Inc. (2013). The Bible - Sunday School Crafts. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/books-of-the-bible-crafts.html>



[The Gospel Project: The Big Story \(5:30\)](#)

Questions:

- Who were the first couple? (Adam and Eve.)
- Who did God tell that his people will receive a land for them? (Abraham).
- Who was one of the prophets mentioned in the video? (Isaiah).



SONG:

[KJV Songs: Books of The Bible Song \(2:24\)](#)

**Note: This song only reviews the canonized list of Bible books in the Western tradition, and does not include Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical texts included by the Orthodox Church (e.g. Wisdom of Sirach, Tobit, etc.). The servant may wish to note this to the children if they believe having this discussion is suitable for this age group.*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What are the first five books of the Bible called? (Law books).
- What are the Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.)
- Which book of the Bible focuses on The Church's history? (Acts).

To conclude the review, have two slips of paper on opposite sides of the room, one with "New Testament" written on it, the other with "Old Testament" on it. Explain to the children which side refers to which Testament for those who cannot read. Call out the names of various Bible books/categories as discussed in the body, and have the children move to the correct side of the room to indicate which part of the Bible that book/category comes from.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we learned today?

Encourage the class to review the names and sections of the Bible at home (if possible with a visual to take home, ie. hand or shelf visuals).



Explain to the children that by remembering this information about the Bible, they can have greater understanding when they go to read the Bible. This understanding will enhance their ability to live and apply what they read. What are some strategies that can be applied to help us practice this?

- I can learn more about the story of Jesus' life by looking for His words in the New Testament.
- I can pray to God for help before reading the Bible so that He can help me understand the words.
- I can read the Bible with my family, servants, and Abouna to help me understand my question.



Lesson 5.2 - The Inspired Word of God: The Holy Bible

Building Block 5
The Powerful Word of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A Bible and a paper sleeve with the words “Secrets of the Universe” on it.

Scripture References: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Psalm 12:6, Psalm 119:160, and 1 Corinthians 2:14.

Activity: Paper towel tube or taped toilet paper rolls, paper plate, balloon, and sharpies.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be introduced to the Bible and understand that it is powerful and inspired by God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:

“

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...

”

2 Timothy 3:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children what the greatest story they have ever heard or seen is, and then transitioning into explaining that the Bible, is the story of God’s love for humanity, which is truly the greatest story, and it is true.

I am sure we all know some really cool stories, right? What is the greatest story you have ever heard, or maybe watched in a movie? Now, these stories are great, but a lot of the times they are not even real stories, and the most they can do for us is make us a little happier, but they can not change our lives!



Today we will learn about the greatest story ever, and it is a true story, and it even involves each and every one of us! Does anyone know where we can find this story? (The Bible!) The Bible is the story of our God, and His relationship with us!



LESSON BODY:

Now that we know that the Bible is the story of God and His relationship with mankind, let us talk about what the Bible looks like and how it was written. The Bible is not like most books, which are written all by one person. The Bible was written over thousands of years by over 40 different authors, but they were all guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit! This means that while they were writing, they were guided by the Holy Spirit, who is God, so that they can write the truth about who God is! For us, this means that we should understand that when they write to us different commands or promises God has made, we can know for sure that this is true.

The servant may explain the meaning of inspiration of Scripture, from the Orthodox understanding. As Orthodox Christians, we do not believe that God wrote the Bible, but rather He inspired and revealed spiritual truths to different authors from different places and time periods. He did not override the authors and use

“As when God became man in Bethlehem the eternal Word became flesh, so in the Bible the glory of God veils itself in the fleshly garment of human thought and human language.”
- St. John Chrysostom

them as dictators, but rather allowed for their personalities to shine forth in their writings, while revealing to them spiritual truths and guided them in their writing. We also have this quote from John Chrysostom to support this.⁶³

So, we know that the authors of the Bible were all guided by the Holy Spirit, now let us talk about something else that makes the Bible very unique and special. The Bible is

made up of many different books, but they all come together to make one story - the story of God and His relationship with us as humans. The Bible is broken up into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The word of God guides us: King David said, ‘Your word is lamp to my feet and a light to my path’ (Psalm 119:105). The Bible tells us and warns us about the dangers of sins and it tells us how we can fix them. It reminds us of the way God designed us to live. It teaches us how to deal with our parents, siblings, and our friends. The Bible keeps us on the right path, so it is really important that we are reading it every day. By reading it every day, we will be able to learn all of God’s commandments.

“By Scripture we may disprove what is false, be corrected, be brought to a right understanding, and be comforted and consoled.”

- St. John Chrysostom

The servant may consider explaining that we use the Bible as a way of discerning right and wrong. The Bible should be used as our guide in our everyday decisions, through the teachings of the Church. St. John

⁶³ Chrysostom, J., & Hill, R. C. (1998). *St. John Chrysostom commentary on the Psalms*. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press.

Chrysostom illustrates this in his homily on St. Paul's Second Epistle to St. Timothy.⁶⁴ The Bible should be with us every step of our lives.

The word of God heals, purifies, and cleanses us: Our Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples, 'You are already clean because of the word, which I have spoken to you' (John 15: 3).

The story of the Bible is the story of how God also forgave us all our wrongs because of His immense love for us. God loved us so much that He came down from heaven after we fell from Him in our sin and died for us, and brought us back with Him to heaven in His arms. Whenever we read the Bible after sinning, God is calling us back again to His arms in heaven; all we have to do is respond to Him.

From Genesis, the very first book, to Revelation, the last book, the purpose of the Bible is our salvation.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Do Not Let God's Word Fall to the Ground Balloon Game⁶⁵:

How important is it for us to know what's in the Bible? (It's important for us to know what's in the Bible because it is God's word)

1. Before the lesson, prepare several balloons covered in a variety of God's commandments from the Bible, such as 'do not lie', 'do not steal', 'only worship God', 'forgive others', etc. Use a Sharpie to write these commandments on the balloon.
2. Give each child a paper tube + paper plate "sword", which may be blank or have the words "God's People" written on it.
3. Explain to the children that they are supposed to work together to make sure the balloon never touches the ground.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

⁶⁴ John Chrysostom, St. (2019). 3:16 All Scripture Inspired by God and Profitable. In T. C. Oden & P. Gorday (Authors), *Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon* (p. 394). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.

⁶⁵Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Don't Let God's Words Fall to the Ground Balloon and Paper Plate Paddle Craft. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-samuel-2.html>



- How important is it for us to know what is in the Bible? (It is important for us to know what is in the Bible because it is God's word.)
- If the Bible is God speaking to us today, how do we speak to Him? (We speak to Him through prayer.)

True or False

- The Bible is one of God's ways of speaking to us today. (True).
- The Bible was written by one man. (False).
- Revelation is the last book of the Bible. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Reading the Bible on your own is very important, but if you have any questions, you can ask your parents, Sunday school servant, and Abouna.

What can you learn/use from what you read from the Bible? (How to treat others, how to go to heaven, how to deal with problems etc.)

Making sure that we always live what we have read. We can not just read the Bible for stories. We have to learn to do what it says (Obey our parents, love one another, be kind to others etc.)



Lesson 5.3 - The Effect of the Word of God: The Parable of the Sower

Building Block 5
The Powerful Word of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A fruit and its seed.

Scripture References: Luke 8:4-15.

Craft: Pieces of white paper, cut out slips of paper with the memory verse on it, glue sticks, markers, white glue, and dry beans or seeds.

Video: [Leading Children to Heaven - What soil am I?](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that people who hear, receive and keep the word of God are like the seeds that fall on the soil in the parable of the sower.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Attentiveness



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

”

Luke 8:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Open the lesson by showing the children a fruit and its seed. For example, the servant could show children an apple seed and an apple. Ask the children how it could be possible for a little seed to grow and make delicious apples.

What does an apple seed need to grow and make delicious fruits? (Sunshine, water, and good soil.)



Have the children consider what might happen to an apple seed if it was planted in rocks with no water? It wouldn't be able to grow very well, would it?

Transition into the lesson by explaining that people are like seeds, and how they grow depends on how we listen to God's Word.



LESSON BODY:

Consider telling the children that Jesus is telling a special kind of story. This type of story is called a parable. A parable is a story with a hidden message. Sower is another name for a farmer. We will follow four different groups of seeds throughout this lesson. We see that although Jesus was speaking about seeds in the parable, the story really applies to people.

Read Luke 8:4-8:

The sower finished scattering his seeds and he observed what happened to the seeds that he planted. Hungry birds that saw the seeds just lying on top of the ground where the farmer walked, quickly snatched up the seeds that fell on the hard-packed pathway. Sometimes when people hear the word of God, the devil tries to ruin our understanding of God's Word, he tries to confuse us and make us doubt God. We should make sure to always be attentive!

The seeds that fell on the rocky ground with a little bit of soil grew up quickly. As they grew up quickly, there was no place for roots to grow for the seed so when the seed quickly sprouted the hot sun caused the seed to die. Sometimes when people hear God's Word they get excited, but because they don't try to understand God's word and His ways, when life becomes hard they fall away from God and don't follow Him anymore. This is why it is important to be intentional with everything we do, hear or say.

The seeds that fell among the thorny bushes began to grow right alongside them. The thorny bushes helped shade the young plants but as the thorny bushes grew bigger and bigger their roots took up more and more of the soil. The thorny bushes made it impossible for the young plants to grow because they had no place for their roots. Sometimes when people hear God's word they do not allow His Word to guide their lives. They let the worries of their lives, like what they should eat or wear, take over their lives.

The seeds that landed on soft, fertile soil grew into little plants, and then bigger plants and then when it was time for the farmer to harvest he was able to get a very good crop from the plants. When God's Word is heard by people who listen and obey His Words every day, He causes them to grow stronger and stronger and as they serve Him others come to know Jesus which is called bearing fruit. The people who listen and obey God's Word bear much fruit for Him because they keep growing by hearing and obeying His Word.

As the servant may find the words of Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty useful as they conclude and review the parable of the sower. Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty explains how He did not come to condemn the people, however, came to sow their hearts with excellent seeds. ⁶⁶

"The Son of God does not cease to sow the Word of God in our souls. This is not only because He teaches us, but also because He creates the good seeds that are sown in us."

- Eastern Church Father

⁶⁶ Father Theophlektius. (pp. 151). Interpretation of The Gospel According to St. Luke by Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty. Retrieved from <http://www.stminahamilton.ca/groups/servants/bible-commentary-books>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Faithful Plant Craft⁶⁷:

1. Pre-cut the memory verse.
2. Hand out a memory verse to each child and have them attach it using a glue stick or stapler.
3. Have the kids draw pictures of a fruitful plant and get kids to stick seeds or beans (e.g. soya beans, kidney beans etc — larger beans will be easier for younger children) onto the plant using white glue



VIDEO:

[Leading Children to Heaven - What soil am I?](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What happened to the seed that fell on the path? (The birds came and ate it.)
- What happened to the seed that fell on the rocky places? (It withered because it had no roots.)
- What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns? (It was choked by the thorns and could not keep growing.)
- What happened to the seed that fell on good soil? (It produced a good crop.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

⁶⁷ The Parable of The Sower. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <http://growingkidsingrace.blogspot.com/2011/05/parable-of-sower.html>



- How can we be more like the seeds that fell on good soil? (We can read the Bible with our families all the time, listen to Abouna's advice, and pray everyday.)

Challenge students to concentrate on their actions this week. Have them observe a time where they represented a seed that fell on rocks and a seed that fell on good soil. Tell them it is ok if we are seeds that fall on rocks sometimes, the most important thing is to learn from it and become better for next time.



Lesson 5.4 - The Bible Guides Us: Introduce the Sermon on the Mount

Building Block 5
The Powerful Word of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Chart paper, and markers

Scripture References: Matthew 5-7

Activity: Paper cards, tape, gold crayons or glitter glue, White board, dry erase markers, and a white board eraser.

Video: [Crossroad Kids TV: God's Story: Sermon on the Mount \(till 1:46\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand how the Bible teaches them how to live by learning about the Sermon on the Mount.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Kindness and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

... whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them...

”

Matthew 7:12

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Write out the letters B.I.B.L.E on chart paper and ask the children if they know what the letters spell (Bible) and what each letter stands for. Proceed to explaining to the children that the word BIBLE is our **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth. The Bible teaches us how to live so that we can be with God in Heaven, as well as here on earth in the present as His children.



Consider explaining to the children that Jesus gave us many instructions for how to live our lives, and that a big example of that is when he preached a sermon (lesson) on a mountain.



LESSON BODY:

Matthew 5-7:

Jesus taught many people about God. Once Jesus saw a crowd of people and decided to teach them by preaching a lesson. He went up on a mountain, sat down and people gathered to hear what He had to say.

He taught them about how to obey God. He told the people that they would be happy in their hearts if they lived God's way.

He told them that it is important to obey God from the heart. It is not enough to obey God on the outside just so other people can see. We have to really mean it.

Jesus preached to the people about being kind to others even if they are not kind first. In His sermon he said that we should love our enemies and pray for them. He said that everyone should help the poor too.

Jesus also taught the crowd how to pray. He taught them how to say "Our Father".

Consider saying the "Our Father prayer" with the children at this point.

In His sermon Jesus also said something very important about how to treat other people. He said that *"whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them"*. Many years later someone thought that this was such an important thing that they started calling it the "Golden Rule".

The "Golden Rule" is this: "Treat others the way you would want to be treated".

Consider asking the children if they know what this rule means. To elaborate on this point, you may wish to draw from the commentary on the right by St. Augustine of Hippo.⁶⁸

Think about the things you like people to do to you. Do you like it when someone is kind to you? If you do then you should be kind to other people. Do you like it when people help you carry things that are heavy? If you do then you should help other people carry things that are heavy.

"For without this love, wherewith we are commanded to love even our enemies and persecutors, who can fully carry out those things which are mentioned above? Moreover, the perfection of that mercy, wherewith most of all the soul that is in distress is cared for, cannot be stretched beyond the love of an enemy; and therefore the closing words are: Be therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect. Yet in such a way that God is understood to be perfect as God, and the soul to be perfect as a soul."

- St. Augustine of Hippo

"Do to others what you would have them do to you" does not mean that we should only be nice to someone who is nice to us first. The golden rule means that we should do nice things for people even if they are not nice to us. We should be nice because we know that we like it when people are nice to us.

⁶⁸ St. Augustine of Hippo. (AD 430). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/57eb0f15b0d44ee10cfac75a>



Consider asking the class to brainstorm ways they can be kind today/this week.

The teaching of Jesus is our guide, just like a map that shows us the way to places we have never been to before. Just as we need to follow a map to get to new places, we need to follow the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to be more like Jesus.

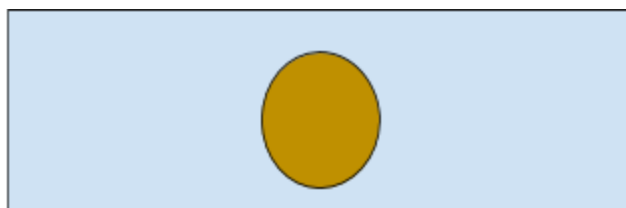
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

The Golden Rule Activity:

This child should explain what would be done in the situation according to the golden rule



This child should say what a person might do if they did not follow the golden rule.

Before class cut paper into small “cards”. Use a crayon or glitter to draw a gold dot in the centre of some of the cards. Leave the others blank. Attach the cards to the underside of the chairs before the children come to class. For this activity describe a situation and ask a child to reach under his/her chair to see which kind of card they have. If the card has a gold dot then they should tell what should be done in the situation according to the golden rule. If their card is blank then the child should say what a person might do if they did not follow the golden rule.

Memory Verse Activity:

Write the memory verse on a white/chalk board. Ask the class to repeat the verse with you a few times. Erase one word and say the verse together again. Each time you repeat the verse, erase another word. Soon all the words are erased and the children know the verse by heart.



VIDEO:

[Crossroad Kids TV: God's Story: Sermon on the Mount \(00:00-1:46\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who preached the lesson on the mountain? (Jesus.)
- Will people always like us when we follow Jesus' commandments? (No, but Jesus promised us that even if people on Earth don't understand us, we will be rewarded by God in Heaven!)
- What is the "Golden Rule"? (To treat others the same way we want to be treated."Do to others what you would have them do to you.")



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

How can we follow the Golden Rule in our lives?

- By treating others the same way we want to be treated.

How can we follow Jesus' commandments, even when it is hard?

- We can get help from our parents, Abouna, our Sunday school teachers, etc.
- Remembering that Jesus suffered and died for us because He loves us. Since we love Him, we should strive for perfection as well.

What are some ways we can show others kindness?

- By helping others when they need help.
- Sharing.
- Praying for others.



Building Block 6: The Transforming Power of God

Lesson 6.1S - Conversion of St. Paul: Forgiveness Through Love is Transformative

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Small pieces of paper and markers.

Scripture Reference: Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-22.

Craft: [Coloring page](#), markers, and crayons.

Activity: Cue cards with review questions, prepared spinner board, and chairs to mark 'jail'.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn about St. Paul's conversion through God's transformative love, and express Jesus' ability to change people no matter how evil they may seem.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Kindness and Faith.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting...”

”

Acts 9:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider opening the lesson with a short game where they will experience what it would be like for them to not be able to see, and how that would affect their life.



Give each child a small piece of paper and a pencil. Tell the children to grab their pencils and close their eyes. Instruct the children to try and draw a heart with their eyes closed. Give the children a minute to complete this task. Once each child has attempted to draw their heart, have them open their eyes and share their drawings.

Explain to the children that sometimes we can't see things clearly in our lives and we need God's guidance to transform us so we can see clearly. With God we can make sure that our hearts are strong, not like the hearts we have drawn today.

Consider asking the children what they think the word conversion means. Explain that converse means to change into something different.

There is no greater example of the Lord's power to convert a person into someone different than in the story of the life of Apostle Paul, the previous arch-enemy of the early church. Before Paul's conversion, his name was Saul and he couldn't clearly see who Christ was, until he was converted.



LESSON BODY:

Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-22:

Saul was an angry man who persecuted Christians. He believed that they were lying about who Jesus was. Persecute means to hurt or treat in a cruel and mean manner.

Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest any Christians that were in the churches. Then, something amazing happened! As he was on his way to Damascus and thinking of ways to hurt Christians, a bright light suddenly shone down from heaven.

Saul fell to the ground, and a voice said, "*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*"

Consider asking the children who they think the voice is.

Saul answered, "*Who are you, Lord?*"

The voice then said, "*I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Go now into Damascus and I will tell you what to do.*" Saul trembled and was surprised when he heard the voice of the Lord. Saul asked the Lord what He wanted him to do, and then realized the mistakes he had made in his life. Saul then decided he was willing to change and do what the Lord told him to do.

Consider explaining to the children that Jesus is saying to Paul that He feels the pain of His children, the Christians. Remind children that any time they are sad, Jesus feels their pain and can comfort them.

When Saul got up from the ground, he was blind. Others had to lead him by the hand into the city and for three days Saul was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

God told a man named Ananias in a dream that he should go see Saul. He found Saul and laid his hands on him, and Saul was able to see again. Ananias told Saul to get up, be baptized and wash away his sins.

"See, straightaway he was a teacher in the synagogues. He was not ashamed of the charge, was not afraid while the very things in which he was glorious

before-time, the same he destroyed." Page 171

Consider discussing the quote by St. John Chrysostom. As Soon as Paul knew the truth, he was not afraid to show his faith and preach to others.⁶⁹

Now Saul became a Christian, and also went by the name Paul. The Holy Spirit gave St. Paul the courage to teach others about Jesus. This surprised people because they knew how he used to hurt the Christians. However, Paul could now see clearly, and he loved Jesus and worked to prove to everyone that Jesus is the Christ. The Jews then started to get angry at Paul and they even planned to kill him. When Paul found out, the Christians in Damascus took him and helped him escape in a big basket over the wall of the city. They lowered him down in the basket, so that no one would be able to see him leaving. Paul went to stay with St. Peter in Jerusalem.

St. Paul, the Apostle, suffered many persecutions. Instead of being the person who hurt other Christians, Paul was mistreated and hurt for Christ's sake.

Consider discussing with children the importance of kindness and understanding others. Remind them that Saul could not see the truth about Jesus because he was blinded by his hatred for Christians.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

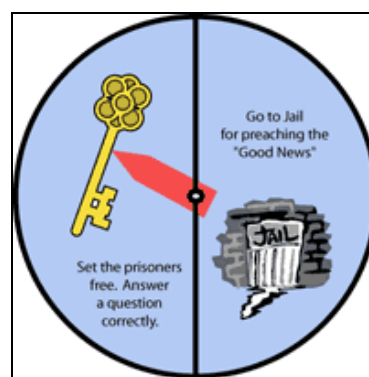
St. Paul's Conversion Coloring Page⁷⁰:

1. Provide the children with a copy of the coloring page, markers, and crayons.
2. Consider writing the memory verse for the children at the bottom of the page.



"Go to Jail" Review Game⁷¹:

1. Before class make a set of cue cards with questions about the lesson.
2. Make a spinner board and glue it to a thick piece of cardboard. Cut a spinner and attach it to the middle of the spinner board with a paper fastener.
3. Designate one part of your room as the jail. You can set up chairs in a square with an opening.
4. Have your children take turns spinning the spinner. If the spinner stops on the jail side, the child has to go to jail. If it



⁶⁹ St, John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/58cf03f5dec071662b7b927c>

⁷⁰ Desenhos Para Colorir e Pintar. (1970). "Paulo". Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <http://desenhosparapintarecolorir.blogspot.com/2011/03/paulo.html>

⁷¹ Digital by Design Inc. (2002). Play "Go to Jail" Review Game. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/Bible-themes-Paul.html>



stops on the key side, they get to answer a question. If they answer it correctly, they free everyone who is in jail.

5. This continues until every child has had an opportunity to spin.

For this game, consider using the questions from the following lesson review below.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why did Saul hurt the Christians at first? (He did not believe what they were saying about Jesus.)
- What happened when Ananias put his hands on Paul? (He was able to see again.)
- What did Saul see on the way to Damascus? (A light from heaven.)
- Who spoke to Saul? (Jesus).
- What was Paul going to do in Damascus? (He was going to hurt the Christians.)
- What was Saul's other name? (Paul).
- How did Saul escape from Damascus? (Christians lowered him in a big basket from the walls of Damascus.)
- What did Saul do after he tumbled? (Saul asked the Lord what he should do. After realizing his mistake, he changed and followed the Lord.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Paul's hatred blinded him from seeing the truth about Christ. How can you be more kind to others in your life? (By listening to others, sharing, offering help to others, etc.)

Jesus told St. Paul that he was persecuting Him. That means Jesus feels our pain. Now that you know this, what can you do the next time you feel scared, hurt or alone?

- Pray.
- Read the Bible with your family.
- Do the sign of the cross.
- Talk to Abouna.





Lesson 6.2S - The Church Started with Jesus' Twelve Apostles

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A metal toy car, (any small metal object/ a toy car, so only one magnet is needed), or two magnets (a small one for the small object and a big one) (If the small object is already metal then the small magnet is not needed), a card, and a table. A short video reference on how to make the car is provided [here](#).

Scripture Reference: Acts 1:12-14 and 2:1-39.

Craft: [Template](#), [Cover](#), markers and crayons, scissors, glue sticks, single ring hole puncher (optional), and metal brad fasteners/yarn.

Activity: A large lock and its key.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of how the disciples began their journey in preaching the Word of God and how the Holy Spirit guides them each day.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Courage



MEMORY VERSE:



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...



Matthew 28:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Have a toy car (small metal object) set on one edge of a card on top of the table. Explain to the children that the servant will move the car from one edge of the card to the other, without touching it. Tell the children that you want a few of them to hold the card, just to make sure the servant will not tip the card. Place the magnet under the table where the toy car is and move it to the point where you want it on the card.

Ask the children how they think the servant was able to move the car without touching it. Explain that the servant used a magnet and that even though we cannot see it, we know it's there because we see the power of the magnet working on the toy car.

Do you know that there is a power inside of us that will guide us in our life, just like the magnet guided the toy car? *Have the children answer where they think this power comes from.*

Jesus called His disciples to teach them about what would happen once He left the Earth. He told them that when He left, the Holy Spirit would guide them.



LESSON BODY:

Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-39:

Consider asking the children what they know about the Feast of Pentecost.

On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were in Jerusalem, not afraid of the Jews who hated the Lord Jesus and His followers. They were not afraid because the Lord Jesus told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for Him to send the Holy Spirit. They were in a room with St. Mary.

What happened when the Holy Spirit came? They heard a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and saw tongues of fire, resting on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit came as a tongue of fire but not material fire, for the apostles to go forth and teach. The servant can explain this concept of tongues of fire to the children by using the explanation from Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty.⁷²

The Holy Spirit guided the disciples in all their writings and teachings. The Holy Spirit gave them strength to stand in front of kings of various countries and defend their faith.

Consider asking the children if they can name any of the disciples.

Ask the children if they think they have the Holy Spirit inside them. (Yes, every Christian receives the Holy Spirit inside of them during Chrismation/Baptism.)

"The Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire that sat upon each of them. This refers to what He presents to them of various tongues and languages, to be able to preach among the Gentiles, and for the Jews to realize that God is not God of the Hebrews alone, but of all mankind, who speaks to every nation with its own tongue."

- Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

⁷² Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty. (pp.76). *Acts of the Apostles. Part 1.* Retrieved from <http://www.stminahamilton.ca/groups/servants/bible-commentary-books>

"But the Spirit taught them at once many languages, which they do not know in a whole lifetime. This is truly lofty wisdom. This is divine power, What a contrast between their long ignorance in the past and this sudden, comprehensive, varied and unaccustomed use of languages.

- St. Cyril of Jerusalem

The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles understanding, strength and guidance. They were able to do several miracles in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the people saw these miracles, they believed that these people belonged to a very powerful God, and many converted to christianity!

Consider sharing the quote by St. Cyril of Jerusalem who highlights that the Holy Spirit gave the disciples this divine power which allowed them to communicate with people around the world with different languages.⁷³

Some of the disciples and apostles wrote parts of the New Testament, some of these are the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They wrote the Gospels having complete guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Consider asking the children if they think the work of the disciples would have been possible without the Holy Spirit. Emphasize to them the importance of the Holy Spirit for guiding people according to God's will.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Go Into All the World and Preach the Gospel Flip Book⁷⁴:

1. Print the [template](#) and [cover](#) and cut them out for each child.
2. Each child should have 7 pentagons: "going into all the world" cover, home, city, province/state, country, continent, and the world. Alternatively instead of cutting out the continent, children could draw a picture of it themselves.
3. Children will color and draw in the pentagons of cover, home, city, province/state, country, continent, and the world - sharing the gospel.
4. When children are done, you could fasten their set with a metal brad fastener (or alternatively hole-punch them and tie it with a piece of yarn).



Lock and Key:

Before Class: Obtain a large lock with its key and bring them both to class.

⁷³ St. Cyril of Jerusalem. (1998). 2:4 Speaking in Other Tongues. In T. C. Oden (Author), *Ancient Christian commentary on Scripture* (p. 47). Chicago, IL: Fitzroy Dearborn.

⁷⁴ Go Into All The World And Preach The Gospel. (2013, December 24). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://craftingthewordofgod.com/2013/11/13/go-into-all-the-world-and-preach-the-gospel-to-all-creation/>



During class, make sure to close the lock and keep the key where it cannot be seen. Show the children the closed lock. Encourage the children to examine the lock and try and open it; they cannot. (Some children will say that we need a key to open it). Explain to the children that it is too hard to open the lock without a key. Show them that even you cannot open it (Some kids may say we can cut the lock open, let them know that will work, but then the lock is broken and no longer works).

While holding the lock, discuss “The Great Commission”. Explain that God was giving the disciples a really big job. He wanted them to go out into the world, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them (in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit) and teaching them to obey everything He had commanded them.

How were they supposed to do all of that?

Showing the key, tell the children that the disciples needed a key.

Unlock the lock with the key.

Consider explaining how the lock and key are similar to the Holy Spirit. Just like the key opens the lock, we received the Holy Spirit to live in us and to help us do this big work. In this lock and key situation, the key represents the Holy Spirit.

The lock represents our ability to share God’s words. Without the key, the Holy Spirit, it would be impossible. Now we can do this big job, because we have the key, the Holy Spirit, to guide us.

Open and close the lock a few times. Allow the children to open and close the lock with the key.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How did the Holy Spirit help the Apostles? (It gave them strength and courage to spread the word of God in various languages.)
- What happened when the Holy Spirit came down? (The disciples heard a sound from heaven and saw tongues of fire.)
- What does the Holy Spirit do for us? (It guides us.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?



How can we share our love of God with others?

- By talking about it to our friends, family, and people we know
- Being kind to others etc.

The Holy Spirit can help us and give us strength to do things we never imagined we could do. Where can we look the next time we feel scared or weak?

- Look to the Holy Spirit
- Praying to God
- Doing the sign of the Cross



Lesson 6.3 - We have Nothing Left: Turning Water Into Wine

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Clear cup or bottle of water.

Scripture Reference: John 2:1-11

Craft: Brown construction paper, light blue/purple/red tissue paper, glue sticks, scissors, colored pencils, and a stapler.

Video: [Jesus Turns Water Into Wine Lesson](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, children should be able to identify that the Wedding at Cana was Jesus' first miracle. The children will also begin to understand the connection between this miracle and communion.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Reverence



MEMORY VERSE:



And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."



Luke 22:19

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Turning Water into Wine Activity⁷⁵:

⁷⁵ Wedding at Cana. (2020, April 24). Retrieved July 27, 2020, from <https://missionbibleclass.org/new-testament/part1/life-of-christ-early/wedding-at-cana/>



Have a cup or bottle of water and pass it around to each child asking them to turn it into wine. Allow each child in the class to have an opportunity to attempt to alter the water. Once each child has had a turn, consider discussing with the children how although it was impossible for them, it was possible for Jesus. Begin to introduce the idea that this was Jesus' first miracle.



LESSON BODY:

Today we will learn about the wedding of Cana of Galilee which is in John 2:1-11.

Consider having a discussion with the children about what a miracle is.

In this story, Jesus was at a wedding in Cana. During Jesus' time, wine was a very important part of the wedding because it showed the guests that they were appreciated and respected. It was seen to be very bad if the wine ran out at a wedding because the wedding would not be complete without the wine. At a specific wedding, the wine ran out so Jesus' mother, Saint Mary, told Him that there was no more wine. Now, there were six clay waterpots at the wedding and Jesus told the servants to fill the waterpots with water.

The servants filled the pots with water as Jesus told them to do. Then Jesus told them to draw some of the water out and take it to the master of the banquet. The master of the banquet tasted the water, but it was not water anymore! It was wine! This was Jesus' first miracle. In changing the water to wine, He revealed His glory and that He was the Son of God. Then the disciples believed in Him!

Consider asking the children how they think the servants felt when they realized that the water Jesus had filled the jars with had turned to wine?

This is similar to the communion that we have every week at the liturgy on Sunday when the wine and Korban are transformed into the Blood and Body of Jesus Christ.

Consider emphasizing to the children that what they experience during the communion is just as miraculous as what Jesus did in Cana. Also consider sharing this quote by Bishop Youssef explaining that the turning of water into wine is related to the transformation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.⁷⁶

"Many of the church fathers believe the turning of water into wine to be a foreordination of the transformation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ during the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist; and a precursor to the shedding of His blood on the Cross for the love of mankind "no one has greater love than this."

- HG Bishop Youssef

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Water Water Wine (like Duck Duck Goose):

1. Have the children sit down in a circle facing each other.

⁷⁶ HG Bishop Youssef. (n.d.). The Wedding at Cana: Foreordination to the Transformation of the Bread and Wine. Retrieved August 17, 2020, from <https://suscopts.org/resources/literature/253/foreordination-to-the-transformation-of-the-bread-a/>

2. One person is "it" and walks around the circle. As they walk around, they tap people's heads and say whether they are "water" or "wine".
3. The person who is 'it' should tell people they are "water" until they find someone they want to race, they should tell that person they are "wine". Once the person who is it chooses someone to be "Wine" they get up and try to chase "it" around the circle. The goal is to reach the spot where the person who was picked was sitting first. The person picked to be wine should race one way around the circle and the person who was it should race the other way.
4. If the person picked to be wine does not get there first, they become "it" for the next round and the game continues. If they do get there first the "it" person, tries again and the person who was picked sits down.

Water to Wine Paper Craft⁷⁷:

1. Before class, cut out the brown construction paper in half lengthwise to make sheets that are 12"x 6". Cut these in half.
2. Roll the sheets up and staple them together to make tubes (alternatively, consider using toilet paper rolls).
3. Staple or glue six "pots" together.
4. Provide the children with slips of paper to write "Water" and "Wine" labels.
5. Cut up the tissue paper into squares.
6. Place glue along the inner rim of the tubes and have your children crinkle up the tissue paper and stick them inside the tubes. Make sure all of the purple tissue paper is in the "Wine" section and the blue with the "Water" section.



VIDEO:

[Jesus Turns Water Into Wine Lesson](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why was Jesus in Cana? (For a wedding.)
- Who asked him to supply more wine? (St. Mary).
- What did Jesus do when St. Mary asked him to make more wine (He told the servants to get the pots and fill them with water.)

⁷⁷ Digital by Design, I. (n.d.). Miracles - Jesus Turns Water into Wine. Retrieved from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-jesus-turns-water-to-wine.html>



- What is very important about this story? (It was Jesus' first miracle.)
- How did the disciples respond when they saw what Jesus did? (They believed in Him right away, and began to respect Him even more.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This story can help us appreciate and value the mystery of communion in liturgy. What are some things we can do to show our appreciation and reverence for this?

- Behave quietly and respectfully in liturgy.
- Pay attention to the prayers.
- Pray with thanksgiving that we are able to witness the miracle of communion each week!



Lesson 6.4 - No Way Out - Moses Leads the Israelites to Cross the Red Sea

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of
God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Flat tea cup plate, eye dropper, water, small glass, red food colouring, and rubbing alcohol.

Scripture Reference: Exodus 14

Craft: Pictures or examples of: Sand, rocks, corals, seashells; Paper, pencils or crayons/markers.

Activity: Stick or staff.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Moses Parts The Red Sea - Exodus 12 | Sunday School Lesson For Kids |HD| Sharefaithkids.com \(4:41\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/4:41)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will make the connection about the power of having trust in God by reading the story on how the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Trust



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously!

”

Exodus 15:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Parting the Waters Demonstration⁷⁸:

1. Tell the children that they will be seeing a parting of the Red Sea using a small amount of water!
2. Fill a glass with water and add a few drops of red food coloring.
3. Use an eyedropper to gather a small amount of rubbing alcohol.
4. Pour a small amount of the red water into the flat tea cup plate.
5. Squeeze a few drops of the rubbing alcohol into the center of the water. The water will separate and form a dry spot in the middle!

Consider asking the children if they could part the Red Sea using this method. Obviously not! The eye dropper would have to be huge!

Tell the children that only God can perform miracles, He is the only one who can control the Earth and everything in it!



LESSON BODY:

Consider reviewing the story of the Exodus of Israel with the children prior to beginning to lesson. Remind the children that God sent ten plagues to Egypt, and Pharaoh did not set the Israelites free until the final plague.

After God set the plagues on Egypt, Pharaoh let Moses leave with the Israelites. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and to the Promised Land, with God's help. When Moses and the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh began to regret his decision; he wanted the Israelites to come back to Egypt. Pharaoh gathered his army, horsemen, and chariots and went after the people of Israel.

When the Israelites saw Pharaoh coming closer they became scared; they were angry with Moses because they thought Pharaoh would hurt them. Moses told the Israelites not to be scared, and that the Lord would be with them. God told Moses to *"Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it."*

Consider asking the children how they would feel if they were stuck somewhere and did not know how to get out. Discuss with the children ways that they could ask for the Lord's help.

After this an angel of God appeared and put a pillar of cloud and fire between the Israelites and Pharaoh's army. Moses listened to God, stretched out his hand and the Lord sent a wind and *"made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided."* After the people of Israel passed through the sea, the Lord looked at Pharaoh's army and He took off the wheels of the chariots and the Egyptians became scared and wanted to flee.

Again, the Lord told Moses to stretch his arms over the water so that the sea would no longer be divided, while the Egyptians were still in the middle of the sea. However, the people of Israel walked on dry land and saw how great the Lord is; they believed in the Lord.

"How hard a temptation it is to pass through the midst of the sea, to see the waves rise piled up, to hear the noise and rumbling of the raging waters! But if you follow Moses, that is, the law of God, the waters will become for you walls on the right and left, and you will find a path on dry ground in the midst of the sea."

- Origen of Alexandria

⁷⁸ Parting the Waters. (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/object-talks/parting-the-waters>



Consider asking the children how they would feel crossing the sea like the Israelites, would they be amazed, scared? Consider sharing the quote by Origen of Alexandria which shows that if we trust God and follow His commandments, God will lead us on a clear path.⁷⁹

The servant should place emphasis on the power of trusting and believing in the Lord.

Do you think Moses would have been able to flee without the power of God? (No.)

What did Moses do that allowed him to flee with the Israelites? (He trusted in God).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

What's On the Bottom of the Sea?⁸⁰:

The children will discuss (and then draw) what you might find on the bottom of the sea. Before Class: Obtain examples of items you might find at the bottom of the sea. For example: sand, rock, coral, and seashells. (You might just bring pictures of these.)

Provide paper and pencils or crayons/markers for drawing.

During Class: Discuss how God parted the Red Sea and how the Israelites walked across the bottom of it on dry ground. Ask what they might expect to see on the bottom of the sea. Explain that it might be the same kinds of things you would find on a beach. Ex: Sand, rock, coral, seashells, etc.

Show your examples (or pictures) of seashells, etc. Let the children hold them to look at them, if possible. Pass out the sheets of paper, pencils/crayons/markers. Ask the children to draw some of the things you might expect to find, if you were to walk across the bottom of the sea. Let them look at the seashells, if they want to draw one.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Moses Parts The Red Sea - Exodus 12 | Sunday School Lesson For Kids |HD| Sharefaithkids.com \(4:41\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/Sharefaithkids.com%20(4:41))

⁷⁹ Origen of Alexandria. (AD 254) Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/5838d9a2205c248f42e527dd>

⁸⁰ Chatwell, S. K. (2013). What's On the Bottom of the Sea? Retrieved July 27, 2020, from <https://www.sunday-school-center.com/support-files/lg7-lesson-5-crossing-the-red-sea.pdf>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Parting the Red Sea Review Game:

The children will take turns parting the “Red Sea”.

1. One child will get to be “it” and be given a stick or staff.
2. The rest of the class will need to form a cluster; the children will form small rows of about four children each, one behind the other.
3. Once the cluster has been formed, the child who is “it” must answer one of the review questions.
4. If the child gets the answer correct, they can raise their stick or staff, and the rows of children will divide in the middle to form a path, allowing the child to pass through.
5. The child who was it will now join the cluster and a new child will have an opportunity to part the cluster by answering a question correctly.
6. If a child gets an answer wrong, they can pretend to flee from the “Egyptians” and run to the back of the cluster.
7. The game will continue until every child has had a chance to be ‘it’.

Questions:

- Who was in the story? (Moses, God, Pharaoh and his army, people of Israel.)
- How were the Israelites trapped? (The Red Sea was before them and Pharaoh’s army behind them.)
- What miracle did God do with the Red Sea? (He parted it.)
- What did God tell Moses to do in order to part the Red Sea? (Lift his staff over the Red Sea.)
- Why did God do that to the Red Sea? (So that the people of Israel could get across safely on dry land.)
- When did the Israelites start trusting Moses? (They started trusting him after God helped Moses part the sea.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Anytime we are facing a difficult situation we should always pray to God for help. All of us have moments in our life where we need to ask for help and that is never something to be ashamed about. We have the most powerful help ever, God! When we are faced with a difficult situation we should put our faith in God even if we think it is impossible.



This week when we feel like we need help, what are things we can do?

- Pray.
- Do the sign of the cross.
- Trust in God.

Lesson 6.5 - Small but Great: David and Goliath

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Goliath cut out, table, and ping pong balls enough for each child to have one.

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 17:1-50

Craft: Pre-labelled brown paper bags for each student, construction paper word cutouts for each student, assorted playdough, glue sticks, crayons, and markers.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: David and Goliath \(Full Version\) \(4:40\)](#) (Link ends at 3:33)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that God gives strength to those who depend on Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerfulness



MEMORY VERSE:



But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts.



1 Samuel 17:45

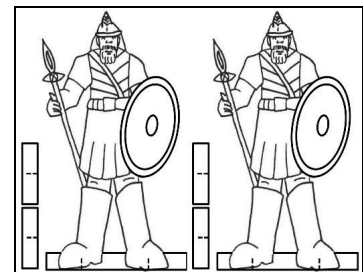
Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Knocking Over Goliath Game⁸¹:

1. Put the Goliath cut out at the end of one table and have kids stand on the other side. (use the tabs provided on the cutout as below to stand the Goliath figures upright).
2. Give each kid a ping pong ball.



⁸¹ Brilliant David and Goliath Lesson for Kids. (2019, January 30). Retrieved July 27, 2020, from <https://betterbibleteachers.com/david-and-goliath-sunday-school-lesson/>



3. Kids will try to bounce ping pong balls and knock over Goliath. The ping pong ball must bounce at least twice. The first person to knock Goliath over wins.



LESSON BODY:

1 Samuel 17:1-50:

During King Saul's reign, another group called the Philistines were preparing to fight Israel. The Philistines were a very powerful army, and they had one soldier who was very tall and strong. His name was Goliath.

Goliath told the people of Israel that if one of their men could defeat him, the Philistines would serve Israel. If not, the Israelites would have to serve them.

The Israelites were very afraid, who could defeat someone as strong as Goliath?

David, who was still a shepherd at the time, heard all of this. So he went to King Saul and told him that he would fight Goliath. King Saul was not sure of this idea, David was a young man, but Goliath was a giant and had fought for many years!

Consider asking the children if they think that David could defeat Goliath with only a sling and stones, while Goliath had greater weapons. Emphasize that no one believed that David could defeat Goliath.

David continued to offer to fight, and said that God had always protected him when a lion would approach his sheep, so God would not abandon him when he fought Goliath.

So David went, taking only his shepherd's bag, a pouch, a sling, and five stones.

Consider asking the children if they think David could defeat Goliath all by himself. Emphasize that only with God's help he can do it.

When Goliath saw David, he was not very impressed with the weapons David had chosen, but David was not afraid, and said "you come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts..."

Consider asking the children if they remember times when God has helped them. (E.g., getting a good grade in school, healing someone who was sick etc.)

When Goliath began to walk towards David, David took one stone from his pouch and slung it towards Goliath. The stone stuck Goliath's forehead and David prevailed over him.

Consider emphasizing to the children that while Goliath had swords and armour, all David needed was God and one stone! Theodore of Cyrus explains (in the quote) that

"And we need only the Lord's goodness to stay the storm. Easy it is for Him to stay it, but we are unworthy of the calm, yet the grace of His patience is enough for us, so that with good fortune by it we may get the better of our foes."

- Early Church Fathers

although we may not be worthy, God can help us through our struggles.⁸²

In this story, even though David knew he was small compared to Goliath he trusted in the Lord to give him strength. Similarly, when we think that we are too weak or small to do something, we must remember to trust and ask God for strength.

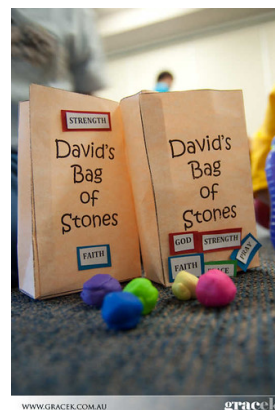
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

David's Bag of Stones⁸³:

1. Pre-write "David's Bag of Stones" and the bible verse from the lesson on each child's paper bag..
2. Provide the children with cut out pieces of construction paper with the words "faith", "trust", "humility", etc., written on them.
3. Allow the children to glue these words onto their bags.
4. Provide the children with clumps of playdough in assorted colors.
5. Allow the children to shape their playdough 'stones' as they see fit.
6. Place stones in the paper bag.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: David and Goliath \(Full Version\) \(4:40\)](#) (Link ends at 3:33)

Questions:

- What was David's job with his family? (He was a shepherd.)
- What did the king try to put on David? (He tried to put on his armour on David but it did not fit him.)
- How many times did David have to hit Goliath before Goliath died? (Only once!)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who was David going to fight? (Goliath the giant.)
- Did people think David was strong enough to defeat Goliath? (No).
- Was David strong enough to fight Goliath by himself? (No, he needed the help of God.)
- How did David fight Goliath? (He fought with the strength and help of God, using a sling and stone.)
- What did David use to defeat Goliath? (A sling and stone.)
- How many stones did David have at first? (Five).

⁸² Theodore of Cyrus. (AD 457). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/1sm/17>

⁸³ David's Bag of Stones. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2020, from <https://kinnen.livejournal.com/36227.html>



→ How many stones did David need to defeat Goliath? (One).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

When someone teases you, or someone makes you think that you cannot do something like fight a giant, trust that, with God, it is possible, just like how God helped David defeat Goliath.

The next time you feel like you cannot do something, what should you do? (Ask God to give you strength and ask Him to help you.)

How can we ask God to help us in our times of need?

- Ask God to help us through our prayers.
- Ask others to also pray for us.



Lesson 6.6 - Love Your Enemies: The Life of St. Pachomius

Building Block 6
The Transforming Power of God



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Cut out a heart from red construction paper before the lesson.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:38-48

Craft: Cardstock paper, markers, crayons, and pencil crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding that they should love everyone, even those who have hurt them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Prayerfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...Love your enemies...

”

Matthew 5:44

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Show the children the prepared construction paper heart and consider asking the children the following questions:

"What do you think of when you see a heart?" Wait for the children to provide some answers; love might be a common answer.

Explain to the children that, usually when they see a heart, they think of love.

Who are some of the people that you love? Do you love your parents/sister/brothers? Who else do you love?



Explain to the children how easy it is to love our parents, grandparents, and siblings because they care about us. At this point, the instructor may want to ask the children if it is easy to love people who are mean and rude to us.⁸⁴



LESSON BODY:

Matthew 5:38-48.

Emphasize certain points from the verses:

Our Lord Jesus said: “Love your enemies.”

Explain that this means loving everyone; our brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors and even people who do not like us. God is love, and when we love other people, this means that we are the children of God.

The Disciples of the Lord Jesus only knew to “love [their] neighbor and hate [their] enemy”, (Matthew 5:43).

Explain that Jesus Christ came to Earth and showed us a new type of love, which is to “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you,” (Matthew 5:44).

Consider explaining the quote from St. John Chrysostom who explains that God has never asked us not to hate, but instead to Love. Not only are we encouraged to be good, but God has placed our good deeds at the highest standards,⁸⁵

“See how He has set the highest pinnacle on our good deeds. For this is why He teaches not only to endure a blow, but to offer the right cheek also....For He said not, do not hate, but love; He said not, do not injure, but do good,”

- St. John Chrysostom

“Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you”, (Matthew 5:44).

Consider explaining the terms “use” or “persecute” by describing that these terms mean to be treated badly or not respected.

Discuss with the children that we must learn to pray for the people who do bad things to us so that God can help them. Explain that love leads to more love, while hatred leads to even more hatred.

The instructor may choose to show the following video to the children: [Jeremy Rees: RESPECT Luke 6:31 \(3:15\)](#). During the video, consider reading out the captions to the children. Some questions to consider asking after the video are:

How did the little birds treat the big bird? How was it wrong? (The little birds made fun of the big bird. Their actions were not loving or respectful.)

God wants us to treat everyone, even non-Christians and our enemies with kindness and compassion.

The Story of St. Pachomius (Connection to the Bible reference.)

⁸⁴ Love Your Enemies Children's Sermon. (n.d.). Retrieved July 14, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/love_your_enemies.htm

⁸⁵ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/57eb0db6b0d44ee10cfac346>



As a young man, St. Pachomius was not a Christian. When St. Pachomius and his people were traveling in the desert, they ran out of water and food, but a group of Christians gave them water. This group of Christians knew that St. Pachomius and the people traveling with him were non-Christians and that they were planning to kill the Christians the next day. The Christian people did exactly as the Lord Jesus told them to do; they loved their enemies and helped them. St. Pachomius, who was one of the non-believers who planned to kill the Christians, became a Christian himself.

St. Pachomius tells us about why we should show love to those who are different and may not treat us well.

Consider emphasizing that the Christians were putting themselves in danger by helping St. Pachomius, but by loving him, they helped him become a Christian, leading to even more love being shared!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Love & Pray for my Enemies bookmark:

1. Have the children color and decorate the image attached (print this onto cardstock paper).
2. The image the children are coloring and decorating should be about 6 by 6 centimeters (size of something they can keep in a book).

Kindness Tag Game:

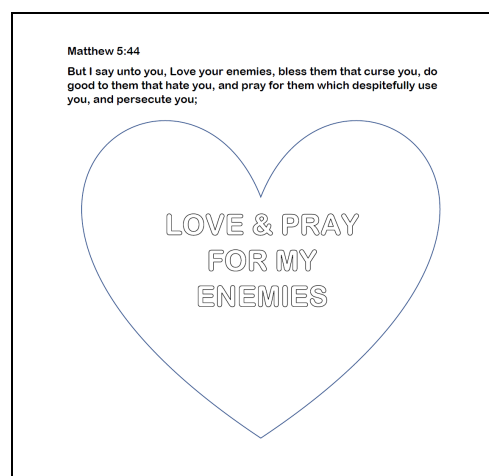
1. The teacher will be it, so the children can practice using kind words and showing appreciation to one another.
2. When a person is tagged, they are frozen.
3. To unfreeze the person, someone who has not been tagged will have to tap the person and say nice things, such as compliments, or how much they appreciate them.

Questions:

During the video, consider reading out the captions to the children. Some questions to consider asking after the video are:

- How did the little birds treat the big bird? How was it wrong? (The little birds made fun of the big bird. Their actions were not loving or respectful.)
- God wants us to treat everyone, even non-Christians and our enemies with kindness and compassion.

Review





REVIEW LESSON:

In order to review the lesson with the children, consider playing the following game:

Divide the room into two, and have the children line up in the middle. Tell the children that the right side is for “loving our enemies” and the left is for “hating our enemies”. Read out different scenarios and have the children go to the side of the room that is representative of the right behaviour.

Examples of scenarios include:

- Being angry at my friend for taking my toy. (Left side).
- Praying to God to help the friend who took the toy know it is not nice to take stuff without permission. (Right).
- Yelling at my brother for not sharing. (Left).
- Being kind to my sister when she does not want to share. (Right).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

There will be times where someone might be mean to you. As God's children, we know it is not right for us to be mean back. Remember God told us to love our neighbors. What are some practical ways we can add in our lives in case someone at school or the playground or anywhere, is mean to us?

- Love them and pray for them no matter who and how they treated you
- Show love and pray for them!
- We should love others the same way the Christians loved St. Pachomius.



Building Block 7: God's Holy Days

Lesson 7.1 - An Introduction to the Concept of God's Holy Days

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Stickers, year calendar to label birthdays, poster with the names of the Feasts, velcro tape, and feast day visuals.

Scripture References: Leviticus 23

Craft: Small plastic cups, glitter glue, stickers, garbage bags to protect the tables and floor, paint, and paint brushes.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will begin to understand the holy feasts of God by examining the feasts of Passover and Pentecost through the lens of Christianity.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Joy



MEMORY VERSE:



...For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.



I Corinthians 5:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning the lesson by identifying the importance of certain days with children using the example of their birthdays.

Invite the children to tell you when their birthdays are. Give each child a chance to state their birthday. Consider having these days displayed on a calendar for the children to see.

Consider giving each child a sticker once they have shared when their birthday is to celebrate these dates.

Each of those days are special right? Well there are also special days when we celebrate God!

Consider asking the children to identify one special day they celebrate God on; such as Sunday, Christmas, Easter, etc.

Did you know that people have been celebrating God and His love for thousands of years? When the people of Israel were traveling out of Egypt to the Promised Land, God gave them a list of special days to celebrate - we call these days feasts! These feasts were celebrated each year. Let's learn about these two of these important days together!



LESSON BODY:

Have a t-chart of the feasts of Passover and Pentecost visually displayed on a poster for the children to see. Consider using velcro tape so that the servant can attach the visuals as they are described during the lesson and so the children can attach relevant visuals to the appropriate feast day in the review portion of the lesson.

God's goal as our loving Father is always to save us and have us with Him. The Bible tells us that God created humans to live with Him, and that God's desire is to reveal the riches of His grace to humans throughout all eternity.

So that the people of Israel could understand, God set aside several days for special feasts. These days were meant to help people understand God's plan to save all of us through His Son, Jesus Christ. He chose these days so that we would have reminders of all of the wonderful things God has done for us.

There are many days of the year set aside for celebrations (like your birthday!), but only God can make a day holy.

Consider using the visuals and the list of the feasts to walk the children through each of the days.

There are seven major feasts that God gave His people to celebrate as holy days, we will talk about two of them; The Passover Feast and The Feast of Pentecost:



Images of materials for each feast are attached to the poster using the velcro

Velcro circles are attached directly to the poster

1. **The Passover Feast** (Leviticus 23:4-8) This feast remembers the last plague in Egypt, when the angel of death “passed over” the doors of the people of Israel that had the blood of the lamb. This lamb had to be perfect; it had to be a male sheep that was a year old. This perfect lamb was sacrificed to protect the children of Israel from the angel of death. When the Israelites celebrated Passover in the years to come, they would eat unleavened bread (like pita), the lamb they had sacrificed, and wine. Jesus Himself celebrated the Passover in this way. Jesus was attending the Passover Feast with His disciples when He was arrested.

Consider explaining to the children that just like the passover lamb, Jesus was perfect and was sacrificed to protect us from death. Refer to the memory verse at this time. ⁸⁶

Consider explaining that Christians no longer celebrate the Passover in the same way, as we see Jesus as our Passover Lamb. Now we celebrate it during Communion.

Consider explaining the quote by Fr Tadros Malaty. It is important to give our love to God, but we must also give our love to others.

“...the first work of the Spirit on Pentecost is to grant us the divine love to work in us, consequently we love God and men. Therefore, in this feast, voluntary offerings are given by the people, according to their means, to the Levites, the foreigners and the poor.”

- Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

2. **The Feast of Pentecost** (Leviticus 23:16), This feast is the second of the three harvest feasts. It occurs exactly seven weeks after the Feast of First Fruits, so it’s also called Pentecost which means “50 days.” Traditionally, people were expected to bring the first harvest of grain to the Lord including two leavened loaves of bread. After Jesus’ Resurrection, He told the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit until Pentecost had come. In the room where they were waiting, God poured out His Holy Spirit on those who were present. This was the beginning of the Church. The two loaves symbolize the two groups (Jew and Gentile) making up the Church. Therefore, the Church fulfils the feast of Pentecost (Acts 1:5.- 2:4).

Consider using the visual aids of the poster to highlight the sacrifice requirement for Pentecost and explaining how we no longer celebrate Pentecost in this way, rather we celebrate it as the beginning of our Church.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Passover Chalice⁸⁷:

1. Place garbage bags on the floor and on the tables to ensure the classroom stays clean.
2. Provide the children with a small plastic cup to act as their chalice



⁸⁶ Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty. (1992). *Bible Study 3: Leviticus*. Alexandria: St, George Co. Retrieved from <http://www.stminahamilton.ca/groups/servants/bible-commentary-books>

⁸⁷ Ponnay, B. (2012, October 18). Family Fun: Elijah's Cup Passover Craft. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://toriavey.com/home-garden/family-fun-elijahs-cup-passover-craft/>



3. Let the children decorate the chalice using paint, glitter glue, and stickers however they would like.
4. If servants cannot find a chalice, use a styrofoam cup or have the children draw a chalice and decorate it with stickers and markers.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider reviewing the lesson by clearing the poster of all the visuals that had been attached during the lesson. Then, as a class, have the children identify which material belongs to which feast. Consider inviting some children up to attach a specific visual to the feast they believe it belongs to. The lamb, chalice and unleavened bread goes with the Passover, the two loaves and grain belong to Pentecost.

Questions:

- What happened on the day of the Passover? (An angel of death passed over every house in Egypt that had the blood of a lamb on the door.)
- Do we celebrate the feasts of Passover and Pentecost as they used to in the Bible? (No, because now our feasts focus on the works of Jesus and our Church.)
- Who do we believe is our Passover Lamb now? (Jesus!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Be joyful and appreciate the feasts we celebrate in church. We can show Jesus how grateful we are for His sacrifice. Some ways we can do that is by loving others, being kind, being obedient to our parents, being thankful for everything we have, being slow to anger, etc.



Lesson 7.2 - God's Day: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Mark 3:1-8, Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 20:8-11

Craft: Paper, pencils, markers, and crayons.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3B4mqMToko>



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of the meaning behind Jesus healing on the Sabbath and that only God can make a day holy.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Compassion.



MEMORY VERSE:



Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?



Mark 3:4

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Sabbath Day Riddle:

Ask the children to raise their hands when they think they know the answer to the following riddle.

- It is mentioned several times in the scriptures.
- Our Heavenly Father and Jesus say it is very important.
- It is holy.
- People who keep it holy show that they love our Heavenly Father and Jesus.
- It is one of seven.



- It is different from the other six.
- On it we worship our Heavenly Father and rest from our labors.
- It is a day of the week.

Answer: The Sabbath.

The children may respond to the riddle by saying "Sunday", if this occurs, inform them that they are correct, that is our current rest day. However, emphasize that before the Church began, this rest day was called the "Sabbath".

Discuss with the children the importance of resting and that without rest it would be very difficult to do anything. God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh (Genesis 2:1-3). Rest is good! The seventh day has always been called the Sabbath. God wants all His people to take the Sabbath as a day of rest, a time where no work is done and a time spent worshipping Him (Exodus 20:8-11).

In today's lesson, men are going to question what Jesus did on the Sabbath day. Let us find out what Jesus did!



LESSON BODY:

Read Mark 3:1-8 and summarize with the children.

Jesus entered the Synagogue. In the Synagogue was a man with a withered hand.

Consider asking the children if they know what a Synagogue is. (A Synagogue is a place where Jewish people used to pray. Just like church!)

There were also other men in the Synagogue who were Pharisees. The Pharisees were the Jewish teachers of the law. The Pharisees were upset with Jesus' teachings, so they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath.

Consider asking the children what they think Jesus will do. (Jesus will heal the man.)

Jesus called out to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" Then He said to the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" They kept silent and did not respond to Jesus. Jesus was upset because of how stubborn they were. He told the man to stretch out his hand, and when he did, it was healed!

"Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, 'Come here.' Then he challenged the Pharisees as to whether it would be lawful to do good on the sabbath. Note the tender compassion of the Lord when he deliberately brought the man with the withered hand right into their presence. He hoped that the mere sight of the misfortune might soften them, that they might become a little less spiteful by seeing the affliction, and perhaps out of sorrow mend their own ways. But they remained callous and unfeeling. They preferred to do harm to the name of Christ than to see this poor man made whole. They betrayed their wickedness not only by their hostility to Christ, but also by their doing so with such contentiousness that they treated with disdain his mercies to others."

- St. John Chrysostom



The Pharisees thought it was wrong that Jesus healed someone on the Sabbath. This made the Pharisees upset, so they went out and began to make a plan to destroy Jesus.

But Jesus had the true authority, and He knew what was really important.

Jesus was truly the author of the Sabbath. It was made for humans to have rest and to worship. The Sabbath was not meant to be kept as a rule; it was to be a blessing. Healing the man with the withered hand was important. Jesus was trying to teach the people something.

Consider asking the children what they think Jesus was trying to teach everyone. (There are more important things than rules, like human lives and their hearts.). Consider the commentary above by St. John Chrysostom as a meditation on Christ's compassion for choosing the life and health of this man over a rule regarding the Sabbath.⁸⁸

Jesus also has full authority over the Sabbath, since He is God, the one who instructed mankind to observe it as a day of rest.

Jesus challenged the authority of the Pharisees, revealing to the people a new way of seeing the Sabbath and Jesus Himself as having power over it.

Consider discussing with the children that Jesus was not denying the importance of rules, but that He was trying to teach everyone that people should always be thinking about what God would want us to do, which is more important than any rule.

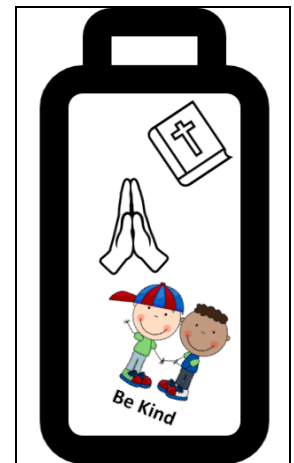
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Battery Recharge:

1. Hand out blank paper and pencils/crayons to each child.
2. Ask them to draw a battery big enough to write things inside.
3. After, ask the children to write or draw ways in which they can rest and keep the sabbath. Some examples include:
 - a. Reading the Bible
 - b. Praying
 - c. Singing hymns/worship songs
 - d. Helping others
 - e. etc.
4. Once completed. The children can share their ideas with their peers.



VIDEO:

⁸⁸ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). "Gospel of St. Matthew, Homily." Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/5838fee5205c248f42e52cfa>



OrbitFaith: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath (1:16)

Questions:

- Why were the religious leaders watching Jesus? (They wanted to catch Jesus breaking their rules.)
- Why was Jesus sad? (Because the people cared more about the rules than helping people.)
- What did Jesus do to the man with the withered hand? (Heal him.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What have we been commanded to do on the Sabbath day? (To rest, Exodus 20:8-11.)
- Why have we been commanded to do this? (Because God rested on the seventh day, Genesis 2:1-3.)
- For what reason were the Jewish leaders angry with Jesus? (For healing the man on the Sabbath.)
- Who had made the laws about the Sabbath day from the beginning of the world? (God).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Respect the Sabbath and keep it holy. The Sabbath is a day to rest, help others and worship God! The Sabbath does not mean it is a day to be lazy and watch TV. When it is a day of rest, it is a day to rest with God and praise Him. How do we rest with God and praise Him?

- Go to church, pray, read the Bible with our families, help others, etc.



Lesson 7.3 - Overview of the Holy Days in the Church - Feast & Seasons of the Church

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Scotch tape, 7 major feasts picture timeline (see below), velcro tape.

Scripture References: Luke 1:26-38, Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 3:13-17, John 12:12-19, Mark 14:12-26, Luke 24:50-53, and Acts 2.

Craft: Various coloring sheets (see below).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of our church times and seasons of the year, and rejoice in their ability to celebrate these feasts with God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Joy



MEMORY VERSE:

“

*Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous;
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

”

Psalm 32:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Draw a line in the middle of the class (you can use scotch tape on the ground or it can be imaginary) and have one side titled Christmas and the other Easter. Using the following statements have the children go to the side they prefer or to answer questions such as:

- Jesus received three gifts after this feast. (Christmas).
- Jesus rose from the dead after three days. (Easter).
- Jesus and His family did not have any place to sleep during this feast. (Christmas).

→ The tomb was rolled away and empty during this feast. (Easter).

Consider pointing physically to remind the children which side represents which answer. You may also consider providing a visual prompt on each side of the room to serve as a reminder for the children as they are playing the game (e.g. picture of a Christmas tree on the Christmas side of the room).

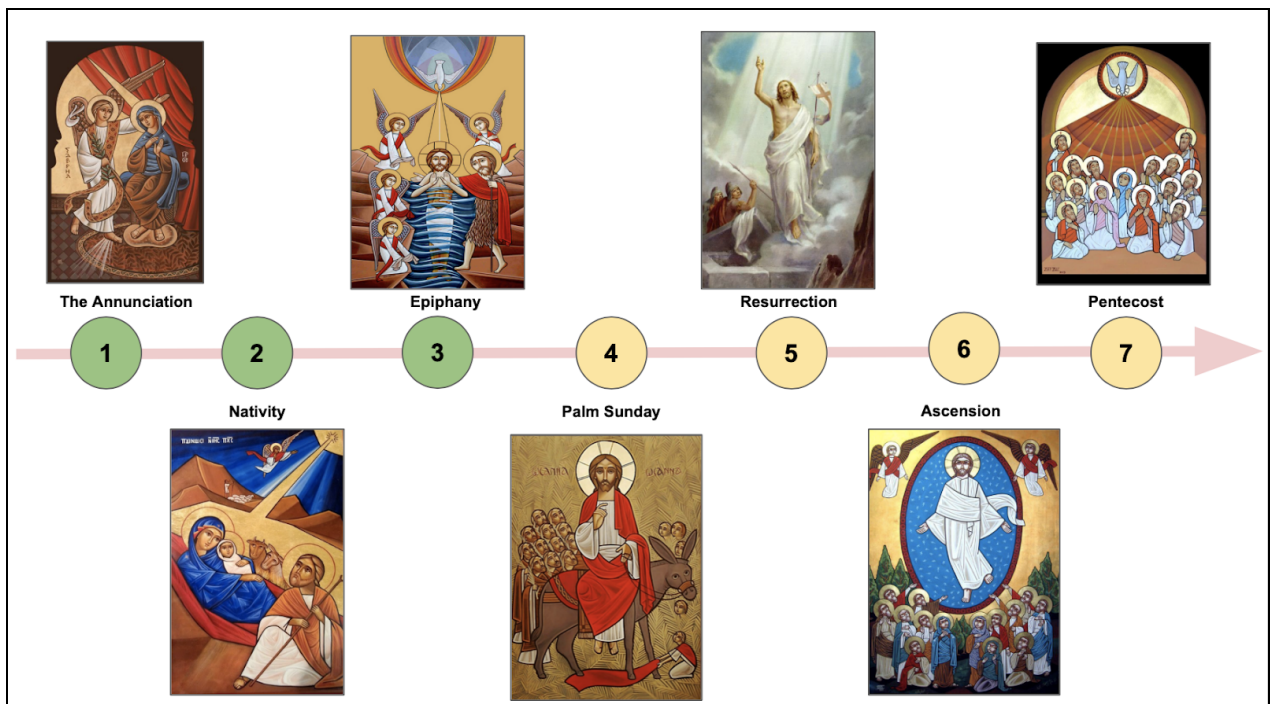
Consider also asking the Children which Holy feast they prefer (Christmas or Easter), consider asking the children when Jesus was born and when does Easter happen (Easter is during the Holy week.)

Have the children sit back down and explain that today's lesson will be on a variety of feasts we celebrate. Remind the children what a feast is and if they do not know provide them with a short explanation (they are holy days that God has given us so that we can celebrate what He has done for us.)



LESSON BODY:

Did you know that the church celebrates 7 major feasts? Does anyone know what these feasts may be?



Servants might wish to share this fun fact with the children to help them understand the times of the major feasts in the church. Fun fact: All the 7 major feasts happen during Christmas or Easter!

This visual can be used to show the children the order of the 7 major feasts. The green represents the feasts during Christmas, whereas the yellow are Easter feasts. Consider using velcro tape for the images so it can be used during the review section of the lesson.



As you explain each story to the children, allow them to chime in and complete parts of the stories they are aware of. The servant might also want to concentrate on the benefit of fasting, the joy of the feasts, and how we partake of this blessing weekly with the Holy Communion by using the words of St. Athanasius the Great.⁸⁹

"Fasting possesses great power and it works glorious things. To fast is to banquet with angels."

- St. Athanasius the Great

1. **The Annunciation** (Luke 1:26-38)

Consider asking the children if any of them know how St. Mary found out she was going to give birth to Jesus. The Angel Gabriel appeared to St. Mary telling her she will give birth to God and this is what we call the Annunciation.

2. **Nativity** (Luke 2:1-20)

This is when God sent His Only begotten Son – baby Jesus was born. In the Orthodox church we celebrate on January 7th but you may notice your friends at school or from other churches celebrating this feast on December 25th.

3. **Epiphany** (Matthew 3:13-17)

This is the baptism of Jesus. In our church, during the feasts of the Holy Epiphany, the liturgy of the blessing of water is done. Do you remember when Abouna blesses the congregation with water on their foreheads?

4. **Palm Sunday** (John 12:12-19)

Palm Sunday is when the church celebrates the entrance of the Lord Jesus into Jerusalem to establish His kingdom. Does anyone remember the joyful tune of the hymn Hosanna? This is what we sing on Palm Sunday.

5. **Resurrection** (Matthew 28:6)

Resurrection is when our Lord was raised from the dead. Our Lord is the only one that was raised on his own. The resurrection is a victory over death. Through the resurrection we are given light and hope.

6. **Ascension** (Luke 24: 50-53)

When Jesus rose from the dead He spent some time with His disciples but He had to go back to His Father, and so He ascended to heaven. By ascending, Jesus showed everyone what would happen when we began our eternal life; we would be with God forever!

7. **Pentecost** (Acts 2)

The Son had to go but He did not leave us alone, He gave us the Holy Spirit that lives inside of us everyday. The Pentecost celebrates when the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples and allowed them to speak in different languages and tell people about Jesus. This feast represents the day the Church began!

Our church has many feasts that are celebrated during the year but do you know how lucky we are that we get to celebrate with God every week on Sunday, when we come to church and have communion.

⁸⁹ St. Athanasius the Great. (n.d.) Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2013/08/01/st-athanasius-to-fast-is-to-banquet-with-angels/>



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Matching Game:

1. Explain to the children that they will be working as one team to correctly identify the order of the 7 major feasts.
2. Remove all of the velcro taped images from the 7 major feasts timeline that was created during the lesson body. Depending on the reading ability of the children, consider leaving the headers (e.g. “The Annunciation”) on the timeline as a prompt in identifying the correct visual.
3. Work as a group to identify which icon belongs on which number on the timeline. Prompt the children to remind you of the stories for each icon so that this activity also functions as a review of the lesson.

Feast Day Coloring Sheets:

Coloring sheets for each of the 7 major feasts are provided [here](#).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Allow the children to try reattaching the images on the 7 major feasts timeline by themselves. Assist them by providing prompting hints to make sure the feasts are identified in the correct order. This review also functions as a lesson activity (see above).



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- Remind the children that God gave us these holy days to celebrate all that He has done for us. We should celebrate these seven major feasts with joy and remember that He is with us everyday.
- Depending on the day this lesson is given, help the children identify the next upcoming feast. Brainstorm the following question with the children: How can we prepare our hearts for [insert feast name here]? (Praying, reading the Bible with our families, going to Church, fasting, etc.)
- Remind them to remember God on this day with joy (tie back to the memory verse here).

Consider introducing the concept of fasting at this time to inform children of ways they can participate at their age level.



Lesson 7.4 - Understanding the Liturgical Holy Day: The Liturgy

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: The Journey to Communion chart (see below), and velcro tape.

Craft: Coloring page, markers, crayons, and pencil crayons.

Video: [George Metry: Coptic Orthodox Church Communion For Kids \(5:56\)](#)

Song: [Sons of God](#) (lyrics below)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize the children with the process and prayers of the Divine Liturgy, so that they can participate more in it, enjoy it, and gain spiritually from it.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Joy.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

”

Psalm 122:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning by reminding the children of the meaning of the word ‘feast’ (holy days given by God to celebrate the things that He has done for us). At the end of last week’s lesson, the servant should have mentioned that in addition to the 7 major feasts our church celebrates, God gave us a special feast to celebrate every week: Sunday liturgy! Remind the children of this in the lesson opening.

Today, we are going to be talking about a special feast we celebrate each and every Sunday at church together. Can anyone guess what it is? (The Divine Liturgy.)

Every Sunday, we wake up bright and early with our families to come to church and remember what Jesus has done for us. The church is a special and a holy place where we go to meet with God our Holy Father and with His Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Liturgy is a participation in the heavenly glorious service.

Can anyone think of the different things we do during the Liturgy? *Allow the children to brainstorm and suggest the different things they remember doing in Liturgy (e.g. communion, singing, etc.).*



LESSON BODY:

The main event of the Divine Liturgy is communion. Communion is when we get to partake in the body and blood of Jesus Christ, who died for each and every one of us. But there are lots of steps we have to take together as a church to prepare ourselves for this gift from Christ. Let's go through these steps together and learn about the journey to communion!

Print and display the chart below as a visual for the children. As you explain each part of the liturgy, attach the relevant image/text using velcro tape. These images can be removed after the lesson and completed by the children at the end of the lesson for review.

The Journey to Communion	Offering of Morning Incense	Offering of the Lamb	Liturgy of the Word	Liturgy of the Faithful	Communion
What does Abouna do?	Censor 	Korban 	Sermon 	Prays 	Distributes
What do we do?	Agpeya 	Bow 	Listen 	Remember 	Partake

The Journey to Communion

1. Offering of Morning Incense: At the beginning of Liturgy, Abouna takes the **censor** and offers up incense. When he does this, he is praying to Jesus to forgive us our sins, save us, protect us, and heal



us. After he does this, we read the **Agpeya** (a book of prayers and psalms) together to prepare for the next parts of the liturgy.

2. Offering of the Lamb: After this, Abouna and the deacons put on white clothes to represent the heavenly angels. Abouna then picks one **Korban** that represents Jesus. This is the bread that will be used for communion. After Abouna puts water on this Korban to symbolize the baptism of Jesus, he also pours the wine and water into a cup. After this, we **bow** together.
3. Liturgy of the Word: Next comes many readings from the Holy Bible and the Synaxarium, which contains stories about holy saints for us to learn from. Abouna and the deacons will read these passages for us, and we are responsible for **listening** closely to the message we are hearing. Abouna will help us to understand the meaning of the Gospel, the main reading of the Liturgy, during his **sermon**.
4. Liturgy of the Faithful: After this, Abouna **prays** many prayers reminding us of all of the things Jesus did for us on earth. He came and saved us from our sins when He died for us on the cross. When Abouna prays these prayers, we should **remember** how much God loves us and how much He has done for us in our lives.
5. Communion: Lastly, we get to have Holy Communion! First, we pray the Lord's Prayer together. Then, Abouna **distributes** the body and blood to us, which means he gives it to us one by one. He starts with the deacons first, then to the men, then to the women. We all get to **partake** in this blessing and gift from God. We also sing songs together while we have communion.

Consider singing the song below (Sons of God) at this point.

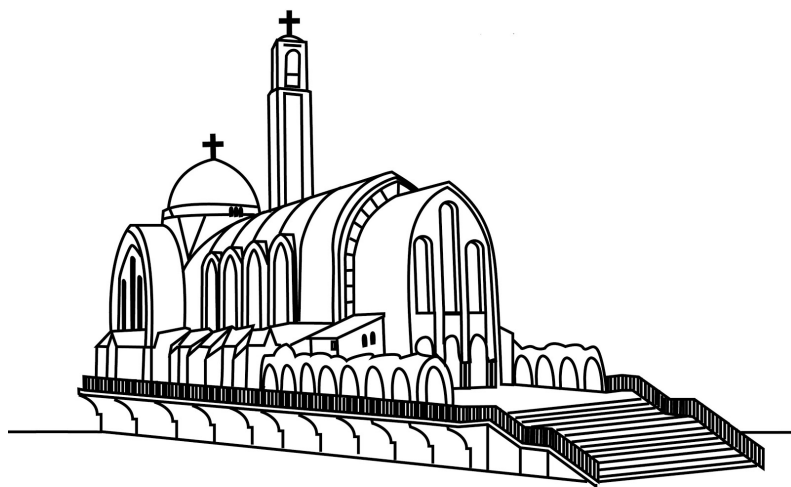
Supplementary



RAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Going to Church Coloring Page:

1. Provide each child with a coloring page, markers, and crayons.
2. Have the servants write the memory verse at the bottom of the page.
3. Help the children write their name on their coloring page.



VIDEO:

[George Metry: Coptic Orthodox Church Communion For Kids \(5:56\)](#)



Questions:

- Why do we not eat or drink anything before Liturgy? (To prepare our bodies to receive the Holy Communion.)
- What is the first thing we should do when we enter the church for Liturgy? (We should do the sign of the cross in front of the altar and say the Lord's Prayer).
- What is the first part of the Liturgy? (The Offering of the Morning Incense).
- At what part of the Liturgy does Abouna select the korban for communion? (The Offering of the Lamb).
- At what part of Liturgy do we read the Gospel? (The Liturgy of the Word).
- When do we remember and give thanks for all that Jesus has done to save us from our sins? (The Liturgy of the Faithful).
- What does the 'distribution' part of Liturgy mean? (We get to partake in communion!)



SONG:

Sons of God⁹⁰ (video of song available [here](#))

⁹⁰ Sons Of God (Holy Communion) Lyrics - Coptic Lyrics & Free Christian Spiritual Songs Lyrics - St. Teklahimanout Orthodox Website - Egypt. (n.d.). Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://st-takla.org/Lyrics-Spiritual-Songs/English-Coptic-Hymns-Texts/4-Christian-n-Gospel-Lyrics-H-I-J/Holy-Communion-Sons-Of-God.html>



Chorus: *Sons of God: Hear His Holy word,*

Gather around the table of the Lord

Eat His Body, drink His Blood

And we'll sing a song of love

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia.

1- *Brothers, sister we are one,*

And our life has just begun,

In the spirit we are young,

We can live forever.

2- *Shout together to the Lord*

Who has promised our reward,

Happiness a hundred fold

And we'll live forever.

3- *Jesus gave a new command:*

That we love our fellow man,

Till we reach the promised land

Where we'll live forever.

4- *If we want to live with Him,*

We must also die with Him,

Die to selfishness and sin

And we'll live forever.

5- *Make the world a unity,*

Make all men one family,

Till we meet The Trinity

And we'll live forever.

6- *With the church we celebrate,*

Jesus coming we await,

So we'll make a holiday,

So we'll live forever.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson with the children by allowing them to work together to place the correct images on the Journey to Liturgy table above.



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

- How can we show respect to God when we attend the Liturgy? (We can encourage our families to go early, be well-behaved, and participate in the Liturgy.)
- Remind the children that The Divine Liturgy is a feast that God has blessed us with. Now that we understand the parts better, we can participate and enjoy the Liturgy we hear each week.

Challenge the children to identify these parts of the Liturgy that they reviewed next Sunday. Invite them to share what they observed and saw next week.

Lesson 7.5 - Liturgy Preparation: Making Korban

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Korban for the children to eat/to demonstrate the lesson.

Craft: Playdough (preferably yellow/brown in color), and sticks to make piercings in the play doh

Video: [Coptic Toon Kids: Altar Vessels Part Two - The Body \(Korban\) \(5:12\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the korban that reminds us to see the life of God and praise Him. They should develop an understanding that we are all part of the Body of Christ, and so, we should be kind to one another.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Kindness



MEMORY VERSE:



For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.



I Corinthians 10:17

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Ask the children, "Who likes to eat Korban? What is so special about it?"

*It might be valuable to invite Abouna or a deacon to give the lesson.
Plan to have korban to give to the children, either before or after the lesson.*



LESSON BODY:





In presenting the following lesson, it would be of immense aid to have a korban to show to the children. Either a physical one or an image. Alternatively, the craft can be integrated to be part of the lesson - where the children make the parts of the korban as the servant explains them, and the symbolism behind them.

The following lesson is built on the book "Christ is the Eucharist" by Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty.⁹¹

The making of the korban is very specific, since during the "Offering of the Lamb," the Lamb will be chosen; that is the bread that will become the Body of Christ.

Just as the bread is made up from many grains and the wine from many grapes so is Christ, Who is the Head of "His Body," the Church, which unites us in Him. As such, since we are all part of the Body of Christ, we should be kind to one another.

Consider using the quote by St. John Chrysostom to help explain that through the Body of Christ, we are all united.

⁹²

"For we, who are many, are one bread, one body. For why speak I of communion? Says he, we are that self-same body. For what is the bread? The Body of Christ. And what do they become who partake of it? The Body of Christ: not many bodies, but one body."

- St. John Chrysostom

The korban should be made round as a circle.

Consider asking the children why the korban may be made like this.

A circle has no beginning and no end, referring to the eternity of our Lord Jesus Christ, who also has no beginning and no end.

The bread is stamped with a cross in the middle, surrounded with twelve smaller crosses.

Consider asking the children why the korban may be made like this.

This means that the Crucified Jesus Christ is surrounded by His 12 apostles. The remaining portion of the korban represents the congregation, that is us!

The five holes in the holy bread refer to Christ's wounds, the two holes in his hands, the hole in his feet, the stabbing of the spear on his side, and the crown of thorns.

Around the large cross surrounded by the twelve crosses is a circle with the words "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy immortal" written on it. God is both surrounding the church (signified by the twelve crosses) and He is within it (the big cross in the middle).

Additionally, the servant may introduce some of the more intricate details of the korban, if they see suitable.

According to the teachings of the church, the following conditions should be followed when making the Holy Bread:

- To be well leavened, for the yeast refers to our wickedness, which Jesus carried on in His Holy Body.

⁹¹ Malaty, F. (2001). *Christ in the Eucharist* [PDF]. California: Orthodox Christian Center.

⁹² St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5750753c3c6effa740ddd88f>

- To be made from pure wheat flour for our Lord is the blameless Lamb.
- To be free of salt, because Jesus is the true salt of the world!

Consider reminding the children that they should be respectful when they eat korban, meaning they cannot let it fall on the floor and they should not bite it, rather break it as they eat it.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Making Korban: The servant should be mindful to direct the children in this activity making sure that the children are not engaging in any disrespectful actions. Ensure that the children understand the purpose of the activity, that is, to learn the symbolism behind the korban. Additionally, the servant can have [psalms playing in the background](#) to demonstrate that during the making of the korban, it is a serene time of prayer and worship.



1. Group the kids into groups of four, and give each student a good chunk of playdough.
2. Put up a picture of Korban on the screen as a guide.
3. Give the children some sticks to poke the holes in the playdough.
4. They can have a competition amongst their team on who makes the best Korban out of playdough.



VIDEO:

[Coptic Toon Kids: Altar Vessels Part Two - The Body \(Korban\) \(5:12\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by playing the following game. Instruct the children that if the answer is correct, they should stand up (or stay standing). If the answer is wrong, they should sit down (or stay seated).

- The korban should be made like a square! (Sit down).
- The five holes in the holy bread refer to Christ's wounds, the two holes in his hands, the hole in his feet, the stabbing of the spear on his side, and the crown of thorns. (Stand up).
- The bread is stamped with a cross in the middle, surrounded with twelve smaller crosses. (Stand up).
- The bread has salt in it. (Sit down).
- You can bite korban when you eat it. (Sit down).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Since we are all part of the Body of Christ, we ought to be kind to one another - caring for another. How can we show kindness this week?

- Offer to help others
- Share
- Listen to our parents, etc.



Lesson 7.6 - The Parable of the Great Feast

Building Block 7
God's Holy Days



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Party decorations such as balloons, streamers, tablecloth, paper plates, napkins, Small pieces of paper with "Invitation" written on it, pens/pencils, and markers.

Scripture References: Luke 14:12-24

Craft: Paper plates, papers with the memory verse pre-written, crayons, markers, and stickers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The goal of this lesson is to remind the children of God's incredible love for them—a love so great that He is preparing an incredible place in heaven for each of them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Giving and Dedication.



MEMORY VERSE:



Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!



Luke 14:15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST)

The servant may choose to decorate the room before the lesson to save time, or it may be included as part of the lesson as described.

Decorate the room as if there is going to be a party or celebration. The lesson will be exploring a party called the banquet—a big, fancy feast.



The servant may lay out the supplies and let the children inflate the balloons and hang streamers on the table. This will be used as the 'party table' for the remainder of the lesson. A tablecloth can be set on the table. Once the room is ready, gather the children around the table.

Give each child a small piece of paper with the word "invitation" written in it.

The children can plan any kind of party for their "dream" party. As they plan, discuss with them how big the party would be and how much fun they will have with their family and friends at their party.

Form a circle and ask the children to pass their invitations to the left until the music stops. Once the music stops, let the children turn to the child beside them who just handed them an invitation. Then have the children come up with weird or ridiculous reasons for not coming to the party. (Such as, I was sleeping, or I was washing dishes, etc.)

After the children have exchanged excuses, gather them together again and ask for a few of the strange excuses they heard.

Consider prompting the children with this question:

→ How would you feel if no one came to your party? (Sad, upset, angry etc.)

Gather the invitations to use in the next part of the lesson.

In today's parable, Jesus tells a story about someone who planned a party that no one came to. We will discover that God wants us in heaven with Him.



LESSON BODY:

Consider guiding the children to act out the parable to explore how people say "no" to God.

Read Luke 14:12-24 and summarize with the children:

One Sabbath day, Jesus went to have dinner at an important Pharisee's house. While He was there, Jesus noticed how everyone wanted the best place at the table. So Jesus told the host that it is better to invite people who can not pay you back—people who are not worried about impressing you. Jesus said that in heaven, "God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." So that got everyone thinking about heaven. In fact, one guy called out, "It's going to be great to feast with God in heaven!" And that was when Jesus told this story.

Hold the invitations and have kids scatter around the room. Stand near the party table that the kids prepared earlier.

A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.

Walk around the room and hand a few kids invitations. Then walk back to the table.

When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.'



Walk to one child and get them to tear up his or her invitation. That person did not want to come. Walk to another child.

Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.'

Get the child to tear up their invitation. Guess he/she did not want to come, either. Walk to another child.

Another said, 'I now have a wife, so I can not come.'

Child tears up their invitation as well. Continue to move to everyone you gave an invitation to and get them to tear up their invitations.

Everyone that the man had invited to the feast had some excuse for not coming.

Take all the torn invitations and put them in a pile.

The Master's Response

The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'

Hand out invitations to a few children who did not already get an invitation.

After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So this master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full.'

Hand out all of the invitations, then direct kids who have invitations to come and gather around the table.

For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.

Discuss with the children these questions:

- Why did the man in the story invite the people who were less fortunate that he did not know? (God wants us all in heaven and for people to follow and love Him.)
- Who does the man represent in the parable? (God the Father).
- What does the banquet represent? (Heaven).

The servant can guide the conclusion of the lesson by highlighting the important learning objectives from this parable by reflecting the blessed words of St. Cyril of Alexandria.⁹³

"We understand the man to be God the Father. For similes represent the truth but are not the truth itself. The Creator of the universe and the Father of glory made a great supper, a festival for the whole world, in honor of Christ."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

God wants us in heaven with him. Like the man in the story, God has planned and created something incredible for those who follow and love him! We need to remember that the new toys or games are not that important. The ultimate gift is heaven! Heaven is so amazing that God wants everyone to be there. The doors are wide open!

⁹³ Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty. (n.d.). *Interpretation of the Gospel According to St. Luke*. Retrieved from <http://www.stminahamilton.ca/groups/servants/bible-commentary-books>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Great Feast Plate:

1. Hand out a paper plate to each student.
2. Provide each student with a strip of paper with the memory verse written on it.
3. Have the children attach the memory verse using glue sticks.
4. Provide the children with crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate their plates.



Questions:

- What did Jesus say to the Pharisee that was hosting the dinner? (Do not invite your family / friends for your only reward will be for them to invite you back, invite the poor for God will reward you for those who can not repay you.)
- From the story that Jesus told, did the people invited to the party go to the party? (No, they all made excuses.)
- What did the master tell his servant to do when the servant came back and told him that no one wanted to come? (He told him to go out in the street and invite those who are poor, cannot see, and/or cannot walk.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

True False Room Game:

Assign a side of the room to be "true" and the opposite side to be "false". Read out a fact from the lesson and have the kids run to whatever side they think is correct. Ensure that you tell them what the correct answer is after. Below are some examples of statements that can be used:

- The Master of the house did not invite anyone to his party. (False).
- The people the Master invited did not show up. (True).
- The Master told his servant to go into the street and only invite the richest people he could find. (False).
- Jesus only wants us to hang out with people who are rich. (False).
- Jesus told us to help those in need without expecting anything in return. (True).
- It is okay to not go to church if you are tired. (False).



Questions:

- Where was Jesus in our story today? (Jesus was having dinner at a Pharisees' house.)
- Who do you think the servants represent? (Us as Christians.)
- Who do the invited guests represent? (People who make excuses to not be with God.)
- What were some of the excuses that the invited guests made? (Some guests said that they had a wife, or new oxen they wanted to see.)
- What happened when the invited guests made excuses not to come? (The master got angry and told his servant to invite people from the street.)
- Who filled the master's banquet hall where he had his feast? (People who were poor and sick.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

We know that God wants us to be in heaven with him. God loves us so much that He has prepared a place for us in heaven. God taught us the ways we can enter heaven and it is up to us to do them. It is easy for us at times to get distracted, lazy, and to make up excuses. When our friends ask us to go to their birthday or to play, we don't make excuses to not have fun, right? Well Jesus sent us an invitation so we shouldn't make up any excuses either. How will we accept Jesus' invitation?

- By praying
- By being his representatives and helping those that are less fortunate. We can give them food, toys, clothes, etc.



Spare Lessons

These lessons are spare and can be given in the event a lesson is given on the day of Palm Sunday or the feast of Resurrection.

SPARE.1 - House Blessings

Spare



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: John 15:1-8, 1 John 1:1-10

Craft: Different coloured sticky notes, pencils, markers, and crayons and a spot on the wall to put up the sticky notes.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: What is Prayer? \(0:47\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of the importance of house blessings and the power of prayers.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerfulness



MEMORY VERSE:



I am the Vine, you are the branches...



John 15:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Has Abouna ever visited your home to bless it? What did he do? What did he bring with him? Did you participate in the prayers?

If none of the children have experienced this, be prepared to explain what this process is like to the children so that they are aware. Here is a highlight of the Coptic rite of the house blessing service:



- First, as always, we begin with a prayer of thanksgiving to God to let Him know we are thankful for all He does for us.
- Then, we say a prayer for all the sick people, so that God may grant them health and healing.
- After the prayer for the sick, we pray for peace in the world, for the whole church, for those who are becoming Christians, and even for the well being of the city that we live in. We pray for everything you can think of! The weather, the fruits, those who are travelling, and then the leader of our country, the President.
- After these prayers, which are called litanies, we read from the Bible. We read a letter from St. Paul to the Romans (8:14-21), then we say a psalm (102:1-2), and then we read the story from the Gospel about when our Lord Jesus visited Zacchaeus about whom the Lord said, *“Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house”* (Luke 19:1-10).
- Then, all together, the family says the Orthodox Creed out loud.
- We are now at the end of the prayer! Before we finish though, the priest prays the absolution, which means absolving the sins of all those who are present. This is the same prayer that the priest says after we confess all of our sins in the sacrament of Confession.⁹⁴



LESSON BODY:

The most important part of the prayer of the Blessing of the House, is that the priest calls on the Holy Spirit to descend upon the water. This mystery is also what happens when the bread and wine are transformed into the Holy Body and Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the service, the priest breathes into the water. This action brings to mind Christ having “breathed” on the disciples and telling them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit”* (John 20:22).

The purpose of the water, as the service says, is “That this water becomes a healer of minds, bodies, and souls, and an expeller of all adversary forces.”

The prayers are also for:

- Bless the house that the family has chosen to live in
- Grant that all activities are completed successfully with grace and favor
- Grant righteous lives
- Help and strength from God
- Continued steadfastness in the Orthodox faith

If time permits, the servant may discuss some of the aspects of John 15:1-8 and 1 John 1:1-10, such as:

- What are things you pray about? (e.g., food, school, those who need help etc.)
- What do we mean by “God Bless our Homes”? (It means that God blesses all the members of the family as one unit and their life-sharing together at home. When God blesses our home, we become as branches and our Beloved Jesus is the Vine. So, we are all members united in love with each other and with Jesus. Parents love their children; children love their parents; all love our Lord Jesus Christ. The family becomes a small church with the head as Christ Himself.)

⁹⁴ Habib, J. (2015, December 16). House Blessings: Copts & Eastern Orthodox Compared. Retrieved August 13, 2020, from <https://johnbelovedhabib.wordpress.com/2015/12/16/house-blessings-copts-eastern-orthodox-compared/>

- If all members of the family are living with our Beloved Jesus, then the whole family has an honest and true fellowship. *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7).
- When God blesses our home, it will be full of peace, love and hope.
- It is said, “The family that prays together stays together.” This quote means when the family prays together, God blesses the home and our Lord Jesus unites this family.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Prayer Wall Activity⁹⁵:

1. Give sticky notes to each child and ask them to write a short prayer on it. Sticky notes can be color coded (eg. yellow for praise, pink for thanks etc.)
2. Children can use markers or crayons to write or draw their prayers down.
3. After the children finish writing/drawing their prayers (they can write more than one if they want), ask them to stick it to the prayer wall.
4. The children can continue using the praying wall throughout the year if they want.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: What is Prayer? \(0:47\)](#)

Questions:

- What does it mean to pray? (To talk to God.)
- Why is praying important? (To build a friendship with God.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- Help your Sunday School children prepare for their house blessing ahead of time (or consider having this brainstorming session be the opening activity of the lesson): brainstorm, and then as a class come up with a list of things they can do to help. Perhaps they can help to clean the house. They could also prepare the prayer corner and/or gather the items needed for the house blessing.
- Encourage your children to write a thank you note for the priest.
- Help them to think of how many times Father does this service (and yet he never complains – he even is happy to be at our house!), how tired his voice must feel from singing the hymns over and

⁹⁵ Prayer Space in Schools. (n.d.). Top Ten Prayer Activities. Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten>



over in each house he visits (which is why it is important that we help him by learning it and singing along!), how special it is that he traveled all the way to our house and took time for our family, etc.

Questions:

- What is the most important part of the prayer of the Blessing of the House? (The most important part is that the priest calls on the Holy Spirit to descend upon the water.)
- What does the priest do at the end of the service? (The priest breathes into the water.)
- What is signified when the priest breathes into the water? (This action brings to mind Christ having “breathed” on the disciples and telling them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Next time Abouna comes to visit your house make sure that you pay attention so that you will not miss anything important. Thank the priest for coming to your house.

Remember that now since the priest has prayed “houses of prayer, houses of purity, houses of blessing,” that we should work hard to make these true. Keep your house a welcoming place for God to be in your midst. To do this, we can obey our parents, help our siblings, and love each other!

The servant may consider emphasizing that our houses should be houses of prayer, where all the members of the family are united together in Christ, by all striving to become more like Him through attaining virtues. St. John Chrysostom teaches that this is when all members of the family are united together, including the children.⁹⁶

“Turn your home into heaven; you will do this not when you change the walls or rebuild the foundation, but when you invite the Almighty Lord to your repast. God never disregards any kind of supper. Where there is spiritual science, there is humility, sincerity and modesty. Where the husband, and the wife, and the children are in accord and united by the bonds of virtue, there is Christ among them.”

- St. John Chrysostom

⁹⁶ John Chrysostom, St. (2019). Anna Saprykina. "Turn Your Home Into Heaven". Retrieved August 13, 2020, from <http://orthochristian.com/119227.html>



SPARE.2 - Unifying Days: St. Demetrius the Vinedresser

Spare



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Sets of paper slips with the days of the week for each group and a timer.

Craft: Garbage bags, blank pieces of paper, purple paint, styrofoam plate, green marker, paint brushes, empty toilet paper rolls (one for each child) and paper plates.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should be able to identify St. Demetrius as the inventor of the “Apokty Calendar,” which united the Church in their celebration of the Glorious Resurrection Feast.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Unity



MEMORY VERSE:



For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.



I Corinthians 14:33

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson with a short ‘days of the week’ game. Split up the children into groups of four and provide each group with a set of paper slips with the days of the week written on them. Read out the words with the children so they can identify each day. Give the children a short period of time to arrange the days of the week. Once the timer has gone off, review children’s answers with them.

Calendars are very important for people, it helps them remember when they need to do different tasks.

Consider asking the children what would happen if they did not know what day it was and went to school on the weekend by accident!



Calendars are important for the Church too! They show us when we should celebrate different feasts, like Christmas for example.

Did you know that Christians did not have a specific day for celebrating Easter even hundreds of years after Jesus' resurrection?

Today we will learn about the saint who helped build the Church's calendar, the 12th Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church: St Demetrius the Vinedresser.



LESSON BODY:

For more information on St. Demetrius the Vinedresser, the servant may wish to consult this resource: [History of the Coptic Church VI: St. Demetrius, the Vinedresser](#).

Pope Julian, the 11th Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, saw a vision in his last days in which an angel said to him "He who will come to you in the morning bringing a bunch of grapes, will be your successor."

One day, while a young man named Demetrius was gardening in his vineyard, he saw a cluster of grapes that had ripened early and he decided to harvest them. He decided to offer this first fruit to his pope. Once Pope Julian saw Demetrius with his presentation of grapes, he spoke to his bishops saying, "This man will be your Pope." and told them about the vision that he saw. After Pope Julian passed away, bishops, priests, and laymen consecrated St. Demetrius as the 12th Pope of Alexandria.

St. Demetrius was a simple vinedresser, who did not have much education when he was young. When he became the 12th pope he decided to study really hard to make up for what he had missed when he was younger. He was very humble and used to sit with the church's deacon who taught him the hymns. He went to the School of Alexandria to learn more about God and the Church.

St. Demetrius created a special calendar known as the "Apokty Calendar" which was used to determine the Glorious Resurrection Feast (Easter) every year and is still used in our churches today. This was important so that the church could be united in its celebrations.

"Take heed often to come together to give thanks to God and show forth His praise. For when you assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. Nothing is more precious than peace, by which all war, in heaven and earth, is brought to an end."

- St. Ignatius of Antioch

Consider pausing here and illustrating the significance of this by asking the children how they would feel if each of their family members celebrated their birthday on a different day. There is strength in unity, and celebrating together helps support this. You may wish to introduce or reference the quote on the right by St. Ignatius of Antioch to support this point regarding unity.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ St. Ignatius of Antioch. (n.d.). "The Ante-Nicene Fathers Vol. 1." Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/2013/11/25/st-ignatius-of-antioch-take-heed-often-to-come-together-to-give-thanks-to-god/>

It was difficult to determine the Glorious Resurrection Feast every year as the feast should come after the Jewish Passover. St. Demetrius spent time developing a calendar to determine when Easter should be celebrated each year.

After he finished making the calendar, St. Demetrius discussed it with his holy Senate members in Alexandria and they agreed to use it to determine the glorious Resurrection Feast.

This allowed Christians all over the world to celebrate Easter on the same day and rejoice together!

St. Demetrius made it possible for Christians to fast and celebrate at the same time by giving them a calendar to use.

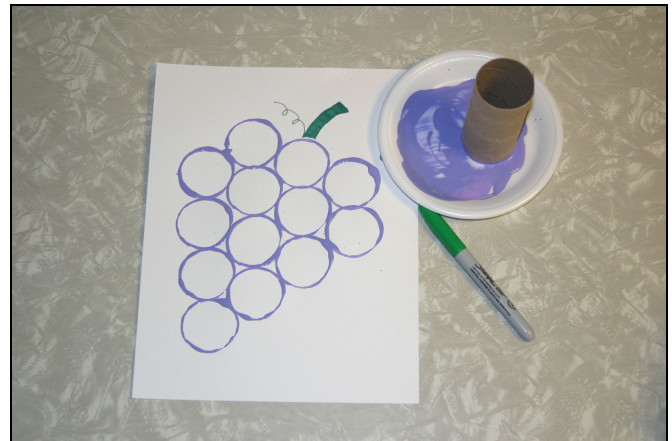
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Paint the Vine Craft⁹⁸:

1. Cover the floor and table with garbage bags to protect the classroom.
2. Pour out purple paint into a paper plate.
3. Have the children dip the empty toilet roll into the purple paint on the blank paper. Tracing enough to make the shape of a vine.
4. Have the children paint the empty circles with purple paint.
5. Draw the stem with a green marker or green paint.
6. Assist the children in writing their names at the bottom of the page.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Sit Down/ Stand Up Review Game:

Give the children facts (as shown below) on the lesson they just had, if they think the fact is true, they stand up, if it is false they sit down.

- St. Demetrius was an engineer. (Sit down).

⁹⁸ Carmody, M. (2012, June 4). Learning Activities for the Color Purple. Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <http://lovetolaughandlearn.com/learning-activities-for-the-color-purple/>



- St. Demetrius was the twelfth pope of Alexandria. (Stand up).
- St. Demetrius was very rich when he was young. (Sit down).
- Easter always comes after the Jewish Passover. (Stand up).
- St. Demetrius invented the calendar we use to celebrate Easter. (Stand up).
- We no longer use the calendar made by St. Demetrius (Sit down).

Questions:

- What feast did St. Demetrius create a calendar for? (The Resurrection Feast / Easter).
- What was St. Demetrius' job before he became a pope? (He was a vinedresser.)
- How did St. Demetrius learn all the hymns and teachings of the church? (Deacons and other priests would teach him.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The church calendar helps us celebrate the feasts together as one. Just like St. Demetrius we can play a role in uniting the church and others. What are some ways we can practice doing this? (Sharing, helping others, being kind, being a good listener, etc.) Also just like St. Demetrius it is never too late for us to learn and we should continue to grow and learn in our faith.

SPARE.3 - Gathered in His Name



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Matthew 12:22-30, Acts 2

Craft: Icon of Christ.

Song: "Greet one another" deacon response



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the value of communal worship, and its importance specifically in the context of the Holy Liturgy.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayer and Unity.



MEMORY VERSE:



*For where two or three are gathered together in My name,
I am there in the midst of them.*



Matthew 18:20

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

The servant may consider asking the following questions to introduce to the topic of communal worship.

How many of you have been to a birthday party? Now how many of you have been to a birthday party where there was only one person? Of course not! Well, how about a sports game with no fans? Or, have you been to school with no classmates or friends? Definitely not, all of these activities have one thing in common: communal activity.

The servant may explain what communal activity means. The servant can explain it is when people are gathered together to perform the same activity with joy.



God wants us to gather together and have communal prayers with one another, since we are all members of God's family. Can you think of a time when we all gather together for prayer? (The liturgy.) When we gather in liturgy, we are gathering together to pray to God as one family.



LESSON BODY:

"For therefore is the kiss given, that it may be fuel unto love, that we may so love each other, as brothers' brothers, as children's parents, as parents' children..."

- St. John Chrysostom

When we gather in liturgy we are gathering as one family. Can siblings be angry at each other if we are one family? Can you imagine being at a birthday party where no one was getting along? How could everyone celebrate the birthday party? What about a sports tournament with fans who all didn't like each other? They wouldn't be able to support their teams. When we celebrate the liturgy together, we must be at peace with one another.⁹⁹

Remind the children of the previous lesson on feasts and how every Sunday we partake in the Holy Liturgy.

In the Bible we have seen many times how people come together in communal activity for Christ. Can you think of any examples?

While the disciples were fasting and praying together in one big room, for ten days, the Holy Spirit came down on them like tongues of fire and God was in their midst.

The first thing we do in the Liturgy of the Faithful is pray for "oneness" - in the prayer of reconciliation - and exchange a kiss of peace. You may wish to draw from the quote on the left by St. John Chrysostom.¹⁰⁰

Christ teaches us that if we are gathered together in peace He will be in our midst. He even tells us, a kingdom divided against itself, cannot stand. This is a message that teaches us the importance of being united in Christ. We practice this in the liturgy, do you know when and/or how?

This is why we kiss each other in the liturgy: to be at peace with one another. Likewise in the liturgy we each have a role to play: the priest, the deacon and the people together. You cannot pray a liturgy without these three components.

"Everyone knows that a church calls for reverence, for a collecting of thoughts, for deep thinking about God, and for standing in the presence of God, but who fulfills this? People go to church with a desire to pray, to stand in it for a while with warm fervour; but then thoughts begin to wander, and bargaining begins in one's head even louder than that which the Lord found in the Jerusalem temple. Why is this so? Because the way one stands in church is a reflection of one's entire life. As people live, so do they behave in church. A church influences and somewhat supports spiritual movements; but then the usual course of one's spiritual constitution takes over. Therefore if you want your time in church to consist of worthily standing in the face of the Lord, prepare for this in your ordinary life; walk, as much as you can, in a prayerful frame of mind."

- Eastern Church Father

⁹⁹ Comerford, P. (1970, January 01). 'I am the true vine ... Abide in me as I abide in you'. Retrieved July 28, 2020, from http://www.patrickcomerford.com/2018/04/i-am-true-vine-abide-in-me-as-i-abide_29.html

¹⁰⁰ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/mt/1/6>



The servant may have all the children practice the kiss of peace after showing them the proper form and hand motion in order to engage the children.

Consider introducing and paraphrasing the quote above by an Eastern Church Father.¹⁰¹ This quote may be used to explain to the children that if we wish to enjoy the communal worship of church inside of Liturgy, we should also strive to exist in communal love outside of the church - on the playground, in the classroom, at home with siblings, etc. This point may help transition the lesson to the life application section.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Have all the children stand far apart in a circle facing each other with an icon of Christ in the center. Ask the children to get closer to the icon of Christ. As they approach Christ in the center, the circle will get smaller and they will be closer to each other. Ask them, “As you came closer to the icon, were you closer or farther away from each other?”

Now ask them to back up again and to approach one another. As the circle becomes smaller, ask them “As you came closer to one another, were you farther away from Christ or closer to Him?”

As we become closer to one another we come closer to Christ and as we come closer to Christ we become closer to one another.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Using the same activity as above review concepts from the lesson. Have the children come together in a tight circle if the answer to the question is true. Have the children stay in a wider circle if the answer is false.

- Is God in our midst when we gather together? (True).
- Is the liturgy a communal activity? (True).
- Can the priest pray a liturgy on his own? (False).
- Can we only gather at church? (False).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

¹⁰¹ St. Theophan the Recluse. (n.d.). “Thoughts for Each Day of the Year: According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.” Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/tag/church-behavior/>



Unity and communal gathering is very important to our church. We should place emphasis on trying to practice this regularly. Servant should encourage children to participate in one of the following this week:

- Next liturgy, participate in the deacon response of the holy kiss (refer to lesson body).
- Pray as a family at home.
- Attend Tasbeha.
- Next time you read the bible, look for communal gathering examples.
- Read the Agpeya with your family.