

HAMERENOAH
SAINT MARY
CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL

SAINT MICHAEL CLASS

Kindergarten



Transitional Curriculum

“Copy right Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern USA”

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PREFACE

The Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States, under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Youssef, felt the pressing need for a modified Sunday School Curriculum which would be better suited to address the problems and issues facing children both in America and the lands of immigration. Therefore, the efforts and time of many faithful servants have been dedicated to modify and improve the presently used English translation of the syllabus published by the Youth Services Committee of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate. This has resulted in the elimination of many existing lessons from this syllabus and the substitution with new lessons that are more appropriate for our youth in American society. These additional lessons give greater consideration to the differences in quality of life, education, media influence, cultural differences and the surrounding diversity of beliefs between Egyptian society and that of the west

We pray that God may bless this work for the spiritual growth of our children in the immigration countries. We also thank His Grace Bishop Youssef for his continued support, prayers and motivating guidance in this service.

May God reward every servant who offered time and effort toward the completion of this Sunday School Curriculum.

“Thus Far the Lord Has Helped Us”
(I Samuel 7:12)



INTRODUCTION

This Kindergarten Sunday school curriculum has been composed by many faithful servants of in the United States of America and Canada. It is a first trial for a Kindergarten Curriculum suitable for our children in immigration countries. Most of the lessons are Bible stories prepared as an introduction to the remainder of the grades. Some of the lessons may be repeated from grade 1 curriculum, to help the children in this age to memorize the Bible stories. The order of the lessons has also been arranged to follow the major events in the church. This resulted in the following order assuming the starting date is the first week after the Coptic New Year celebration (El Nayrouz) on September 11:

- 3 lessons for the month of September
- 4 lessons for each of the months of October through January
- Variable number of filler lessons for the period between the beginning of February and Jonah's fast.
- 2 lessons, one before and one after Jonah's fast
- 7 lessons during the Great Fast
- 7 lessons for the period between Easter and the Feast of the Pentecost
- Variable number of filler lessons between the Feast of the Pentecost and the Apostles' Feast
- 3 lessons for the remainder of July after the Apostles' Feast
- 4 lessons for August
- 1 lesson for the first week of September

Please note that filler lessons can also be used for the occasional fifth Sunday in any month. These filler lessons are in the beginning of the book and it is preferable that they be used in sequence for the sake of unity in all the churches.

A. The Kindergarten Child

The children in this age group would listen to short stories and remember parts of them. They cannot differentiate between fantasy and reality. They are also good imitators, will copy their teachers in many things they do, like singing and need very creative visual aids. Ideally, they like things that are moving and have different interesting sounds. They would also be interested in new

experiences and willing to play with other children. They like to dress up in a play or an act. Some of them may show some readiness to reading. The child should never be threatened as a punishment because this may scare him/her. The main theme to be conveyed at this age is that they are loved and that Sunday School is fun.

B. Instructions to the Servant

The servant of Kindergarten class should have a natural love to children and should be able to show his/her love to them. The success of the lesson is dependent on how creative is the audiovisual aids for the children. Use bright colors and big objects to attract the attention of the kids. No lesson can be taught to this age group without creative audiovisual aids. Also, singing is very important in this age. They like singing and can memorize short songs. The teacher should sing a hymn for the children every class. Active participation of the children in crafts will stimulate them and give them something to take home with them. This also gives them a chance to talk to their parents about what the craft and the lesson were about. Field trips and social activities are also important for the children with good supervision. Most importantly is the continuous prayer of the servant for his/her children in class and the visitation for the children that do not come. Sometimes the child will be the reason for the whole family to come to church.

The servants are encouraged to look for interesting visual aids on the internet. The following web pages may be helpful for the servant to prepare audiovisual aids or craft activities:

<http://www.friendshipbaptischurch.com>

<http://www.christiancrafters.com>

www.coptickids.org

www.bettylukens.org

After all, this can still be considered as a preliminary modified curriculum for grade KG that will require your feedback as a servant in order to continue the improvement process. Any inquiries or comments can be forwarded to **ssc@suscopts.org**

May the Holy Spirit guide every servant using this curriculum.

FILLER LESSONS

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

1. God Calls Sleepy Samuel

2. Elijah and the Raven

3. David and Goliath

4. Daniel in the Lions' Den

5. Elijah and the Widow

6. The Rod of Aaron

7. Balaam and the Donkey

1- Calls Sleepy Samuel

Objective:

To learn to pray.

Memory Verse:

“Speak Lord for your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3: 9)

References:

First Samuel - chapter 3

Introduction:

Prepare a picture of Samuel praying, slides for the story or a video if available.

Ask the children if they pray every day or not?

Ask them when do they pray? Do they pray before they eat and before they sleep?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a little boy whose name was Samuel. He lived in the temple with Eli the priest.

What was the name of the boy?

What was the name of the priest?

Where did Samuel live?

One day God called Samuel while he was getting ready to sleep. Samuel...Samuel...Samuel. So, Samuel ran to Eli the priest thinking that He called him and he said to Eli: “Here I am”. But Eli said “Samuel I did not call you, go back to sleep”. Samuel went to sleep but he heard the voice calling him again “Samuel...Samuel...Samuel”. So, Samuel again ran to Eli the priest and said: “Here I am for you called me”. Eli the priest was surprised because he did not call Samuel. So Eli told Samuel go back to sleep and if you hear the voice again calling you should say: “speak Lord for your servant hears”.

Who was calling Samuel?

What did Eli tell Samuel to do?

Samuel was a good boy so he listened to Eli the priest and did just as he told him. Samuel went back to sleep and again heard the same voice of God calling him “Samuel... Samuel... Samuel”.

So how many times did God call Samuel?

Samuel then answered and said: “Speak Lord for your servant hears”. Then God talked with Samuel and told him many things that are going to happen.

Conclusion:

We should talk to God when we pray before we sleep just as Samuel talked to God before he sleeps.

Applications:

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

2-Elijah and the Raven

Objective:

Obey the Lord as all creatures obey Him.

Memory Verse:

“Obey your parents in the Lord” (Ephesians 6:1)

References:

First Kings – Chapter 17

“The Bible Story” Arthur Maxwell, Volume 5

Pictures from Internet

Introduction:

Today we will have a story about a strong and a brave man called Elijah.

Elijah obeyed the Lord and never questioned His orders. He was also brave enough to stand in front of the bad king Ahab.

We will see how birds obey the Lord and instead of becoming wild and snatch food, they offer food.

Lesson Outlines:

Long time ago there was a king his name was Ahab and his wife’s name was Jezebel. They did evil to people of Israel. They did not serve people, but wanted to have more and more, even by taking away from their people. Jezebel did lots of bad things, she worshiped the Baal. Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel for twenty two years. They built altar and temple for the Baal. God was not happy with them, they did not worship him, and they mistreated the people.

Elijah at this time was the man of God. He was like Abouna, teaching people how to pray and follow the Lord. Elijah obeyed and used to always answer God saying: “YES, Lord.” All the times the Lord asks him to do anything, and he will do. Never said “why me,” or “how can I do It?” Or even “I will do it later.” Always listened and obeyed the Lord’s commandments. The Bible does not mention many details about him.

The Lord saw that people of Israel are going in wrong way because they worship the Baal; they forgot how the Lord liberated them from the Egyptians and crossed them the Red Sea, till they came to the Promised Land.

Elijah went to King Ahab warning him about his behavior: “As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand there shall not be dew nor rain these years except at my word.” This means that people and animals will have no food to eat. All the food that is stored will run out in one year, and then no more food. No rain till Elijah asks for rain again. Everyone is suffering from hunger from the old man to the little child.

The Lord asked Elijah to go to a far distant place, He told him: “And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.”

Brook is a very small stream of water. Raven is a bird that snatches food, it is like eagle. It is a large bird with a cracking cry. This bird depends on seizing or plundering food. He will be flying high, and finds a small bird, or food on the ground, and he will fly down fast and grab it in his claws back to his nest. This wild bird, the Lord commanded to give food instead of snatching food.

The Lord commanded Elijah to go east and find refuge there. There was no plant or people. Only wild birds like raven lived there. Elijah said: “Yes Lord,” and went there. It was a long and tiresome journey. He found at the bottom of the canyon a tiny stream. Coming at last to a cave, he stopped for rest that Ahab will never find him here. The place is empty. No man or woman, boy or a girl. He was alone with God.

Growing hungry, he wondered where he can find food. But there was no food anywhere. Time was passing by and evening was coming. Just when it seemed that he will go to sleep without a bite to eat, a raven flew overhead and dropped something. Elijah picked it up. It was food, wow halleluiaah, how thankful he was!

Strange that raven should act like this. Perhaps it was just an accident. No; it could not be, for here came another one, each dropping like a cake, which normally the raven would have eaten it. As Elijah saw food falling as it were from heaven, he remembered God’s promise to command raven to feed him. On the following day, same thing happened again. And ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank of the brook. Day after day this wonderful thing happened and Elijah marveled more and more at the goodness of God in looking after him faithfully.

Why the Lord ordered the sky to stop raining?

Conclusion:

Elijah is brave to stand in front of the king and warn them for their mistakes, like: (A) St. Mark, (B) John the Baptist, or (C) St. Luke.

Raven obeyed the Lord to feed Elijah, andobeyed the Lord to take Jonah.

Applications:

Color a picture of Elijah and the raven.

Bring to the children material to make a raven themselves in class.

Alternatively bring them stickers of birds to stick to the picture of Elijah.

3-David and Goliath

Objective:

The Lord fight for us when we do our best.

Memory Verse:

“I come to you in the name of the Lord” (1 Chronicles 17:44)

References:

First Chronicles - Chapter 17

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Who is the strongest man you know?

Why is he strong?

What do you do if you meet a strong man?

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

Lesson Outlines:

There was a continuous war between the people of God, the Israelites, and the Gentiles, the Philistines. One of the Philistine fighters was a big and bully, he was a nine feet tall larger than a football player. When he shouts, his voice can put fear in the Israelites. Both armies were standing on sides of a mountain separated by a valley.

The king of Israel at that time, his name was Saul, fought long the Philistines. Goliath was the giant who mocked the Israelites and joked at them. They were no match to him. Goliath was a man of war, well trained, and well armed. No one before dared to stand in front of him.

David the son of Jesse was the smallest of Jesse’ children, three of them were at war front. David took care of the sheep, he was a shepherd. He knew how to take care of the sheep, walk them to the waters and grasses and brings them back to their ranch safe. He fought against a lion and a bear that wanted to attack the sheep. David had a heart of lion but no experience with war or fighting. Humiliating news comes to the Israelites about Goliath and his reproach. David wants to do something to stop that bully from hurting the Jews more and more.

Jesse, David’s father, wanted to send some food to his sons in the camp. David has his golden chance to go and see by himself the battlefield. He delivered the food to the camp, and looked at the Philistines camp and saw the giant Goliath of Gath. His brass helmet, spears and brass armor on his legs were heavy to carry by a normal person. David was very annoyed that Goliath defies the armies of the living God.

David asked King Saul to fight the giant “The Lord delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, and he will deliver me out of the hand of the Philistines.” At last

King Saul was convinced of his courage and said he has a heart of a lion and strong in the strength of God. Of course the army uniform, helmet, armor was too big, and cannot fit him anymore. He took his normal clothes, took a staff and walked near a brook and chose five smooth stones, put them in his bag.

David came near towards Goliath who felt insulted. A giant like him is approached by a little kid with a staff. "What is this, am I a dog?" said Goliath, and defied David who dared to come near him: I will give your flesh to the fowls in the sky and to the beast of the field. David did not reply, and did not care for his threats, and replied with defiance: **"You come with a shield but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands... and all the earth may know that there is God in Israel. And all the assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's, and will give you into our hands."**

David approached him with no fear and with full confidence took one of the stones from his bag and threw it with all his strength at the advancing giant striking him in his forehead.

Thousands were watching the fall and the stumbling of Goliath. Running towards the falling Philistines, David drew the giant's sword, and cut off his head.

The battle is over, and the Philistines seeing the death of their champion ran away in terror. How much God can do through one dear boy who loves and trusts Him with all his heart?

1. David the son of Jesse was..... (The smallest) or (the oldest)
2. David fought Goliath with sword or stone?
3. David fought before Goliath with what animals? (Lion and bear)
4. King Saul described David's courage..... (The heart of lion)

Conclusion:

We can do everything in Jesus Christ, and we can lose everything when: "I Say I can do." My full trust is in God, and He will fight for me. When I am strong it is a blessing from God, and when I feel that I am weak, I depend on God to deliver me from any trouble.

Applications:

Show the children a picture of David and Goliath and let them draw one like it and color it.

Give them the picture of the lesson to take home with them.

Bring video of this story to show to the children.

4-Daniel in the Lions' Den

Objective:

God always protects His children.

Memory Verse:

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths" (Daniel 6:22)

References:

Daniel – Chapter 6

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children if they have ever been to the zoo.

Ask them what kind of animals they have seen.

Were any of them scary? Which ones had the biggest teeth?

Why are they kept in cages? Why don't they just run around?

Lesson Outlines:

Everyone that was gathered in King Belshazzar's hall was laughing, drinking, and talking loudly. Suddenly, a fire from heaven, which was the finger of God, came down and wrote something on the wall in the midst of the people. All the people were astonished and confused because no one could make sense of the writing on the wall. But there was one person who understood what the writing meant. Daniel was able to interpret the message that God had sent to His people. Knowing that he was capable, King Belshazzar sent for Daniel and he interpreted the writing on the wall for the king. The king was delighted and immediately made him one of the three governors of his kingdom.

What is the name of the king?

Who was the only one who could interpret the writing?

That same night King Belshazzar was killed in battle and a new king, King Darius, came to power. King Darius came to like Daniel more than the other two governors and this made them jealous. So, the two governors came up with a plot against Daniel. Knowing that Daniel loved his God and worshipped Him all the time, the two governors convinced the king to sign a decree (a law) saying that for 30 days, all must worship the king alone or be sent to the den of lions to be killed. As the two governors passed Daniel's home, they saw that he was praying to his God. Seeing this, the governors rushed to the king to tell of what they have seen. Troubled by this news, the king was very sad because he liked Daniel. The governors eagerly reminded him that what

Daniel did was against the law. So reluctantly, King Darius asked for Daniel and sent him to the lions' den. Before Daniel went in, King Darius said to him, "Your God, whom you serve, will deliver you" (Daniel 6:16). And then the stone was rolled on top of the den, sealing Daniel inside.

Who is the new king?

Did he like Daniel?

What did the governors do to trick the new king?

Back at the palace, King Darius fasted all night for his friend Daniel. He had no musicians in the court that night and he had trouble sleeping for fear of Daniel's well-being. The next morning, the king went quickly to the den to check on Daniel. When he arrived, the king called into the den saying, "Daniel, has the God whom you serve continually, delivered you?" And shortly, Daniel replied, "My God has sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me." And the king was pleased and relieved to hear the good news and took Daniel out of the lions' den and "no injury was found on him, because he believed in His God" (Daniel 6:23).

Was the king worried about Daniel?

What did he do the night Daniel was in the den?

What did he find the next morning in the den?

Conclusion:

As long as we believe in God, He will protect us from all harm.

"I shall fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4).

Applications:

Give the children a picture of Daniel with the lions to color.

Take the children to the zoo to see the lions.

5-Elijah and the Widow

Objective:

God looks after everyone, like your parents.

Memory Verse:

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

References:

First Kings - Chapter 17

Introduction:

The Lord is the source of our blessings. We show Him trust and He will take care of us.

Sometimes we need to give in order to receive. Our Lord is very generous; He will reward many times what we gave.

Lesson Outlines:

Elijah gets his second order from God. He warned King Ahab that there will be no more rain because he disobeyed God and is worshipping Baal. Now no food is available, and it is becoming less and less. No snacks or fruits. People are getting hungry. They can barely find bread.

The Lord sent Elijah to a widow in such hard time. God told him: “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon” (1 Kings 17:9). Elijah reached the gate of the city, he saw a woman, and asked her to get him a cup of water. That woman was collecting sticks to make fire to cook her last meal. That woman lost her husband and has only one son. She obeyed Elijah the man of God and brought him a cup of water. Now it is time to eat so Elijah asked her to fix him a morsel cake (baked bread). The widow could not help it and said “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die”. Elijah assured her “Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son”.

There is no food and this is our last meal, and the man of God is asking for food first. All what is left for her in this world is a handful of flour and little oil. This faithful widow has a tough test, food is little and the man of God is asking to bake for him first. The left over will not cover her and her son. “What about tomorrow, how she will eat? These questions were in her mind, and she said: I will not be selfish; I will bake to the man of God first. Her faith in God won, and has no fear any more. She fixed Elijah a cake, and gave it to him. Elijah was sure enough that if the poor widow trusted God’s promise to make him a little cake first, God will bless her in many wonderful ways.

The widow trusted God. She scraped the last left over flour and drained last droplet of oil to make a cake for Elijah. Her son came thought it is time to eat, since they eat once a day. But he was surprised that this food is not for them. They started to bake and it became brown, ready to eat. Suddenly her son became excited and said:

- Mom, look I thought there is no more meal for us, but there is now.
- No darling, I scrapped the last of it out.

- But there is, there is! See Mom! It is nice new flour too.

The widow looked in the barrel, and could hardly believe her eyes. The bin is full of flour, and the jar is flowing oil.

Joy filled their hearts. They looked at Elijah, while waiting for his cake, and all were happy. Elijah ate that night, and the widow and her son enjoyed hearty meal. The widow listened to Elijah, and believed the promise of God. The bin of flour and jar of oil were always full in the following days.

God helped the widow, and all who believes in Him. His blessings are for everyone. He fed the five thousands, and the seven thousands from five loaves and two fish. The Lord is willing to bless your little effort into heavenly riches. Believe in God.

God promised that anything we give up will be rewarded here on earth and in the kingdom of heaven. Giving has many benefits for as we make others happy, we get many blessings. Through giving, we do not tie ourselves to materialistic things. For example, we will value friendship more than money or toys.

Elijah asked the widow for a cup of when he first saw her (water)

Why did the widow bake to Elijah first? (She trusted God's promise)

What blessings did she receive when she fed Elijah first? (Unlimited source of flour and oil)

What happen, if the widow refused to receive Elijah in her place and preferred to have her last meal with her son alone?

Conclusion:

The widow had her last small food, which is not enough for her and her son. She trusted the man of God and made him food first. Then she was able to earn blessings.

Do we feel happy when Abouna pays us a visit? Do we look forward for his visits, and try to follow his guidance?

Applications:

Many times we are tested, can we share this toy, or can you let someone play with your toy?

Or this is expensive toy and my Dad bought it for me. First, we need to share with others.

It is very nice that we ask our parents for money to donate to Sunday school.

Also when we have our own money in birthday or some occasion, do we remember that we need to give some of that money to the church, with our own will? God is the source of all blessings, health, money, intelligence, and power. When we give back some of what He offered, we know that He is source of our wealth.

6-The Rod of Aaron

Objective:

The Lord takes care of His people.

Memory Verse:

“The rod of the man whom I choose shall blossom” (Numbers 17:5)

References:

Numbers – Chapter 17

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children how plants grow.

What should we add to plants so they can stay healthy?

Ask them if it’s possible for a plant to grow without water.

Lesson Outlines:

The children of Israel who were following Moses were becoming frustrated with him and with God for keeping them in the wilderness for so long. God always knows what He is doing but still the people were losing faith because of their impatience. So in order to take care of His people without getting them angry, God decided to provide for His people a priest that will take care of them spiritually and pray for them. God told Moses of a plan that He had for His people whom He loved.

Who were the people following?

Why were the people upset?

So Moses followed the plan that God had instructed Him to follow. First, Moses gathered a rod from each father’s house (the elder of each tribe); which was a total of twelve rods. Next, he wrote each man’s name on his rod to recognize whose rod it was. Then, he took the twelve rods and placed them in the tabernacle of meeting; the place where God meets with Moses to speak to him. God then instructed Moses that whichever rod blossoms is the man that will serve God’s people as a priest. So without planting or watering the rods, Moses fulfilled the will of God and left the rods over night for God to take care of.

What was God’s plan?

What did Moses do to the plants?

The next morning, Moses went out to the tabernacle to see what happened to the rods. He went to the tabernacle to find that the rod of Aaron was the one that blossomed and brought forth fruits and nuts without any watering or planting. Moses and the children of Israel knew immediately that Aaron was the man that God had chosen to serve them as a priest.

What did Moses see when he went to the tabernacle?

Whose rod sprouted and blossomed?

Conclusion:

God will never leave His children but will always have a plan for them.

Applications:

Bring seeds for the children to plant in the class and water every week to see what will blossom.

Bring a paper for every child in the class, ask them to draw a rod on the paper and write their name on it. Ask the children to bring something from home to attach or hang on his paper next week.

7-Balaam and the Donkey

Objective:

- Learn the story of Balaam and his donkey.
- God can make an animal talk, if He wants.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord opened the mouth of the donkey” (Numbers 22:28)

References:

Numbers – chapter 22-23

Introduction:

- Review the previous lesson and verse.
- Prepare a picture of Balaam and a donkey to use for illustration during the story.
- Ask the children what does a donkey look like? And how does the donkey sound like?
- Ask the children if the donkey can speak?

Lesson Outlines:

One day there was a king his name was Balak who did not like God’s people. So, he called for a prophet his name was Balaam.

- What is the name of the King?
- What is the name of the prophet?
- What does a prophet mean?

A prophet is someone who tells the people what God wants to tell them. The king Balak called for Balaam and told him I want you to say bad things about the people of God so they would become weak and I can kick them out of this land. When Balaam was trying to ride on his donkey to go to the king to curse the people of God, an angel, beautiful and white had appeared in front of the donkey. The donkey said: “He Ha...He Ha...He Ha” and could not move one single step. Balaam was surprised what is wrong with this donkey? Why it is not moving? And Balaam hit the donkey to move but still the donkey did not move and again said: “He Ha...He Ha...He Ha”. Balaam hit the donkey again and the donkey said: “He Ha..He Ha..He Ha”. Balaam was upset because the donkey was not moving. Balaam did not see the angel who was preventing the donkey from moving; only the donkey saw the angel. Balaam was upset with the donkey and for the third time he hit the donkey very hard this time. God then opened the mouth of the donkey and he was able to speak to Balaam and said: “am I not your good donkey all the time. Didn’t I always do

what you tell me to do?" Then Balaam was able to see the angel in front of the donkey. The angel was angry with Balaam because he hit his donkey three times. Balaam said sorry to the angel because he did something wrong.

Conclusion:

God can make a donkey speak. He can do anything that man cannot do.

The angel was angry with Balaam because he hit his donkey. So, we have to be gentle and kind to animals.

Applications:

Give the children materials to make angels.

Bring to them a pet in class and teach them how to treat it nice and kind. Let them give the pet food and drink.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER
(Starting with the Coptic New Year)

Week 2- El Nayrouz

Week 3- The Cross

Week 4- How the World Began

Week 2- El Nayrouz

Objective:

Learn the names of some of the known saints.

Memory Verse:

“The saints who are on the earth” (Psalm 16:3)

References:

The Synexarium

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare pictures of different saints to show to the children.

Ask the children what are we celebrating now?

What is El Nayrouz? How many months are in the Coptic year?

Lesson Outlines:

With the Coptic New Year we celebrate all the saints who are in heaven with Jesus Christ. Who is a saint? He is someone who did lots of good things when he was alive and he did what Jesus said we should do. All these good people are called saints. When they die they go to heaven to be with Jesus Christ. They are very happy there because they can see Jesus every day. Saints can still be friends to us. Every one of us can choose a saint to be his friend. Let us see now who these saints are.

This is St. Demiana....

This is St. Mina

This is St. Abanoub....etc.

Comment on the most obvious thing in the picture of each saint. For example, there are two camels in the picture of St. Mina or 40 other virgins in the picture of St. Demiana...etc.

Now let us pick one of the saints to be our friend. Go around the class and ask every child to pick one saint to be his friend. Attach the picture of the saint to the cloth of that student. For every child, attach a picture of the saint they choose.

Conclusion:

If we are good children of God and love God very much, then we will do all the good things that makes Him happy.

God loves us so much and He wants us to be like these saints that we saw their pictures.

Applications:

Give the children dates (fruits) or show pictures of red dates for El Nayrouz. Ask them about the resemblance between the dates and the saints (red for sacrificing for His name, white from the inside for their white heart, solid pit for their solid faith).

Give every child a picture of the saint he selected as a friend to take home with him.

Week 3- The Cross

Objectives:

Learning the events that occurred for the Feast of the Cross.

Memory Verse:

“Take up the cross and follow Me” (Mark 10:21)

References:

Synexarium - Tute 17th

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

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

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

Lesson Outlines:

On the 17th of Tute (27th of September) of every year, we celebrate the Feast of the Cross. This is when we remember the appearance of the glorious Cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord. After Jesus was crucified, many miracles were done near Jesus’ tomb. When the Jews were aware of these miracles, they became very angry. They asked everyone in the entire nation to dump all of their garbage on the site, in an effort to bury it.

For 200 years, this was the case. For 200 years, everyone placed their garbage at Jesus’ tomb, until a big pile of dirt had accumulated there. However, Saint Helena, who was the mother of King Constantine, loved the cross. She loved the cross, because it appeared to her son before he went into a war over which he was victorious.

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

Talk about the story and ask the children about the names of the king and his mother.

Repeat the question to make sure they remember the names and dates.

Ask the children if they remember the verse.

Conclusion:

We all love the cross and make the sign of the cross whenever we need help from God. The cross makes us strong and not afraid of anyone.

Applications:

Give the children a picture of the cross and have them color it with any desired color(s).

Cut out the cross, and paste it on a sheet of the child's desired color of construction paper.

Cut out the Bible Verse from its original paper.

Paste it under the Cross.

Have the student add any extra desired decorations to their creations (glitter, stickers, etc.).

Write the child's name on the front.

Week 4- How the World Began**Objective:**

To teach the children the story of the creation.

Memory Verse:

“Indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1: 31)

References:

Genesis - chapter 1

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare pictures of the following: sun, moon, stars, trees, animals, birds, and fish, etc.

Prepare a board to hang or attach these things to while you tell the story.

Ask the children who made the world?

Lesson Outlines:

Tell the children to close their eyes. Now it is all dark. Tell them to cover their ears. Now it is all quiet.

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 night time. He made the moon and stars to shine 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, so God made plants and trees. So they have very nice fruits and vegetables to eat and flowers to smell.

Then God made the fish to swim in the waters and the bird to fly in the sky. Then it was not quiet any more. The dog was saying: “Woof-Woof”, the cat was saying: “Meeyao-Meeyao”, the mouse was saying: “seek-seek” and the cow was saying: “Moo- Moo”, etc. Although it became very noisy, God was happy with all what he made and he thought indeed that everything was good.

Conclusion:

God created everything in this world and He made it all very good.

Applications:

Prepare pictures of many animals, trees, fish, sun and moon.

Provide the children with plain papers and glue to glue the small images you provided on their plain papers.

Ask them who made all these things on their papers.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Week 1- God Creates Adam and Eve

Week 2- Noah's Ark

Week 3- Old Sarah Gets a Baby

Week 4- Jacob's Dream

Week 1- God Creates Adam and Eve

Objective:

Learning that God created the first man and woman.

Memory Verse:

“So, God created man in His own image” (Genesis 1:27)

References:

Genesis - Chapter 1, 2

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children who made the animals, the trees, the sun, the moon and the fish.

Show the children the pictures used in the previous lesson and ask them who created us?

Prepare a male doll and a female doll to demonstrate the story of the creation of Adam and Eve.

Lesson Outlines:

After God had made all these things in 5 days, He found that everything was very good and nice. But one thing was missing, guess what?

Yes people were missing and God wanted to create a man to complete everything else He had made. So, God took dust from the ground and created man. Then He breathed His breath into man's nose and the man immediately became alive. Adam then started moving his arms, legs and head (the teacher should act this using the doll). Then, God told Adam to give names to all the animals. So, Adam called this animal..... (The teacher shows the kids pictures of different animals and asks them what did Adam call this animal?)

After Adam gave names to all the animals, he found that there is no one else like him and he was sad. So, God made Adam to sleep and took a rib from his side and made it into a beautiful woman her name was Eve? (The teacher should bring the female doll and bring her to Adam the male doll).

What was the name of the woman?

Who created this woman?

Why did God create Eve?

Then God gave Eve to Adam and she was helping Adam in everything he was doing. Adam was Very happy with Eve because they did things together and they loved each other.

Conclusion:

God created Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve later on brought all the people in this world.

Applications:

Make multiple pictures of a man and a woman and give to the children with the glue to add to the pictures they made from last lesson.

Week 2- Noah's Ark

Objective:

- To learn the story of Noah and his ark.
- To learn to obey God.

Memory Verse:

"Make yourself an Ark" (Genesis 6:14)

References:

Genesis –Chapter 6

Introduction:

Review with the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare an ark or a picture of an ark and use the animals that were made for the lesson of the creation as visual aids.

Lesson Outlines:

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. God was not happy with the people in the world because they were bad people. Noah was the only good man and was a friend of God. So, God told Noah one day that He is going to send rain...rain...and more rain on the earth for 40 days and nights until everything bad is drowned with the rain. God told Noah to build a big boat (The Ark) so it would swim on top of the water. Noah listened to God as he always did and built the big Ark.

Then Noah took two of every kind of animals and birds in the Ark. The animals were so excited...Quak..Quak ..said the duck. Moo...Moo..said the cow.....Hurry...Hurry... said the geese and Baa...Baa... said the sheep (the teacher should bring pictured of animals and act as if 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, Noah closed the door. Then, 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. Thus Noah, his family and two of every kind of animal and bird were saved.

Conclusion:

God keeps His children who obey Him and listen to what He says safe.

So, if we do what God wants us to do, He will be with us and keep us safe.

Applications:

Allow the children to play with the animals and place them inside the Ark (using models or pictures).

Alternatively provide the children with material to build their own boats.

Week 3- Old Sarah Gets a Baby

Objective:

God can do anything and anytime He wants.

Memory Verse:

“God has brought me laughter” (Genesis 21: 6)

References:

Genesis - Chapters 18, 21

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Show them pictures of babies.

Then ask them what babies do?

Lesson Outlines:

One day God appeared to Abraham to talk with him. While they were talking, God told Abraham that he would have a son very soon. Sarah, his wife, was listening in on their conversation and thought to herself, “How can I have a child when I’m very, very old?” and Sarah laughed within herself when she heard this. God then asked Abraham her husband why did Sarah laugh; doesn’t she know that God can do anything? And God showed them His power and Sarah eventually had a son and named him Isaac. Abraham his father was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old when they had their first baby Isaac. Both Abraham and Sarah were very happy since it was their first child and told everyone.

Conclusion:

God can do anything to help His children (always in the right time that He foreknows).

We have to believe everything that God tells us in the Bible.

Applications:

Show the children a video or slides about the story.

Let them color a picture of the baby Isaac.

Week 4- Jacob's Dream

Objective:

To learn about angels.

To learn how the heaven connects with the earth.

Memory Verse:

"The angels of God were ascending and descending on it" (Genesis 28: 12)

References:

Genesis 28: 10-22

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children if they have seen a picture of an angel?

How do angels look?

What is a ladder?

Explain that today's story about a ladder with lots of angels on it

Lesson Outlines:

When Jacob escaped from the face of his brother Esau, after getting the blessing of his father Isaac, he ran away from Beersheba to Haran. It was a very long journey and he traveled all day until the sun went down. Then he decided to rest for awhile since he was getting tired. He placed a stone under his head and fell asleep. As soon as he fell asleep he started dreaming. He saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and angels were 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 in his journey and wherever he goes until he comes back to this place again.

Jacob was surprised and when he woke up he felt that God was in the place where he was sleeping. So he took the stone that he was sleeping on and poured oil on it. He then promised God that if he returns to his home safe from this journey, that he will be faithful to God and will give one tenth of everything he gets to God.

Conclusion:

God can send His angels to connect the heaven with the earth.

Angels can help us and support us wherever we go.

Angels are beautiful and they do whatever God tells them to do.

Applications:

Let the children make angels from craft material.

Give them the angels they make to take home with them.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Week 1- Rebecca and Isaac

Week 2- Jacob and Esau

Week 3- Joseph and the King's Dream

Week 4- Baby Moses

Week 1- Rebecca and Isaac

Objective:

To learn and understand the story of Isaac and Rebecca.

To learn that God will guide us in every decision.

Memory Verse:

“For Your Name’s sake lead me and guide me” (Psalm 31:3)

References:

Betty Lukens Bible through Felt

Open Bible – Genesis 24

Children’s Bible

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children if they know what a wedding is.

Explain that a wedding is when two people get married when they are ready to have a house and make a family.

Emphasize the point that the Abraham’s servant prayed to God asking to help him find Isaac a perfect wife.

Lesson Outlines:

When Isaac was old enough, his father Abraham decided that it was time for him to get married so he would not feel lonely when Abraham died. Abraham wanted to choose the perfect wife for his son and so he asked his favorite servant to go and find a wife for Isaac. The wife that he chooses had to be very special, because she had to love God as much as Isaac and his father did; she also had to obey God’s commandments. Abraham told him to go and find one of their relatives from a far...far away land.

The servant was worried, how could he ask someone to travel this far to be Isaac’s wife? Maybe she would be scared to leave her family. Abraham told him not to worry because God would take care of everything. So the servant took ten camels and all the best jewels for the new bride. After traveling for a long time he became very thirsty and he decided that he would let the camels rest. He was waiting for somebody to offer him some water.

After a while a beautiful young women came and she was so nice, she asked him if he would like some water and she even offered some water to the camels because she could see that they were thirsty, isn’t she so nice? As soon as the servant saw how nice she was he knew right away that God has sent the perfect girl to be Isaac’s wife. He was so happy he prayed and thanked God for showing him this girl.

He asked her right away “who your father is?” It turned out that her father was a relative of Abraham. She brought home the servant to her father Bethuel and her brother Laban. When Laban and Bethuel heard the story of how the servant prayed for a perfect girl like Rebecca they agreed right away to let her marry Isaac. The servant gave Rebecca all the beautiful jewels that he brought with him.

The next morning Rebecca went with the servant to meet her new husband Isaac. When Isaac met her he also knew that God had chosen the perfect wife for him, because she was so nice and good and she loved God very much.

What was the servant supposed to do?

Who did he ask for help? How?

How did he find the wife? What was her name? How did he know she was the right one for Isaac?

Conclusion:

We have to pray when we need help from God. He can guide us to the right thing to do.

Applications:

Ask each child to say a small prayer at the end of the class. Remind them of the various times we pray.

Distribute some pictures of Isaac, Rebecca, the servant, camels, etc. and ask the children to color them.

Week 2- Jacob and Esau

Objective:

To learn and understand the story of Jacob and Esau

Memory Verse:

“Lie not to one another” (Colossians 3:9)

References:

Betty Lukens Bible through Felt

Open Bible – Genesis 25:25-34

Children’s Bible

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Explain what twins are, how they can be the same or different.

Ask the children if they ever were hungry? What did they do?

Bring a picture of a hairy man like Esau and another man with no hair like Jacob to use during the story.

Lesson Outlines:

Esau and Jacob was a twin, however Esau was born before Jacob and was considered the older boy. Esau and Jacob were very different. Esau had a lot of hair on his body and was very good in catching animals. Jacob did not have hair on his body and he was more at home. One day Esau came from the field and was very tired and very hungry. When he got home he found Jacob cooking a very nice meal of lentils. Esau saw the food and it looked delicious. He smelled the food and was almost fainting from hunger. So, Esau asked Jacob to give him from what he cooked because he was starving. Jacob told him “if I be considered the older son and as if I was born first then I will give you from the food”. Esau told him Okay you can be the older and be the first but just give me to eat because I am going to die from hunger. Then Jacob gave him from the food but Jacob became like the older son. Esau ate and ate till he filled his tummy and was full but he is not first anymore and he does not have the good things that are special for the firstborn son anymore.

Conclusion:

When God gives us a blessing like Esau we have to keep it and enjoy it.

We should also increase it and make it grow better and bigger.

Applications:

Bring Lentil to the class and show it to the students. Let them play their hands in it.

You can use a picture as a visual aid to let the children add a hair like material to the image of Esau.

Week 3- Joseph and the King's Dream

Objective:

To see how God was with Joseph.

Memory Verse:

"The Lord was with Joseph" (Genesis 39:2)

References:

Genesis – Chapter 41

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask them if they know what is a dream?

Did any of them have dreams?

Prepare visual aids: pictures of seven thin cows and seven fat cows. Similarly, seven fat heads of grains and seven slim and small heads.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time the king of Egypt fell asleep and he had a dream. He dreamed of seven fat cows coming out of the river. Then seven more thin cows came out from the river after them. But the thin ugly cows ate the fat and healthy cows. The king was surprised from the dream and did not know what it meant. The second day when the king slept again he dreamed again that seven good and plump heads of grain came out of the river followed by seven slim and dry heads of grain. Then the slim heads ate the fat heads of grains. The king was troubled because of the dreams and did not know what they meant. The king looked for someone to tell him the meaning of the dream till he found Joseph. God was with Joseph and gave him the skill of interpreting the dreams. So, Joseph explained to the king the meaning of his dream. He told him that seven good years of plenty of food, fruits, vegetables and grains will come on Egypt. But these seven good years will be followed by seven bad years with no rain and no food to grow. The king got worried about the dream and he asked: "What shall we do then?" Joseph told him that during the good seven years we will save food for the following bad seven years. The king was very happy with Joseph's idea. So, he made him the second most important man in Egypt after the king. Joseph helped the Egyptians save food in seven years to help them through the following bad seven years. His plan was perfect and the Egyptians had enough food for the seven bad years. The king and all the Egyptians were thankful to Joseph's great idea.

Where was the king?

What did he dream of?

What was Joseph's explanation of the dream?

What happened to Joseph?

Who gave Joseph the great idea?

Conclusion:

God is with us as He was with Joseph.

God keeps us safe and gives us good thinking to help ourselves as well as help others.

Applications:

Let the children act the story with the prepared pictures of the cows and the head of the grain.

Week 4- Baby Moses

Objective:

To learn that God promises are always true and that He takes care of us even if we don't ask as God has taken care of the baby Moses and made him a prophet.

Memory Verse:

"His name is Moses because I drew him out of water" (Exodus 2:10)

References:

The Golden Children Bible.

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse

Moses was chosen by God and he had a plan for him, even though he grew up in the palace of the pharaoh, God saw the wilderness as his palace.

Moses had a mission which is to deliver the people of God from the land of Egypt to the Promised Land.

Lesson Outlines:

God had a plan for Moses as He always does for every one of us. At the time when Moses was born the Pharaoh of Egypt was very cruel. He wanted to kill all boys that were born, but Moses' mother ran away and tried to save Moses. So she placed him in a basket and put him in the river. She told his sister to follow the basket and make sure the baby is safe. Moses' sister kept an eye on the little basket until it arrived at the seashore of the Pharaoh palace. The daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket floating in the water, so she ordered her servants to bring it. When she opened the cover she saw the baby Moses. She took him in the palace and treated him like her own baby. God was with Moses even at the Pharaoh's palace. God called Moses to take care of His people and deliver them from the land of Egypt to the Promised Land, the land of salvation. Pharaoh was too stubborn to let the people go. But the power of God was shown to him when he did not let them go, as a result his oldest son died and there was plagues of frogs, lice and flies everywhere. After that Moses and the people were able to cross the red sea, while Pharaoh and all his army drowned in the sea. God did not forget His people in the wilderness but has sent them manna from heaven to eat. God has also given Moses the Ten Commandments which we follow until today.

Conclusion:

Who took the baby Moses from the river?

Why was Pharaoh stubborn?

Applications:

Draw pictures and distribute stickers demonstrating these events:

The baby Moses when Pharaoh's daughter brought him from the water.

Moses when he became a prince at the Pharaoh's palace.

Crossing the red sea.

Moses receiving and holding the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Week 1- Crossing the Sea

Week 2- The Ark of Covenant

Week 3- St. Mary and the Angel

Week 4- St. Mary Visits St. Elizabeth

Week 1- Crossing the Sea

Objective:

To learn that God is strong and can do anything.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord will fight for you” (Exodus 13:14)

References:

Exodus - Chapters 13, 14

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare slides, pictures, movie (Prince of Egypt) or visual aids to use during the story.

Ask the children how big is the sea? Can anybody cross the sea without a boat?

What is in the sea? Is the water from the sea sweet or salty?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a bad king in Egypt his name was Pharaoh.

What is the name of the king?

He would let the people of God leave Egypt to go to worship their God. After ten plagues from God, he finally let the people of God go. Moses was very happy and all the people of God were very excited that they are finally going to be free. So, they collected all their things, gold, silver, chickens, ducks, rabbits and all their clothes and were ready to leave.

When they left Egypt they started walking after God who appeared to them like a cloud in the morning and a fire during the night. Finally they found themselves in front of the red sea.

How big is the red sea?

It is very big ...it is huge...they did not know how are they going to cross the sea.

Do you have any ideas for them? (Listen to the children's answers)

And to make things worse, they looked behind them and they found the king and all his soldiers and chariots are following them.

What are they going to do? (The bad king is going to get them)

So God told Moses and His people do not be afraid. He told Moses to put his rod in the sea and see what will happen. Once Moses put his rod in the Red Sea it was open in the middle. The water was like a wall from each side with dry land in the middle (Show the children a picture). The people of God were happy and they quickly crossed the red sea without even getting wet. The king and his soldiers followed them to the sea but Moses put his rod again and the waters closed on the king and his soldiers and they all drowned. The people of God were safe and on the other side of the Red Sea.

Conclusion:

God can create a way for His children to be safe and sound.

No one can hurt the children of God.

Applications:

Show the children the “Prince of Egypt” Animated movie.

Give them pictures of the lesson.

Give them pictures to color to demonstrate colors of water, sky, people of Israel walking in the middle of the water, etc.

Week 2- The Ark of Covenant

Objective:

- To learn the purpose and the shape of the Ark of Covenant.
- To know the contents of the Ark of Covenant.

Memory Verse:

“There I will meet with you” (Exodus 25:22)

References:

Exodus 25:10-22

Introduction:

- Review the previous lesson and verse.
- Make the Ark of Covenant from cardboard with the two Cherubim on top of it.
- Ask the children how does God talk to us now? ...through the Bible

Lesson Outlines:

Long time ago God told Moses to make an Ark of Covenant so that whenever He wants to talk to them He can come to the Ark and talk to them. God talked to the people from between the two angels on the ark (The teacher has to have a small model of the ark made to demonstrate things to the children). The ark was made of wood and covered with gold from inside and outside. The ark was like a big box and inside it there were three things.

How many things were inside the Ark?

Let us open and see...the teacher opens the model and shows them what is inside. There was a sample of bread that God gave to them to eat when they were hungry in the Desert. It was called the “Manna”. There were also the two tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments to the people. Finally there was also the rod of Aaron that was dry and became green without any water.

What was inside the Ark?

Now let us see what is on top of the Ark. The top of the ark was called “the Mercy Seat”.

What was top of the ark called?

The mercy seat was surrounded with two angels. Whenever God wanted to speak to His people He would come like a cloud on the Mercy Seat between the two angels and talk to the people.

Conclusion:

God always wants to talk to us. He talked to the people of Israel long time ago from the Ark and now He talks to us in the Bible.

We also have to talk to Him in prayer.

Applications:

Bring to the children Boxes and angels made of cardboards. Let the children color the angels and place them on top of the boxes.

Send a piece of paper to the parents to read the Bible for their children once a day because this is how God talks to them.

Week 3- St. Mary and the Angel

Objective:

To learn about the Annunciation.

To learn to be obedient like St. Mary.

Memory Verse:

“Blessed are you among women” (Luke 1:28)

References:

Luke 1:26-38

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children about the angels...How they look? What do they do?

Prepare two pictures for St. Mary and Archangel Gabriel and use them to act the story.

Lesson Outlines:

One day while St. Mary was at home, all of a sudden, Archangel Gabriel appeared to her. He looked beautiful. God has sent him with a message to St. Mary. St. Mary was surprised for some time, she never expected to see an angel. The angel Gabriel then greeted her and said: “I bring good news Mary. God has a wonderful plan for you. You are going to have a baby - a very special baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be called Jesus. And He will also be a great king”. Mary said: “But I don’t understand how is this going to happen”, the angel calmed her and said: “Don’t worry God will take care of everything...Nothing is too hard for Him. Even Elizabeth your relative, who is an old lady, will soon have a baby. No one could believe she would have one. Her baby too is part of God’s plan”.

St. Mary’s eyes opened wide in wonder and she said: “I shall be glad to do whatever God wants”. As swiftly as he came, the Archangel Gabriel left. St. Mary rubbed her eyeshas she really seen an angel. She was very happy.

Conclusion:

The Archangel Gabriel brought good news to St. Mary that she is going to have a baby and his name will be Jesus.

St. Mary was obedient and listened to the Archangel and accepted right away God’s plan for her.

Applications:

Bring costumes in the class for a girl to act like St. Mary and for a boy to act like the Archangel Gabriel, with wings, to act the story again in class.

Bring the children material in the class to make angels.

Give them the picture of the annunciation to take home.

Week 4- St. Mary Visits St. Elizabeth

Objective:

To learn to be kind to others.

Memory Verse:

“The babe leaped in her womb” (Luke 1:41)

References:

Luke 1:39-56

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children what did the Archangel Gabriel tell St. Mary about St. Elizabeth?

Prepare a picture of a pregnant old lady to use during the story. Use a picture of St. Mary from the previous lesson to complete the story.

Alternatively, make models for St. Mary and St. Elizabeth to play the story.

Lesson Outlines:

Once St. Mary knew that her relative the old lady Elizabeth is pregnant she went very quickly to see her and help her. St. Mary went up the hill to visit St. Elizabeth. When St Elizabeth first saw St. Mary she was very happy she ran to meet her. When St. Elizabeth said Hi to St. Mary the baby in her womb immediately rejoiced and moved. St. Elizabeth knew that Jesus is a very special baby and that St. Mary will be the mother of God. St. Elizabeth was very happy that the mother of God herself came to visit her and take care of her.

St. Elizabeth brought St. Mary inside her house and told her that her husband Zacharias also had seen an angel. Zacharias was a priest, like Abouna. He saw the angel when he was praying in the altar. The angel told him about the baby that St. Elizabeth, his wife, is going to have. But because he did not believe, the angel made him silent till the baby John was born. So, Zacharias was unable to speak. St. Mary was very happy for St. Elizabeth, they were both very happy because they were having babies and the babies were happy to visit each other too.

St. Mary stayed with St. Elizabeth for three months helping her, cooking and cleaning for her because she was an old lady. Then St. Mary went back to her home.

Conclusion:

St. Mary went a very long way to see and help her relative St. Elizabeth. We also have to be kind and help each others.

St. Elizabeth was happy when St. Mary came to visit her. We also should be happy when our friends come to visit us.

Applications:

Give the children pictures of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth to color in class.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Week 1- Christ is Born

Week 2- The Shepherds and the Wise Men

Week 3- Jesus Obeys His Parents

Week 4- Epiphany

Week 1- Christ Is Born

Objective:

- To learn what happened in the story of the birth of the baby Jesus.
- To feel the joy of Nativity.

Memory Verse:

“God with us” (Matthew 1:23)

References:

- Luke - Chapter 1, 2
- Matthew - Chapters 1, 2

Introduction:

- Review the previous lesson and verse.
- Prepare pictures of the baby Jesus in the manger.
- Bring material to make a Nativity scene in the class.
- Ask the children who are in the picture.

Lesson Outlines:

When St. Mary came back from visiting St. Elizabeth, her tummy started to get bigger because the baby Jesus was growing inside. Then, she traveled back to her home town. Once she got there, St. Mary was ready to have her baby Jesus. But St. Mary and Joseph didn't have a home where baby Jesus could be born. No one would let them in their house. So the 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 the baby Jesus was sleeping calmly without being afraid. His mother wrapped Him in swaddling cloth to make Him warm and put him in a small bed.

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

- Have each child cut out pictures of St. Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, the manger, cows and sheep and glue them to a cardboard background.
- Act out the story of the Nativity using models, which can be made during class.

Week 2- The Shepherds and the Wise Men

Objective:

To learn about those who visited the baby Jesus.

To be happy as the shepherds and wise men were when they saw Jesus.

Memory Verse:

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

References:

Luke - Chapters 1, 2

Matthew - Chapters 1, 2

Lesson Outlines:

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 where to find Him. And suddenly the sky was full of angels who were singing and praising God. So the shepherds got up immediately and went to see the baby and they told everybody about what they saw.

Also three wise men who lived in a far away land saw a big and bright star in the sky. The star was a sign that a great king was born. So, they followed the star and it led them to the manger where Baby Jesus lay. They were very happy when they found the baby Jesus finally after a long trip and a long search. They saw Him and brought Him presents for his birthday – gold, myrrh and frankincense.

Who can say again what did they bring Jesus for presents?

Conclusion:

Everyone who came to see the baby Jesus was very happy. We must also be happy and celebrate Jesus' Birthday. We should all sing with the angels 'Glory to God in the highest.'

Applications:

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

Have the class put together a Nativity scene with clay or plastic pieces.

Week 3- Jesus Obeys His Parents

Objective:

- Love and respect your church.
- Listen to your father and mother.

Memory Verse:

“He was obedient to them” (Luke 2:51)

References:

Luke 2:40-52

Introduction:

- Review the previous lesson and verse.
- Ask the children if they listen to their Dad and Mom.

Lesson Outlines:

One story is motioned in the Bible when Jesus was twelve years old. His parents lost Him in their way back from Jerusalem.

How a family of three loses the only child, and discovers His absence after 3 days.

This incident happened during a trip to Jerusalem while the sacred family was observing their religious duties, i.e. celebrating Passover every year. There are no temples closer within a walking distance like what we have now (we now have churches everywhere). I mean drivable distance as we have it right now. Back in old days people used to go in groups, many families will be going on camels, horses or donkeys. Usually men will be in the front of the group, and women in the back. Children will be moving with different children. So the children were going together, and families will be checking their members in rest areas. One family may think that her children are playing with other family children. St. Mary thought that Jesus is in the front with Joseph, and Joseph thought that Jesus is in the back with St. Mary. Later they realized that He is with neither one of them.

Two important occasions that Jews celebrated in Jerusalem. They are: Passover and Pentecost. During their trips they were reciting Psalms and praying. Their minds were set on the religious celebration and preparing themselves to that occasion. As we in our car, on our way to the church, we think about the Holy Liturgy and communion while stay away from stories about others or fighting in the car. We keep our trip to the church peaceful by singing nice songs that we learned in Sunday school, praying the Lord’s Prayer, or saying Lord have mercy many times.

The Lord came to earth for one important goal, that is saving humanity. He kept His eyes on this goal, and never lost sight of it. As He grew little by little, His goal is getting closer and His mission becomes clearer. At the age of twelve, in His visit to the Temple in Jerusalem, the Lord saw the people are missing the meaning of religion. They are waiting for a king that will give power and money. They go to the temple as a habit and they think about their land, crops, or what they will do after the temple services.

People were astonished at Jesus, and His knowledge at this age was impressive. They saw Him as the son of a carpenter at the age of 12 and have no religious learning in the temple. They asked how He understands the Old Testament and His answers were right.

Usually kids at the age of twelve are busy with their games, or watching TV, but the Lord set His eyes on His mission. As good Christian children, we need to be obedient to our parents and whenever we fight with school friend or our brothers or sisters, we need to remember that we are good Christian, and we should love one another as the Lord commanded us. Jesus Christ loved His parents all the time till His death on the cross. We remember that our parents care for us and do everything possible to help us. We in return, must love them and obey them.

When did Mary and Joseph find out that Jesus is missing? (In their way back)

Why people were impressed by Jesus? (His knowledge)

What city did they go to? (Jerusalem)

Name 2 major feasts in Jerusalem (Passover and Pentecost).

Conclusion:

We have to listen to our parents and do what they tell us to do. Just like the child Jesus listened to His mother St. Mary.

Applications:

Give each child a chart to give to their mothers. Ask the mothers to mark every time the child listens to his parents and bring it back to class the week after.

Week 4- Epiphany

Objective:

To teach the children what is baptism

Memory Verse:

“This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased” (Matthew 3: 17)

References:

Matthew 3:13-18

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse with the children.

Visual Aids: it is very helpful to express this concept by bringing a small plastic container and fill it with water and show how to immerse object, and pick it up from water.

On the 6th of January, we go to church at night and celebrate Nativity, the birth of Jesus Christ. The following day, we have celebration in the form of a play, or getting together, and exchange gifts. The month of January has two major feasts: Nativity and Epiphany, and some other minor feasts.

Lesson Outlines:

Epiphany means the Godly appearance or appearance of the Trinity. Our Lord Jesus Christ went to John the Baptist to get baptized. Our Lord does not need baptism for He did not make any sin. But for our sake He was baptized for us, and showed us that baptism is needed to be Christians and to receive salvation.

John was calling the people to repent and get baptized. Many people obeyed and came confessing their sins. Some were Jewish men and women, others were tax collectors. Even some Roman soldiers repented and asked what shall we do? And he told them to be fair with each other and not to hurt others nor over charge them in taxes. John told the people: there is another person who was coming after him, who is more important than him. John told them that he baptizes with water, but He will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

While John was helping many persons to repent and get baptized by the bank of Jordan, he saw Jesus coming and baptized Him. Jesus has no sin, but to set a perfect example before all who should follow Him. When Jesus came up from the water, something marvelous happened: “The heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 4:16-17).

On the Iconostasis, we see many icons including the icon of Jesus Christ and the icon of Baptism on the right hand side where we see John baptizing Jesus.

The dove descending, Jesus coming out of the water, and the voice from heaven, all this is called “Epiphany” in which the Holy Trinity is apparent for us: the Son is coming out of the water, the Holy Spirit is in the form of a dove, and the voice of God is the Father.

The Holy Liturgy for the Epiphany feast starts with the Liturgy of Water. The priest prays on the water and members of the congregation bring water bottles to be blessed in this occasion. At the end of the Water Liturgy, the priest anoints the congregation with the blessed water. The church has three Water Liturgies: Epiphany, Covenant Thursday, and the Apostle Feast.

Where Jesus was baptized? (In the Jordan River)

Why Jesus was baptized? (To set an example)

How many persons did John the Baptist baptized? (Many)

How many water liturgies a year? (Three)

Conclusion:

Jesus was baptized to help us follow Him and become Christians and enjoy the blessing of being the children of God and partaking of communion.

Applications:

We need to attend Epiphany Liturgy. This feast is as important as the Nativity and Resurrection. We get many blessings when we attend these important events.

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY TILL JONAH'S FAST

Use Filler Lessons (placed at the beginning of the book) until the Sunday before Jonah's fast.

LESSONS FOR JONAH'S FAST

Jonah's fast comes two weeks before the Great Fast on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. These lessons are for the Sunday before and the Sunday after Jonah's fast.

Week before the Fast: Jonah in the Ship

Week after the Fast: Jonah in the Fish

Week before Fast- Jonah in the Ship

Objective:

To learn to listen to God's words

Memory Verse:

"Jonah arose to flee" (Jonah 1:3)

References:

Jonah - Chapter 1

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask them if they have seen a ship. How does it look? Where have they seen it?

Prepare large pictures or toy ship and a man to represent Jonah for visual aids.

Lesson Outlines:

One day God told Jonah: "Go to the people of Nineveh and tell them to stop being bad or otherwise there will be troubles". But Jonah did not want to do what God told him so tried to run away from God. He was running as fast as he can to flee from the Lord. He found a ship that was going far away in the opposite direction to Nineveh. He went on the ship with others sailors in the middle of the sea. Then God sent a strong wind over the sea and the wind was blowing...Woo...Woo. The ship started to swing hard in the middle of the sea. The sailor and the Captain were scared and afraid they will drown. They started to pray to their gods but the wind continued... Woo...Woo.

Then, they started wondering why the sea is upset and why the winds are blowing strong. It must be that someone on the ship had done something wrong and God is upset with him. Whom do you think did something wrong on this ship? Yes it is Jonah; he did not do what God told him to do and he was running away from God. But Jonah was sleeping deep in the ship and did not care. The captain of the ship woke Jonah up and asked him: Why don't you wake up and pray to your God. But Jonah was not able to pray to God because he was running away from Him. So, Jonah told the captain that he is the reason why there is a strong wind ...Woo...Woo and that was because God was angry with him. He also told them on the ship that if they threw him in the sea from the ship, the wind will stop and they will be saved. So they picked Jonah up and ...HOOP they threw him in the sea. Immediately the wind stopped and the sea became calm.

But what happened to Jonah ...we would see next lesson. So you have to come all of you next week to see what happened to Jonah in the sea.

Conclusion:

God was angry with Jonah and sent the wind and the high waves on the ship because he did not listen and do what God told him to do.

Applications:

Sing a song about the story of Jonah.

Let the kids make boats from paper like the ship that Jonah went unto.

Week after Jonah's Fast- Jonah in the Fish

Objective:

God takes care of us in all times even when we do something bad.

Memory Verse:

“Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days” (Jonah 1:17)

References:

Jonah - Chapter 2

Introduction:

Review with the children what happened to Jonah in the ship last lesson. Ask them if they remember the verse.

Ask them what is the biggest fish? What color is the biggest fish? What are other kinds of fish they saw?

Bring a model of a big fish with a large mouth that can swallow another model of a small man (Jonah). Alternatively find a video tape of the story to show to the children.

Lesson Outlines:

After the sailors threw Jonah in the sea, God made a great big fish to swallow Jonah. The fish did not have teeth so it swallowed Jonah alive inside its big belly. Jonah stayed inside the big fish for three days and three nights. Jonah was being turned around and surrounded with all the food in the fish belly. He could barely breathe. In the middle of all of that, what do you think Jonah was doing?

He actually was praying. He was praying to God and he felt that God wanted to save him and keep him safe even inside the belly of the fish. Jonah trusted that God will get him out of the fish. So, after Jonah prayed, God heard his prayer and ordered the fish to throw him out. The fish of course obeyed God and threw Jonah on a dry land alive.

Then Jonah knew that he cannot run away from God and that God kept him safe because He wants him to go to Nineveh and help them get better. Jonah immediately went to Nineveh and told them what God told him. He told them that if they do not change from being bad to good, God will destroy their big and great city. When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah, they immediately changed from bad people to good people. They stopped all the bad things they were doing and became good people. God then forgave them the bad things they made and saved their city.

Conclusion:

God keeps us safe all the time, just as He kept Jonah safe in the belly of the fish and as He did with the people of Nineveh when they became good people.

Applications:

Bring a video tape about the story of Jonah to show to the children.

Bring a fish to the class so that they may relay to the story.

Alternatively give them pictures of the story to color.

LESSONS FOR THE GREAT FAST PERIOD

Week 0: The Twelve Special Friends

Week 1: Peter Walks on Water

Week 2: The paralytic Man

Week 3: The Lost Sheep

Week 4: The Great Party

Week 5: Lost and Found

Week 6: The Children Receive the Lord on Palm Sunday

Week 7: (Palm's Sunday) - No lesson

Week 8: (Resurrection Sunday) – No Lesson

Week 0- The Twelve Special Friends

Objective:

To teach the children about the twelve Disciples.

Memory Verse:

“He gave them power” (Matthew 10:1)

References:

The Gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 10

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare a picture of twelve men to count to represent the twelve disciples.

Ask the children how can we count to twelve?

Ask them how many special friends did Jesus Christ have?

Lesson Outlines:

When Jesus Christ started the His ministry, He felt that He needs special friends that can help Him in this work.

Who has friends? How many friends do you have?

Yes it was the same with Jesus He needed friends to go everywhere with Him. He had twelve special friends. They were called disciples.

What were they called?

One day He was standing on the beach by a lake and was watching the fishermen cleaning their nets. So, He called on Peter and Andrew and said: “Come with me. I will let you catch people instead of fish”. 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 He 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 Jesus have now?

Yes He has five they are: Peter, Andrew, John, James and Matthew. He also chose more friends until He had 12 friends. They were all supposed to help Him preach the word of God.

What are the friends of Jesus called? (Disciples)

Conclusion:

Everyone has friends like Jesus. We and our friends should do the things that God likes.

Applications:

Show the children the twelve men you prepared and let them count with you the 12 disciples. Let every child stand and tell the rest of the class the names of his/her friends.

Week 1- Peter Walks on Water

Objective:

We are not afraid because Jesus is with us.

Memory Verse:

“Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:26)

References:

Matthew 14:22-32

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare visual aids to use during the story, e.g. large container that can be filled with water.

Prepare a toy boat and two toy men; one to be St. Peter and the second one to be Jesus Christ.

Ask the children what is the sound of strong wind? And what is the sound of high waves?

Lesson Outlines:

Today, our story happened in strong wind ...Voo...Voo... and in the middle of an angry sea. The disciples of Jesus Christ were in a boat in the middle of this angry sea. They were trying to cross to the other side of the sea. They were getting tired and afraid from the strong wind ...Voo... Voo... and from the high waves...Weesh...Weesh...But suddenly Jesus appeared to them on the water.

What do you think he looked like?

Yes He was calm and stable despite all the wind...Woo... Woo... and all the waves...Weesh...Weesh. When His friends the disciples saw Him walking on the sea they were surprised. They thought He was a ghost. Jesus Said to them “It is I, do not be afraid” Peter answered and said: “if it is you Jesus you can let me walk on the water like you and come to you.” Jesus told him “Come”. So, Peter went down from the boat and stepped on the water carefully and was able to stand and walk on the water toward Jesus Christ. He could not believe himself for a moment; he can walk on water?

Can anybody walk on water? Only Jesus Christ.

St. Peter started looking around him when he was walking on the water and then started to be afraid again when he saw the strong wind blowing Woo...Woo... and the waves going Weesh...Weesh. Once he became afraid he started to sink in water and he could not walk on the water anymore. OOPPSS He started to drown. But of course Jesus Christ would not let him drown and He held his hand and pulled him from the water. Jesus asked him why you became afraid. When you became afraid you fell in the water.

Then Jesus pulled him from the water and both of them went into the boat. Once Jesus Christ got into the boat the wind and the waves stopped.

Conclusion:

We are safe whenever Jesus Christ is with us. We should never be afraid since He is always with us.

Applications:

Let the children act as if they are walking on water.

Give a picture of the lesson for coloring.

Week 2- The paralytic Man

Objective:

God can make sick people well again

Memory Verse:

“Arise, take up your bed and walk” (Mark 2:9)

References:

Mark 2:1-13

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare visual aids to act the story of the paralytic man, e.g. slides, toys, puppet show or video.

How many of us have heard about a person who is sick for a long time. Today we will hear a story about a person who could not walk; he must be carried around. Also we will see how his faithful friends helped him.

Lesson Outlines:

There was an old man who has no wife or kids. This man needed help all the time, because he was unable to move. Friends and neighbors were helping him to go from place to place, or bringing him some of his needs. It was not easy for him to live like that depending on others every time of his life.

Good news came around that Jesus can help, and He is helping everyone. Many were healed from diseases even those who were sick for a long time. Some even spent money to get cured. They went to physicians and tried anything that was recommended by friends or relatives. His friends were very happy when they heard that Jesus is in their place Capernaum. They went to their friend who was unable to move, and the following conversation took place:

- Jesus is here and we want to get you there. As soon as He touches you, you will be healed.
- + I tried everything before, and none has worked.
- No, Jesus is very good, He helped many people and all got healed, even demon possessed.
- + Thank you my friends, but I do not want to trouble you anymore .
- No, many are going to see Jesus today, listen to His teaching and get healed from their sicknesses.
- + I hope I do not cost more troubles.

The paralytic man has four good honest and caring friends. They helped him to put on some clothes and carried him on his bed. They took him out of the house and walked over. They asked the people who were walking: Which house where Jesus is staying now? They gave them directions about that house. Far from that house before reaching it they found many people are walking there, and the house entrance was crowded (Remember that houses in these days were much smaller compared to what we have now). That means the house was full and our faithful friends could not get into the house with their friend. The following conversation took place:

+ I told you before: save your effort, we cannot get in.

- Patience my friend, we will get you in. Let me think for a way. (They circled around the house, and found all windows and doors are filled with people. Even parents are carrying their children over their shoulder to let them see Jesus). I have an idea, it may be difficult but we get him from the ceiling.

+ No please, do not do that. How can we get to the roof? And how can you send me down. This is too much to handle

-Do not worry we will get you there.

The sick has a bed like a pallet or a stretcher that ambulances use now a day. One of these good hearted men said: we will look for a ladder, and we go to the roof, open part of the roof, tie four corner of the stretch and lower this stretch in front of Jesus.

People down stairs were surprised to hear cracking of wood, and an opening in the roof. Then a stretch is lowered carrying a sick man.

Jesus looked at these good hearted men and felt their faith. No one will climb the roof and lower a person, unless there is a reward for such effort. Jesus looked at the sick person who was unable to move and ordered him: Your sins are forgiven you. Rise up and carry your pallet and walk. People were amazed to see the paralytic man is able to stand up and walk.

Some of the scribes murmured to themselves: How can He forgive sins, only God who can forgive. Jesus knew what is in their heart and said: "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins He said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.' Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this".

Has the sick man a family? (No)

How many friends did he have? (4)

Was their job to get the paralytic person in front of Jesus easy? (No)

Why they lowered him from the roof and did not enter from house? (Crowded)

Conclusion

People can help by praying for us. The faith and work of those four persons helped the man who was unable to walk to meet Jesus and be well again.

Applications:

We need to remember our family and friends in the church and school when they are sick to pray for them. God can make them well.

Week 3- The Lost Sheep

Objective:

- God always wants us with Him.
- To learn the story of the Lost Sheep.

Memory Verse:

“He rejoices more over that sheep” (Matthew 18:13)

References:

Matthew 18:11-14

Introduction:

- Review the previous lesson and verse.
- Prepare pictures for the different events of the story.
- Ask the children if they have seen a sheep before. How does it look? What is the sound of the sheep?

Lesson Outlines:

Today’s story is about a nice white sheep, his name is FoFo. FoFo was a gentle and happy little white sheep who loves to play with many other sheep. He had a mommy and a daddy sheep. The rest of the sheep were like his brothers and sisters. All the sheep together were 100 sheep.

How many sheep were they? Who can write 100 on the board?

The good shepherd used to take care of the 100 sheep and make sure they are eating and drinking well. He was always checking the number of the sheep? 1, 2, 3 ...100. But one day he was checking the number and He found only 99 instead of a hundred. This means one of the sheep is missing. Guess who is missing.... Yes it is FoFo. FoFo went running away from his mommy and daddy and from the shepherd. He kept running up a mountain without paying attention that he went too far. Then he was very tired and could not find his way back to the rest of the sheep and the shepherd. He was the lost sheep. He was getting afraid and started to cry.

The shepherd left all the 99 sheep and went running every where looking for FoFo. He finally went up the mountain until he found FoFo. When FoFo saw the shepherd he was very happy and felt safe again. FoFo was sure the shepherd would take him back to his mommy and daddy. The shepherd also was very happy when He found FoFo, He immediately ran toward him and carried him on his shoulder and took him back to the rest of the sheep. When the rest of the sheep saw FoFo on the shepherd’s shoulder they were all very happy and were jumping up and down. FoFo was finally back home with his mom, dad and his brothers and sisters the sheep.

Conclusion:

God is always checking on us. If we go away from Him, He comes looking for us and bringing us back to the rest of His children (His church).

Applications:

Distribute the picture of the good shepherd, with the sheep on his shoulder, to the children.

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

Alternatively, bring hard paper sheep and cotton and let the children glue the cotton to the sheep to look like his wool.

Week 4- The Great Party

Objective:

Learn the story of the Great Supper (party).

Memory Verse:

“All things are now ready” (Luke 14:17)

References:

Luke 14:15-24

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare the class as if the children are having a party.

Ask the children if they attended a party before? Or who had a birthday party before?

Ask them if there were a lot of people in the party?

Lesson Outlines:

Our story today is about a big party that God has prepared. He invited a lot of people to His party. He also prepared everything for the party...the food, the lights, the decorations...everything.

When the time of the party had come to start, He sent all His servants to call the people invited to come. But everyone had an excuse. One said: I just bought a big land and I have to go and check it out. A second one said: I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I have to go to test them. The servant then went to another man but he also said: I just got married and I cannot leave my wife.

The servants went back to God and told Him that every one invited to the party has an excuse and no one is coming. God was very disappointed. Then He told His servants to go and invite other people from the streets and bring the poor, the blind and the sick people to the party. So, the servants went out and brought all the poor, the blind and the sick to the party but there was still room in God's house for more people. So, God told the servants to go about in every street and invite everyone else to the great party. So the servants brought more people until the house was full. Everyone in the party was happy and having fun. They all had great time and did not want to leave. The ones that were initially invited but did not come were the losers.

Conclusion:

If we are the children of God we would go wherever He invites us.

God is having a great big party prepared for us in heaven when we go. There, we will have lots of joy and happiness; no one will be sad or crying in this party.

Applications:

Blow balloons and have a cake for the children to have a party in the class, just to imitate God's party.

Give each child a balloon on their way out of the class.

Week 5- Lost and Found

Objective:

To learn the story of the lost coin.

Memory Verse:

“Be found in Him” (Philippians 3:9)

References:

Luke Chapter 15:8-10

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask them who can count to ten?

Then show them different coins and ask them how much is each coin?

Prepare ten coins of the same value as visual aid to the lesson.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time, Jesus was telling the people stories. The story He was telling them is about a woman who had ten coins. Let us count the coins she had...one...two...three...etc. The woman used to keep her coins in a safe place and every now and then she would count them...one...two....three...etc. (let the children count with you the coins). But one day she was counting...one...two...three.....Nine. She found only nine coins not ten. She was worried where the tenth coin went. She started looking everywhere in the house trying to find the lost coin but she did not find it. Then she put the light on and started to sweep the floor. She swept here and there and everywhere until she found the lost coin; the coin number ten. She was very happy then because she found the lost coin. So, she called all her friends and neighbors and told everyone “I found it ...I found it”. All her friends and neighbors were happy for her.

Conclusion:

Just like the woman was who happy when she found her lost tenth coin, Jesus is also happy when He finds one of his lost children.

Applications:

Ask the children to save ten coins from their parents to bring to class next lesson.

Pray at the end of the class for all the students that did not come to the church this week.

Week 6- The Children Receive the Lord on Palm Sunday

Objective:

Teach the children that Jesus is the King of Kings.

We should receive Jesus with joy.

Memory verse:

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD” (Matthew 21:9)

References:

Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare the picture of Jesus Christ on a donkey entering into Jerusalem to show to the children.

Jesus was preparing to go with His disciples to Jerusalem where they would celebrate the Passover feast. He knew that this visit was a special one because He will soon be crucified.

Lesson Outlines:

Jesus called all His disciples to go with Him to Jerusalem. As they were walking, Jesus told two of His disciples ‘go to the nearest town and when you see a donkey and her colt untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks you what are you doing? Tell them: ‘The Master needs them’. The disciples obeyed Jesus and went and brought to Him the donkey and the colt. Jesus rode on the donkey and continued His journey towards Jerusalem.

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

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

This was Jesus’ last time to enter Jerusalem in the day. We all know it now as Palm Sunday or Jesus entry to Jerusalem.

Where was Jesus going to celebrate the Passover?

Who went with Jesus to Jerusalem?

What did Jesus ride on His way to Jerusalem?

What did the people put on the road in front of Jesus?

Conclusion

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

Applications:

Give each child a small tree branch.

Make them form two lines.

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

Teach them some of the hymns of Palm Sunday.

LESSONS FOR THE PENTECOST PERIOD
(Fifty Days after Resurrection)

Week 1: The Happiest Day

Week 2: Jesus and St. Thomas

Week 3: House on the Rock

Week 4: Angels

Week 5: Jesus Appears to St. Paul

Week 6: Ascension

Week 7: Pentecost

Week 1- The Happiest Day

Objective:

Learn the story of the resurrection.

Memory Verse:

“He is not here, but is risen” (Luke 24:6)

References:

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

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

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

What is Jesus Christ doing in this picture?

Lesson Outlines:

After Jesus Christ died on the cross (show them a picture of the Jesus on the cross) two rich men took His body and put it in a clean and new tomb in a garden. Jesus stayed there for three days and three nights.

How many days did Jesus spend in the tomb?

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

What did the angel tell the Maries?

They were all very happy because Jesus is risen and He is alive again, just like in this picture

Conclusion:

Jesus stayed in the tomb for three days and three nights and then He was risen. So, He is alive again.

Applications:

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

Give the children the picture of the resurrection to color.

Give them boiled eggs to color and stick the picture of the resurrection to them.

Week 2- Jesus and St. Thomas

Objective:

Teach the children the story of the doubtful Thomas

Memory Verse:

“Do not be unbelieving, but believing” (John 20:27)

References:

John 20:19-29

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Show the children the picture of the resurrected Christ.

Ask them if anyone can go into a room with the door closed.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time, the friends of Jesus Christ (the disciples) were staying together in a room praying. Suddenly Jesus Christ appeared in the middle without opening the door or a window. He showed them the marks of the nails in His hands from when He was on the cross (the servant shows the children the nails mark on the picture). Then they were sure that this is Jesus and they were very happy to see Him. But Thomas one of Jesus' friends was not with them when Jesus came in the first time. When Thomas came back they told Him that they saw Jesus Christ. But Thomas said: “I do not believe you. I have to see Him by myself and feel the marks of the nails in His hands to believe”. So eight days later Jesus appeared again to them in the room and Thomas was with them this time.

How did Jesus come into the room? From the door or from the window?

Jesus then called Thomas and told him to come and feel the marks of the nails in His hand. Once Thomas saw His hands he immediately believed and knelt down to Jesus.

Conclusion:

Jesus can do anything and can come into a room without opening the door or the window.

Also we have to believe in what we hear without seeing.

Applications:

Give the children pictures of the resurrection to color.

Distribute small pictures for them to take home.

Week 3- House on the Rock

Objective:

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

To learn to listen and remember the word of God.

Memory Verse:

“It did not fall” (Matthew 7:25)

References:

Matthew 7: 24-27

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

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

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

Prepare visual aids for a house, rocks and sand.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time Jesus Christ was telling a story about two men building houses. Each man is building one house. One of the men brought good material and went around and around looking for strong land to build his house. He went to some land and said “No, this is not strong enough”. He went to another land and said “No, the house will fall if I build it on top of this weak land”. He looked around and around till he found a strong rock that was very hard and stable and he built his nice big house on it.

Another man looked at the first land that was sandy and weak, yet he built his house on it. Then the rain came and the wind blew very strong ...Voo...Voo...Voo. So, guess which house fell and which one stayed? Yes the house built on the rock stayed and did not fall and the house built on the sand fell and was broken into small pieces.

Conclusion:

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

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

Applications:

Let the children build their own houses using Logo or paper.

Let them play with the rock and the sand.

Week 4- Angels

Objective:

To learn what the angels do.

Memory Verse:

“There was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13)

References:

The book “Heaven” by Anba Youanis

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare different pictures of angels to show to children, e.g. the picture of the guardian angel, the annunciation...etc.

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

Lesson Outlines:

There are multitudes of angels in heaven. They do not have a body like us but we can see them sometimes if God wants us to see them. God can always send them to do things for His children. They can protect us from bad things that can happen to us or they can bring us messages from God. Otherwise they are praying and singing hymns to God all the time.

There are different kinds of angels. There are archangels and angels. The archangels are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Souriel, Sadakiel, Sarathiel and Ananiel. Again say after me....Archangel Michael, Gabriel...etc.

Angels are beautiful, kind and calm. They can have wings or they can appear like people. Every one of us has an angel that follows him wherever he goes to guard and protect him from any bad things.

Conclusion:

If we do what God wants us to do, be calm and kind, we can be like angels.

Applications:

Prepare angels from cardboards and bring feathers for the children to stick to their wings.

Alternatively make wings and Hallows for the children to wear them in class like angels.

Give the children different angel pictures.

Week 5- Jesus Appears to St. Paul

Objective:

To learn the story of the conversation between God and St. Paul.

Memory Verse:

“A light shone around him from heaven” (Acts 9:3)

References:

Acts - Chapter 9

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare slides, video or pictures to use during the story.

Ask them if they ever saw a bright light? Where? When? How did it look like?

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a man named Saul. He hated the church and the Christian. So, he was catching them and putting them in prisons. One day while he and other soldiers were going to catch more Christians, a strong light shone around Saul. Then he heard a voice talking to him.

Whose voice do you think was that?

Yes, it was the voice of Jesus Christ talking to him. Jesus asked him: Why are you refusing Me and My people the Christians? Saul fell to the ground when he saw the bright light and heard the voice. He then asked: who are you that I am refusing? Jesus told him: “I am Jesus”. Saul was trembling (the servant has to act the story while telling it). Saul asked Jesus: “What do you want me to do Lord?” Jesus told him to go and meet a man called Ananias and he will show you everything. Then Jesus and the light disappeared but Saul was blind from the bright light of Jesus for three days.

What is the meaning of blind? Who was blind? For how many days?

Jesus then appeared to Ananias and told him where to find Saul. Ananias immediately went as Jesus told him and found Saul. Ananias put his hands on Saul’s eyes and scales, just like the scales of the fish, fell from them and Saul was able to see again. Saul then became a Christian and was baptized and his name changed to Paul.

Conclusion:

God can change any one He wants from a bad person to a good one.

Applications:

Act the story using some models or drawings.

Shine a bright light on some corners of the room for the children to experience what happened to St. Paul.

Color a picture of the lesson.

Week 6- Ascension

Objective:

To learn the meaning of the feast of Ascension

Memory Verse:

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come” (Acts 1:8)

References:

Acts - Chapter 1

Introduction:

The Coptic Church celebrates the feast of Ascension on Thursday, the 40th day of Jesus' resurrection.

Lesson Outlines:

Our Lord went up to heaven after 40 days of Resurrection. He went into heaven to prepare a wonderful place for us so we can be with Him forever. We call this Ascension...What do we call it? But don't forget that God is everywhere and is not in heavens only. He is in heaven and earth. But heaven is the place for His throne and the angels and saints.

Who went into the heavens? (Jesus Christ)

Which day is the feast of ascension? (Thursday)

When did He go into the heavens? (40 days after Resurrection)

During the forty days after resurrection (before His ascension) Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples to strengthen their faith. On that day the disciples were gathered on the mount and He asked them to stay in Jerusalem till they receive power from on high. The disciples saw Jesus rise up ...up...up ...slowly above the clouds. Up...Up...Up...till he reached the blue heaven. Then He disappeared from their sight. They could not see Him anymore. So they were amazed but as they were looking up an angel appeared to them and told them that Jesus will come back the same way from heaven on the clouds as He disappeared this time. But no one knows when He will come back. They stayed in Jerusalem an upper room that belongs to the house of St. Mark. They were praying together till they received the Holy Spirit. When the Lord went up to the heavens, He sent the Holy Spirit to teach, remind and guide us in our daily life. The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples ten days after ascension.

Ascension is the road to God. So, we must aim up high and lift up our hands when we pray to the Lord. The road to the Lord is always up and the first fruit of Lord's ascension is receiving of the Holy Spirit.

What was the promise from God when He ascended to heavens? (Send the Holy Spirit)

Conclusion:

Jesus will come again on the clouds as he left on the clouds and ascended into the heaven. He will come with lots of angels.

Applications:

We lift up our hands, and we look up when we pray to our place in the heavenly Jerusalem.

Give the children a picture of Jesus ascending on the clouds to heaven to color

It is helpful to sing the hymn: Ascended to the heights to send us the Paraclete, the spirit of truth and comfort. Amen alleluia

Week 7- Pentecost

Objective:

Pentecost marks the birth of the Church.

Memory Verse:

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Luke 2:4)

References:

Acts - Chapter 2

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

On the day of the Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples. They were filled with power from on high. On that day they were able to talk to all people about Jesus Christ as a Savior.

Lesson Outlines:

The Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Resurrection. Many people were gathered on that day from different countries. When the disciples were in St. Mark’s house a strong wind came Wheoooo Wheeeeeooo. The wind came through the doors and windows and blew everything so hard. Fire came with the wind like little tongues. Every disciple had a tongue of fire settling on him. This was the Holy Spirit that looked like fire. Then, they were able to speak different languages. So, everybody heard the disciples speak his language. This made all those who gathered in Jerusalem understand the words of the disciples. The disciples were telling them about Jesus. So, they all believed in Jesus and became Christians. The good news that Jesus Christ is our Savior needs to reach every person in every part in the world.

When St. Peter received the Holy Spirit he talked about Jesus Christ and immediately 3000 persons became Christian. They all became Jesus friends

We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized and get anointed with the Myron oil (the holy oil). Our church sacraments work by the power of the Holy Spirit: Baptism, Confession, Communion, Myron, Priesthood, Unction of the Sick and Matrimony (marriage).

It works like a guardian angel, warning us when about to make a mistake. Reminds us when do something wrong. It works like a close friend who is watching over our shoulder and protects us from any danger. We need to be grateful to God that He gave us such privilege, and thank the Lord for such gift

When do we celebrate Pentecost? (fifty days after Resurrection)

How many days after ascension? (ten days after ascension)

On what day do we celebrate the birth of the church? (Pentecost)

Conclusion

We are the children of God and we all have the Holy Spirit in us. We all get the Holy Spirit during baptism when Abouna cross us with Myron oil.

Applications:

Show the children a video of a baby being baptized in the Orthodox Church to show them when they get the Holy Spirit.

Distribute to the children the picture of Pentecost.

THE APOSTLES' FAST PERIOD

Use Filler lessons (at the beginning of the book) between the feast of Pentecost and the second week of July.

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Week 2: St. Peter's First Miracle

Week 3: The Sheet Full of Animals

Week 4: Say Thank You

Week 2- St. Peter's First Miracle

Objective:

To learn the miracle that St. Peter did at the beautiful Gate.

Memory Verse:

"Rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6)

References:

Acts 3: 1-11

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Have you seen a beggar before? Do you know who is a beggar?

Some people are sick and cannot work. They also have no money so they might become beggars.

Lesson Outlines:

Today's story is about a man that could not walk since he was a baby. He had 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 to ask every one coming in and going out for money. The name of the church 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 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 and walks 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 so the man that was not able to walk, now is walking in the church like all of them. They were all happy for him.

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

Who made the beggar well?

What was the name of the church door?

Week 3- The Sheet Full of Animals

Objective:

Learn the story of Cornelius and St. Peter

Memory Verse:

“The Holy Spirit fell upon all” (Acts 10:44)

References:

Acts - Chapter 10

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Prepare a sheet and either paper or toy animals to fill the sheet and act the story for the children.

Ask the children, what is this animal? And what is the sound of this animal? What is it called?

Quiz them all about the names and sounds of the different animals you brought.

Lesson Outlines:

One day St. Peter was sleeping and he saw the heaven open in a dream and a sheet coming down that had all kinds of animals. There was a lion, tiger, elephant, dog, cat, etc. All the animals in the sheet had four legs. Let us count the legs of this animal...one...two.....three...and four. The sheet landed on the floor with all the animals in it. When St. Peter woke up from his dream, he was wondering what is that dream for. Then immediately after he woke up three men came from a very good man called Cornelius and they were looking for St. Peter. St. Peter went with them to Cornelius. When St. Peter got to Cornelius house, there were many people waiting to hear the word of God from St. Peter.

St. Peter talked to them about God and how good God is to everyone and how much He loves us. They were very happy to hear his words and they wanted to become Christians. Like you and I, what are we? We are Christians. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came on them while they were still listening to St. Peter and they became Christian.

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

Let the children play with the animals in the sheet.

Teach them the song about “I am a C...I am a Ch...I am a Christian ...etc.

Week 4- Say Thank You

Objective:

To learn to say thank you to God.

To be polite with people and say thank you.

Memory Verse:

“Giving Him Thanks” (Luke 17:16)

References:

Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children when do we say thank you?

To whom do we say thank you?

Lesson Outlines:

Today’s story about a man who said thank you and Jesus Christ was very happy with him. Once upon a time, Jesus was entering a village. There He found ten men who were sick and their skin were looking to bad. They were not allowed to touch anyone. When the ten men saw Jesus, they shouted from afar and said Jesus please make us well. So Jesus told them to go to the temple (like the church) and show themselves to the priests there. The priest is like Abouna here in our church. As they were going to the temple they became well. Their skin became nice and smooth and they became like normal people.

Only one of the ten men, when he saw that he became well, he came back to Jesus and said: “thank you Jesus for making me well”. Jesus was happy with this man because he came back to say thank you but Jesus was wondering what happened to the other nine sick men that He treated. None of them came back to say thank you. So, He blessed the one that said thank you and sent him to his home and family to leave happily ever after.

Conclusion:

God loves the children who say thank you to Him when He gives them good things. He also loves the children who say thank you to others when they do good things to us.

Applications:

Bring the children pictures for ten men and let them count the number with you. Show them which one came to say thank you.

Give them stickers and let them stick ten stickers to a plain paper and take with them home.

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

LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Week 1: The Holy Family in Egypt

Week 2: The Fish with the Money

Week 3: St. Mary and the Mountain

Week 4: The Angel Sets St. Peter Free

Week 1- The Holy Family in Egypt

Objective:

Egypt has a special place in Jesus' heart.

Memory Verse:

"Blessed be Egypt, My people" (Isaiah 19:25)

References:

Mathew 2:13-23

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Did you ride a donkey before? Baby Jesus and St Mary did.

Have you ever visited Egypt?

Who can give me an example from the bible that God loves Egypt and its people?

Who was the mother of Jesus?

Did you see a small baby (2 year old)? Did you notice how they always play around, sleep on crabs...

Well, let's see how was baby Jesus? And what happened in his childhood.

Lesson Outlines:

Herod the king ordered that all 2 year or younger children have to be killed, to kill baby Jesus. Herod was afraid that baby Jesus would grow up to be a king and take his place. One night, while Joseph was asleep, an angel appeared to him saying, "arise, take the child and His mother, flee to Egypt, stay there until I bring you word for Herod will seek the young child to get rid of Him". Joseph arose, brought a donkey for the young mother and the child and they rode on it.

They got out from Bethlehem to Egypt. Joseph striding ahead, holding the donkey's leash into the untracked paths of a wilderness dark as the desert nights hazard in every step. However, God was guiding them to the right path. God preserved them from the threat of wild beasts and savage tribes-men.

After that, finally the angel informed them of the death of Herod (who wanting to kill Jesus), they went back and dwelt in Nazareth.

Conclusion:

We are blessed that Jesus went to Egypt to stay safe and to be protected from the bad king.

Applications:

Be proud that you are Egyptian. Remember that God blessed you saying “Blessed be Egypt, my people”

Sing the following hymn with the children: “I am glad I am glad that you came to our land”.

Week 2- The Fish with the Money

Objective:

Learn to depend on God in everything.

Memory Verse:

“Take the fish that comes up first” (Matthew 17:27)

References:

Matthew 17:24-27

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children if they have seen real fish before? Where? And what color was it?

Ask them what the fish has...eyes, mouth, scales, tail.....etc.

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

Prepare some fishing hook, plastic or paper fish, small bag of coins to hide in the fish. Use these visual aids to tell the story.

Lesson Outlines:

One day the people who collect the money for the temple (building like the church) came to collect money from St. Peter and Jesus Christ. They asked St. Peter: aren't you and your master Jesus going to pay the money soon? St. Peter then went inside the house to ask Jesus if He will pay the money. How and when? Jesus answered him, before he asked the question, and said that He will pay the money for the temple. St. Peter asked: but we do not have money, how are we going to pay. Jesus told Peter to go fishing and the first fish that comes up in the hook, he should pick it up. Then he should open its mouth and inside it he will find the money. He then can take the money to pay to the temple. St. Peter did exactly as Jesus Christ told him. He picked up the first fish, opened its mouth and found the money. He was so happy and was amazed how Jesus told him everything before it happened. St Peter then took the money and paid his and Christ's share in the temple fee.

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

Bring a golden fish in a container for the children in the class to watch and play with.

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

Week 3- St. Mary and the Mountain

Objective:

St. Mary helps us when we need help.

Memory Verse:

“You have been saved through faith” (Ephesians 2:8)

References:

The Synexarium

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask the children what is a mountain?

Is a mountain big or small? High or low?

Have they been up a mountain before?

Can anybody move a mountain?

Prepare visual simulation of a mountain to use in the story.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a governor in Egypt that was mean to the Christians. He wanted to get them in trouble. Meanwhile, there was a big mountain in Egypt call “El Mokatam Mountain”. It was a huge mountain. The bad governor found a verse in the Bible that said: “if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move” (Matthew 17:20). So, he brought the Pope of the Christians at that time and told him: if you have faith, you can move this big mountain from its place to the outside of the city because I do not like its place here. Otherwise, all Christians will be punished badly.

The Pope was worried how is he and the Christians with him are going to move this huge big mountain. So, He and all the people fasted for three days and were praying. Then, St. Mary appeared to the Pope and told him that there is a good man called Simeon, he has strong faith and will help them move the mountain. The Pope immediately searched for Simeon and when he found him he asked him to come and help them move the mountain.

All the Christians, the Pope and Simeon went out in front of the mountain and started praying: Kerialyson, Kerialyson, Kerialyson...Every time they make the sign of the cross and say Kerialyson, the mountain would move a bit. They did this many many times until the mountain was moved. The Governor was happy that the mountain moved. So all the Christians were safe and were not punished.

Conclusion:

St. Mary helped and guided the Pope to Simeon. She always comes to our help and helps us.

Applications:

Teach the children that when they pray they can ask for the help of St. Mary and her intercessions.

Teach them a song about St. Mary.

Week 4- The Angel Sets St. Peter Free

Objective:

God sends His angels to save us and help us.

Memory verse:

“An angel of the Lord stood by him” (Acts 12:7)

References:

Acts - Chapter 12:1-19

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

Ask them what would they do if they see an angel?

What do angels look like?

What do angels do?

Show them pictures of angels.

Lesson Outlines:

Once upon a time there was a king his name was Herod. He was a bad king; he treated the disciples and the friends of Jesus very bad. He did not like Jesus Christ or the Christians. So he caught St. Peter and put him in prison because he was teaching the people the words of Jesus. When St. Peter was in the prison, he was not afraid. He knew that God is with him. So, St. Peter fell asleep. But, suddenly an angel appeared to him and a light shone around the angel in the prison. The angel woke St. Peter up and told him to put on his sandals and cloth and follow him. Immediately the chains around St. Peter's hands and legs fell off. St. Peter was free again. He followed the angel and the angel showed him the way out of the prison to the street. Then the angel disappeared and St. Peter went back to his home. When they saw St. Peter back home everybody was happy because they were all praying for him to be free again and come back home safely. God has listened to their prayers and sent His angel to set St. Peter free again.

Conclusion:

Angels are sent from God to help us and save us from any troubles. Although we may not see the angels, they are present and are around us to protect us.

Applications:

Give every child material to make angels and craft activity.

Give each child a picture of an angel.

Teach them a song about angels.

Lesson of the First week of September

Before the Coptic New Year

Week 1: The Fig Tree

Week 1- The Fig Tree

Objective:

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

Memory Verse:

“Let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it” (Luke 13:8)

References:

Luke 13:6-9

Introduction:

Review the previous lesson and verse.

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

Lesson Outlines:

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

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

Why did the man plant the tree?

How many years did he wait for it to grow?

What did he tell his gardener to do?

What did the gardener tell him?

Who is the man?

How can we be good for God to be with us?

Conclusion:

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

Applications:

Pass out a piece of paper and a pencil and let each child draw a tree. Encourage the children to color the tree green and let it have fruits and leaves.

Explain that this is their tree and it represents them on how fruitful they will be.

Teach them a song for the Coptic New Year.