



**The
Coptic
Orthodox
Diocese
of the
Southern
United
States**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
CURRICULUM FOR
PRESCHOOL**

FILLER LESSONS.....	1
1 - JESUS MEETS ZACCHAEUS	2
2 - THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN	3
3 - BREAD AND FISH MIRACLE.....	4
4 - BREAD FROM HEAVEN, WATER FROM A ROCK	5
5 - DAVID THE SHEPHERD BOY	6
6 - THE TWELVE SPECIAL FRIENDS	7
7 - SAINT PISHOY	8
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.....	9
WEEK 2 - WHO ARE THE SAINTS?	10
WEEK 3 - FINDING THE CROSS	11
WEEK 4 - JESUS HELPS THE FISHERMEN	12
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER	13
WEEK 1 - THE CREATION.....	14
WEEK 2 - NOAH’S ARK	15
WEEK 3 - THE LORD VISITS ABRAHAM	16
WEEK 4 - JACOB’S DREAM.....	17
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.....	18
WEEK 1 - ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW	19
WEEK 2 - NICE WOMAN BUILDS A ROOM FOR ELIJAH.....	20
WEEK 3 - JESUS CALMS THE STORM	21
WEEK 4 - JESUS HEALS THE TEN LEPERS.....	22
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER	23
WEEK 1 - DANIEL IN THE LIONS’ DEN.....	24
WEEK 2 - ST. MARY AND ARCHANGEL GABRIEL.....	25
WEEK 3 - BABY JESUS IN THE MANGER	26
WEEK 4 - SHEPHERDS VISIT BABY JESUS.....	27
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY	28
WEEK 1 - THE WISE MEN VISIT BABY JESUS.....	29
WEEK 2 - JESUS OBEYS HIS PARENTS	30
WEEK 3 - THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST	31
WEEK 4 - JESUS IS BAPTIZED	32
LESSONS FOR JONAH’S FAST	33
WEEK 0 - A DONKEY THAT SPEAKS	34
WEEK 1 - JONAH AND THE WHALE.....	35
LESSONS FOR THE GREAT FAST PERIOD.....	36
WEEK 0 - THE WOMEN WITH THE TWO COINS	37
WEEK 1 - GOD CARES FOR US MORE.....	38
WEEK 2 - THE LOST SHEEP	39

WEEK 3 - THE PARALYTIC AT THE POOL.....	40
WEEK 4 - THE MAN BORN BLIND	41
WEEK 5 - THE LAST SUPPER	42
WEEK 6 - JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM.....	43
LESSONS FOR THE PENTECOST PERIOD.....	44
WEEK 1 - JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN!.....	45
WEEK 2 - JESUS APPEARS TO HIS FRIENDS	46
WEEK 3 - FISH FOR BREAKFAST.....	47
WEEK 4 - JESUS LOVES THE CHILDREN	48
WEEK 5 - JESUS VISITS MARY AND MARTHA	49
WEEK 6 - JESUS GOES UP TO HEAVEN.....	50
WEEK 7 - THE HOLY SPIRIT ON PENTECOST DAY	51
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY	52
WEEK 2 - THE FIRST MIRACLE BY ST. PETER	53
WEEK 3 - HANNAH’S PRAYER.....	54
WEEK 4 - GOD CALLS SLEEPY SAMUEL.....	55
LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.....	56
WEEK 1 - FOUR FRIENDS HELP A PARALYTIC	57
WEEK 2 - JESUS INVITED TO A WEDDING.....	58
WEEK 3 - SAINT MARY THE BEAUTIFUL DOVE.....	59
WEEK 4 - JESUS HEALS BLIND BARTIMAEUS	60
LESSON OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER	61
WEEK 1 - JESUS HEALS WOMAN WITH A BENT BACK.....	62
REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED RESOURCES	63
PICTURE BIBLES:	63
DVD OPTIONS:	63
WEBSITES:	63

FILLER LESSONS

These lessons are to be used for the fifth Sunday of a month and to fill the empty weeks due to the changing date of the Resurrection Feast.

1 – Jesus Meets Zacchaeus

2 – The Angels in Heaven

3 – Bread and Fish Miracle

4 – Bread from Heaven, Water from a Rock

5 – David the Shepherd Boy

6 – The Twelve Special Friends

7 – Saint Pishoy

1 - Jesus Meets Zacchaeus

Objective:

Learn that our Lord always knows where we are and He wants to be with us.

Memory Verse:

“..today I must stay at your house.” Luke 19:5

Reference:

Luke 19:1-10

Introduction:

If you're in your room by yourself and no one is there, who can still see you? God always sees us. He knows everything about us. He knows our name without us having to tell Him. He even knows what we are thinking before we say it.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a short man named Zacchaeus who heard some exciting news that Jesus was in town. When Jesus came, Zacchaeus tried hard to see Him, but could not because he was too short and many tall people were standing around Jesus. "I know what to do," he said. He ran and climbed up on a tree to see Jesus when He passed by. Jesus stopped right under that tree and looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down for today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus came down and was very happy. He was surprised that Jesus knew his name, and where he was. He brought Jesus to his house and told Jesus, "I want to do what is right; I'll give back all the money I took which I was not supposed to take, and I'll give half of my stuff to the poor." Jesus was happy to hear that from Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus became a very good man.

Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus Christ knew that Zacchaeus wanted so much to see Him, so He called him down from the tree. Jesus knows all what we want, too, and He will give us what is good for us. He knows all that is in our hearts.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page related to this story; or make a craft of a tree and glue a drawing of Zacchaeus on it. Bring CD of the Christian **Song:**

*“Zacchaeus was a very little man, and a very little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see.
And as the Savior passed him by, He looked up in the tree,
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there;
For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today”*

2 - The Angels in Heaven

Objective:

Learn about what angels do.

Memory Verse:

“Praise Him, all His angels” Psalms 148:2 (NKJV)

Reference:

“Heaven” by the Late Bishop Youanis

Introduction:

Ask the children how they think angels look? They have wings.....they are bright.....most of the time, they are wearing white. Show them some pictures. Ask the children if they know where angels live? How many angels live in heaven? Is there a few of them, or a lot of them?

Lesson Outline:

There are so many angels in heaven, we cannot even count them. God created angels in heaven to praise Him and also to help us. Sometimes God sends His angels with special messages to His people; like the Angel who told St. Mary that she will be the mother of Baby Jesus.

Some angels are special, because they are in charge of other angels.; they are called Archangels. There are Archangel Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and others. There are also many guardian angels. God has given each of His children a guardian angel to watch over him or her. Angels protect us from bad things that can happen to us. We do not see our guardian angel, but this angel is next to us all the time, whether we are playing, sleeping, or running. The guardian angel’s job is to keep us safe.

Angels are always praising God in heaven by singing beautiful hymns. Angels are beautiful, calm, and kind.

Conclusion:

We do not need to be afraid or scared at any time, because we know that God gave us each a guardian angel to be with us and keep us safe. If we do what God wants us to do and be calm and kind, we can be lovely like angels.

Application:

Make crafts of angels using half paper plates made like a cone, a drawn head, and decorative paper as wings. Bring a white tunic, wings, and hallow. Let the children take turns dressing up like angels. Show the children different pictures of angels, e.g., the picture of the guardian angel, the Annunciation...etc.

3 - Bread and Fish Miracle

Objective:

God loves us and provides for our needs before we ask.

Memory Verse:

“I am the bread of life” John 6:35

Reference:

John 6:1-14

Introduction:

Who loves us the most, ...mom, dad, sister, ...? Who loves us the most of all? It is our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He loves us the most, He always makes sure that we have what we need even before we ask.

Lesson Outline:

One day a big crowd of people followed Jesus, thousands and thousands of people, to a place far away from their homes. Jesus was very nice to all, He listened to everyone, healed the sick, helped the weak, and everyone was happy to be near Him.

After a while, it was time to eat. Jesus did not want the people to leave hungry since they had a long way to get home. So, Jesus asked His friends to get food for the people. But, no one had any food except a boy who had five loaves of bread and two fish. Do you think this is enough to feed everyone? Of course not, but with Jesus, yes! Jesus took the food and prayed and then asked His friends to give everyone to eat... and guess what happened... everyone ate and there were twelve baskets of leftovers.

With Jesus, everything is possible, He can take the little that we have and make it enough for everyone and more... We love Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion:

Jesus can do anything for us and cares for all our needs.
Don't forget to pray before you eat for God to bless our food.

Application:

Make a craft with a foam plate and stick on it fish and bread cut out of construction paper.

4 - Bread from Heaven, Water from a Rock

Objective:

God always helps us and provides for all our needs.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid" Hebrews 13:6

Reference:

Exodus 16:1-18, Numbers 20:1-13

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson. Ask the children: If we need something, who should we ask? Who takes care of all our needs?

Lesson Outline:

A long time ago, the people who loved God were living in Egypt, and had to do some very hard work for the king. God told His people that He will give them a new land in which to live and it will be much better for them; it was Moses who will lead them to this land. The people had to travel for a very, very, very long time, for days, and for weeks. It took them 40 years of travelling to arrive at the new land. All their food was finished in the first few days. They started to worry and to tell Moses that they had no more food..., but God did not leave them hungry. God told Moses that He will rain bread from heaven for them.

The next morning they woke up, and yes...this is what they saw..., little white puffs falling from the sky. They started getting baskets and collecting them and they made them into bread. No one had ever seen anything like that before. They were so happy and amazed. They called this bread "manna." Manna tasted sweet like it had honey in it. Since that day God gave all these people manna from heaven every day during their journey. When they become thirsty, they told Moses. Moses prayed and God made water come out of a rock for them and they all drank as much as they wanted. God gave them all that they needed all the time on their trip. He was their helper and did not want them to be afraid of anything because He was always with them.

Conclusion:

God always helps us and takes care of our needs. We should never be afraid or worried, because we know that God is our Father. He loves us, keeps us safe, and gives us all what we need. We must remember to always thank God for everything.

Application:

Use a coloring page of the story and a picture Bible. Use the Christian **Song**: God is my Helper. I shall not be afraid. From the DVD "My Every Day Bible Story Collection—Moses"

5 - David the Shepherd Boy

Objective:

Learn to always pray and praise God.

Memory Verse:

“I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart.” Psalm 9:1 (NKJV)

Reference:

1 Samuel 16

Introduction:

Who likes to sing here in Sunday school? What we sing here are hymns or songs that are about God. We are praising God when we sing joyfully and thankfully to Him. We will learn about a boy who loved to praise God.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a nice boy named David who loved God. David's father was Jesse and David had many brothers. David was a shepherd boy, which means he was the one who had the job of taking care of the sheep. He did a good job taking care of them. He led them to some green grass to eat and to some brooks of water when the sheep were thirsty. God always helped David, so David was able to fight any big animal that came so that it would not hurt his sheep. David always trusted in God and was not afraid of anything, because he knew that God will always keep him safe. With God's help, David and the sheep were always safe and happy. While David watched the sheep, he always liked to pray and sing praises to God. David had a harp which he liked to play his music while he praised God. These prayers that David sang to God are called Psalms. David prayed saying, “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart.” God saw how David loved Him and that David had a good heart and was very brave. So, God chose David to become a king. God sent Samuel the prophet of God to Jesse to tell him that one of his sons was going to be king. Jesse thought it was going to be one of David's brothers, because they were older, but God told Samuel that He wants David to be the king, because God looked at his good heart.

Conclusion:

It is wonderful to always pray and praise God just like David. God loves us and wants to hear our voices when we talk to Him in prayer and when we sing to Him. We love God too and should always talk to Him. Who has seen the prayer book called the Book of the Hours (the Agpeya) that is used in Church? (Show an Agpeya) The Agpeya has a lot of the Psalms that David wrote and now we all use these prayers too. Soon, when you learn how to read, you can use the Agpeya, too.

Application:

Show a picture of David as a shepherd playing on the harp. Make a craft of a harp using cut out construction paper or felt and write the verse on it.

6 - The Twelve Special Friends

Objective:

Learn what it means to be a disciple.

Memory Verse:

“...all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” John 13:35

Reference:

Matthew 10

Introduction:

Who has friends? How many friends do you have? Let every child say a name of one of his/her friends. Prepare a picture of twelve men to count, which represent the twelve disciples. Ask the children to count to twelve.

Lesson Outline:

When Jesus Christ started to teach people about God, He wanted special friends that can help Him in this work. Just like you all have friends, it was the same with Jesus. He wanted His friends to go everywhere with Him and to learn from Him. He had twelve special friends. They were called disciples.

One day, Jesus was standing on the side of a lake and was watching the fishermen cleaning their nets. He called Peter and Andrew and said: “Come with me.” They immediately left their boat and nets and went after Jesus. He also called James and John and they did the same. So, Jesus called Peter, Andrew, John, and James (Let the children repeat the names after you). Then Jesus saw Matthew who was collecting money. Jesus went to have dinner with him and Matthew left all his money and followed Jesus. So, how many friends does Jesus have now? Yes, they are five now: Peter, Andrew, John, James, and Matthew. He also chose more friends until He had 12 friends. Jesus chose them to follow Him, to learn from Him, and to help Him teach everyone the word of God.

- What are the friends of Jesus called? (Disciples); Do we remember some of their names?

Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus called all of us who love Him, His friends, and His disciples. He said: “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Like His twelve special friends (His disciples), we too, should always follow Jesus (by doing what He tells us in the Bible), and be good friends with Him (by always praying and talking to Him). We must obey Him, learn from Him, and do the work He asks us to do. Most importantly, we must love everyone around us because this is what Jesus wants the most from us. Like this, we could be the disciples of Jesus.

Application:

Use a picture Bible. Show the children the twelve disciples and let them count with you the 12 men.

7 - Saint Pishoy

Objective:

Learn from the saints the love of God and ask for their prayers.

Memory Verse:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart” Matthew 22:37

Reference:

Coptic Synexarium

Introduction:

Ask the children if they love God. Then ask them what they do when they love God. Read the Bible, pray, obey God, obey mom and dad, and love one other.

Lesson Outline:

Today our story is about a little boy whose name is Pishoy. Pishoy lived in a big family with many brothers and sisters. One day when his mom was sleeping, an angel appeared to her and told her that Pishoy will serve God.

When Pishoy became a young man, he went to live in a place called a monastery; it is like a church, where he wanted to spend his time alone with God, to read the Bible and pray. Pishoy used to pray in the morning when he woke up and before he ate. He also prayed in the afternoon, before he started doing his work, and also before he slept. He used to pray a lot and read the Bible a lot and above all, he loved and helped everyone.

One day, Pishoy was walking to church and it was really hot. He met an old man who had a hard time walking. The old man looked very tired. Because Pishoy loved everyone, he went quickly to help the old man. When he found out that the old man cannot walk, he carried the old man on his shoulders. After a while, he found a big surprise.... the old man was Jesus..... St. Pishoy was very happy to see Jesus and to carry him on his shoulders. Jesus appeared to St. Pishoy another time also, where St. Pishoy washed Jesus' feet (like we see in the well-known picture of St. Pishoy)

Conclusion:

Jesus will be very happy with us when we love each other as He was very happy with St. Pishoy because he loved everyone.

Application:

Give the children a picture of St. Pishoy to take home. Let the children make a frame around it using felt or popsicle sticks. Alternatively, give them a coloring page of St. Pishoy.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

(Starting with the Coptic New Year)

Week 2 – Who are the Saints?

Week 3 – Finding the Cross

Week 4 – Jesus Helps the Fishermen

Week 2 - Who Are the Saints?

Objective:

Learn that Saints are close to Jesus in heaven and they pray for us.

Memory Verse:

“Let the saints be joyful” Psalms 149:5 (NKJV)

Reference:

Coptic Synexarium

Introduction:

Bring a big picture of St. George and/or any church saint to show the children. Tell the children that we are celebrating El-Nayrouz feast and practice saying it. El-Nayrouz is the time we remember all the saints.

Lesson Outline:

Saints are people who loved Jesus so much more than anything else. They were willing to give up everything for Him. St. George, for example, loved Jesus so much, he would in no way give up being a Christian (being a Christian means believing in and loving Jesus). When St. George went to Paradise, God gave him seven crowns because he was so brave. St. George and all the other saints are very close to Jesus and are very happy in Paradise singing with the angels. They like to pray for us. Our Church here is called _____ church, because we love this saint and we ask him/her to pray for our church. When we pray at night and in the morning, we can say at the end of our prayers: “Please St. Mary, St. George, and St. Mina pray for us” (or any other saints that you know).

- What did we celebrate yesterday?
- Who did the saints love more than anything else?
- What is the name of our church?
- How many crowns did St. George receive in Paradise?
- What do the saints like to do for us?
- Where are these saints now?

Conclusion:

God loves us so much and He wants us to be like these saints that we see in the pictures. We can also ask the saints to teach us to love Jesus like they loved Him. Saints can be our friends. We can pick one or more, and we can always talk with them and ask them to help us. Show the children some of the saints’ pictures and teach them their names.

Application:

Give every child a picture of the saint of the church. Give a coloring page of St. George or any other church saint.

Week 3 - Finding the Cross

Objective:

Learn that the sign of the cross will keep us safe.

Memory Verse:

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Matthew 28:19

Reference:

Coptic Synexarium, Tute 17

Introduction:

Show a picture of Jesus on the cross or show a wooden cross. Ask, who has a cross in their room? Who knows how to make the sign of the cross? Teach the children to make the sign of the cross correctly. Also, teach them the words, “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, Amen.”

Lesson Outline:

There was once a queen named Helena who loved the Lord Jesus very much. She had a son named Constantine. One time as King Constantine was traveling, he saw a big cross appear in the sky. Jesus let him see the cross to let the king know that God will bring him to safety. Queen Helena loved the cross so much and wanted to find the cross upon which our Lord Jesus was crucified. She went to Jerusalem with lots of helpers and looked everywhere. Finally, an old man told her where she can find the cross. He told her that it was buried under the big hill of dirt that people made a long time ago to hide the cross. Queen Helena asked the helpers to start digging to bring the hill down. They worked very hard until they finally reached the cross of Jesus at the bottom. When they found it, they were very happy and miracles happened by the Holy Cross. Then Queen Helena prepared the place where they found the cross and she had a church built there in that place. They put the cross of Jesus in that church.

Conclusion:

We love the cross of our Lord Jesus because it reminds us that He loves us a lot. The cross keeps us safe. If we are ever afraid, we must make the sign of the cross. We should also make the sign of the cross before anything (sleeping, eating, going outside, riding in the car, etc.)

Application:

Make some arts and crafts of foam cross or use popsicle sticks on colored paper. Make a cross for each child to hang in their room.

Week 4 - Jesus Helps the Fishermen

Objective:

Learn about the power and love of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Memory Verse:

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19

Reference:

Luke 5:1-11

Introduction:

Ask the children if they ever went fishing. How long did it take to catch just one fish? Did you ever see a boat with fishermen? Did you know that the best time to catch a lot of fish is at night?

Lesson Outline:

There were a lot of people around Jesus near the lake. They all wanted to hear the word of God. Jesus saw two boats by the lake and the fishermen were washing their nets because they could not find any fish. Jesus got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon Peter, and He sat down in it and was teaching the people. When He finished speaking to the people, He told Simon to go out into the deep and let the nets down to catch some fish. Simon said: “Master, we have been trying all night to catch some fish and we could not catch any, but I will throw my nets again into the water because you said it.” When they threw their nets into the sea, right away a lot of fish got in the net. The net was so full that it was breaking. They had to ask their friends to come and help them because there was so much fish. Simon Peter saw how powerful Jesus is and that He can do anything. Simon Peter and the other fishermen (Andrew, James, and John) left everything (even all this fish that they caught) and followed Jesus all the time.

- What were the fishermen doing all night?
- Did they catch any fish all night?
- What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do after He finished teaching?
- Did Simon Peter obey what Jesus told him?
- How much fish did they catch?
- What did they do after they finished fishing?
- Who can help us when we have something hard to do?

Conclusion:

Remember, Jesus can help us with anything. He can do everything. He loves us and always wants us to follow Him.

Application:

Make fish of colored paper, decorate them, and put them in a net. Children’s Bible pictures can be used to tell the story. Bible song: “*I will make you fishers of men*” (bring CD to class)

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Week 1 – The Creation

Week 2 – Noah’s Ark

Week 3 – The Lord visits Abraham

Week 4 – Jacob’s Dream

Week 1 - The Creation

Objective:

Learn that God made us and everything around us.

Memory Verse:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis 1:1

Reference:

Genesis 1

Introduction:

Ask the children if they like to play outdoors. What do you like to do outside? Do you like seeing the trees, flowers, the sky, and the fields? Have you ever been to the beach and seen the big ocean? Show the children some pictures of the ocean and other nature scenes.

Lesson Outline:

Tell the children to close their eyes for a moment. Now it is all dark. Tell them to cover their ears. Now it is all quiet. A long time ago, before the world began, everything was quiet and dark... no people, no birds, and no animals. Then God spoke: “Let there be light... let there be day... let there be a sun to shine,” and the light came. How good the light was! God kept the dark for nighttime. He made the moon and stars to shine in the dark. That was good too. Then God said: “Let there be sky... land... sea,” and so it was. But, the world was still empty and quiet. Then, God made plants and trees, so, we can have very nice fruits and vegetables to eat and flowers to smell. Then, God made the fish to swim in the waters and the birds to fly in the sky. It was not quiet any more. The dog was saying: “woof-woof,” the cat was saying, “meow-meow,” the mouse was saying, “squeak-squeak,” and the cow was saying, “moo-moo,” etc. Although it became very noisy, God was happy with all that He made and He thought indeed that everything was good. At the end, God found that everything is good, but one thing was missing...Guess what that was? People! Yes, God created a man and his name was Adam and a woman whose name was Eve. Adam and Eve loved each other and God loved them and always helped them in everything. Who created everything? What was the last thing God created? Did God love and help Adam and Eve?

Conclusion:

God created everything around us and He created us. God did all this for one reason: He loves us very much. He wants us to have beautiful things around us. When we see the beautiful sky, birds, grass, or our wonderful parents and friends, we must remember that it was God who made them all and we should thank Him for everything.

Application:

A felt board can be used to display the Creation. As the story is being told, add the items created on that day on the board. Give the children a coloring page of the Creation.

Week 2 - Noah's Ark

Objective:

Learn that God keeps His children safe.

Memory Verse:

"I set My rainbow in the cloud" Genesis 9:13

Reference:

Genesis 6-9

Introduction:

Did you ever go to the zoo? Who can name some of the animals you've seen at the zoo? Today, we will hear a story about someone who had to take care of a lot of animals when there was a lot of rain.

Lesson Outline:

Noah was building a boat, an enormous boat ...Bang...Bang...Bang... went the hammer. The boat was big enough for all his family and two of every kind of animals and birds. The people in the world forgot about God, and they were doing bad things all the time. Noah was the only good man and was a friend of God. So, one day, God told Noah that He was going to send rain...rain...and more rain on the earth for 40 days and nights. God told Noah to build a big boat (The Ark) so it would swim on top of the water. He also told him to take two of every kind of animal and lots of food in the ark. Noah listened to God as he always did and built the big ark.

Two of every kind of animals and birds came to Noah in the ark. The animals were so excited...Quack...Quack...said the duck, Moo...Moo...said the cow, ...hurry...hurry... said the geese, and baa...baa... said the sheep (the servant should bring pictures or toy animals and act as they are entering the ark). Noah also brought all his family into the ark (his wife, his three sons and their three wives - a total of eight people). After they all entered the ark, God closed its door (Gen.7:16). The sky started to rain heavily. When the waters started to cover the whole earth, Noah's ark started to float and swim on top of the waters. Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal and bird were saved. Noah sent a dove 3 times to find out if the water had dried up. When Noah and his family and the animals came out, God showed them a big beautiful rainbow in the sky as a promise that this kind of flood will never happen again. God said to Noah: "I set My rainbow in the cloud" as a promise.

Conclusion:

God keeps His children safe. It is important to obey what God tells us, just like Noah did. It is important to obey our parents because they can tell us what is good for us and teach us what God wants us to do.

Application:

A toy ark and animals can be used as a visual aid along with a picture Bible and a coloring page.

Week 3 - The Lord visits Abraham

Objective:

Learn to welcome our visitors and learn that nothing is impossible for God.

Memory Verse:

“God has made me laugh” Genesis 21:6

Reference:

Genesis 18:1-15; Genesis 21:1-7

Introduction:

Have you ever had visitors come to your house? Were you happy? Do you like to have your friends come and play with you at your house?

Lesson Outline:

Abraham and Sarah loved God very much. They were very old in age and had no children. They always wanted a child, but, now they were too old. On one hot day, Abraham was sitting outdoors under a tree. He saw three men coming near. He was very happy he had visitors. He welcomed them and invited them to stay for dinner. He ran and told Sarah to get things ready. They made them the best dinner and were very nice to their visitors. While they were eating, they told Abraham something surprising, “Sarah will have a baby next year.” These visitors were the Lord Himself with two angels. At first, Sarah could not believe the news and laughed, but they said to her: “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

God kept His promise and Sarah had a baby boy. They named him Isaac and Sarah was very happy with a big smile on her face. She said out of joy “God has made me laugh.” (Gen. 21:6)

- In this story, what are the names of the two old people who loved God?
- How many men did Abraham see when he was sitting outside?
- Who were the visitors?
- What was the name of Abraham’s and Sarah’s baby?

Conclusion:

We should always be happy when visitors come to our house, just like Abraham and Sarah. When visitors come to our home, we should share our toys, play with them, and be very friendly. We have to make sure our guests are happy at our house. Jesus will be very pleased when we do that and we will receive a blessing as if Jesus Himself visited us. We should also remember that God can do anything for us. Nothing is hard for Him, but He gives us what we need at the right time because He loves us.

Application:

Tell the story while using a picture Bible. Give the children a coloring page after the lesson.

Week 4 - Jacob's Dream

Objective:

Learn that God has angels to help us.

Memory Verse:

"I am with you and will keep you" Genesis 28:15

Reference:

Genesis 28:10-21

Introduction:

How do Angels look? They are white and bright and beautiful (dress up as an angel in class and have the children take turns dressing up). What is a ladder? It has steps to go up and down. Today our story is about a special ladder and lots of angels.

Lesson Outline:

There was a man who loved God very much. His name was Jacob. Jacob's mom told him to go to his uncle because his brother was mad at him and Jacob was afraid. He walked and walked all day until the sun went down. Then he decided to get some sleep. He placed a stone under his head as a pillow and fell asleep. God sent him a nice dream to comfort him. He saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and lots of angels going up and down the ladder. At the top of the ladder, God appeared to Jacob. God blessed Jacob and promised to give him many children. God also told him that He will be with him always, wherever he goes. Jacob was surprised, and when he woke up, he said, "God is in this place." Jacob was very happy with this dream and remembered that God was with him.

Conclusion:

Angels can help us and support us wherever we go. Angels are beautiful and they do whatever God tells them to do. God gives everyone of us a guardian angel that is with us all the time and never leaves us. Even when we are sleeping at night, the guardian angel is still there to keep us safe. We must remember to pray before we sleep. We can ask God to give us nice dreams and for the angels to protect us.

Application:

Story can be told along with a picture Bible and a coloring page. Have the children take turns dressing up as angels. Alternatively, make arts and crafts of an angel.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Week 1 – Elijah and the Widow

Week 2 – A Nice Woman Builds a Room for Elijah

Week 3 – Jesus Calms the Storm

Week 4 – Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Week 1 - Elijah and the Widow

Objective:

Learn about sharing and about God's blessings.

Memory Verse:

"God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reference:

1 Kings 17:8-16

Introduction:

Who gives us everything that we have, our food, our homes, our clothes, our toys, etc..? God is the One who provides for all of our needs. God is very happy when He sees us sharing with others and loving others.

Lesson Outline:

Our story today is about a man named Elijah. He loved God and prayed all the time. Elijah always obeyed God. One day, God sent Elijah to a city to meet a poor woman who lives alone with her son. Elijah reached the gate of the city and saw the woman. She was about to go and make the last bit of food which she had. The woman did not have any more food to cook after this meal. Elijah asked her to bring him a cup of water. The woman obeyed Elijah and brought him a cup of water. Then, Elijah asked her to make him a little bread. The widow could not help it and said "I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and now I was about to make it as our last meal, for me and my son.... it is the last thing we have to eat." Elijah told her: "don't be afraid; go and bake the bread for you and your son, but first make a little bread and bring it to me." The woman trusted God and listened to Elijah. She took the last flour and the last oil and baked the bread for Elijah. While baking the bread, she found that the jar is full of oil and the bin is full of flour! When the woman saw that, she became very happy, they all had a very nice meal, and they all prayed thankfully to God.

Conclusion:

God blessed the widow and her son with a miracle (her oil and flour did not run out—everyday she found the jars filled to the top again)! This blessing was because she obeyed the man of God and shared her food. She trusted in God. When we share our things with others because we love them, God will give us many rewards for that. Remember to ask your mom and dad for money to put in the donation box in Sunday school. The church can use that money to share with children and families in need.

Application:

For a visual aid, bring a jar of flour, some oil, and a mixing bowl.. Give each child a small Ziploc bag with some of that dough to take home. Use a coloring page of Elijah and the widow.

Week 2 - Nice Woman Builds a Room for Elijah

Objective:

Learn to share and to love others.

Memory Verse:

“Let us love one another” 1 John 4:7

Reference:

2 Kings 4:8-11

Introduction:

Love is the greatest thing we can have. If we love one another, then we are doing the right thing and acting as God’s children.

Lesson Outline:

Elijah was a prophet. He loved God so much and loved all people. He used to pray for everyone and care about his people. One day, Elijah went to visit a rich woman, but, he did not have a place to stay. The woman asked Elijah to stay at her home. She asked her husband to build Elijah a small room on the roof of the house. She put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp for Elijah to be comfortable in the room. Elijah was so happy that he had a place to stay and was thankful to the woman. He prayed for her that God would give her and her husband what they wanted, a baby, so she can be very happy.

Conclusion:

This woman was very kind and loving and built a room for Elijah. Elijah too, prayed to God to give her a baby. We have to remember to be kind and loving to each other. We should also learn to share our things and to pray for each other.

Application:

Story can be told along with a picture Bible and a coloring page. At prayer time, have each child pray by name for the person next to him/her or have them repeat a prayer after the servant remembering each of their friends by name.

Week 3 - Jesus Calms the Storm

Objective:

Learn to have courage, and don't be afraid, , because Our Lord Jesus is with us.

Memory Verse:

"...even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Mark 4:41

Reference:

Mark 4: 36-41

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have ever been on a boat or seen one. Ask them to describe a rain storm and if they ever felt a strong wind. Explain to them that during a storm, the waves of the sea are very high.

Lesson Outline:

One day, Jesus was by the seashore and wanted to go to the other side. He asked His friends, the disciples, who had a boat to go with them. The disciples started sailing and all was fine at the beginning. Jesus felt tired so He went to the back of the boat to rest. Then, the wind started to blow...whoooo... whoooo..., and it was getting stronger and stronger. It started to be a big storm and the waves got higher and higher. Boom!Bang!....Splash! The waves were hitting the boat harder and harder, and water started to fill the boat. The friends of Jesus were scared and did not know how to steer the boat anymore. They were not able to get to the other side or even to go back.

They started looking for Jesus and found Him sleeping on a pillow in the back. They woke Him up quickly and said, 'Master, wake up, don't You see what is happening and how we are having problems....?' Jesus woke up; He looked at the storm and said: "Peace. Be still." As soon as He said this, the wind stopped and the sea was calm again with no waves at all. It was all nice and quiet again. Everyone was amazed and said, "even the wind and the sea obey Him!" Jesus told them that they should not have been scared.

Conclusion:

If we ever feel scared of anything, we should ask Jesus to help us. We should always remember that Jesus our Lord is with us, so we do not need to be afraid or scared. He will always keep us safe. He can do anything, and even the storm, the wind, and the sea obey Him.

Application:

Show a DVD of this miracle, if it is available. Use a coloring page of the story.

Week 4 - Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

Objective:

Remember to always thank God.

Memory Verse:

“We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!” Psalm 75:1 (NKJV)

Reference:

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:

When we ask for something, what do we say? ...Please! When we receive what we asked for, what do we say? Thank you! It is important to remember to say these expressions. It is also very important to always thank God for everything He gives us.

Lesson Outline:

Today our story is about someone who did a very good thing. He said thanks to God, and Jesus was so happy with Him. Once upon a time, there were ten sick men. Their skin was looking bad and no one wanted to touch them. One day, they saw Jesus, so they ran to Him and asked Him for help. Jesus looked at them and told them to go to the temple (church) and show themselves to the priest (Abouna). On their way, their skin started to look better and better until they were all well and all healed. All of them were so happy! They rushed to see their families and tell them the great thing that happened to them. Only one of them suddenly stopped and decided to go back to Jesus and thank Him. The man ran to Jesus and told him, “Thank you! Thank you, Jesus, for making me well.” Jesus was so happy to see that man come and thank Him. Jesus wondered why the other nine did not do the same.

Conclusion:

When we thank Jesus for what we have, Jesus will be very happy with us, bless us, and even give us more. What is the first thing we should say to God when we pray? Can each one tell us one thing for which we can thank God?

Application:

Tell the story along with a picture Bible. If available, use a DVD to show the story. A coloring page of that story can be also used. At prayer time, have the children repeat a prayer after the servant, thanking God and listing many things that we have, or ask each child to just thank God for one thing.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Week 1 – Daniel in the Lion’s Den

Week 2 – St. Mary and Archangel Gabriel

Week 3 – Baby Jesus in the Manger

Week 4 – Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus

Week 1 - Daniel in the Lions' Den

Objective:

Learn that God always protects His children.

Memory Verse:

“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths” Daniel 6:22

Reference:

Daniel – Chapter 6

Introduction:

Did any of you ever go to a zoo? What animals did you see? Who saw a lion? Is the lion strong? Did you hear its roar?

Lesson Outline:

There once a man named Daniel. Daniel loved God and prayed in the morning, at noon, and at night. One day, the king said that he does not want anyone to pray to God and whoever does not listen, will be sent to the lions’ den. Daniel would not stop praying to God, because he loved God and prayed only to God. He went home and prayed like he did every day. Some men saw him praying through his window, and they went and told the king. The king was sad, because he liked Daniel, but the king still had to put him in the lions’ den. Daniel was not afraid of the lions. Daniel prayed to God and God kept him safe. God sent His angel and the angel shut the lions’ mouths. That’s why the lions did not roar at Daniel nor hurt him, but were nice to him. The next morning, the king went to see what happened to Daniel. He called: “Daniel, did your God save you?” Daniel said: “Yes, king. My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths so that they did not hurt me.” They pulled Daniel out of the den and he was perfectly safe.

Conclusion:

God keeps us safe because we are His children. As God’s children, we need to always talk to Him like Daniel did. When we wake up in the morning and before we go to bed, we have to remember to pray.

Application:

Story can be told along with a picture Bible. Make a paper bag lion puppet.
Show a DVD of the story, if available.

Week 2 - St. Mary and Archangel Gabriel

Objective:

Learn that Saint Mary is very special because she is the Mother of our Lord Jesus.

Memory Verse:

“Blessed are you among women” Luke 1:28

Reference:

Luke 1:26-38

Introduction:

Do you remember how the angels look? Our story today is about an angel who came to say good news to Saint Mary.

Lesson Outline:

St. Mary lived in God’s house and was happy to serve there. One day as she was doing her work, all of a sudden, Archangel Gabriel was standing in front of her. She was so surprised that an angel came to her. Gabriel the Archangel said to her, “Be happy Mary, you are loved by God, and He is with you. Blessed are you among women.” Then the angel told her some very happy news. He told her that she was going to have a baby boy who will be very special, because He is the Son of God and a great King. He told her that His name will be Jesus. St. Mary was very amazed to hear that. She said “I will do whatever God wants.” Then the angel left. St. Mary was very happy and praised God.

Conclusion:

God chose St. Mary to be the mother of Jesus. We call St. Mary blessed, because she is the mother of Jesus. This means she is the Mother of God (Theotokos). This is something very special. Have you seen the pictures of St. Mary in the Church? Who is she carrying? We love St. Mary very much, because she is Christ’s mother and she takes care of us and helps us and prays for us.

Application:

Story can be told using big paper characters (like a felt board idea). Make a scratch color angel as a craft. Ask for St. Mary’s intercession during prayer time at the end of class.

Week 3 - Baby Jesus in the Manger

Objective:

Learn about Christmas (The Feast of the Nativity).

Memory Verse:

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem” Matthew 2:1

Reference:

Luke 2:1-7

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Has anyone ever been to a farm? Did you see a barn? A stable is like a barn where they keep the cows, sheep, and other animals. The place where they put the hay for the cows to eat is called a manger.

Lesson Outline:

St. Mary and St. Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. St. Mary was sitting on a donkey. Her tummy was big, because she had baby Jesus in her tummy. St. Joseph was trying to find a place for them to stay, but nobody welcomed them because they had no space. One man told them he had a stable. There were animals there, like sheep and cows. St. Mary and St. Joseph were thankful for the stable. On that night, Jesus was born. St. Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in swaddling (big, loose) clothes and put Him to sleep in the manger. So, Baby Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem among the animals, like sheep and cows. The sheep was saying, “Baa... Baa...” and the cow was saying, “Moo...Moo...,” but, Baby Jesus was sleeping calmly. The day Jesus was born is now called The Nativity Feast (Christmas), and we celebrate it every year.

Conclusion:

We all love Baby Jesus, because He came to be like us and to show us what we should do to be good children of God.

Application:

Prepare pictures of the Baby Jesus in the manger. Bring material to make a Nativity scene in the class. Ask the children to identify who are in the picture. Have each child make a Nativity craft. Teach the children the song: “*Away in a Manger.*”

Week 4 - Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus

Objective:

Learn that Jesus came as a baby, because He loves us.

Memory Verse:

“Glory to God in the highest” Luke 2:14

Reference:

Luke 2:8-20

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Go over the picture or the scene of the Nativity that is in the class and review the location of Bethlehem, the manger, Baby Jesus with St. Mary and St. Joseph, the stable, Jesus asleep in the manger, etc....

Lesson Outline:

When Baby Jesus was born, there were shepherds who were taking care of the sheep at night. They saw an angel in the sky who told them about Baby Jesus and that He is the Lord. The angel told the shepherds that they will find the Baby in the manger wrapped in swaddling (loose) clothes. After the angel said this, suddenly the sky was full of angels who were singing and praising God. The angels said: ***“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth.”*** The shepherds immediately went to see the Baby. They told everybody about what they saw. The shepherds were very happy and thankful to see the Lord Jesus Christ as a baby. They returned praising and glorifying God.

Conclusion:

We are also very happy and thankful during this time of year to celebrate the Nativity Feast (Christmas). We love Baby Jesus and we know that He was born as a baby because He loves us and wanted to bring us joy and peace to the world.

Application:

Show a DVD of the story. Make Christmas arts and crafts. For example, the children can make an angel that can be hung as an ornament holding a verse on the Christmas tree. Continue to teach the children the song: *“Away in a Manger.”*

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Week 1 – The Wise Men Visit Baby Jesus

Week 2 – Jesus Obeys His Parents

Week 3 – The Birth of St. John the Baptist

Week 4 – Jesus is Baptized

Week 1 - The Wise Men Visit Baby Jesus

Objective:

Learn that Jesus is our King, the true King.

Memory Verse:

“We have seen His star...” Matthew 2:2

Reference:

Matthew 2:1-12

Introduction:

Review the account of the birth of Baby Jesus in the manger and the story of the shepherds.

Lesson Outline:

When Baby Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. It was big and bright, bigger than all the other stars in the sky and very white and shiny. Wise men, like kings, saw the star from very far. They knew that it was a special star. They said to each other “this star must be for a new King who is born, let us go and find Him and worship Him.” They packed their stuff and started to travel on a very long journey, which took so many days. Nobody had any cars at that time; they had to use camels to travel. They followed the star for a long way and finally, it led them to Bethlehem, where Jesus was. They were very happy to see Baby Jesus and they bowed down to Him. They gave Him three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Conclusion:

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus, the Feast of the Nativity. We are all happy at this time and we give and receive presents just like the wise men did for Baby Jesus.

Application:

Show a DVD of the story and make Christmas arts and crafts.
Continue to teach the children the song: “*Away in a Manger*”

Week 2 - Jesus Obeys His Parents

Objectives:

Learn to obey our parents like Jesus did.

Memory Verse:

“Children, obey your parents...” Ephesians 6:1

Reference:

Luke 2:40-52

Introduction:

Talk to the children about listening to their parents and obeying them. Explain to them that it is very important to do this. God wants all children to obey their parents. Remind the children that Jesus was born as a baby in a manger and that He grew up little by little, just like they are growing.

Lesson Outline:

When Jesus was a little boy, St. Mary His mother and St. Joseph the carpenter, took very good care of Him. He always did what they asked Him. He was a very good boy and never caused any trouble. Every year, they would take Jesus and go to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Jerusalem was the city that had the big temple – like the church where people prayed. One time, when Jesus was twelve years old, St. Mary told Jesus to get ready for the trip to Jerusalem. They had to travel a long way to Jerusalem. When they got there, Jesus was very happy to spend time in the temple. He loved listening to the teachers who read God’s word. He was also asking and answering questions.

When the time came to leave Jerusalem, St. Mary and St. Joseph started their trip back home. Jesus was still in Jerusalem, but they did not know it. When St. Joseph and St. Mary did not find Jesus, they went back to the church (temple) and they found Jesus there talking with the teachers. All the teachers were very amazed at how much Jesus understood and how He answered the questions. Then His mother told Him that they were very worried about Him. Jesus said “Did you not know that I was doing work for God My Father.” Jesus loved staying in the temple, but His parents told Him that He had to go back home with them; so, right away Jesus obeyed, and He left with them and went home.

Conclusion:

Jesus obeyed His parents all the time. We also have to do the same and do what our parents tell us. Jesus wants us to be good children like He was.

Application:

Give each child a printed calendar for the next week and some stickers to give to their parents. Ask the parents to put a sticker on their child’s calendar every time s/he obeys. Have the children bring it back to class the following week and give them little prizes for the stickers they received.

Use a coloring page for the story.

Week 3 - The Birth of John the Baptist

Objectives:

Learn that God answers our prayers at the right time.

Memory Verse:

“...your prayer is heard...” Luke 1:13

Reference:

Luke 1: 5-25

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have noticed Abouna in church, when he uses the ‘shorya’ (the censer) to raise incense. Ask them about how it looks and how it smells when it is used during the prayers of the priest. Tell them that the story today is about a priest that lived a very long time ago and used to also raise incense and pray.

Lesson Outline:

There was a priest named Zacharias, and his wife’s name was Elizabeth. They both loved God very much and did everything well. Because they had no children of their own, they always prayed and asked God for a baby. After a long time, when they were very old (as old as grandparents), God still remembered their prayers. Zacharias was at the altar in the sanctuary one day, raising incense. Archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him “Your prayer is heard” and that Elizabeth will have a baby boy and they will call him John. He told him that John will be great, because he will prepare the way for Jesus. Zacharias told the angel: “how can I know that what you’re saying is really going to happen since we are too old to have a baby now?” The angel told him: “I am the angel Gabriel from heaven and God sent me to tell you this good news. To help you believe that this is true, when you go out, you will not be able to speak, until the baby is born.”

(Note for the servant: Do not emphasize that Zacharias became mute, so the children do not form an impression of a punishing God). Everything that the angel said did happen. Elizabeth had a baby boy. When He was born, his father Zacharias wrote “His name is John” like the angel told him. Right after that, he was able to speak again and praised God. He prayed a long prayer thanking God for the baby and for everything that God does, because God is so good to all his people and loves them very much.

Conclusion:

God always hears our prayers. Sometimes God us gives what we ask a while later, because He knows when it is the best time for us to have it. God loves us and gives the things that are good for us.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page for the story.

Week 4 - Jesus is Baptized

Objectives:

Learn that Jesus taught us about baptism. We get baptized as babies to have the Holy Spirit in us and because Jesus got baptized too.

Memory Verse:

“This is My beloved Son” Matthew 3:17

Reference:

Matthew 3:13-17

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have ever attended a baptism or seen their own pictures when they were baptized. Tell them that we are baptized because Jesus was baptized too, like they will hear in the story now.....

Lesson Outline:

John lived in the desert and was teaching the people to look for Jesus who will soon come to help them. He was telling the people to stop doing wrong things and to start doing good things. He was baptizing them in the Jordan River.

One day, Jesus came to the river and asked John to baptize Him. John baptized Jesus and that is why he is called John the Baptist. As soon as Jesus came out of the water, there was a beautiful white dove that came down from heaven and rested on Jesus. He was the Holy Spirit. Also, the heaven opened and God the Father said: “This is My beloved Son, I am very happy with Him.”

Conclusion:

Jesus was baptized because He wanted to teach us to also be baptized. Do you know that all of you were baptized when you were babies? Abouna puts the baby in and out of the water three times, and says: “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” When we are baptized, we become the children of God. So now, since we were all baptized when we were babies, we are all God’s children.

Application:

Watch a DVD about St. John the Baptist baptizing Jesus. Alternatively, show them a video of a baby’s baptism at one of our Coptic Orthodox churches. Let them know that when this happens, we receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts forever.

LESSONS FOR JONAH'S FAST

Week 0 – A Donkey that Speaks

Week 1 – Jonah and the Big Fish

Week 0 - A Donkey that Speaks

Objective:

Learn not to hit, not even animals. Learn that God can do anything, even make an animal speak.

Memory Verse:

“...the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey” Numbers 22:28

Reference:

Numbers 22

Introduction:

Does anyone have a pet at home? How do you take care of pets? Do pets feel hurt sometimes? How does a donkey look? What sound does it make? Can it speak? Today we'll hear a story about a donkey that actually spoke.

Lesson Outline:

There once a man named Balaam, who had a nice donkey that helped him to go from one place to another. One time, there was a king who wanted Balaam to go to him and to help him with a bad idea. As Balaam was on his way to meet the king, an Angel stood in the road to stop him. Balaam did not see the Angel, but the donkey did. The donkey went off the road. Balaam was angry, because he wanted the donkey to move. So, Balaam hit his donkey. The donkey looked at the Angel and could not move and lay down. Balaam hit the donkey three times. Then, God made the donkey speak, “*the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey,*” and the donkey said to Balaam: “*Why are you hitting me? Was I not always a good donkey to you?*” Then Balaam was able to see the Angel and bowed down. The Angel was not happy with Balaam, because he hit his donkey. Balaam said sorry to the Angel, because he had done something wrong by hitting his donkey.

Conclusion:

God can do anything. He made a donkey speak. Repeat the verse.

It is not nice to hit. We should not hit anyone at all. If we have a brother or sister, we should be kind to each other and never hit or hurt each other. We should be gentle with everyone and kind to the animals also. If we forget and do something wrong, we say should sorry and try not to forget this mistake again.

Application:

Use puppets of a donkey and a man (Balaam) for the story. Use a picture of a cut out angel with the puppets. Make a craft of a donkey with construction paper and some decorations.

Week 1 - Jonah and the Whale

Objective:

Learn that we can never hide from God. God will always protect us.

Memory Verse:

“Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights” Jonah 1:17

Reference:

Book of Jonah

Introduction:

Who likes to play hide and seek? How do you play it? Let’s try one game here in class. Even if we hide very well, there’s someone who can still always see us. Who is the One who can always see us no matter where we are?

Lesson Outline:

A long time ago, there was a man named Jonah. God told Jonah to go to a city (or a place) called Nineveh to help the people there. Jonah did not want to obey God, so he tried to hide by going on a boat that was going somewhere else far away. Do you think we can hide from God? No! God always sees where we are.

A big storm happened when Jonah was on the boat, while he was sleeping. The sailors woke him up and told him to pray to his God for help. Jonah said: “God made this storm happen because I did not do what He told me. The storm will not stop until I am thrown into the sea.” They did what Jonah said and threw him into the sea. Right away, the wind stopped, the waves calmed down, and the storm was over. Jonah went down in the deep water. God sent a big fish to help Jonah and keep him safe. The fish opened its mouth big and swallowed Jonah, so Jonah can be safe. Jonah stayed inside the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. He was praying and praying asking God to get him out. He said to God that he will obey Him. God heard Jonah’s prayers and made the fish throw Jonah out of its mouth again. Jonah ended up on the sand. He got up and obeyed God and started to walk towards the place Nineveh, just like God wanted him to do.

Conclusion:

God is everywhere and always sees us. We should always do what God wants, because He knows what is good for us. Even when Jonah did not obey, God kept him safe in the fish’s belly and his prayers were answered.

Application:

Use a book with pictures of the story. Make arts and crafts of a fish with Jonah using felt or construction paper. A lunch size paper bag can also be used to make a large fish, by cutting out a circle in the closed part for the mouth, and closing the other end with an elastic band for a tail.

LESSONS FOR THE GREAT FAST PERIOD

Week 0 – The Woman and the Two Coins

Week 1 – God Cares for Us More

Week 2 – The Lost Sheep

Week 3 – The Paralytic at the Pool

Week 4 – The Man Born Blind

Week 5 – The Last Supper

Week 6 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Week 0 - The Women with the Two Coins

Objective:

Learn to give some of what we have back to God.

Memory Verse:

“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reference:

Mark 12:41-44

Introduction:

Show the kids a donation box that is used every Sunday and ask them: What is this? Why do we put money in it? Where does this money go?

Lesson Outline:

The temple was the place like the church where people went to worship God. In the temple, there were big money boxes that were open on the top. People would put money in these boxes as they walked into the temple. The money was used for the temple and for the things needed there.

One day Jesus was in the temple and sat across from these boxes. He saw how many rich people came and put a lot of money in the box. They made a lot of noise while putting in their coins. Jesus knew that these people had a lot of money, and He knew that they had given only a little bit of the lots that they have. Then, a widow came and quietly dropped two small coins in the box. She was a poor woman, whose husband had died. She did not put much money, but it was all she had. She wanted to give the little that she had to God’s house. When Jesus saw that, He told His friends that in God’s eyes, this poor widow has given more than all the others, because they only gave a part of what they have, but she gave everything she has.

Conclusion:

When we give money to the Church, it’s because we love God. God is the One who has given us everything we have. When we are happy to give from what God gave us, He blesses us and gives us even more. Happy also means cheerful like the verse says: “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Application:

Use a children’s picture Bible to tell the story.

Tell the kids: When we put money in the donation box today, we will do it quietly, and we will thank God for everything He gave us. Bring the donation box and give each child something to put in it even if they didn’t bring some donations that week.

Week 1 - God Cares for Us More

Objective:

Learn to look and admire everything which God has made. Remember that God cares for us even more than all these things.

Memory Verse:

“..He cares for you” 1 Peter 5:7

Reference:

Matthew 6:25-33, Luke 12:22-32

Introduction:

If possible, take the children outdoors in the yard to look at some nature. Talk to the children about birds, trees, flowers, rabbits, squirrels, etc... Ask them if they like to look at these things. Who created them? Who takes care of them?

Lesson Outline:

So many people loved Jesus. They loved to listen to what He was teaching them about God. One day, Jesus was sitting on a mountain and talking to the people. There were a lot of people who went there to be with Jesus. Parents and kids were there, grandparents and even babies. Some people were sick and Jesus healed them. Some were worried about something and wanted Jesus to answer their questions.

Jesus started to tell them how much God cares for everyone. He said: “Look at the birds of the air, they don’t know how to make their own food, but God, your heavenly Father, feeds them. God cares for you even more than for the birds, so for sure, He will give you your food too.” Then Jesus told them to look at the flowers and lilies that are in the fields, and He said: “See how beautiful they are, they do not know how to make clothes for themselves. God dressed them in colors more beautiful than a king’s robes. If God cares so much for the birds and the flowers, He cares even more for you.”

Conclusion:

God loves everything He made and cares for it. He will give us everything we need. We need to be happy and pray and thank God for everything. When we look at the nice birds and flowers, let us remember how beautiful God made everything and how much He cares for them and for us even more.

Application:

Make arts and crafts of a bird or a flower using different colored construction paper. Use glitter and other items for decoration. Bring flowers to the class to show the kids how God created beautiful things. Let each child take a flower home.

Week 2 - The Lost Sheep

Objective:

Jesus loves us and cares about us like the good shepherd.

Memory Verse:

“I am the good shepherd” John 10:11

Reference:

Luke 15:3-7

Introduction:

Who knows what sound the sheep makes? How do sheep eat? Do you know what a shepherd does? He takes the sheep out to eat and play. He finds green grass for them to eat and finds a place that has water for the sheep to drink. Does the shepherd love his sheep? Yes! He also has to make sure his sheep are safe from any danger. Today, we are going to tell you a story about a very good shepherd.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a shepherd who had 100 sheep. The good shepherd always counted his sheep every night to make sure they are all there. One day, a little sheep was not there anymore. He counted all the sheep, and then ..., counted again to make sure, but still found one missing. It was the littlest one named Toto, who was missing. That made the shepherd very sad to think that one of his sheep was not safe. Quickly, the shepherd left the 99 behind and went to look for the one little lost sheep. He looked over mountains and hills, behind trees, under the cliff, in rocky places, and everywhere. (Let the children act as if they are also looking for the lost sheep. A puppet sheep can be used). He called his name everywhere.....Toto...Toto..., do you hear me? Until, finally, he heard a little sound far away.....baaaa.....baaaa....Yes!! This is the sound of Toto.... The shepherd ran to him and hugged him and picked him up. The shepherd was so happy that he had finally found his lost sheep. Toto was also very happy to be safe again because he had been scared when he was lost. The shepherd carried Toto up on his shoulders and brought him all the way back home to the other 99 sheep. The shepherd was very happy to have all 100 sheep safe and together again.

Conclusion:

In the same way, Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are the little sheep. Jesus loves us (His sheep) very much and wants us always to be close to Him. To stay close to our Shepherd Jesus, we must pray, talk to Him, and hear what He tells us in the Bible. Jesus will be looking for anyone who is not close to Him to bring him back, so that person can be safe with Jesus.

Application:

Make a cotton ball sheep as a craft.

Give each child the picture of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Week 3 - The Paralytic at the Pool

Objective:

Learn about the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

“The blind see and the lame walk” Matthew 11:5

Reference:

John 5:1-15

Introduction:

Talk to the children about how it is not comfortable when one is sick. If we have to stay in bed because we are sick, we probably get bored and tired. Our story today is about a man who had to stay on his bed for the longest time.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a very special pool or a small lake. Once a year, an angel would come and stir the water. If anyone was sick and jumped in the water when it was stirred by the angel, that person would get better right away. A lot of people waited around the pool trying to get in when the angel stirred the water.

One day Jesus was walking near that pool and saw that sick man on his bed. Jesus knew he had been sick for a long time. Jesus asked him: “Do you want to be made well?” The man said: “Yes, but there’s no one to help me get into the pool when the water is moved.” Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” Right away, the man was made well, got up, and was able to walk. The man was very happy that he could walk again, because he had been on his bed and not able to move for 38 years, which is a very long time. All the people who saw him walking were very surprised and were asking him who healed him.

Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus can do everything and help us, because He loves us. If someone is sick, we should pray and ask our Lord Jesus to help him or her, because He can heal the sick and make them feel better.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page of this story.

Week 4 - The Man Born Blind

Objective:

Learn about the power and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord opens the eyes of the blind” Psalm 146:8 (NKJV)

Reference:

John 9:1-7

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse. Ask the children who created them and every part of them, like their ears, hands, feet, eyes, etc... Turn the lights off in the classroom. Ask the children to close their eyes. Ask them what they can see now... It's just all dark. Talk to them about how helpful it is to be able to see.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a man that was not able to see anything around him since he was born. He was blind, which means he couldn't see. He must have been very sad. He never knew how his parents or friends looked. He never knew how the trees or the flowers or the animals looked. He had never seen the sky, the sun, the moon, or the stars.

One day, as Jesus passed by, He noticed a man who was blind. Jesus wanted to help this man. Jesus spit on the ground to make the dirt soft. Then, He took that mud that He made and put it on the man's eyes. He told the man to go and wash his eyes. The man did just as Jesus told him. As the water washed away the mud, something amazing started to happen. The man started to see light instead of darkness! He opened his eyes and looked around. He saw everything for the first time: the sky, the sun, the birds, the trees, the flowers, the animals, and the people. How wonderful it was for him to go home and see the faces of his parents and friends. He must have been very happy and thankful to Jesus.

Conclusion:

Jesus made new eyes for this blind man. Jesus can do everything because He is our Lord and God. When we are sick or someone we know is sick, we should remember to pray and ask Jesus for help. Jesus will hear us when we pray and will do what is good for us.

Application:

Tell the story along with a picture Bible or a DVD. A coloring page of that story can also be used.

Week 5 - The Last Supper

Objective:

Learn that our Lord Jesus is the One who taught us to take Communion and what Communion is.

Memory verse:

“Take, eat, this is My body” Matthew 26:26

Reference:

Matthew 26:26-29, John 13: 5&34

Introduction:

Ask the children what happens at the end of the Liturgy? Ask them who took Communion (Eucharist) today? Who gives us Communion (Eucharist)? How do we need to stand and behave while waiting for Abouna to give us Communion (Eucharist)?

Lesson Outline:

The day before Jesus was on the cross, He had a special dinner with his twelve disciples (friends). First, He put water in a little tub and washed His friends’ feet and dried them with a towel. This was to show them how much He loved them. He also told them that He wants everyone to love one another like He loves us. Then, Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks and blessed it. He broke the bread and gave it to each of His disciples and said: “Take, eat, this is My body.” Then, He took a cup of wine, and He also gave thanks and blessed it and He told them: “Drink from it all of you, for this is My Blood.” He told His disciples, He was giving His Body and Blood so that all our sins (anything bad we did) would be forgiven. He also told them (and us) to do the same again and remember Him. This is why, we do the same here at our church, and the priest gives us the Body and Blood of Jesus in Communion.

Conclusion:

We should come to church early and pray during the Liturgy to get ready to take Communion. Taking Communion (Eucharist) means, Jesus Himself comes into our hearts. We have to remember to say a little prayer after Communion to thank Jesus for coming into our hearts. If Jesus is in our hearts now, we must remember how much He loves us. We love Him too and want Him to be happy in our hearts when we love everyone around us like He does.

Application:

Bring the cloth (lefafa) used when we take the Body in Communion and teach the children how to hold it on their right hand, to cover their mouths, then to return it to its proper place. Teach them that it is very important not to drop any piece, to keep their mouths closed while chewing, to not put their fingers in their mouths, and to finish swallowing everything before they drink the water (since that can cause some parts of the Communion to fall in the water cup while they are drinking).

Week 6 - Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Objective:

Learn that Jesus is our King and we love Him.

Memory verse:

"Hosanna in the highest!" Mark 11:10

Reference:

Mark 11:1-10

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson. Ask the children if they had ever seen a donkey and palm trees. Remind them how Jesus loves the children and how the children love Jesus.

Lesson Outline:

Jesus sent two of His disciples and told them that a short distance away, they will find a little donkey tied. "Loose it and bring it here, to Me. If anyone asks you why you are doing this, tell them the Lord needs it," Jesus said. So they did as Jesus told them and brought Him the donkey. He sat on it and rode on it to enter Jerusalem. When the people saw Jesus coming, all of them went around Him and were very happy.

The people took branches from palm trees and they put them on the ground and waved them in the air. They took off their coats and laid them on the ground in front of Jesus. They were shouting: "Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest!" All the children did the same thing and loved Jesus, because they knew how much Jesus loved them. They all wanted Jesus to be their King.

Conclusion:

Next week (on Sunday), we will be celebrating that special feast day, "Hosanna Sunday," here at church. You will be able to bring palm branches with you and sing hymns saying "Hosanna!" At church, we will all be very happy that day, because we know that Jesus is our King and He will come into our hearts.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page, or make arts and craft of that theme.

LESSONS FOR THE PENTECOST PERIOD

Week 1 – Jesus Christ is Risen!

Week 2 – Jesus Appears to His Friends

Week 3 – Fish for Breakfast

Week 4 – Jesus Loves the Children

Week 5 – Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

Week 6 – Jesus Goes Up to Heaven

Week 7 – Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day

Week 1 - Jesus Christ is Risen!

Objective:

Learn about the Resurrection Feast (Easter).

Memory verse:

“He is risen, as He said” Matthew 28:6

Also, teach the children this greeting and response, “Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!”

Reference:

Matthew 28

Introduction:

Ask the children what the feast was called that was celebrated last Sunday. We did not have Sunday school because the Liturgy was celebrated very late at night instead of in the morning, because it is a big feast. Let’s learn today why we celebrate and why we are so happy at ‘Easter,’ the Feast of the Resurrection.

Lesson Outline:

First, did you ever see the picture of Jesus on the cross? Jesus went on the cross because He loves us. He chose to be the One to get hurt instead of us. He told us He loves us this much by stretching out His Hands on the cross. Jesus’ friends were very sad when they saw Him on the cross. They did not know that God had planned a wonderful surprise for them, which would make them happy again.

After they took Jesus down from the cross, they put Him in a nice tomb and closed it with a big, huge stone. There were even soldiers guarding the tomb, to make sure no one would come and open it.

But surprisingly, on the third day, which was very early Sunday morning, there was an earthquake (the ground was shaking with a big noise), and the Archangel came from heaven with a very bright light and rolled the stone away. The soldiers fell down from all the light.

The angel rolled away the stone, because Jesus had risen!! He was not in the tomb anymore; He was not hurt anymore, because Jesus was stronger than anything. There was a friend named Mary Magdalene and others with her who went to see the tomb. They saw the angel there who told them that Jesus is not there: “He is risen as He said.” Then Mary Magdalene, saw Jesus Himself in the garden. She was so happy and kissed his feet and went and told his disciples that she had seen the Lord Jesus and that He is risen and He is alive.

Conclusion:

Jesus arose on the third day. When we see the cross of Jesus, we are not sad because we know that He arose and is strong and is with us always. We are happy to know how much our Lord Jesus loves us.

Application:

Make a craft for the Resurrection or a coloring page. Bring balloons and a cake to celebrate in class.

Week 2 - Jesus Appears to His Friends

Objective:

Learn that Jesus is always with us and gives us peace.

Memory Verse:

“Peace be with you” John 20:19

Reference:

John 20:19-21

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson about the Resurrection by showing the children a picture.

Ask the children if anyone can go into a room with the door closed and show them that you can't exit the class if the door is closed.

Lesson Outline:

As you remember, after Jesus was on the cross and then in the tomb for three days, He arose early Sunday morning. First, He appeared to Mary Magdalene. She was very happy that she saw Jesus again and she told His friends (the disciples) about what had happened. Later on that same day, the disciples of Jesus were all together in a room praying. They had all the doors and windows closed and they were a little scared. Suddenly, Jesus came and was standing in the middle of them all. He did not need to open a door or a window to enter the room. He just appeared in the middle. He said to them “Peace be with you,” and He did not want them to be afraid. He showed them the marks of the nails in His hands, so they can know that it was really Jesus Himself who was on the cross and who it is He who is standing with them now (A picture of the resurrected Jesus with the marks on His hands and feet can be shown). Jesus said to them a second time: “Peace be with you!” He wanted to make sure they are very happy and that they have peace and not fear. Then, they were sure that this is Jesus and they were very happy and joyful that He is with them again.

Conclusion:

Jesus is always with us also even if we cannot see Him. He wants us to remember that He is with us always and He gives us peace. He does not want us to be scared of anything, because He loves us very much and takes care of us.

Application:

Make (Easter) arts and crafts activities related to the Holy Resurrection.

Week 3 - Fish for Breakfast

Objective:

Learn that Jesus cares for us very much.

Memory Verse:

“It is the Lord!” John 21:7

Reference:

John 21:1-14

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson. Show the children the picture of the resurrected Christ. Ask them if anyone has ever tried fishing or seen a net for catching fish. Ask them if they know how to swim and remind them not to go in a pool or any water alone.

Lesson Outline:

The disciples were happy that their Lord Jesus was alive again and that He appeared to them in the room when the doors were shut. A few days later, Peter said to his friends: “I’m going fishing.” They said: “We are coming with you.” They went out in a boat and threw their net in the water, but they did not catch any fish. All night they tried, but they did not catch anything.

Early in the morning, they saw someone on the shore who was calling them. They did not know it was Jesus. He told them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat to catch some fish. When they did that, a lot of fish came and filled the net. Then, John said to Peter: “It is the Lord.” When Peter heard that it was Jesus, he got so excited that he jumped in the water and swam to Jesus. (Peter was a grownup who knew how to swim well).

When they all reached Jesus, they saw that He made a little camp fire and He was already cooking some fish on it and had some bread. He said to them: “Come and eat breakfast.” They knew that it was the Lord Jesus. They were very happy to see Him again and to eat with Him after He had risen.

Conclusion:

Jesus prepared breakfast for His disciples because He loves them and cares for them. He knew that they had worked all night and must be tired and hungry. Jesus cares for us too and gives us all we need. He is the best friend we can ever have. We must remember to thank Him for everything.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page or other arts and crafts of a cut out fish that they can decorate with sparkles, etc.

Week 4 - Jesus loves the Children

Objective:

Learn that Jesus loves every child very much.

Memory Verse:

“Let the little children come to me” Mark 10:14

Reference:

Mark 10:13-16

Introduction:

Talk to the children about coming to church. Do you get ready fast enough when your parents tell you it time to go to church? Why do we like coming to church? Whose house is it?

Lesson Outline:

One day, a mother told her kids, "Hurry, go wash your face, get dressed, get ready, we have to go."
"Where are we going, Mommy?" asked the kids.
"We're going to see Jesus," she told them.
"Yes! Yes!" (Clap hands)

The kids were very happy and excited to hear that they were going to see Jesus. They quickly got ready and went with their parents. There were a lot of other children going to see Jesus. He was sitting and teaching a lot of people about God. But, when the kids reached this place, the friends of Jesus (his disciples) said, "You cannot see Jesus now because He is too busy teaching the grown-ups." Jesus looked and saw what the disciples did, and He did not like what they told the kids. He said, "Let the little children come to Me." He told them: "Do not stop the children from coming to Me, I love them." Then He took all the children in His arms, hugged them, and blessed them.

Conclusion:

Jesus really loves the children. Jesus loves you all very much (name each child in the class and tell them that Jesus loves them). When our parents tell us to get ready for church, we should be happy and do it right away because we are going to meet Jesus in His house. He is here with us, even if we don't see Him. He loves us.

Application:

Show the kids a picture of Jesus with the children. Watch a DVD about this story, if available. Use a coloring page of Jesus with the children or a craft of "Jesus loves me." Example: a fridge foam magnet saying "Jesus Loves Me." Sing the Bible songs: "*Jesus loves me*" and "*Jesus loves the little children.*"

Week 5 - Jesus Visits Mary and Martha

Objective:

Learn the importance of listening to Jesus or the Word of God.

Memory Verse:

“Mary has chosen that good part” Luke 10:42

Reference:

Luke 10:38-42

Introduction:

Ask the children what they do when they have visitors coming. We prepare food for them and get things ready.... Then, when they come, we sit with them and talk together.....

Lesson Outline:

There were two sisters and a brother who were good friends of Jesus. Their names were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Jesus went and visited them many times and liked to spend time with them. One time, Jesus was going to visit them. So, they were working hard to get things ready. As soon as Jesus arrived and sat down, Mary left everything and went to sit by His feet. She loved to listen to Jesus and the words He was teaching. Martha was still not finished preparing all the food, and she kept on working and working. Then she looked and saw Mary sitting by Jesus and not helping her. She got upset about that and said: “Jesus, can You please tell Mary to come and help me?” Guess what Jesus answered. He said: “Martha, Martha, you are worried about so many things.....but, Mary has chosen that good part that cannot be taken away from her.” Jesus told Martha that what Mary was doing was more important, which is to listen to what He is teaching.

Conclusion:

We learn from this story that it is very important to listen to what Jesus is teaching us. When we are in Sunday school and we listen to the Bible story, it is like Jesus Himself is sitting with us and teaching us. We should leave everything else and pay attention. It is the same at home when we read the Bible or pray with our parents. We should do like Mary did and spend time with our friend Jesus, and not worry about anything else (our toys, watching TV, etc...). Jesus loves us very much and loves to have us spend time with Him.

Application:

Let the children make a craft or a coloring page related to the story.

Week 6 - Jesus Goes Up to Heaven

Objective:

Learn that Jesus is in Heaven and also with us everywhere.

Memory Verse:

“I am with you always” Matt.28:20

Reference:

Acts - Chapter 1

Introduction:

Briefly review the lesson about the Resurrection. Tell the children that this week we are celebrating the Ascension. We will learn about the Feast of the Ascension.

Lesson Outline:

It was 40 days after Jesus had risen. The friends of Jesus were together with Him on a mountain. Jesus put His hands on them and blessed them. He told them to tell all the people about Him and His love for the world. He also told them: *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matt. 28:20. He also told them that He has to go up to heaven to God, His Father, and that they do not need to be sad at all but happy for Him. Then, as they were looking at Jesus, they saw Him going up...up...up... into the clouds, until they could not see Him anymore. They stood and looked up for a long time into the sky. Then, suddenly, they saw two angels standing next to them. They told them: “Why do you stand here staring into heaven? Jesus will someday come back again on the clouds and everyone will see Him in the sky.” Then they went back to Jerusalem and they were all praying together.

Conclusion:

We call the time when the Lord went up to heaven, the Ascension. He went up to heaven to prepare a wonderful place for us. Our Lord is in heaven, but also with us everywhere we go, because He is our God.

Application:

Give the children a coloring page of the story. Try to teach the English part of the hymn: *“He ascended to the heavens and sent us the Paraclete. Spirit of truth, the Comforter. Amen. Alleluia.”*

Week 7 - The Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day

Objective:

The Holy Spirit is in us and helps us do good things and to please God.

Memory Verse:

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:4

Reference:

Acts 2:1-4

Introduction:

Who do we have in our hearts, and who can help us to do all the good things? Yes, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Explain to the children that we are celebrating the Feast of the Pentecost. Today, we will learn about the day of the Pentecost and what happened on that special day.

Lesson Outline:

After Jesus arose from death, He spent a lot of time with His friends (the disciples and the apostles) teaching them everything about God and heaven. He told them that He will go up to heaven to His Father, and He will send to them a very special power, who is the Holy Spirit. He also told them that the Holy Spirit will help them to teach other people about God.

One day, while Jesus’ friends were in a big room praying, they heard a sound from heaven like a strong wind that came and filled the whole room. They looked at each other and each one of them had a flame on the top of his head. This was a very special flame that did not burn them. This flame was the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised He will send to help them.

Jesus’ friends were filled with a special power from God and they started speaking in different languages and doing miracles like Jesus. Each one of the apostles went to a different place and taught people about Jesus, how much He loves them, how He wants them to be good, and also that they should love each other. Mark, the apostle, went to Egypt. Did anyone ever visit Egypt? He taught our great...great... great grand parents about Jesus and this is how we know about Jesus.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to be good and to love each other, help, share, and to do all the good things that God wants us to do. He teaches us to know God better. We all received the Holy Spirit as babies when we were baptized in the church.

Application:

Use a picture of the Pentecost and a coloring page. Continue to teach the English part of the hymn: *“He ascended to the heavens and sent us the Paraclete. Spirit of truth, the Comforter. Amen. Alleluia.”*

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Week 2 – The First Miracle by St. Peter (for the week of the Apostles' Feast)

Week 3 – Hannah's Prayer

Week 4 – God Calls Sleepy Samuel

Week 2 - The First Miracle by St. Peter

Objective:

Learn that the name of Jesus our Lord is powerful.

Memory Verse:

“Rise up and walk” Acts 3:6

Reference:

Acts 3:1-11

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Have you ever seen a beggar? Do you know beggar means? He is someone who does not have money and asks people for money. Some of them are sick and cannot work and they have no money. That is why they might become beggars.

Lesson Outline:

Today’s story is about a man that could not walk since he was a baby. He had a problem with his feet and could never walk. This man could not work, so he was very poor. He had to sit by the door of the church (the temple) to ask every one coming in and going out for money. The name of that door was the Beautiful Gate.

One day, St. Peter and St. John were going to the church and this man asked: “Can you give me some money so I can eat, I am very hungry?” St. Peter and St. John did not have money to give him. St. Peter told him: “I do not have money, but I can ask the Lord to make you well, so you can work and get money and then eat.” St. Peter then said: “In the name of Jesus Christ, rise up and walk.” Immediately, the man jumped up and was able to stand up and to walk like a strong man. He was very happy. He immediately went into the church with them and was thankful to God. All the people in the church were surprised when they saw the man that was not able to walk, walking in the church like all of them. They were so amazed. St. Peter explained to them that He did not heal this man on his own, but that it was by the power of God, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion:

St. Peter made the man who could not walk well again by the power that Jesus gave him. St. Peter had the power of Jesus Christ, because he was His friend and he had the Holy Spirit in him.

Application:

Show them a DVD of that story, if available. Use a coloring page.

Week 3 - Hannah's Prayer

Objective:

Learn that God hears our prayers.

Memory Verse:

“Hear my prayer, O Lord” Psalm 143:1 (NKJV)

Reference:

1Samuel 1:1-27

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have ever seen a newborn baby. How does the baby look? Mommy and Daddy are really happy when God sends them a baby.

Lesson Outline:

Hannah did not have any children and really wanted to have one. That made her very sad. She went to the temple and started praying and telling God how she was so sad. She was crying with tears as she prayed. She promised God that if He gave her a child, she would bring him to God's house to help out and serve there.

Eli the priest saw her praying and told her to go home and not to be sad and that her prayer will be answered. God did hear Hannah's prayer and gave her a baby boy. She named him Samuel and took him to God's house as she promised. Hannah was very joyful and thankful and praised God.

Conclusion:

When Hannah was sad, she went to God and prayed about it. God helped her and made her very happy. We should also do the same when we are sad. God always hears what we say and He answers our prayers. God always knows what's best for us and gives us what we ask when it is good for us and at the right time for us. We should not forget to talk to God every morning and every night, because He loves us and loves to hear us pray. We also love talking to God, because He is our Father.

Application:

Use a coloring page and a picture Bible. Bring a baby doll and act out the story for the children.

Week 4 - God Calls Sleepy Samuel

Objective:

Learn to pray before we sleep and listen to God.

Memory Verse:

“Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears” 1 Samuel 3:9

Reference:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Introduction:

Ask the children what they do before they go to bed. Do they brush their teeth and wear PJs before they sleep? Do they read a book? Is it a Bible storybook? Do they pray? Ask each child to mention just one thing for which he/she can pray. Our story today is about a very nice boy who lived in the church and used to pray before he sleeps. Review the previous lesson about Hannah and baby Samuel.

Lesson Outline:

Samuel was a very nice boy who loved to pray and do all that pleases God. He used to live in the church with Eli the priest. One night while Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone calling him. Samuel ran to Eli; he thought Eli the priest was calling him. Eli told him that this didn't happen and that he didn't call him.

Samuel went back to bed and tried to sleep. Guess what happened? He heard someone calling him again. So he went to Eli, and Eli told him that he didn't call him. Samuel tried to sleep again, but he heard the same voice for the third time. So, he ran to Eli. This time, Eli told him that this is GOD who is calling him. He told Samuel to say “Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears,” when he hears the voice again. This is exactly what Samuel said when he heard God calling him again. God told Samuel about important messages for Eli the priest.

Conclusion:

It is very important to pray before we sleep, so we can feel that God is with us and guards us all night. We should all learn to obey God and to listen to Him as Samuel did. When God asks us to love one another and be nice to each other, we should listen.

Application:

Use a coloring page and a picture Bible for the story.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Week 1 – Four Friends Help a Paralytic

Week 2 – Jesus Invited to a Wedding

Week 3 – Saint Mary the Beautiful Dove

Week 4 – Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Week 1 - Four Friends Help a Paralytic

Objective:

Learn that Jesus can heal the sick. Learn to pray for the sick.

Memory verse:

"Arise and take up your bed and walk" Mark 2:9

Reference:

Mark 2:1-12

Introduction:

Ask the children about their friends. Ask them to name a few. What do friends do together? Other than playing and having fun, friends can also help each other and go to church together, etc. Our story today is about some friends who were very caring and helpful.

Lesson Outline:

There once was a man who could not walk (he was a paralytic). He needed others to help him go from one place to another. It was very hard for him to live that way. He had four very caring friends who loved him and helped him. One day, his friends came and told him that he can get healed and they were very excited. He asked them how that can happen, and they told him that Jesus has arrived to their town and He is healing everyone who is sick that goes to Him. The man was happy to hear his friends say: "Let's go and find Jesus," and they carried him and his bed.

They found Jesus in a house teaching, but there was a little problem. There were so many people in the house and around the door. There was no place for the man to get into the house. The four friends were so caring. They really knew Jesus was the only One who can make their friend walk, so they kept on thinking of a way. Finally, they climbed up to the roof of the house. They made an opening in the roof and let their friend down with his bed using ropes, right until he was in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw him and saw his friends helping, he told him, "Arise and take up your bed and go to your house." The man got up and was able to walk. Jesus healed him! Everyone who saw this was amazed. The man was very happy that he can walk again. His friends that carried him were also very happy for him.

Conclusion:

We are sure that Jesus can heal those who are sick. How can we help if we know someone who is sick? We can pray and ask Jesus to heal them. We need to pray for those who are sick and ask Jesus to heal them, because Jesus, the Son of God, can do everything and nothing is hard for Him.

Application:

Make a craft with construction paper of a flat bed, a man cut out of paper, and tie ribbons in the four corners for rope.

Week 2 - Jesus Invited to a Wedding

Objective:

Learn that St. Mary can help us by asking Jesus for us.

Memory Verse:

“Whatever He says to you, do it” John 2:5

Reference:

John 2:1-11

Introduction:

Ask the children if they have ever been to a wedding, or seen a bride and groom. Show them a nice wedding picture. Today, we will hear a story about a wedding that Jesus and His mother St. Mary attended.

Lesson Outline:

One day, Jesus and His mother were invited to a wedding. There was a lot of food, desserts, and drinks. All the people were having a good time together and were happy with the bride and groom. Then, St. Mary came to Jesus and told Him that there was a little problem. She told Him that all the wine was finished and they had no more wine to drink. She knew Jesus can do something to help with that problem. Then, she went to the servants who were there and told them to do whatever Jesus tells them to do.

Jesus told the servants to fill all the six big water pots with water to the top. They obeyed Jesus and did as He told them. Then, Jesus told them to take some out in cups and give to the people to drink. When they did as He said, they looked at it, and were very surprised. The water they filled was not water anymore! Jesus had turned it into wine. The people tasted this wine and said that it tasted great, even better than the first one that they drank.

Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus can fix any problem we have; nothing is hard for Him. St. Mary helps us by praying for us and asking Jesus for us, too. She cares for God’s children and wants to help us like she helped at the wedding. When we pray to God, we can also ask St. Mary to pray for us (intercede for us). St. Mary wants us to do everything that Jesus tells us and to obey Him, like the servants did at the wedding when they filled the water.

Application:

Use a coloring page of the story or make arts and crafts for a picture of St. Mary that the children can display in their rooms at home.

Week 3 - Saint Mary the Beautiful Dove

Objective:

Learn from St. Mary to be calm like a dove and to respect the church.

Memory Verse:

“Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever” Psalm 93:5 (NKJV)

Reference:

Coptic Synexarium

Introduction:

Bring a picture of a dove and show it to the children. Tell them that a dove is very quiet, gentle, and calm. Bring them a picture of St. Mary (maybe with doves around her) and remind them that she is the mother of our Lord Jesus. Tell them that we call St. Mary the Beautiful Dove, because she is so calm, gentle, and beautiful like a dove. Today, we can learn from St. Mary, even when she was a child like us, how she was calm and helpful.

Lesson Outline:

When St. Mary was a little child, she was staying in God’s house. Do you know how we should behave when we are in God’s house? We should be quiet and calm. This is how St. Mary was all the time. She never spoke in a loud voice, but was always singing and praising God with beautiful hymns. St. Mary was a very good child. She was also taking care of a lot of things in the church. When the time of prayer was over, she always made sure that God’s house is clean and that everything is in its place. She was very happy to help out in God’s house. Whenever the priest asked her to do something, she would obey and do it right away. She was a very good helper in God’s house and God was very pleased with her.

Conclusion:

Let us learn to be like St. Mary: calm, quiet, obedient, and helpful. We should love and take care of our church like St. Mary did. For example, whenever there is trash, we must look for the trash bin and use it. Whenever we find a church book out of its place, we should return it to its proper place. We should also like to help mom and dad around the house. Now, we know what it means for us to be calm like St. Mary, no screaming or yelling ..., and to do what our parents ask us to do without saying ‘NO!’ Do not whine about what we want, but obey. Be very quiet in church..... and never run inside the church, etc....

Application:

Give a picture of St. Mary to each child or have them color or make arts and crafts of a dove. If possible, take the children to the church to clean up some books and shawls and emphasize that they should be quiet by whispering to them. You may also encourage the children to clean up their Sunday school class.

Week 4 - Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Objective:

Learn that our Lord Jesus Christ has power to heal any sickness and He loves us.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord opens the eyes of the blind” Psalm 146:8 (NKJV)

Reference:

Mark 10:46-52

Introduction:

Bring a blanket or a towel and place some familiar items under it. Let the children try to guess what they are, by feeling their shape. Maybe some of them can be recognized by the noise they make or by their smell. Talk to the children about how helpful it is to be able to see.

Lesson Outline:

Bartimaeus was blind; that means he couldn't see. “Tweet, tweet” he heard the birds singing, but he could not see them. He could smell the flowers, but he could not see their beautiful colors. He heard people speaking, laughing, or walking next to him, but he did not know how they looked. More than anything, Bartimaeus wanted to be able to see.

One day while he was sitting by the side of the road, he heard many people walking and talking. He heard them saying that Jesus was with them. He started calling loudly, "Jesus help me!" The people told him to be quiet, but he really wanted Jesus and he couldn't see to be able to find Him, so he kept on calling Him with a loud voice, "Jesus, help me." When Jesus heard him, He said: “bring Bartimaeus to me.” The people told him: "Cheer up, Jesus called you to come." He got up quickly and people helped him get to Jesus. Jesus asked him what he would like. Bartimaeus, said: “Lord, I want to see.” Jesus touched his eyes and told him that he is well now. Bartimaeus opened his eyes and saw.... Jesus!!! He then looked around and saw everything; the trees, the birds, the flowers, the people, and everything. He was very happy and started to follow Jesus wherever He was going.

Conclusion:

Jesus healed Bartimaeus and Jesus can heal anyone who is sick. Jesus can do everything that nobody else can do. When we are sick or someone we know is sick, we should remember to pray and ask Jesus to heal us. Jesus will hear us when we pray and will do what is good for us.

Application:

The activity described in the introduction can be a fun game for the children. Tell the story along with a picture Bible or act out the story to the kids. A coloring page of this story can be used.

LESSON OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

Week 1 – Jesus Heals the Woman with a Bent Back

Week 1 - Jesus Heals Woman with a Bent Back

Objective:

Learn about the power and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse:

“For I am the LORD who heals you” Exodus 15:26

Reference:

Luke 13:10-17

Introduction:

Ask the children if they would like to get taller. Ask them to stand straight and to get on their tippy toes. Next, ask them to bend their backs down. Which position do they prefer? When your back is bent over, you cannot see everything around you very well, but you see the ground instead.

Lesson Outline:

There was once a woman who could not stand straight. Her back was bent over and she could not look up at all. She couldn't look up to see the sky or the tall trees or the birds that were flying up. All she saw was the ground below her feet. She was very sad to be like this, because for a long time, she was not able to raise herself up at all. For eighteen years, her back was bent over like this.

One day, Jesus was there. When He saw her with her back like this, He called her. He knew that she was not happy like this and that she needed to get better. He put His hands on her back and told her that she has been set free from being bent over. Right away, her back straightened up and she was standing tall again. She was so glad and thanked Jesus and she glorified God. Now, she was able to see the sky, the birds, the sun, and the tall trees. Now, she was able to see everyone's face when she was talking to them and she could get her work done easily. Jesus truly made this woman very happy after 18 long years of sadness in this condition.

Conclusion:

Our Lord Jesus loves us very much and can give us everything we need. When we see someone sick or someone who cannot walk, we should pray and ask Jesus to help them.

Application:

Use a picture Bible to tell the story. Give the children a coloring page of this miracle.

References and Suggested Resources

Picture Bibles:

- The Beginner's Bible, Zonderkidz
- Toddlers 'Action Bible,' Robin Currie
- A Treasury of Old Testament Heroes, Ideals Publications

DVD Options:

- Nest Entertainment
- Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible (The Miracles of Jesus), (The Apostles)
- My Every Day Bible Story Collection (Story being read and songs, not 'movie' like)

Websites:

- <http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum.htm> (Old Testament Coloring Pages)
- http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum_n.htm (New Testament Coloring Pages)
- <http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/crafts.html> (Craft ideas)
- <http://www.orientaltrading.com> (Purchasing crafts and gifts)