

**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST  
(OUTSIDE KERALA REGION)**



**CLASS - 3**



**ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST**

**TEXT BOOK CLASS - III**



**FOR  
STUDENTS OF  
OUTSIDE KERALA REGION**

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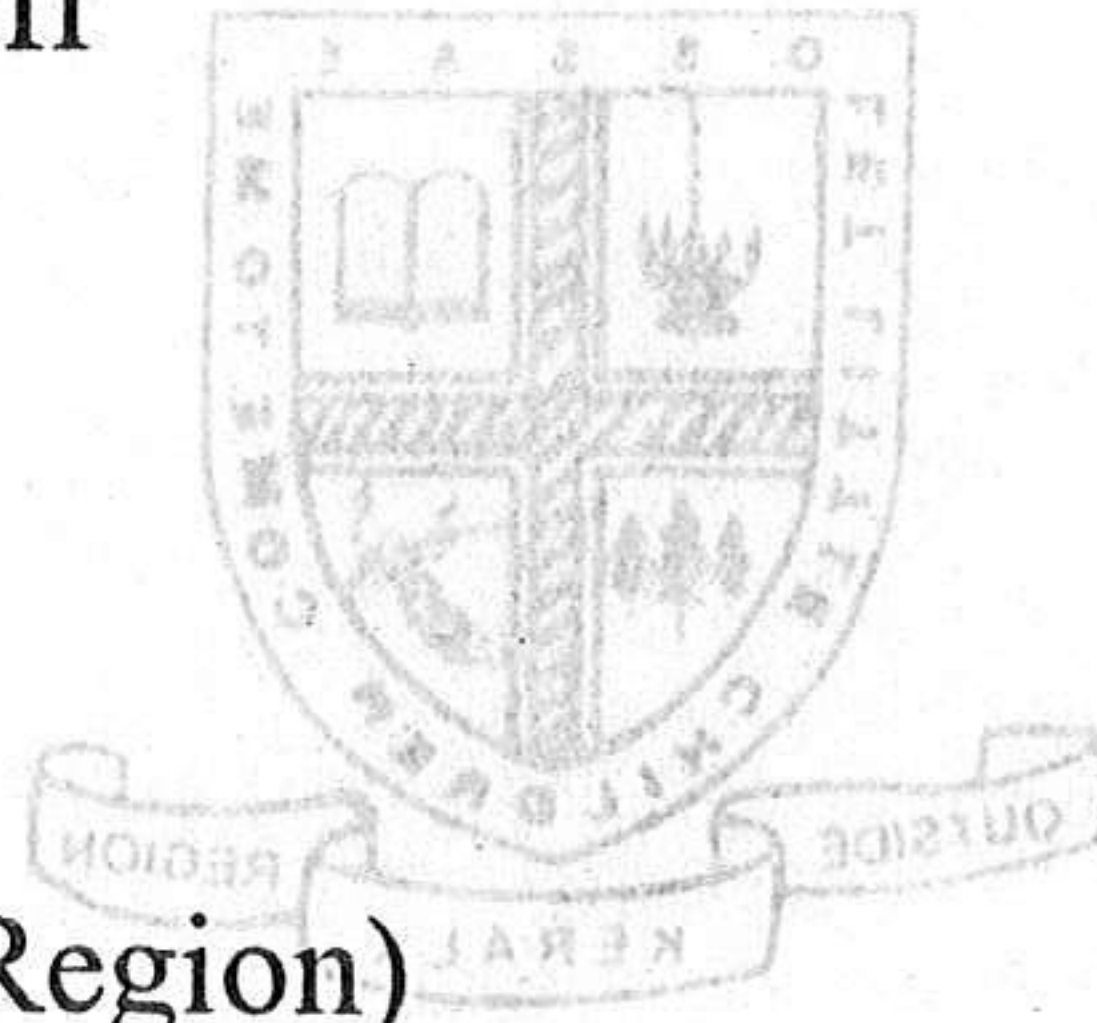
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(OSSAE - OKR)  
(English)  
For Private Use only



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## **FOREWORD**

I can say with much satisfaction that the text books, which we have published already, have got a warm reception. While the learners found them more child centered, the teachers felt their task easily done.

The present volume is the result of hard work for a couple of months. The basic principles of this text book are the following:

1. The teachers as well as the children should not be over burdened. We have limited the lessons to 25, because none of the Sunday Schools may get all the 52 Sundays.

2. The lessons are distributed among various disciplines like Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Faith of the Church and Current topics. Each class will have some lessons from each of these branches.

3. We have put more emphasis on continuity and progress of thought as per the age of the child.

4. The language is kept as simple as possible so that the stuff is intelligible to the learning capacity of the children.



5. We have included a lot of exercises at the end of each lesson. The class room should become a place where the teacher and the children work together. The children should get more fun in learning; intellectual curiosity should be aroused; and a commitment needs to be established to Christ at first and then to the Church. A separate note book is to be used by the students for writing question-answers, fill in the blanks etc. and doing other activities given in each lesson.

I would like to thank STOTS faculty in general and Dr. Ipe Varghese especially for his continuous work behind this text book. Fr. TJ. Joshua has gone through the script page by page and has given his invaluable advices. I am thankful to him, Fr. K.V.Thomas and the executive of the OSSAE for giving us the permission to publish the book at Nagpur itself.

Nagpur  
Easter 2006

Fr. Reji Mathew  
(OKR Director)



# NOAH

(Gen. 5:9 – 9)

In the previous classes we have learned about God's creation of this earth and everything in it. He created human beings in His own image and blessed them. God wished that man should lead a happy life on earth. But man did not obey God's words; and God removed him away from the joy of paradise.

## Noah, a righteous man among the wicked

As the number of people increased upon the earth, God saw that the people on the earth became very wicked and they were thinking only evil things at all times. The earth was full of violence and corruption because of bad people. Seeing this situation, God was grieved and He decided to wipe them out.

Noah, son of Lamech, was a good man and God was pleased with him. Noah was the tenth in descent from Adam. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time and he walked with God. He had three sons of good character: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

## God's revelation to Noah

God said to Noah that He was going to destroy the earth by a flood. He asked Noah to make an ark (a large boat) using cypress wood, which should be 450 ft long, 75 ft wide and 45 ft high. God made a covenant with Noah: "*You and your family will enter the boat. Take into the boat with you a male and a*



*female of every kind of animal and of every kind of bird, in order to keep them alive. Take along all kinds of food for you and for them” (Gen.6:19-21).*

### **Noah's obedience to God**

Noah obeyed what God had told him to do. On completion of the ark; Noah, his family and representatives of all the creatures entered the ark. Heavy



rain poured down upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. All the people and all creatures on earth died except those inside the ark. Noah's ark safely floated on the water. The flood continued for 150 days.

### **Noah's sacrifice**

When the floodwater receded, Noah's ark came to rest on the mountain of Ararat. Noah sent out a dove to see whether the water had receded from



earth's surface. But the dove came back without finding any place to set its feet. Noah sent the dove again after seven days. It returned to the ark with a fresh olive leaf. After seven more days Noah again sent the dove and it did not return to the ark. Then Noah opened the roof of the ark and found the surface of the earth dry.

Noah and his family and all the animals and birds came out. Then Noah built an altar and made a sacrifice to thank God. God was pleased with Noah and He made a promise with Noah that He would never destroy the earth with a flood. God established a rainbow as a sign of His promise.

### **God loves those who obey Him**

Noah is listed among the heroes of faith by St. Paul (Heb. 11:7). Noah's story is a good example for God's care for His people and of how God helps His people in times of distress. Noah and his family obeyed God without having any doubt and God blessed them. When we live in this world we should obey God and live according to God's wishes and He will take care of us.

### **Verse for memorization**

“Noah had no faults and was the only good man of his time. He lived in fellowship with God”. Gen. 6: 9.

### **Questions**

1. Why did God want to destroy the earth with a flood ?
2. What did Noah do when he came out of the ark after the flood?
3. Why did God save Noah and his family from the flood?



## Fill in the blanks

1. Noah's ark was made of .....wood.
2. The rain continued for .....days and .....nights.
3. God established a .....as a sign of his promise to Noah.
4. The ark was ..... long, ..... wide and ..... high.

## Activity

Help the students do the following activities:

1. Bring pictures of different types of boats/ships and paste it in your book. Discuss the differences between the ancient and modern ships.
2. Refer Genesis chapter 5 and make the family tree; starting with Adam up to Noah. Note down how long each of them lived.
3. Draw any one of the following pictures
  - (i) A picture of ark with people and animals entering it.
  - (ii) Noah and his family praising God. An ark and a rainbow are to be seen in the background.

## Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help us to lead a good life and always do your will. Lord, give us power to overcome the forces of evil and be obedient to you always. Lord, enable us to fulfill all that you want us to do. Amen.



## LESSON-2

# TOWER OF BABEL

(Gen. 11: 1-9)

Noah's descendants spread out to different parts of the world. They reached the fertile region of Babylon (*This is modern Iraq*). They cultivated the land and established themselves as a powerful community.

### People decide to build the tower

One day all the people living in Shinar assembled and said, "Come, let us build a city, with a tower that reaches the sky, so that we can make a name for ourselves and not be scattered all over the earth"(Gen 11:4).

During that time all the people spoke only one language. They started the work with bricks and tar. Then God came down and saw their work. He considered it as an attempt of self-glorification by the people and their effort to make themselves independent of God. He became very angry and decided to punish the people.

### God confuses the language of the people

God confused the language of the people there. The people who were building the city and tower started speaking in different languages. They could not communicate with each other and the work could not be completed. The uncompleted tower came to be known as 'Tower of Babel'. The word 'Babel' means 'confusion'.



The Lord scattered the people over the whole earth. They began to speak different languages. The people who spoke a particular language inhabited a new area and settled there. Thus we have different languages at different places in the world.

This story is a fine example for the result of people's actions without God. Today also we are proud about the development in science and technology. But we will fail unless our activities are based on God's will. Very often people seek community life and culture independent of God. But

ultimately they fail. Our activities should be based on God's will and not used for challenging God.

### Verse for memorization

"If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless; if the Lord does not protect the city, it is useless for the sentries to stand guard"  
Psalm 127:1.





## Questions

1. Why did God punish the people?
2. Why could the people not complete the work of the tower?
3. What will happen if our actions are against the will of God?

## Fill in the blanks

1. The meaning of the word 'Babel' is.....
2. Our activities should be based on .....and not used for challenging God.

## Activity

1. Compare the story of the Tower of Babel and events of the Day of Pentecost (in Acts Chapter 2).
2. Discuss briefly about famous, tall buildings or towers in the world. (eg. The Qutab Minar at Delhi, Taipei 101 in Taiwan (height: 508 metre), Petronas Towers in Malaysia (height: 452 metre), Sears Tower in U.S (height: 442 metre), etc.)

## Prayer

Our living and loving Heavenly Father, May Your name be glorified. Remove and cut off all pride from our hearts. Make us dependant on thee all our life. Amen.



**LESSON - 3****ABRAHAM****(Gen. 12-25)**

Abraham lived in the city of Ur (*in present day Iraq*) about 4000 years ago. He was the son of Terah. The whole family of Terah obeyed God, and God loved them. Leaving the city of Ur, the family came to Haran and settled there. Abraham's earlier name was Abram. God made a covenant with him and changed his name to Abraham.

**Abraham's obedience to God**

One day God appeared to Abraham and asked him to leave his country, kindred and father's house to the land God would show him. God made a promise that He would make Abraham the father of a great nation.

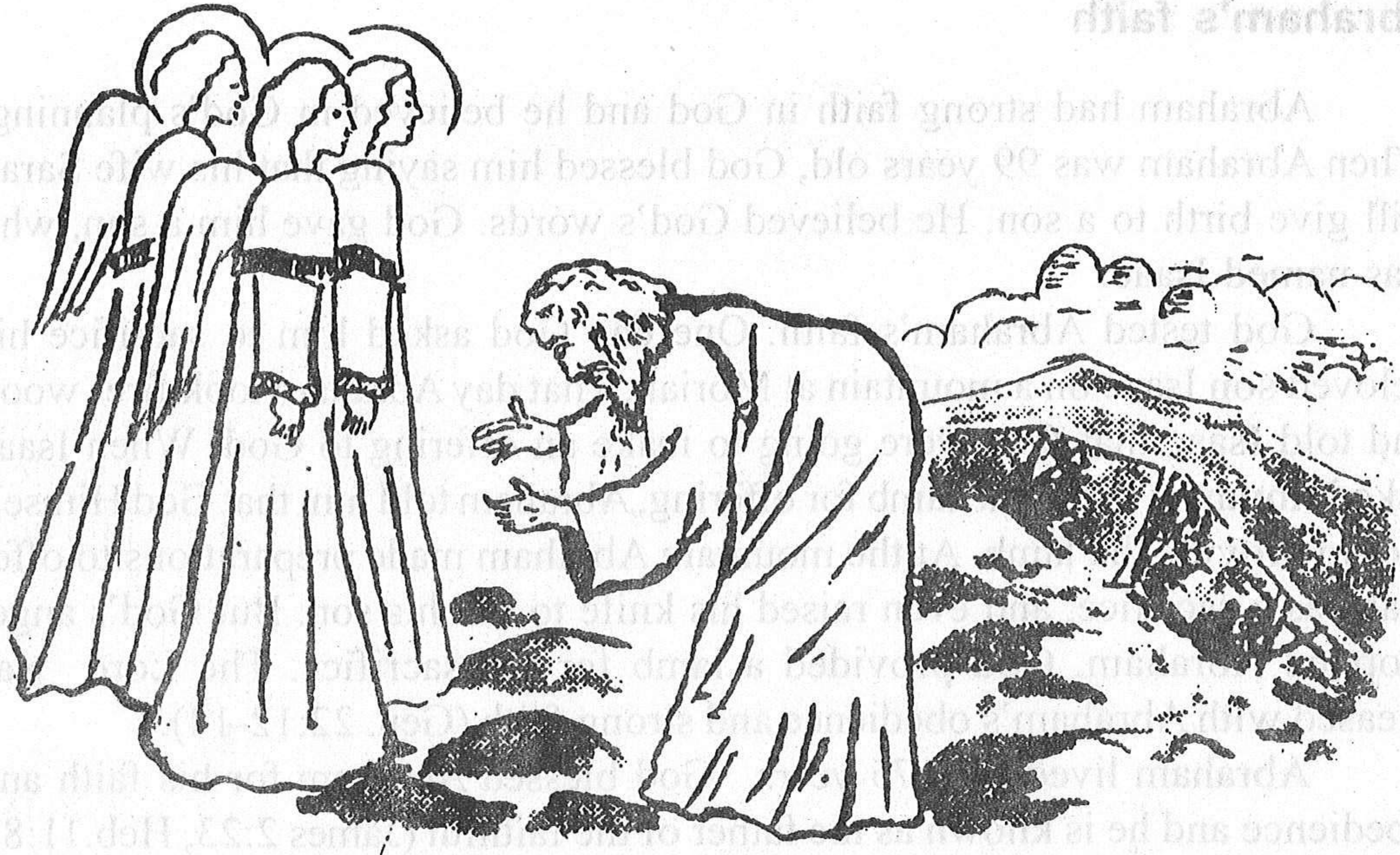
Abraham had no children and he did not know how God would fulfill His promise. Still, he obeyed the words of the God wholeheartedly. He left Haran and set out to Canaan.

**A model human behavior**

Let's see some of the good qualities of Abraham.

- (a) **Hospitality:** Abraham was very hospitable to strangers (Gen 18:1-8). One day when Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his house, he saw three men standing nearby. The three men were messengers of God, but Abraham could not recognize them. He went near them and bowed low to the ground. Later on, he prepared delicious





food for them. The three men blessed Abraham saying that his wife Sarah would give birth to a son. As God promised, a son was born to Sarah the following year.

- (b) Whole-heartedness: Lot was Abraham's nephew who was with Abraham. When the servants of Abraham and Lot quarreled, Abraham wanted to part with Lot to avoid quarrels. He was kind enough to allow Lot to choose whatever portion of land he liked.
- (c) Compassion: When the God said that He was going to destroy the city of Sodom and Gomorrah because of people's wickedness, Abraham pleaded with the God not to destroy the city.
- (d) Obedience: Abraham was a Godfearing man. He obeyed every word of God out of his strong faith in God. When God asked Abraham to leave his place of living, he obeyed.

However, the greatest quality of Abraham was his **faith in God**.



## **Abraham's faith**

Abraham had strong faith in God and he believed in God's planning. When Abraham was 99 years old, God blessed him saying that his wife Sarah will give birth to a son. He believed God's words. God gave him a son, who was named Isaac.

God tested Abraham's faith. One day God asked him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac on a mountain at Moriah. That day Abraham took fire-wood and told Isaac that they were going to make an offering to God. When Isaac asked Abraham about the lamb for offering, Abraham told him that God Himself would provide the lamb. At the mountain Abraham made preparations to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and even raised his knife to kill his son. But God's angel stopped Abraham. God provided a lamb for the sacrifice. The Lord was pleased with Abraham's obedience and strong faith (Gen. 22:12-14).

Abraham lived for 175 years. God blessed Abraham for his faith and obedience and he is known as the father of the faithful (James 2:23, Heb.11:8). God always blesses those who are faithful and obedient to him.

## **Verse for memorization**

“Abraham believed in God and it was accounted to him for righteousness”  
Gen. 15:6.

## **Questions**

1. What is the name of Abraham's wife?
2. What are the good qualities we find in Abraham?
3. Can you give two examples for Abraham's obedience to God?



## Fill in the blanks

1. Abraham was the son of ..... and ..... was Abraham's son.
2. God asked Abraham to leave ..... and go to .....
3. Abraham took Isaac to a mountain at ..... for sacrifice.

## Activity

Ask the students to dramatize the sacrifice of Isaac.

## Prayer

Lord, make us obedient servants as our father Abraham was. Grant us Your Spirit that helps us to increase our faith in you. We ask in Jesus' name Amen.





**LESSON - 4****ISAAC****(Gen. 21- 27, 35)****Birth of Isaac**

Isaac (*meaning 'laughter'*) was born when Abraham was hundred years old and his wife Sarah ninety. He was the only son of Abraham by his wife Sarah. Do you remember the story we learned in last lesson about three visitors who came to Abraham's house? They were messengers of God. What they said was the promise of God. It was a strange experience to have a child at that





age. Isaac was dedicated on eighth day after his birth. God promised to make Abraham's descendants a great nation that would become God's chosen people. This was to happen through Isaac.

When Isaac was a young man God tested Abraham's faith. God said, *"Take your son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as an offering on one of the mountains"* (Gen Ch 22:1-2).

Isaac was not aware that he was to be offered until the very act of making the sacrifice began. He did not oppose his father in this. God, however, provided a lamb to take his place.

As he grew, his presence as Abraham's legal heir brought him into clash with Ishmael, Abraham's son by Sarah's handmaid Hagar. As a result Sarah sent Hagar and Ishmael away from them. God comforted Abraham by telling him that Ishmael would also become the father of a great nation.

### **Isaac's family**

When Isaac was forty years old, God directed Abraham's servant Eliezer, to Mesopotamia and find a partner. By divine guidance Eliezer met with Rebecca, a beautiful girl. She was the daughter of Betuel. Her brother was Laban. She was chosen by God for Isaac.

Isaac and Rebecca had twin sons: Esau and Jacob. Esau was Isaac's favorite son. When Isaac became old he wanted to give blessings to Esau. But Rebecca conspired with Jacob to trick the ageing, blind Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob rather than Esau. When he realized what had happened, Isaac gave his blessings to Esau also.



Isaac died at the age of 180 at Hebron (Gen 35: 27-29) and was buried along with Abraham and Sarah.

Later on we see that Isaac's descendants through Jacob grew into a large nation, Israel. We can thus see that God fulfills all His promises. We can completely trust in God. Those who believe in God are called 'the promised children of God'. St.Paul says, "Brothers, we are the children of God like Isaac, who was born out of the promise of God" (Gal. 4:28).

### Verse for memorization

"Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart" Psalms 73.1.

### Questions

1. Describe an incident which shows the obedience of Isaac.
2. What is the name of Isaac's step-brother?

### Fill in the Blanks

1. Isaac was born when Abraham was ..... years old and his wife Sarah was .....
2. When Isaac was forty years old, God directed Abraham's servant to .....and found a partner, Rebekah for Isaac
3. Isaac died at the age of 180 at .....

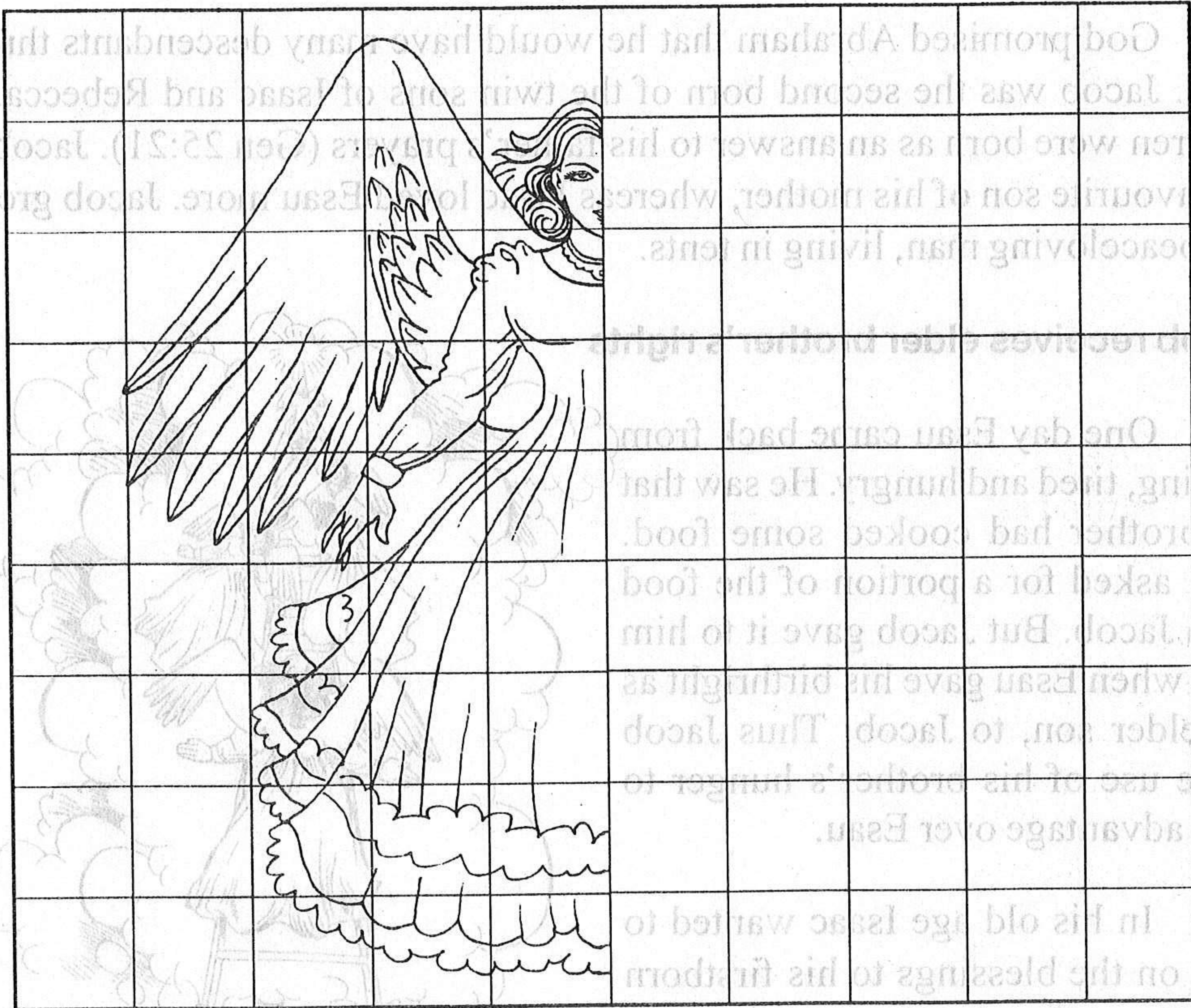
Who said to whom?

*"Take your son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me".*



Activity

Look at the following picture. The artist has left it unfinished. Look at the portion already drawn and finish the other half of the picture in the squares on the right.



Prayer

Lord God Almighty, You are all powerful. Isaac submitted to Your will and he was blessed abundantly. We submit to You. Bless us and help us through Jesus. Amen



## LESSON - 5

## JACOB

(Gen. 25 - 35)

God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants through Isaac. Jacob was the second born of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca. The children were born as an answer to his father's prayers (Gen 25:21). Jacob was the favourite son of his mother, whereas Isaac loved Esau more. Jacob grew up as a peaceloving man, living in tents.

**Jacob receives elder brother's rights**

One day Esau came back from hunting, tired and hungry. He saw that his brother had cooked some food. Esau asked for a portion of the food from Jacob. But Jacob gave it to him only when Esau gave his birthright as the elder son, to Jacob. Thus Jacob made use of his brother's hunger to gain advantage over Esau.

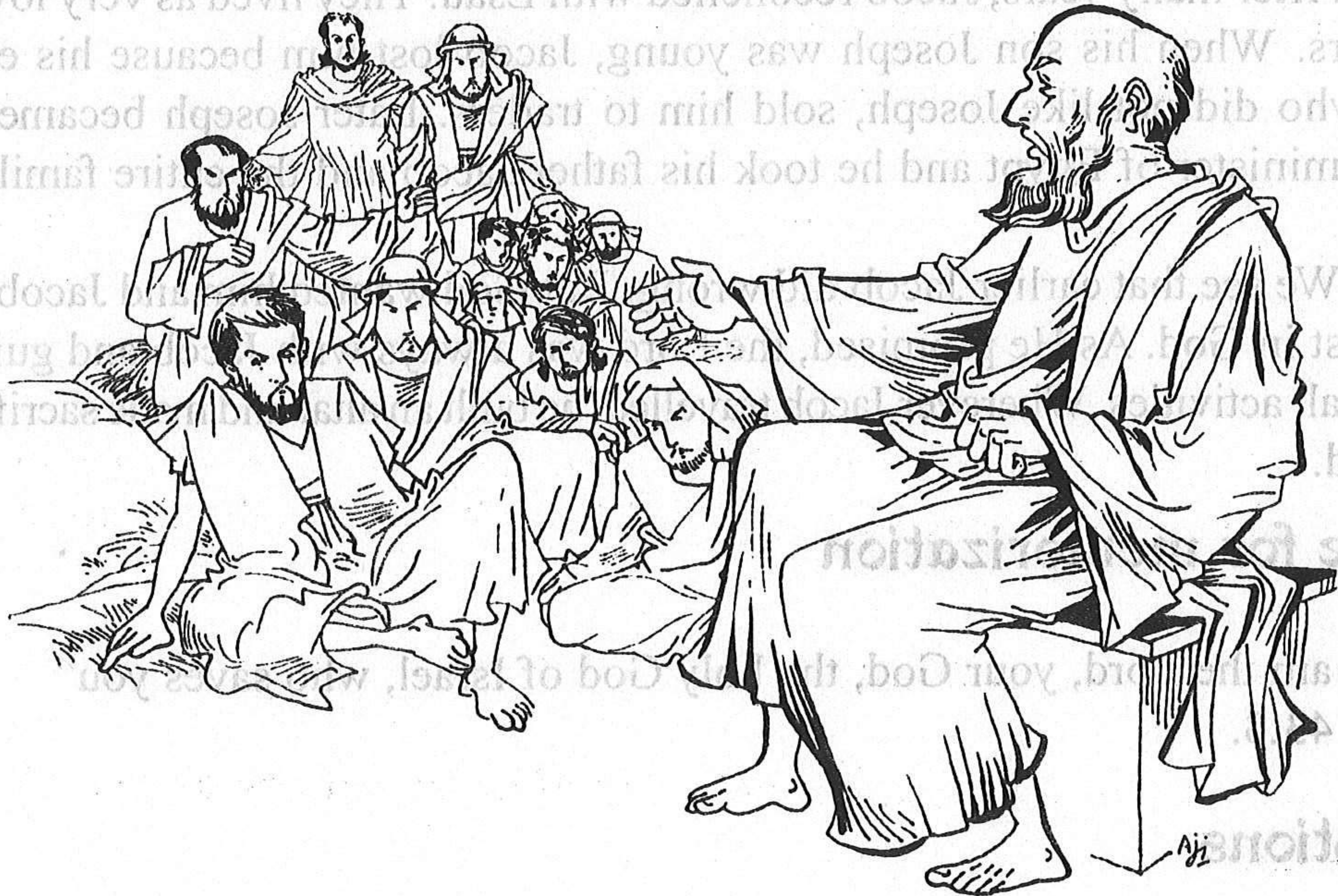
In his old age Isaac wanted to pass on the blessings to his firstborn son Esau. But Jacob wanted to get the blessings from his father at any cost. So he played a trick. He impersonated Esau with the help of his mother and received his father's blessings.





## Jacob flees from Esau

Esau became very angry at his brother. He wanted to take revenge. When Rebecca came to know of Esau's plans, she sent Jacob to her brother Laban to escape from Esau's anger. During the journey to his uncle's place, Jacob had a



vision. He saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending upon it and the Lord above it (Gen 28:10-15). There the Lord promised Jacob three things: (i) His presence (ii) the inheritance of land and (iii) multiplication of his descendants. Jacob named the place, Bethel (house of God) and built an altar there. In another strange experience, Jacob wrestled with God, and took blessings from God (Gen 32:22-30). There, God changed his name to Israel.



## Jacob's marriage

After reaching Laban's house, Jacob stayed there for fourteen years. He married Laban's daughters Rachel and Leah. Jacob had twelve sons. The twelve tribes of Israel are known after them.

After many years, Jacob reconciled with Esau. They lived as very loving brothers. When his son Joseph was young, Jacob lost him because his elder sons who did not like Joseph, sold him to traders. Later Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt and he took his father Jacob and the entire family to Egypt.

We see that earlier Jacob did wrong. But God wanted him and Jacob put his trust in God. As He promised, the Lord was always with Jacob and guided him in all activities. Wherever Jacob travelled, he built an altar and made sacrifices to God.

## Verse for memorization

“For I am the Lord, your God, the holy God of Israel, who saves you”  
Isaiah 43:3.

## Questions

1. What was the vision of Jacob?
2. Why did Jacob flee to Laban's house?
3. How did the twelve tribes of Israel come into existence?

## Fill in the blanks

1. Meaning of the word 'Bethel' is.....
2. Jacob married Laban's daughters .....and .....
3. God changed Jacob's name to .....



**Activity:**

**Quiz (Give answers in a word or in a sentence)**

1. Who is the father of twelve tribes ?
2. What is Jacob's father's name ?
3. Who was standing on top of the staircase in the dream, which Jacob had seen?
4. Who was Esau's brother?
5. What is the meaning of the word 'Bethel'?
6. How did Jacob buy the birthright of his elder brother?

(Teacher may add more simple questions)

**Prayer**

Our Lord God, We trust you completely. Be present in our lives as you promised Jacob. Be with us and guide us always. In Jesus' name, Amen.





## LESSON - 6

**JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS**

(Gen. 37, 39)

We learned that Jacob had twelve sons. Today we are going to see how God worked through one of his twelve sons, Joseph. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob. His brothers were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Isachar, Zebulun and Benjamin. It was their descendants that came to be known as the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Joseph's position in his family**

Joseph had been born to Jacob in his old age. He grew up in love and loyalty to God. Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. He made





a high quality coat for Joseph. Joseph used to tell his father about his brothers' misconduct. When his brothers learned that their father loved Joseph more than any of them, they hated him and never spoke well about him.

### **Dreams of Joseph**

One day Joseph had a dream: when he was binding sheaves of grain in the field along with his brothers, his sheaf rose and stood upright; and his brothers' sheaves gathered around and bowed down his sheaf. In another dream Joseph saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to him (Gen 37:5-10). His father understood the dream as meaning that Joseph's brothers and parents would bow down before Joseph. His brothers became very angry and they hated Joseph more than before.

### **Joseph sold into slavery by his brothers**

When his brothers were out at Shechem for grazing their father's flock, Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers to bring news about them. When his brothers saw Joseph, they said, "Here comes the dreamer, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the dry wells". But the elder brother Reuben did not agree to the plan to kill Joseph. So his brothers stripped the coat off Joseph and threw him into an empty pit. Reuben had planned to save Joseph from the pit later and take him to his father. But when Reuben was not with them, his brothers saw a group of Midianite traders passing nearby. The merchant group was on their way to Egypt. The brothers took Joseph from the pit and sold him to the merchants for twenty shekels.

Joseph's brothers slaughtered a goat and dipped Joseph's long coat in the blood. They returned to their father with the coat and told him "We found this coat, see whether it is your son's coat". Jacob recognized it. He thought that some animals had killed Joseph and he became very sad.



## Joseph in Egypt

The merchants sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar. Potiphar was one of the officials of the King of Egypt, who was called Pharaoh. Joseph was very sincere in the service of Potiphar, and he was led by God so that he received favours from his master. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and all that he owned.

We shall see the realization of Joseph's dreams in the next lesson.

## Verse for memorization

“God's people will shine like the sun in their father's Kingdom” St. Mathew 13:43.

## Questions

1. What are the dreams of Joseph?
2. Why were his brothers angry at Joseph?
3. What happened to Joseph when his father sent him to his brothers to know their welfare?
4. Give the names of Joseph's brothers.

## Fill in the blanks

1. Joseph grew up in .....and..... to God.
2. The Midianite merchants sold Joseph in Egypt to .....
3. In ancient times, the kings of Egypt were known as.....

## Activity

1. Bring a map and show the areas of Egypt and Canaan to the children.



2. Ask the students to share the dreams they see. Also ask the students about dreams about their future.

## Prayer

Lord God, help your children to lead a faithful life. Lord, kindly lead us in all situations. Like Joseph, help us to grow up in your care. We ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.



**LESSON - 7****JOSEPH THE PRIME MINISTER****(Gen. 39-45)****God helps Joseph in the Egyptian prison**

We have seen in the last chapter that Joseph's brothers sold him to merchants. When they reached Egypt the merchants sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. Seeing Joseph's efficiency and sincerity, Potiphar put him in charge of his household and all that he owned. He was loyal to his master. But he did not obey the improper request of his master's wife. So she spoke evil of Joseph and the master put him in prison. Joseph still trusted in God and God helped him in prison. The prison warden granted him favours and put him in charge of all those held in prison.

**Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams**

We can see God's wonderful plans in Joseph's life. One night Pharaoh had two dreams. The first dream: He was standing by the river Nile, when initially seven fat cows came out from the river and grazed among the reeds. After them, seven thin and bony cows came from the river and ate up the fat cows. The second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other thin heads of grain sprouted. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy heads. Pharaoh wanted to know the meaning of the dreams. Only Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. He told that there would be great abundance in Egypt for seven years followed by severe famine for seven years (Gen 41:25).



## Joseph made Prime Minister

Joseph told Pharaoh how the seven years of abundance could be used to prepare for the seven years famine. Pharaoh became very pleased to hear the



interpretations of his dreams and Joseph's plan to overcome the famine. He made Joseph second in charge of Egypt. Pharaoh took his ring and put it on Joseph's finger as a symbol of authority. The King gave him a woman named, Asenath as his wife. They had two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim.

Joseph worked hard as the Prime Minister. He stored enough food during the first seven years to meet the requirements of the seven years of famine. The famine was so severe and widespread that people from neighbouring countries also came to Egypt to buy grain.



The famine affected Canaan also. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food grains. Though Joseph recognized his brothers at first sight itself, he did not reveal his identity. His brothers also could not recognize him. Joseph gave them enough food but made a plan to make his brothers return to him. Later he could not control himself and no longer hide his identity. He cried aloud and said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Is my father still alive?"(Gen 45:4). The whole family of Jacob came to Egypt and settled there. They could benefit from Joseph's status and position in the country.

### Joseph's character

In Joseph, we can observe a noble character. (a) He was very pure and he led a high moral life. (b) He relied on God and God protected him from all dangers. (c) He did not show any hatred to his brothers for whatever bad things they did to him. He forgave his brothers for their wrong doings and allowed them to enjoy the luxuries in Egypt. (d) He trusted God even in difficult times. Joseph believed that it was God's plan to send him to Egypt ahead of others so that he could protect his family in difficult times.

Joseph's life was a turning point in the history of Israel.

### Verse for memorization

The good man suffers many troubles, but the Lord saves him from all.  
Psalm 34:19.

### Questions

1. What was Pharaoh's dream?
2. What was the idea Joseph suggested to Pharaoh to face the severe famine?
3. How did Joseph become the Prime Minister of Egypt?



## Fill in the blanks

1. The present capital of Egypt is.....
2. Joseph relied on ..... and God protected him from all .....
3. The name of Joseph's wife was.....and their sons were .....

## Activity

1. Sing "Bind us together Lord....."  
 (Chorus) Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together with cords  
 That cannot be broken, Bind us together, Lord,  
 Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together with love  
 (1) There is only one God, There is only one King  
 There is only one Body, That is why I now sing (Chorus)  
 (2) We are the children of God, we have the promise divine  
 We are God's chosen people, we are the glorious new wine.  
 (Chorus)

### 2. *Who's my mother?*

Our fathers are famous Biblical characters, but do you know our mothers?

(Refer the biblical references given against each name and find out the names of their mothers.)

- (i). I am Joseph, son of Jacob. My mother is .....
- (Genesis 30:22-24)



Fill in the blanks

- (ii). I am Isaac, son of Abraham. My mother is .....  
(Gen: 21: 1-8)
- (iii). I am Judah, son of Jacob. My mother is .....  
(Genesis 29:35)
- (iv). I am Ishmael, son of Abraham. My mother is .....  
(Genesis 16:15)
- (v). I am Ahaziah, son of Ahab. My mother is .....  
(2 Kings 8:26)
- (vi). I am Jonathan, son of Saul. My mother is .....  
(1 Samuel 14:49-50)
- (vii) I am Ephraim, son of Joseph. My mother is .....  
(Write reference also)

### Prayer

Dear God, Your Son Jesus taught us to love others and show mercy to others. Like Joseph loved his brothers and forgave their serious faults, give us strength to forgive others and love them. Help us to act for the goodness of others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

(Chorus)

Who's my mother?

Our fathers are famous Biblical characters, but do you know our mothers?

(Refer the biblical references given against each name and find out the names of their mothers.)

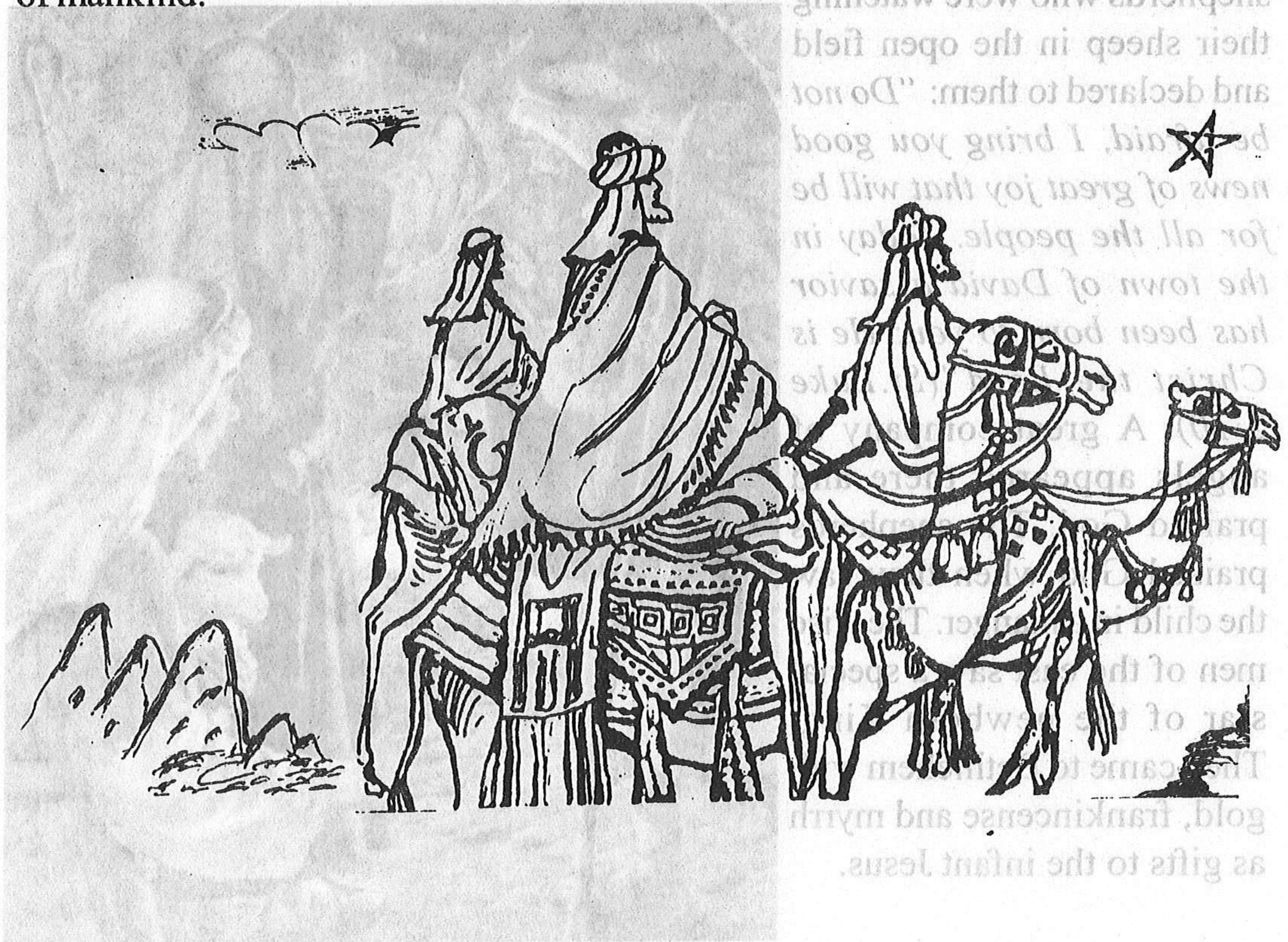
- (i) I am Joseph, son of Jacob. My mother is .....  
(Genesis 30:22-24)



# JESUS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

(St. Mathew 1:18-2:12)

When someone helps us in any danger or difficulty, we say that he saved me. One who saves becomes a saviour. Saviour is a person who rescues others from evil, danger or destruction. Today we are going to learn about the saviour of mankind.





## Birth of Jesus, the savior of the world

God created the world and had a special purpose for creation. But man committed sin and lived against the will of God. God wanted to correct the people in the world. He sent his only son to the world to save us (John 3:16).

Jesus was born as the son of Mary in the city of Bethlehem. One day the angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that she will bear a son. The birth of Jesus was foretold by prophets (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, Micah 5:2). Jesus was born out of the Holy Spirit. He was born as the King of Israel.

On that night when Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds who were watching their sheep in the open field and declared to them: *“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord”* (St. Luke 2:10). A great company of angels appeared there and praised God. The shepherds praised God when they saw the child in a manger. The wise men of the east saw a special star of the newborn King. They came to Bethlehem with gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts to the infant Jesus.





## Savior of the world

Jesus was Savior in his works. He raised the dead to life, which nobody else in the world could do. He healed the blind and dumb, controlled the waves, walked on water and fed the people. Whoever asked help from Jesus, received it. He saved people from their miseries and the power of the devil.

Jesus was Savior in his words. He consoled the poor. He preached peace and justice. He forgave the sins of people. He taught about the kingdom of heaven and asked the people to become good. Finally he died on the cross to save everybody from their sins.

We celebrate the birth of Jesus on 25 December. While celebrating Christmas we should try to convey the love of Jesus to others.

God loves all of us. We should also love God. We should be faithful to our Savior by living as good children.

## Verse for memorization

“A virgin shall be with child and have a son, and He will be called Immanuel”. St Mathew 1:23.

## Questions

1. Name some of the miracles that Jesus did.
2. What are the gifts brought by the wise men?
3. How did wise men from the east come to know about the birth of Jesus?
4. How do you celebrate Christmas? (give the answer in your own words.)



## Fill in the blanks

1. Jesus was born in the city of .....
2. We celebrate Christmas on .....

## True or false ?

1. Jesus was born in a super specialty hospital.
2. We can be faithful to our Saviour by living as good children.
3. Jesus did not help the poor
4. Jesus forgave the sins of people.
5. Jesus is God.

## Activity

1. Ask the students to bring old Christmas cards or pictures of Christmas and nicely arrange it in a big chart paper.
2. Ask the children to sing any one Christmas carol they know (in any language).

## Prayer

Our loving Jesus, You came to this world to save us from our sins. Help us to live for you. Help us to show your love to others and tell everyone that you love all of them. Amen.

1. Name some of the miracles that Jesus did.
2. What are the gifts brought by the wise men?
3. How did wise men from the east come to know about the birth of Jesus?
4. How do you celebrate Christmas? (give the answer in your own words).



LESSON- 9

# JESUS THE ONE WHO HEALS ALL SICKNESS

(St. Luke 4:40,41)

All of us are scared of being sick. When we become sick, our body gets tired and we are forced to rest. Parents do not allow children to go out and play





when they are sick. Doctors give medicines and sometimes injections to cure. It may take many days for us to recover from the illness. But Jesus can heal all our sickness with a touch, a word or even a look.

### Jesus heals a Paralytic

One day Jesus was teaching in a house at Capernaum. A large crowd came there to listen to his words. Some people brought a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. They could not find a way in due to the crowd. They went up on the roof and lowered the man on his bed into the crowd in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven; get up, take your mat and go home". Immediately he stood up, praised God, took his mat and went home. Every one was amazed and praised God (St.Luke 5:17-26, St.Mk.2:1-12).

### Jesus heals many

Jesus healed different types of diseases. He healed the fever of Simon's mother-in-law with a touch (St.Luke 4:38,39), healed a demonpossessed man (St.Luke 8:26-33). He cast out evil spirits with a word. When the disciples showed him a man born blind, He spat on the ground, made some mud with saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. He then asked the man to wash it in the pool of Siloam. The man washed and came back seeing.

We see many healing miracles of Jesus in the Bible. Jesus wanted to help people in their sufferings and convey the message that nothing is impossible with God. We should help the helpless and pray for the sick. Whenever we do this, we become helpers and co-workers of Jesus in His healing ministry.



## Verse for memorization

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness” St John 8:12

## Questions

1. How did Jesus give sight to the blind man?
2. How can we become helpers and co-workers of Jesus in His ministry?

## Fill in the blanks

1. Jesus healed the fever of Simon’s mother-in-law with .....
2. Jesus asked the blind man to wash his eyes at.....

## Activity

1. Ask the children to compare the healing activities of doctors in the hospital and healing by Jesus. Children can conduct a small drama with a patient approaching a doctor, and getting a sequence of checks up and prescription of medicine. Another patient goes to Jesus and prays; and he gets healed by his faith and God’s mercy.
2. Discuss in short the different types of check ups in the hospital.
3. Try to locate some of the healing miracles from Bible.

## Prayer

Jesus our Lord, You lived in this world always helping others. Lord help us to continue your work by helping others. Amen.



**LESSON 10****JESUS THE FRIEND OF THE POOR****(St.Luke 21:1- 4)**

Everybody has friends. Generally those who wear costly dress and expensive articles attract more people and such people will have more friends. But we have to ask: Who is a real friend?

**Jesus, the friend of the poor and the humble**

People usually make friendship with those who are respected in the society. But Jesus never tried to become friendly with the rich and the famous people of his time. Jesus spent most of His time with poor people.





Leaving all the glories of heaven, Jesus was born in a manger at Bethlehem and was brought up in an ordinary family. His disciples were also not rich; most of them were fishermen. Most of the miracle cures of Jesus took place for the needy and the poor. Jesus was very keen in looking after the needs of the poor. He was always associated with the poor, the sick and the outcasts of the society. Jesus was a good friend of the family of Lazarus of Bethany. When Lazarus died, Jesus came and comforted the Lazarus' sisters. He then raised Lazarus from death.

Jesus says that it is very difficult for the rich to enter into the Kingdom of God (St. Luke 18:18-25). In the story of the rich man and poor Lazarus (St. Luke 16:19-30), the rich man, in his luxurious life, did not give any help to Lazarus. When both of them died, Lazarus was taken to heaven and rich man was sent to hell.

Jesus praised the offering of two copper coins made by a poor widow. He said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth: this poor woman has put more into the treasury than all others. She out of her poverty put in everything she had (St. Luke 21:1-4).

### **Jesus, a friend who never changes**

Many times it happens that we get new friends and slowly we forget the old ones. The Prodigal Son lost all his friends when he had no money. It is the natural behaviour of humans. But Jesus is different. He is a friend who never changes. He is there when we are happy and when we are sad. He is always with us and looks after us. Jesus spoke in the synagogue of Nazareth: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free those who are oppressed (St. Luke 4:18).

Jesus gives us a message through his life: to love the poor. We must do whatever we can to the poor people. When we visit the poor and help them in their needs, we continue the work of Jesus.



## Verse for memorization

“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest”. St Mathew 11:28.

## Questions

1. Jesus was a friend of the poor. Give few examples.
2. What should we do to continue the work of Jesus among the poor?

## Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the bracket

1. Jesus is a friend who never..... (loves/changes)
2. It is difficult for the .....to enter in the kingdom of God.  
(rich/poor)
3. Some of Jesus' disciples were.....(poor fishermen/business men)

## Activity

1. Help the children to write dialogues for a drama on the story of rich man and poor Lazarus
2. Ask the children to mention some of the works which our Church does among the poor.

## Prayer

Our merciful Lord, we thank you for all the blessings you have showered upon us. Lord, you always helped the poor people. Enable us to help those who are in need. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



# JESUS THE ONE WHO FEEDS THE HUNGRY

(St. John 6:1-12)

## People follow Jesus to listen to Him

Wherever Jesus traveled, a large crowd followed Him. People wanted to hear the good words of Jesus. Once Jesus went by boat to a far-off shore of the sea of Galilee. As usual a large crowd followed him. Seeing the crowd,





Jesus felt compassion on them. He healed the sick among them and spent time with them speaking about the Kingdom of God.

The place where they spent time was a remote area and there was no facility to get food or lodging. As evening approached, the disciples asked Jesus to allow the crowd to go to the nearby villages for food and lodging. But Jesus said, "You give them food". Though He asked the disciples to feed the crowd, Jesus already had in mind what He was going to do.

### **A boy shares his bread and fish**

Among the crowd, a boy had five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish with him. That was the only food he had. He offered it to the disciples. They took it to Jesus.

### **Jesus feeds the crowd**

Jesus asked the disciples to arrange the crowd to sit in rows of fifty each. When the people sat on the grass, Jesus took the bread and fish. He then looked up to heaven, gave thanks, blessed and broke them. He gave it to the disciples to serve the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men besides women and children. Jesus asked the disciples to gather the leftover food. They gathered them and filled twelve baskets.

In a similar incident, Jesus fed four thousand men besides women and children (St. Mark 8: 1-10).

These events show the care and concern of Jesus towards the hungry people. God looks after all our needs. What we have to do is to adopt the behavior of the boy who was ready to give whatever he had. We should be ready to share with others whatever we possess. The boy became a means for Jesus to conduct the miracle. We should submit ourselves to God so that God can use us for the welfare of others.



## Verse for memorization

“I am the bread of life” St. John 6:48

## Questions

1. Who gave the food to Jesus so that He could feed the people? How much food was given?
2. How did Jesus perform the miracle of feeding the thousands?

## Fill in the blanks

1. A .....gave five loaves of bread and two pieces of fish to the disciples.
2. We should .....with others whatever we possess.

## Activity

- (i) Discuss with the students, the importance of sharing. The students may be asked to bring some item (eg. toffee) so that every one can share it.
- (ii) We have read about two instances where Jesus fed the multitude. Compare the following in both the instances:
  - (a) Number of loaves of bread Jesus blessed
  - (b) Number of pieces of fish Jesus blessed
  - (c) Number of people who had been fed
  - (d) Number of baskets left over

## Prayer

O Lord Jesus, You fed many who were hungry with the food of an unselfish boy. Help us to care for the needs of people around us, just as You care for us. Amen.



## LESSON - 12

**JESUS, THE ONE WHO DIED FOR US**

(St. John 18:1-19:37)

Do you remember the processions held in the church on Good Friday? We go in procession around the church, while the priest carries a cross on his shoulder. The significance of the procession is that Jesus our Savior was crucified for us on a cross. He had to carry a big cross on his shoulders to Calvary, the place of crucifixion.

**Jesus under the Roman soldiers**

Jesus came to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. He knew that He would be arrested soon. Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples. He then went to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed to God the Father. Jesus knew that the time had come when He would be arrested and crucified. Now Judas Iscariot, one of His





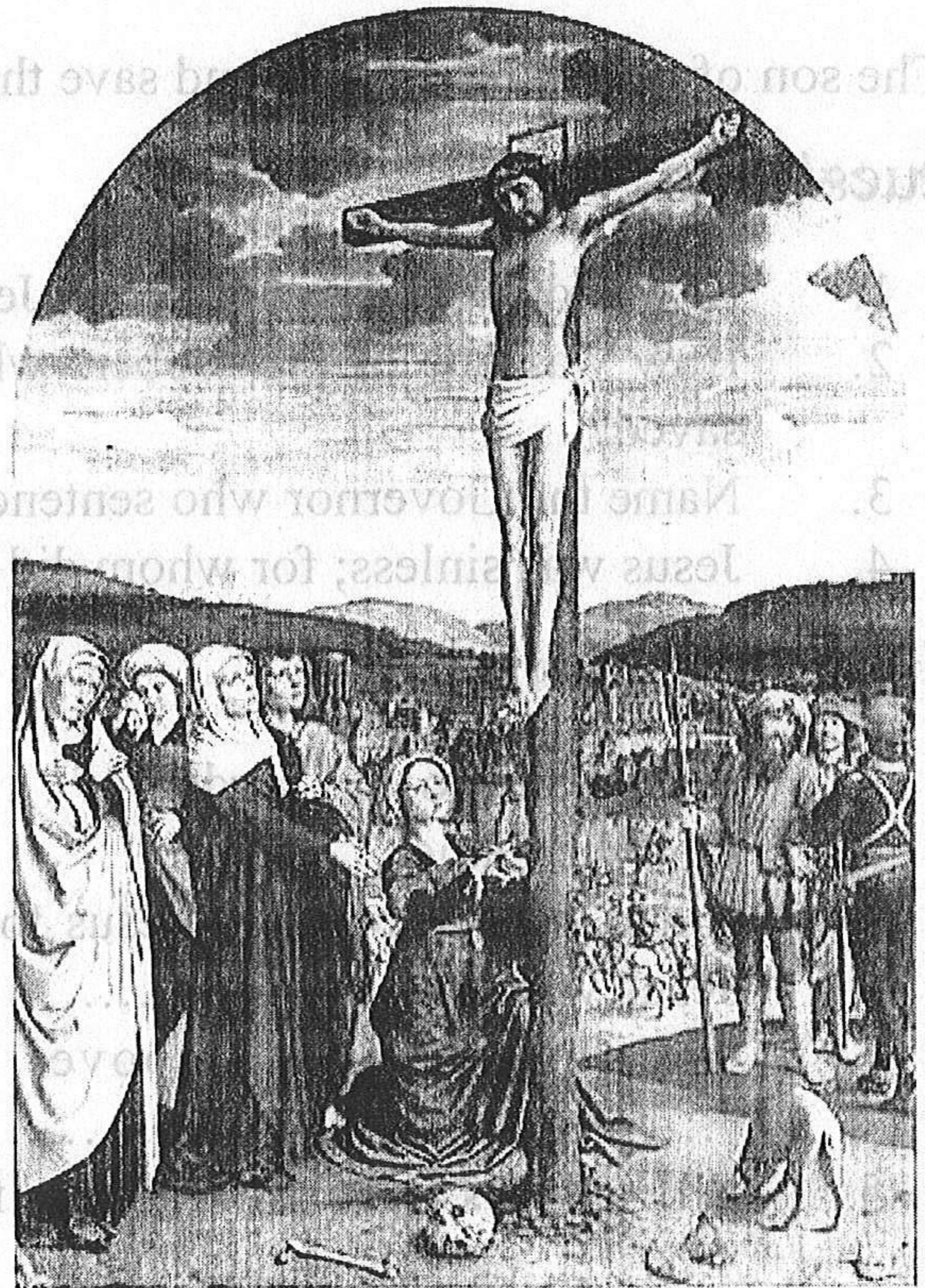
disciples reached there. He had taken money (thirty silver coins) from the Jewish Priests to betray Jesus. Then Judas helped the soldiers to identify Jesus by kissing him.

Why were the Jewish priests against Jesus? Jesus opposed their wrong practices. They wanted to get rid of Him. Pilate, the governor of Judea did not find Jesus guilty enough to be put to death and so he tried to release Jesus. But the crowd, instigated by the Chief Priests and elders shouted and insisted on Jesus' crucifixion. Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

### Jesus crucified at Golgotha

The soldiers took Jesus. They made Him to carry the heavy cross to 'Golgotha' (meaning- 'place of the skull') also called Calvary, where He was to be crucified. The soldiers mocked at Jesus. They spat on Him and struck Him on the head with a staff. They set a crown of thorns on His head. A notice was put above Him. It read: 'Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews'.

Two robbers also were crucified along with Jesus, one at the right side and the other at His left. One of them ridiculed Jesus (St Luke 23: 39,40). But the other one believed that Jesus was God. He prayed to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus instantly told him, "Amen, I say to





you, this day you shall be in paradise with me.” Then Jesus died on the cross! St Paul says: “Jesus knew no sin but was made a sacrifice for other’s sins that we might become righteous” (2 Cor 5 :21). He sacrificed His own life for the sins of others. All of us got salvation from our sins through the death of Jesus.

We cannot see such a type of sacrifice in history. Jesus loved us. So He died for us. If we love our Savior we should not sin. We make the sign of cross to remember the salvation we achieved through Jesus. The son of God came down from heaven and delivered us who were on the left side (sinners) and made us sit on the right hand side of God.

### Verse for memorization

“The son of man came to seek and save the lost” St. Luke 19:10

### Questions

1. How did Judas Iscariot betray Jesus?
2. How was one of the robbers who were crucified along with Jesus saved?
3. Name the Governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified.
4. Jesus was sinless; for whom did he die?

### Fill in the blanks

1. Jesus went to the garden of ..... and prayed to God the Father.
2. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for.....coins
3. Jesus was crucified at.....
4. The notice put above Jesus on the cross read: ‘ ..... the Jews’.
5. All of us got salvation from .....through the .....Jesus.



## Activity

1. Read St. Mathew 27:50-54 and St. Luke 23: 44-46 and find out the extraordinary things happened in the nature when Jesus died on the cross.
2. Ask the student to meditate for five minutes. Encourage the children to repent for their sins in silence. The teacher can help the children to identify their sins like: disobeying parents or teachers, not loving others, telling lies etc. The teacher should explain that the God loves them and all should become good children. The students can end their meditation by making the sign of a cross.

## Prayer

O Lord Jesus, You suffered immense pain for us. You bore the cross for us and died for us. Help us to face the difficulties which come while doing good deeds. Amen



**LESSON - 13****JESUS THE ONE WHO SITS IN GLORY****(St Luke 24, St Mark 15: 49-16:8)**

Jesus died on the cross. Joseph of Arimathea obtained permission from Pilate to bury the body of Jesus. He, along with Nicodemus took the body, wrapped it in cloth and placed it in a tomb. A stone was rolled and placed against the entrance of the tomb. The Jewish leaders told Pilate that Jesus had said that He would rise again after three days. So they sealed the tomb and set a guard there.

**Resurrection of Jesus**

On the third day, the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was not in the tomb. Jesus had risen from the tomb. There He appeared to Mary near the tomb. In the evening, the disciples assembled in a room. They had shut the doors fearing the Jews. Jesus suddenly appeared, stood among them and greeted them, "Peace be with you". The disciples became overjoyed. Jesus Christ, after the resurrection, appeared to his disciples and others many times.



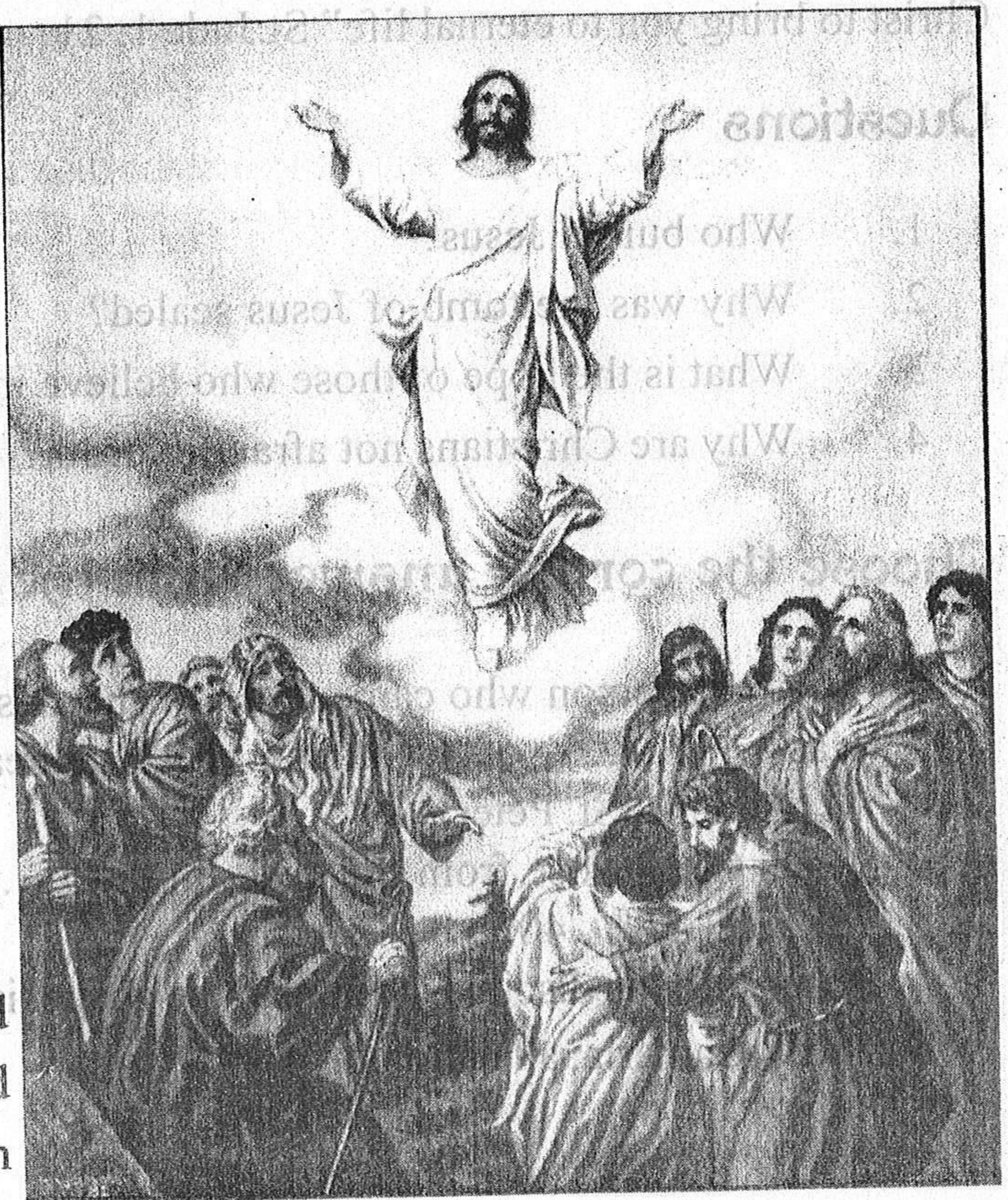
## Ascension of Jesus

Lord Jesus asked his disciples to come to the mount of Olive. He told them to go and make disciples of all the nations (Mathew 28:19). Jesus then lifted up His hands, blessed them, and ascended to heaven.

While the disciples who were there looking up to heaven, two angels appeared there. They said, "Men of Galilee, Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him going to heaven" (Acts: 1:11). The disciples stayed in Jerusalem till they received the Holy Spirit. Then they started spreading the gospel to all parts of the world.

### Hope of humanity

Jesus Christ defeated death. Death is not the end of life. Whoever believes in





Jesus will enter into new life in the Kingdom of God. We are children of God and we have a new life in Jesus. We should live in faith and obey the commands of God. We learned that Jesus was born as the Savior for all the people. It is our duty to live according to the will of God and tell this good news of the love of God and hope in Jesus, to others.

### Verse for memorization

“Keep yourself in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life” St. Jude 1: 21

### Questions

1. Who buried Jesus?
2. Why was the tomb of Jesus sealed?
3. What is the hope of those who believe in Jesus Christ?
4. Why are Christians not afraid of death?

### Choose the correct answer from the following:

1. The first person who came to know that Jesus had risen from the tomb was.....(Joseph of Arimathea, St. Thomas, Mary Magdalene, St. Peter)
2. Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the .....day of His death. (9<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>)
3. Jesus told the disciples to spread the gospel in .....(Jerusalem, India, Samaria, all nations).



### Activity

In each word in the table given below, two letters are missing. Insert suitable two letters in the grid so as to read a meaningful word across. You have only five minutes, try to finish as many as you can.

1	L	F	
2		M	N
3		O	L
4	S		L
5		O	O
6	K	I	
7	O	V	
8	S		V
9		O	D
10	H	A	
11	C		P
12			E K

### Prayer

O Lord Jesus, You died for us on the cross. You rose up from the dead and saved us from death. Help us to value this gift of eternal life. Amen.



## LESSON - 14

**JESUS, THE ONE WHO IS WITH US**

(St. Mathew 1: 1-23)

In the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, we read that God was always with them and guided them. God spoke through prophet Isaiah, 'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel' (Isaiah 7:14). The word Emmanuel means 'God is with us'. Jesus is the Lord who is always with us.

**The Presence of Jesus**

Jesus was born into this world in our own nature. He was always with the people. The presence of Jesus was a great comfort and assurance to those who believed in Him. Large crowds used to assemble in the presence of Jesus. Jesus fed them, healed their sick, raised the dead, and helped many people in difficult conditions.

Jesus was always concerned about the safety of the disciples and the people around him. Once, the disciples faced a big storm while crossing the sea in a boat, but Jesus calmed the sea and saved them.

Jesus was crucified. On the third day he rose from the tomb; appeared to the disciples and said, '*Peace be with you*'. Jesus met the disciples many times before His ascension. He told them to go to the whole world and preach the good news to all mankind (St Mark 16:15). The disciples spread the good news of Jesus to the entire world. Jesus guided the disciples in their ministry and helped them in their difficulties.

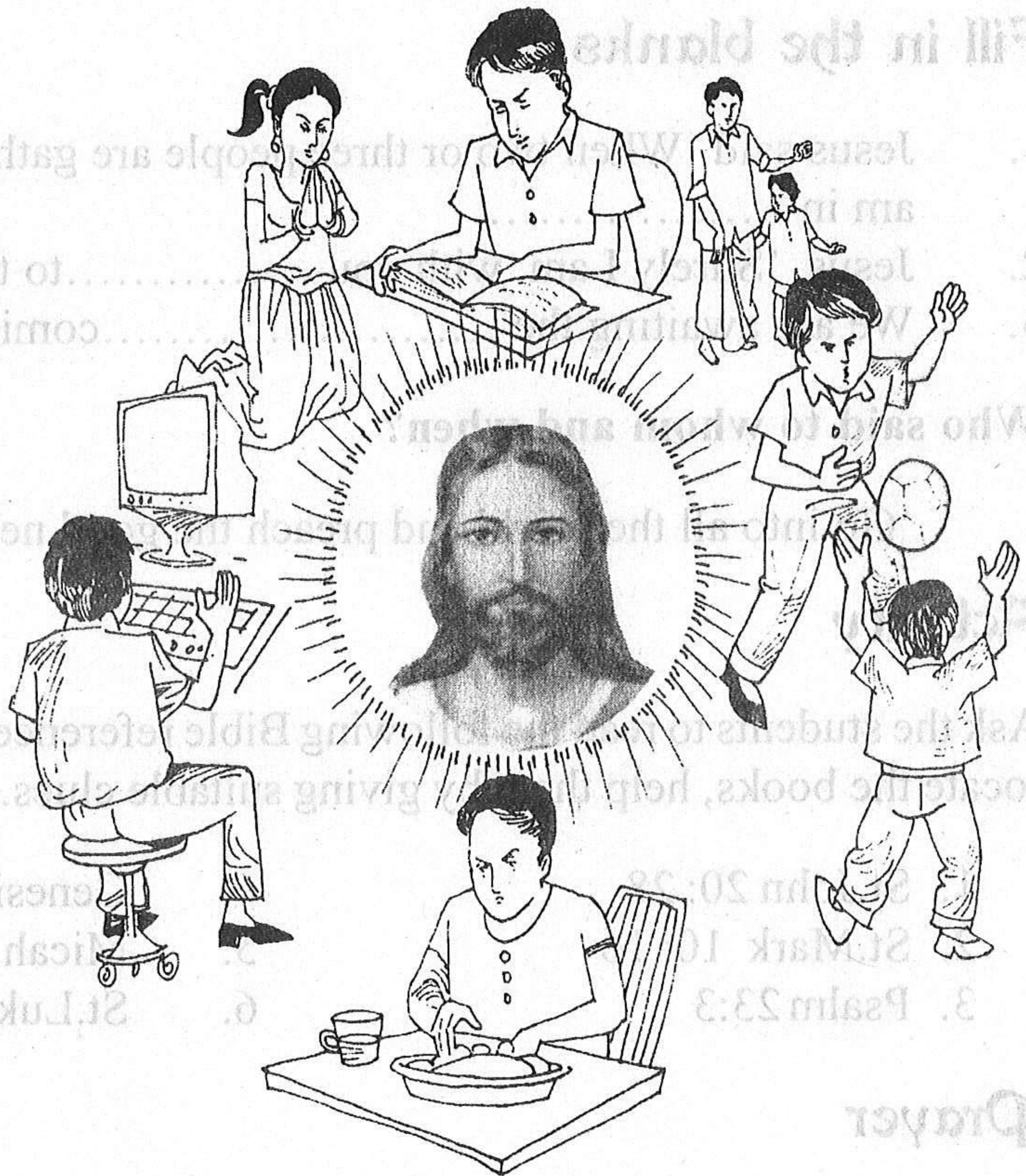


## Experience the presence of God

Jesus said 'When two or three people are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them'. Jesus is with us when we pray and worship Him. We take His Body and Blood during the Holy Communion. Jesus is with us in every walk of life. He helps us to do good things, to talk politely, to obey parents and teachers. He also helps us become good to our friends.

We cannot think of a life where Jesus is not present with us. When we lead a good life and do as He said, we can feel the presence of Jesus with us. When we experience the presence of Jesus; we can enjoy true peace and happiness in our life. There is a saying, "With Jesus you will be a hero and without Him you will be a zero".

We are awaiting the second coming of Jesus. We have the promise of Jesus, '*Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age*' (St Mathew 28: 20). Yes, Jesus is always with us!





## Verse for memorization

“We walk by faith, not by sight” 2 Cor. 5:7

## Questions

1. How can we experience the presence of God?
2. What is the promise given by Jesus about His presence with us?

## Fill in the blanks

1. Jesus said ‘When two or three people are gathered in my name, there I am in .....
2. Jesus, ‘Surely I am with you .....to the very end of the age’.
3. We are awaiting the .....coming of Jesus.

## Who said to whom and when?

‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation’.

## Activity

Ask the students to read the following Bible references. If they find it difficult to locate the books, help them by giving suitable clues.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. St.John 20: 28 | 4. Genesis 50:22 |
| 2. St.Mark 10: 16 | 5. Micah 5: 2    |
| 3. Psalm 23:3     | 6. St.Luke 2: 10 |

## Prayer

O Lord Jesus ! We know You are with us, help us be good children. Help us to deal well with our parents, brothers and sisters, elders and friends. Amen.



# FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH

(St. Mathew 28:16-20)

Many of us understand church only as a place where Christians go for worship just like Hindus go to Temple, Muslims to Mosques and Sikhs to Gurudwaras. The word Church means more. It is used to specify: (a) a building designated for worship (b) a particular Christian denomination (c) the body of all the people who believe in Jesus Christ. Our study is based on the third meaning.

## Foundation of the church

For Christians, the Church is the fulfillment of the promise God made to Abraham and Moses. God promised to make them His own selected people, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Ex 19: 5-6). So, Church means people belonging to God.

The Church is founded upon Jesus Christ. It is based on the truths of His life, death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus did not go to all the places in the world to spread His message. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and told them:

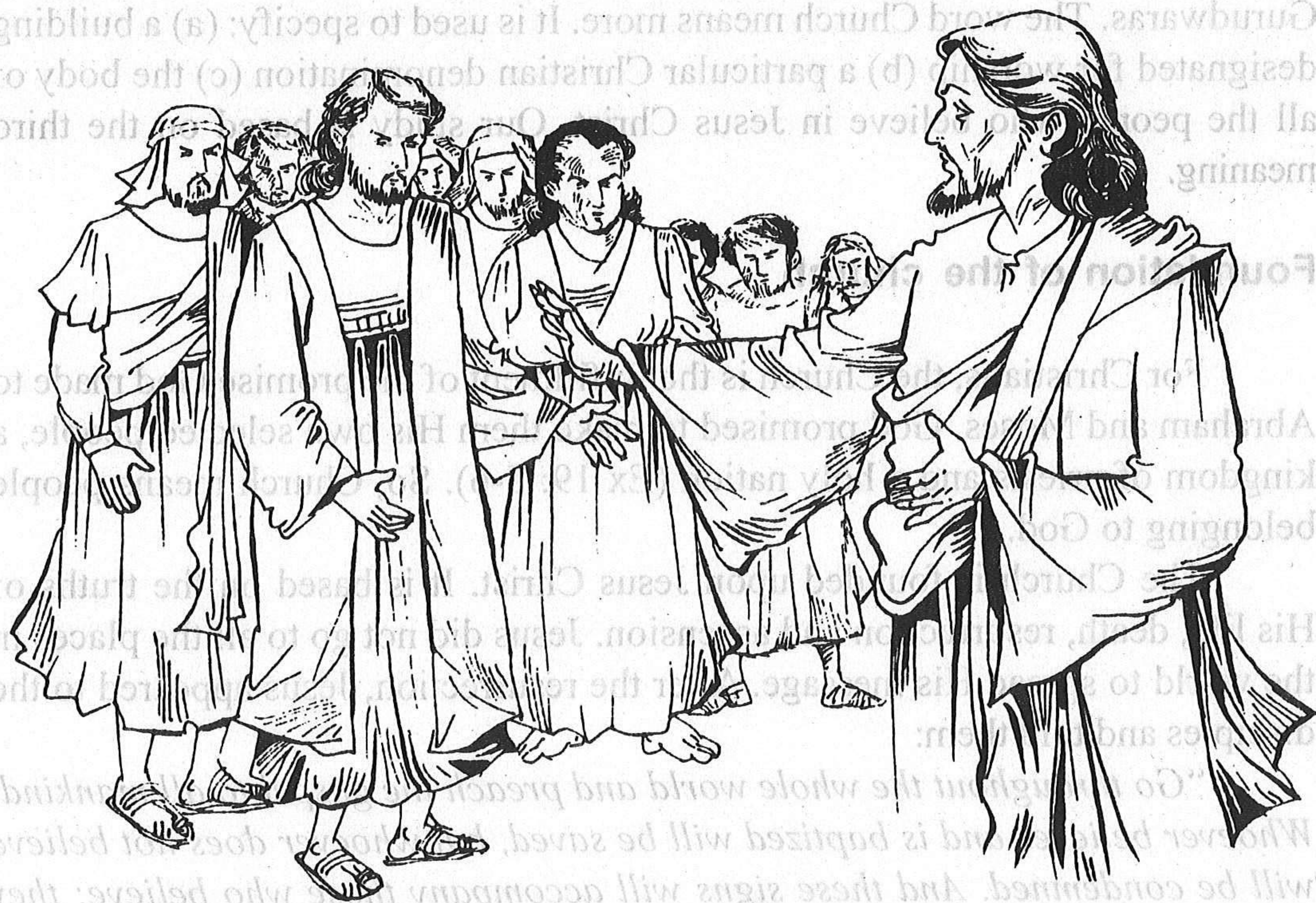
*“Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues.....they will place their hands on the sick people and they will get well”* (St. Mark 16: 15-18, St. Mathew 28:19).



The disciples went to different places in the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The believers became part of the Christian church.

### Certain characteristics of church

We can see certain special characteristics of the Church. (i) Church has no standing without Jesus Christ. It is the body of Christ, with Christ as its head. (2) It is God's work and no force can destroy it. (3) Church is Holy



(4) Church is catholic (*which means 'universal'*) and that it is for all without any discrimination of age, sex, gender, descent or status.



## Church is for whom

Church is the continuing visible activity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church produces fruits to the glory of God. All the people who believe in Jesus Christ become part of the Church. The Church includes all the faithful who are living, those who have died and those who are yet to be born.

All the churches in the world are based on the faith in Jesus Christ. They all continue to spread the good news of God.

## Verse for memorization

“There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism” Ephesians 4:5.

## Questions

1. What are the three different meanings of the word ‘Church’?
2. How has the Church spread all over the world?
3. Who are the members of the church?
4. What are the main characteristics of the church?

## Fill in the blanks

1. The Church is founded upon the .....,  
....., and .....of Christ.
2. The Church includes all the faithful who are .....,  
..... and .....



## Activity

1. Ask the students to name different religions and their worship places.
2. Discuss the different denominations in the Christian community. Identify worship places/churches of other denominations in your locality.

## Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we understand that the Church is your visible activity. We pray for all the church denominations and their members. Lord we specially for our church. Help us to spread your message to all parts of India and the world. Amen.

## Questions

1. What are the three different meanings of the word 'Church'?
2. How has the Church spread all over the world?
3. Who are the members of the church?
4. What are the main characteristics of the church?

## Fill in the blanks

1. The Church is founded upon the ..... and ..... of Christ.
2. The Church includes all the faithful who are ..... and .....



## LESSON-16

**THE PENTECOST**

(Acts 2:1-4)

**Origin of Pentecosts**

Pentecost was a Jewish festival. God appeared to Moses at Mount Horeb in a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-10). He sent Moses to redeem the Israelites from their sufferings in Egypt. Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt. At Mount Sinai, God gave him the Ten Commandments, which became the law for the Israelites (Ex 20:1-17). To commemorate this event and reaffirm the covenant, God instituted a religious festival for the Israelites. This festival is celebrated together with the harvest of first fruits and has been called the feast of Pentecost. The day of Pentecost fell on the fiftieth day after Passover (*the word Pentecost means fiftieth day*) (Levi.23:15-22).

**First Pentecost among Christians**

Jesus was crucified on a Passover day. He rose from the dead, and forty days after his death, Jesus ascended into heaven. At the time of ascension he promised his disciples: *'When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth'* (Acts 1:8).

On the day of Pentecost (ten days after His Ascension), the disciples were praying in a room with some other people. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the room. Then they saw what appeared to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of



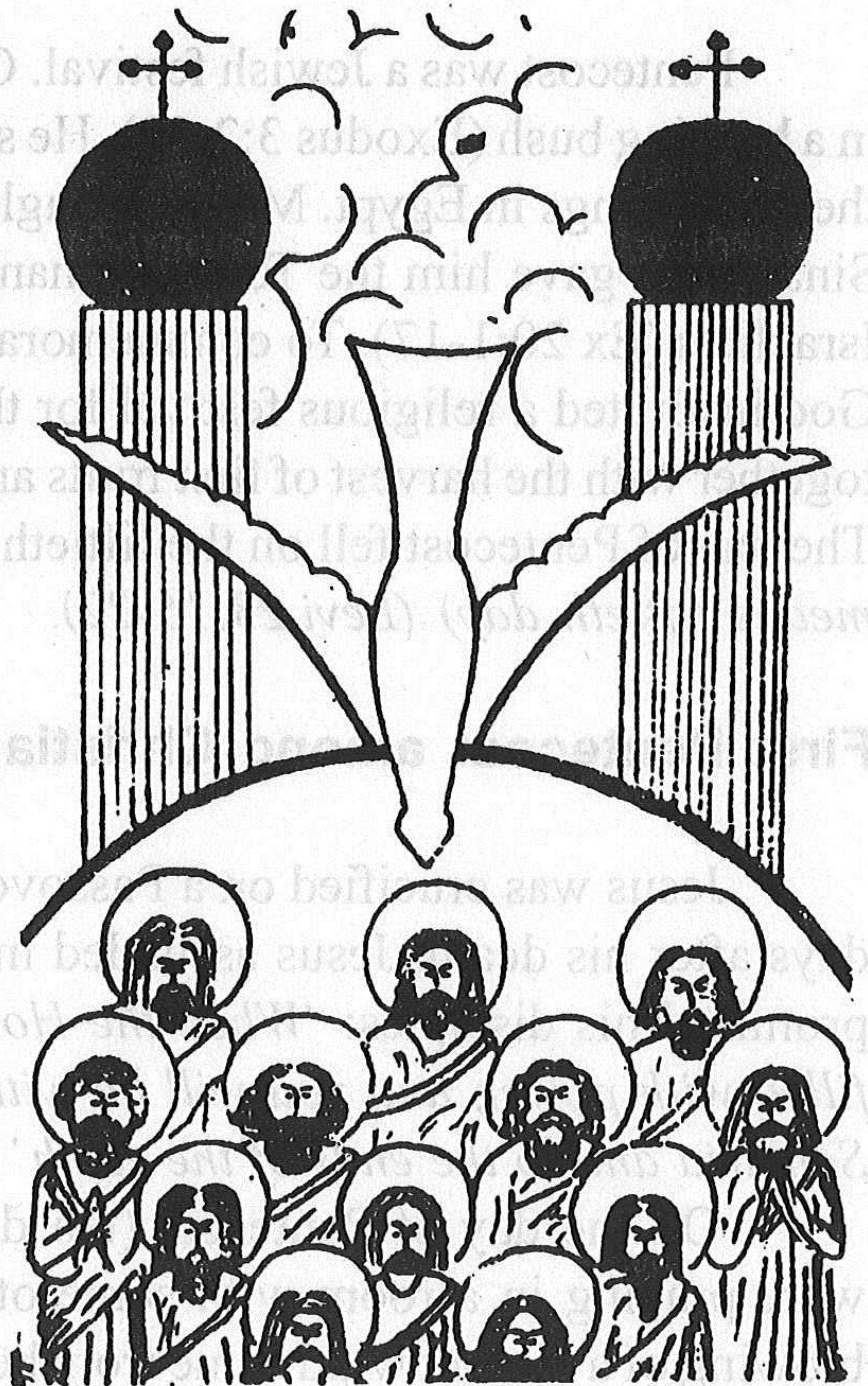
them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:2-4).

In Jerusalem, there were Jews from different parts of the world, speaking different languages. When they came to the room, hearing the sound, each one heard them speaking in his own language. All of them were astonished. Some people made fun of them and said, "These people are drunk".

### Fulfillment of prophecy

The disciples stood up before the crowd and Peter spoke to them. He said this was the fulfillment of a promise by Jesus. He also said that Prophet Joel had prophesied: "In the last days, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your old men will have dreams and your young men will see visions" (Joel 2:28). About three thousand people believed in Jesus and received baptism that day.

If the tower of Babel divided the people of one language into different nations, the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost united them in one spirit.





### A new life

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. It was their rebirth in the Holy Spirit. It was a change for them from humble fishermen and peasants to courageous apostles. They were strengthened by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the Lord.

### Verse for memorization

“Whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved”. Acts 2: 21.

### Questions

1. What happened on the day of Pentecost?
2. What was the effect of Pentecost on the disciples?

### Fill in the blanks

1. The meaning of the word Pentecost is.....
2. Pentecost is celebrated on the .....day of.....
3. Disciples received.....on the day of Pentecost.

### Choose the correct Answer

1. Pentecost was originally a .....Festival. (Roman/Jewish)
2. God gave the ten commandments to Moses at Mount.....  
(Sinai / Tabor)
3. The Old Testament prophet .....wrote about the day of new Pentecost (Joshua/ Joel/Micah)



## Activity

1. Discuss the celebration of Pentecost in our church.
2. Ask the students to sing a song which contains the word 'Holy spirit' or any other words with similar meaning. Songs can be in any language.

## Prayer

O God, send us the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Help us, Lord, to grow daily into what you want us to be. Help us to love all creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# THE BEGINNING OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

(Acts 1:8)

## The Apostles of Jesus Christ

Apostles were the special messengers of Jesus Christ. The twelve disciples with the exception of Judas Iscariot, were sent by Jesus after his resurrection to be witness throughout the world. These Apostles were:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| (i) Simon Peter  | (vii) Thomas (Didimus)                                       |
| (ii) Andrew      | (viii) Mathew (Levi)   |
| (iii) John       | (ix) Simon, the zealot                                       |
| (iv) Philip      | (x) Jude (Thaddaeus)   |
| (v) James        | (xi) James (Son of Alphaeus)                                 |
| (vi) Bartholomew | (xii) Matthias (who was selected in place of Judas Iscariot) |

The period from Pentecost to the death of Apostle John (about A.D. 100) is known as the Apostolic period. The foundations of the Apostolic church were the Apostles and Prophets. In those times, the believers assembled in Temple of Jerusalem, synagogues as well as private homes of believers. Sunday



was celebrated as Lord's day. Prayer was offered on Sunday and other special days. On Sunday, breaking of bread and sharing of the cup was observed as a continuing proclamation of Jesus Christ. We call it the celebration of the Holy Qurbana.

As the Church slowly became more established, different orders of leadership came into existence in the church. They were Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Elders, Bishops, Teachers or Ministers, Pastors, Deacons and Deaconesses. All the believers were one in heart and mind. They shared everything they had.

### Church Spreads

Many people; both Jews and Gentiles, believed in Jesus and joined the Church. The Apostles visited distant places and the Church grew as a result. Philip visited Samaria, Peter went to Rome and other places, Paul started his ministry at Antioch and covered a large area (*It was in Antioch that the believers where first called Christians. Acts 11:26*). Thomas (Didimus) spread the gospel in India. Other Apostles went to many other places. Though they had to face many problems from those who did not believe in Jesus (Acts 7: 54 to 8:3), they were all led by the Holy Spirit.

### Verse for memorization

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice”. Phillipians 4:4

### Questions

1. Name the Apostles of Jesus Christ.
2. Where did the early church conduct worship?



3. How did the church spread to different areas?

### Fill in the blanks

1. The foundations of the Apostolic church were the ..... and .....
2. The early church, on Sundays, observed the act of ..... and ..... as a continuing proclamation of Jesus Christ.
3. During Apostolic period Sunday was observed as .....day.

### True or False ?

1. The members of the early church shared everything they had.
2. During the apostolic period only a few Jewish people believed in Jesus.
3. The disciples spread the gospel only in Judea and Samaria.

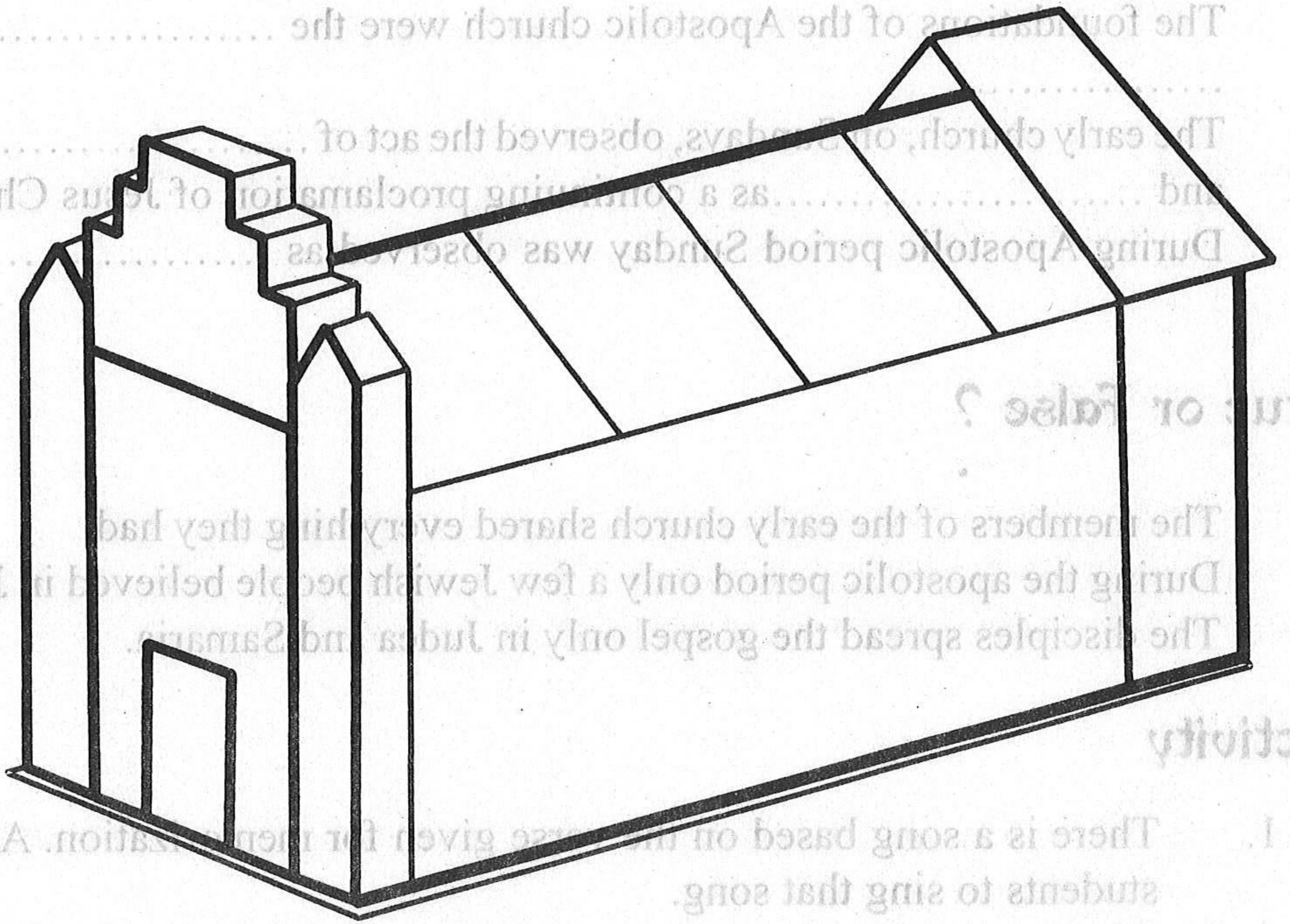
### Activity

1. There is a song based on the verse given for memorization. Ask the students to sing that song.
2. Sketch of a church is given (*see next page*). Try to complete and beautify it. (By giving colours, adding a garden, by making small shrines etc.)

### Prayer

Lord, we pray for the members of all the churches around the world. Lord, help the churches to unite and spread your gospel in its true spirit. Lord, help us to worship you sincerely. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Fill in the blanks

3. How did the church spread to different areas?

1. The foundations of the Apostolic church were the ..... and .....  
2. The early church, on ..... days, observed the act of .....  
3. During Apostolic period Sunday was observed as ..... day.

True or false?

1. The members of the early church shared everything they had.  
2. During the apostolic period only a few Jewish people believed in Jesus.  
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Activity

1. There is a song based on the above given information. Ask the students to sing that song.  
2. Sketch of a church is given (see next page). Try to complete and beautify it. (By giving colours, adding a garden, by making small shrines etc.)

Prayer

Lord, we pray for the members of all the churches around the world. Lord, help the churches to unite and spread your gospel in its true spirit. Lord, help us to worship you sincerely. In Jesus' name, Amen.



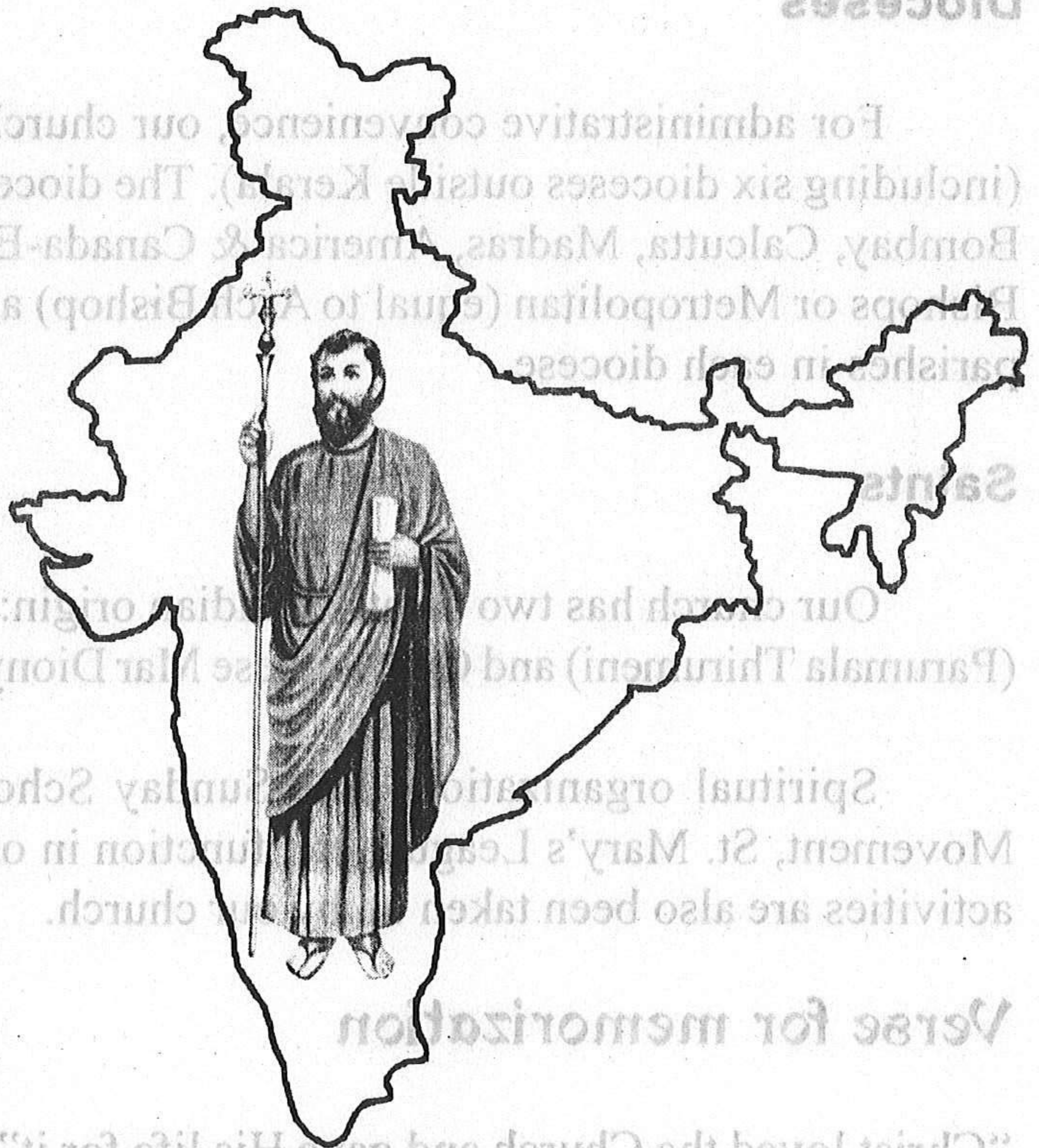
# OUR CHURCH

In the previous three chapters we have learned how and where the Christian community was initially formed. Apostles traveled to different parts of the world and spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostles and their followers started churches at different places.

## The Church in India

Our church was founded by St. Thomas, one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. St. Thomas came to India in A.D. 52. He spread the gospel here and did many miracles in the name of Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus and a Christian community was formed in India.

The Christian communities around the world fall in three categories: (1) Orthodox, (2) Catholic and (3) Protestant and Reformed Churches. Ours is an Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church of India is known as the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. The word 'Ortho-doxa' means 'true-faith' or 'true worship'.





## Head of our church

The supreme head of the Indian Orthodox Church is the Holy Catholicos (Catholicos of the East). The headquarters of our church is at Kottayam, in Kerala State.

Among the various church denominations in India, the churches which follow the tradition of St. Thomas were originally part of our Church. They got separated from our church on different occasions.

## Dioceses

For administrative convenience, our church is divided into 26 dioceses (including six dioceses outside Kerala). The dioceses outside Kerala are Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, America & Canada-Europe. All the dioceses have Bishops or Metropolitan (equal to Arch Bishop) as their heads. There are many parishes in each diocese.

## Saints

Our church has two saints of Indian origin: Geevarghese Mar Gregorios (Parumala Thirumeni) and Geevarghese Mar Dionysius (Vattasseril Thirumeni).

Spiritual organizations like Sunday School, Youth League, Students Movement, St. Mary's League, etc. function in our church. A lot of charitable activities are also been taken up by our church.

## Verse for memorization

“Christ loved the Church and gave His life for it” Eph. 5:25.



## Questions

1. Name the present Catholicos of the Indian Orthodox church.
2. Which Diocese does your parish belong to? Name the Metropolitan of your Diocese.
3. Who is presently holding the following positions in your parish?
  - (a) Vicar
  - (b) Trustee
  - (c) Secretary
  - (d) Sunday School Headmaster/Headmistress

## Fill in the blanks

1. The founder of the Indian Orthodox Church is .....
2. The dioceses outside Kerala are.....
3. Parumala perunal is celebrated on.....

## Activities

1. Take a map of India and locate the outside Kerala Dioceses which are within India.
2. Locate the important churches and places of importance related to our church: Devalokam (Kottayam), Niranam, Parumala, Kodungallur, Thiruvancodu, Mattancheri (Cochin), Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Nagpur etc. Also, help the students to locate their own home parishes in the map of India. Encourage the children to locate other places of interest also.
3. Write five sentences about your home parish.

## Prayer

O God, we thank you for our Church. Help us to love and care for our fellow Church members. Help us also to reach out to all the needy around us. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.



**LESSON -19****WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD**

How many of you remember the story of Adam and Eve? Who created them? God created our first parents in His own image. Therefore we call ourselves the children of God.

**Father-Son Relationship**

The relationship between a father and his child is very intimate. The child can sit on his lap, ask him to tell stories and kiss him. The father in turn loves the child. The father looks after the needs of the child and he gives the child proper pieces of advice.

He is very patient when the child breaks something like a glass. He will be angry at times, but after a while, he will forget everything and continue loving the child again. The joy and comfort of the child is what a father aims at.





## Relationship with the Heavenly Father

The Bible says that children are the gift of God (Psalm 127:3). God is our father, and He has placed the children in the care of parents. God knows our talents as well as our shortcomings. He knows the name of each child and He loves us. How can we know all these things? We have to establish a spiritual relationship with God to know these things. St. Paul says, "The spirit makes you God's children and by the spirit's power we cry out to God 'Father, my Father!' Then God's spirit joins himself to our spirit to declare that we are God's children" (Romans 8:15-16).

Every day we should maintain this Father-child relationship by reading the Word of God, which is the Bible, and by praying to God. Jesus taught us to say the prayer "Our Father who are in heaven..." regularly. He says again, "for everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find and the door will be opened to him who knocks" (St. Mathew 7:8). Just as our parents give us whatever is good for our lives, God will grant us his blessings. "Since we are His children, we possess the blessings He keeps for his people" (Romans 8:17). As children we have to obey the commandments of God.

What shall we do if we do something against the will of God? Don't be afraid of the punishments. God is not a punishing God. He loves those who repent and those who want to lead a good life. Once Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son; the younger son had detached himself from the family and run away from home. He became a drunkard and moved in evil ways. But he came back, saying: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you". The Father was very kind and he did not ask him about the sins. Rather, he prepared a dinner for the son who came back to him after repenting of his sins.



## Living as God's children

We are God's children and we must grow up according to God's wishes. In our relationship with God as the Father; He ensures us the following things:

1. God has created us in His own image.
2. God loves us and He knows each and every action of our life.
3. God cares for those who seek him and ask for His blessings.
4. We can approach God without fear; He is a compassionate Father.
5. After doing wrong things we should come before God and ask for his forgiveness.

As God's children we should give up all bad habits. We should obey and respect our parents, we should regularly go to church for worship, we should spend time daily for prayer and read the Bible; and we should get involved in spiritual activities.

Let us try to be good children of God.

## Verse for memorization

"Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" St Mark 18:3.

## Questions

1. How we should live if we are God's children?
2. How can God's children, who do mistake, come back to God?
3. What does God ensure us as our Father ?
4. Which was the prayer taught by Jesus?



### Fill in the blanks

1. Our relationship with God is like the contact between .....and .....
2. We can maintain the relationship with God in.....
3. God knows our.....and He .....us.

### Activity

1. List out the good qualities you have as children of God.
2. What are the bad habits which God dislikes? Take a decision that you will not repeat the bad ones.
3. Ask the students as to how many of them read the Bible and pray daily?
4. Ask the students to write in their own language about the love of their parents towards them.

### Prayer

Our dear God, we are your children. Protect us in every walk of life. Help us to live according to your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**LESSON – 20****WE SING AND COMMUNICATE WITH GOD****How can we communicate with God?**

Many children do not know the way to communicate with God. At homes we communicate with our father and mother by touching, speaking and making gestures. As we have noted earlier, our relationship with God is not on a physical level. It is to be done at the spiritual level. We can speak to God and hear His voice. Holy Fathers of the Church (eg: Parumala Thirumeni) are people who spoke to God every day.

There are different ways to communicate with God. They are the following:

1. By reading the Bible we can know the will of God.
2. By praying to God we will be in contact with Him.
3. By meditating (keeping silence) we can wait for the Voice of God.
4. By singing biblical and devotional songs we can be in a spiritual relationship with God.
5. By participating in the worship we maintain a contact with God.

Among these the last mentioned is very important in our spiritual life. It was a characteristic feature of the believers of the Early Church. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple and praised God by singing (Acts 2: 47). We shall learn about all the above mentioned aspects in the forthcoming classes. Today we will try to understand more about the songs in our worship and prayers.



## Different Kinds of Songs

1. The Biblical Songs: We sing a lot of Psalms during our worship. These Psalms are known after King David, the greatest singer of the Bible. Actually the 150 Psalms of the Bible are songs used by the Israelites for centuries. It is good that children learn some of the small songs by heart. The beautiful song used by St. Mary when the angel Gabriel visited her is given in the first chapter of the





Gospel according to St. Luke. We use this in our morning prayer made in the Church.

2. Liturgical Songs: Orthodox worship is full of songs. People who belong to other Churches see this as a great treasure. Some of these songs are based on passages taken from the Bible. The song, which we sing before reading the Epistle of Paul in the Holy Qurbana, is an example (Galatians 1: 8-9). However, Holy Fathers of the Church composed many other songs used in our Church worship. They did this while communicating with God.

3. Devotional Songs: During the history of Christianity many devout people composed many songs of spiritual value. We have good collection of such songs.

It is of course an angelic duty to sing spiritual songs. Only those who communicate with God can sing spiritual songs. By singing songs our mind becomes devotional and calm. Music unites people and it gives them the faith in the protection of God's power.

### Verse for memorization

'He has put a new song in my mouth- Praise to our God' Psalms. 40:3.

### Questions

1. What are the methods for communicating with God?
2. What are the different types of songs we use? Give one example for each type of songs.



## Fill in the blanks

1. Psalms of the Bible are .....used by the .....
2. Singing spiritual songs is an .....duty.
3. Music .....people and it gives them .....in the protection of God's power.
4. Our relationship with God is at.....level.

## Activity

1. Learn a song based on Psalm 23 (in any language).
2. Discuss Psalms 51. Try to find certain occasions where this is used as a prayer in our worship and daily prayers.
3. Few songs based on Bible references are given in Group 'B'. Read the references given in Group 'A' and match them with songs given in Group

'B'.  
 (1) Psalms 45:9-11 (a) Peace the bright archangel brought  
 (Mannamakalkkaayi slomo..)

(2) Galatians 1: 8-9 (b) The righteous shall prosper..  
 (Nayavaan panapole..)

(3) Luke 1:28-31 (c) Paul, the blessed...  
 (Poulose sleeha..)

(4) Ps. 92: 12-14 (d) See the royal daughter stand..  
 (Ninnal sthuthiyodu..)

(2) Galatians 1: 8-9 (b) The righteous shall prosper..  
 (Nayavaan panapole..)

(3) Luke 1:28-31 (c) Paul, the blessed...  
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 (Poulose sleeha..)

(4) Ps. 92: 12-14 (d) See the royal daughter stand..  
 (Ninnal sthuthiyodu..)



## HYMNS AND PRAYERS

### 1. Anugrahangal Niranjirikkunnave (Prayer for the departed)

You Who are full of mercy, renew your creation at the resurrection; O Lord comfort and absolve our departed ones, who died with hope in You, and await Your coming. O Lord, make them dwell in the bosom of Abraham, and of Isaac and of Jacob. May the living and the departed together call out, 'Blessed is He who has come and is to come, and who will give life to the dead'-Amen

### मृतकों के लिए बिनती

हे अनुग्रहों के भंडार - प्रभु । पुरुत्थान के दिन तेरी सृष्टी को नया करें । तू हमारे उन मृतकों पर दया करे जो तेरी शरण लेकर हम से विदा हो गए है और तेरी पुनरागमन की प्रतीक्षा करते हैं । अब्रहाम, इसहाक और याकूब की गोदी में उनको बसावे । शरीर और आत्माएं उच्च स्वर में बोल उठे कि वह धन्य है जो आया, आने वाला और मृतकों को जिलानेवाला है । आमेन ।

### 2. Moran Yeshu Mishiha

Our Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of your mercy in our faces. Lord, we confess that we are sinners, have mercy on us. Your love made you descend from your place to us, Lord, by whose death our death was ended; Have mercy on us.

हे प्रभु यीशु मसीह ! तू अपना कृपा द्वार हमारे लिए बन्द न करें । हम मानते है कि हम पापी है, हम पर करुणा करें । हे प्रभु ! अपने निराले प्रेम ने तो तुझे अपने स्थान से नीचे उतार लिया, ताकि तेरी मृत्यु से हमारी मृत्यु मिट जाए । प्रभु, हम पर करुणा करे ।



Hymn before the reading from the Pauline Epistle (*Poulose Slehha*)

*Paul The Blessed-  
Saint, the Lord's Apostle, said  
If one come to preach to you  
Other doctrine than we knew,  
Be He man or angel bright,  
Cursed be he in Church's sight;  
Doctrines all diverse arise,  
Shooting up with many lies;  
Blest is he who first and last  
Trusts God's truth and holds it fast.*

धन्य धन्य वह पौलुस प्रेषित  
कथन निराला सुना है मैने  
उल्टी मेरी शिक्षा से  
सीख सुनावे तुमको कोई ।  
चाहे वह हो स्वर्ग - दूत भी,  
कलीसिया का शाप उसी पर,  
अवश्य पड़ेगा, बिना विलंब ही ।  
भिन्न शिक्षायें जग में प्रचलित  
ईश्वर की शिक्षा में दीक्षित  
वही परम धन्य इस जग में । (२)



## LESSON - 22

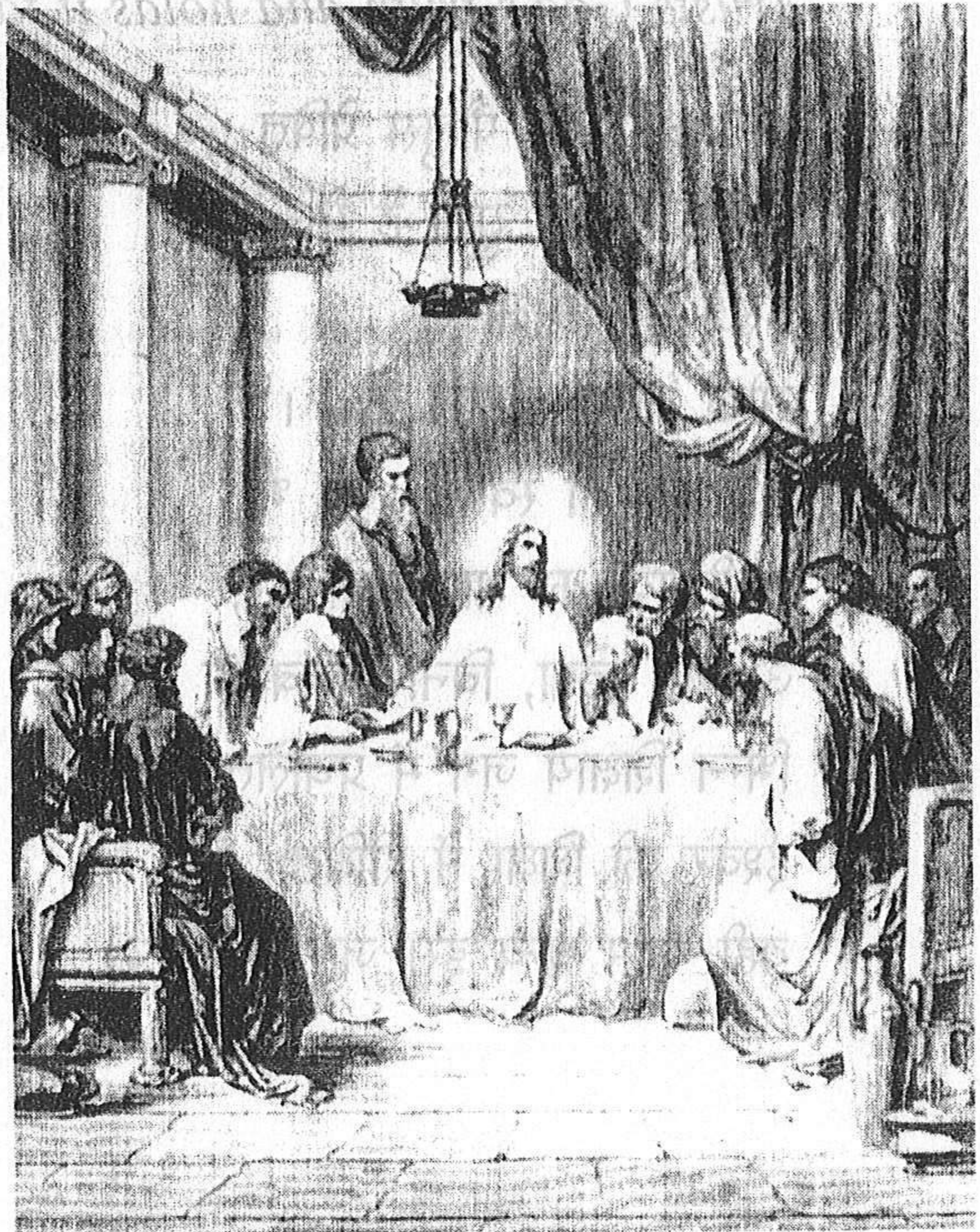
# WE RECEIVE JESUS THROUGH HOLY COMMUNION

(St. Luke 22:9-20)

On Sundays the believers of Jesus around the world participate in the Holy Qurbana. This is to maintain a relationship with Jesus, their Lord and God. Let us see how this practice was started in the Church and what we mean by this.

## The meaning of Holy Communion (Holy Qurbana )

The Israelites observed the festival of Passover in remembrance of the deliverance of their from Egypt. Just before his crucifixion Jesus called his disciples together for a dinner during the Feast of Passover. This is called the Last Supper. While they were eating Jesus took the bread, broke it, gave it to the Disciples and said: "this is my body". Thereafter He took the cup of wine and said: "This is my blood which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins". The disciples did not get the full meaning of this act on that night. But they came to understand its meaning on the next day when they saw Jesus dying on the cross.





After the resurrection of Jesus His disciples used to gather together regularly and they repeated this event in His memory. This is called the Eucharist or the Holy Qurbana. Eating of the bread (Body) and drinking the wine (Blood) by quoting the words of Jesus is the central act of the Eucharist. This is called the *Holy Communion or Holy Qurbana*.

### **Preparation for receiving the Communion**

The believers of Jesus Christ conduct the Holy Qurbana. This is for remembering the life and works of Jesus and for maintaining a spiritual relationship with Him through the Holy Communion. All the believers are expected to receive communion whenever the Holy Qurbana is conducted. Those who are unable to do it always should receive communion on important Feast Days like Christmas, Easter etc. We should also receive it on birthdays and important occasions in our life and that of our relatives.

However, we need to prepare ourselves before receiving the communion. It includes the following things:

1. We should keep silence and meditation from the previous day evening onwards; we should read and watch only spiritual books and films on these days.
2. We should ask the Lord forgiveness for all our wrong doings; those who are above 14 years of age must make a confession of their sins before the priest.
3. We should fast on Sunday morning; we are expected to receive the body and blood of Christ in fasting.
4. We should have a wash and we should wear fresh and neat clothes on the day of Holy Qurbana.



Just after receiving the Communion we should eat something, so that not even a tiny part of the Holy Bread may fall from our mouth. Our talk and actions should also maintain the sacred mood.

### Prayer for receiving the Communion

We should say the following short prayer before receiving the Communion: "O Lord God, make me worthy that my body may be purified by receiving your sacred body and my soul be made sanctified by your blood".

### Verse for memorization

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day". (St. John 6:54).

### Questions

1. How was the practice of Holy Qurbana started in the church?
2. What is the importance of Holy Qurbana?
3. How should one prepare to receive the Holy Qurbana?

### Fill in the blanks with the correct words given in the brackets

1. Jesus celebrated the Last Supper on the day of .....  
(Pentacost, Passover, Easter)
2. During the Last Supper, while they were eating Jesus took the .....,  
broke it and told His disciples: "this is my ....."  
(body, water, wine, bread, spirit, plate)
3. During Last Supper, Jesus took the cup of .....and said: "This  
is my ..... which is poured out for the forgiveness of  
....."  
(plate, water, wine, bread, sins, love, blood)



4. Before taking Holy Qurbana, We should .....our sins and ask the Lord for .....of sins.  
(confess, forgiveness, repent)

## Activity

- Write the following items in pieces of papers and fold them. Ask each student to take one (like drawing lots). They should perform whatever activity that is written on the paper. Try to finish each activity in one or two minutes. The teacher should encourage the students.
  - Sing a song from the Holy Qurbana
  - Give a summary of today's class
  - Give the names of Old Testament fathers (at least five).
  - Sing any one song with actions (songs could be from O.V.B.S).
  - Call a friend from the class and present a group song (any devotional song).
  - Give a speech on any topic as per the choice of the student.
- Prepare the students to receive the Holy Qurbana on the following Sunday.

## Prayer

Lord, we praise you for forgiving our sins. We praise you because you wish to live in us. Lord, help us to lead a Holy life. In Jesus' name, Amen



# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Do you know which is the most used book in the world? It is the Holy Bible. It is available in almost all the languages of the world and you can read the Bible through the internet also.

## What is the Bible?

The Bible contains the Word of God, delivered to the men of God from very ancient time onwards. It has two parts and they are called the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew language and it contains 46 books, which were written before the birth of Jesus Christ. These books include the Law of Moses, the books of the Prophets, Psalms etc. (*The Bible published by the Bible Society and Protestant Churches has only 39 books in the Old Testament*). The New Testament was originally written in Greek and it has 27 books, which were written by the disciples and leaders of the Early Church. St. Paul is the man who wrote the greatest number of books of the New Testament. For convenience, each book of the Bible is divided into chapters and verses. It is good that each child has a Bible of his own.

## How do we handle the Bible?

The Bible is the Word of God. Therefore we have to handle it with utmost care and respect. We have to do the following things in this regard:

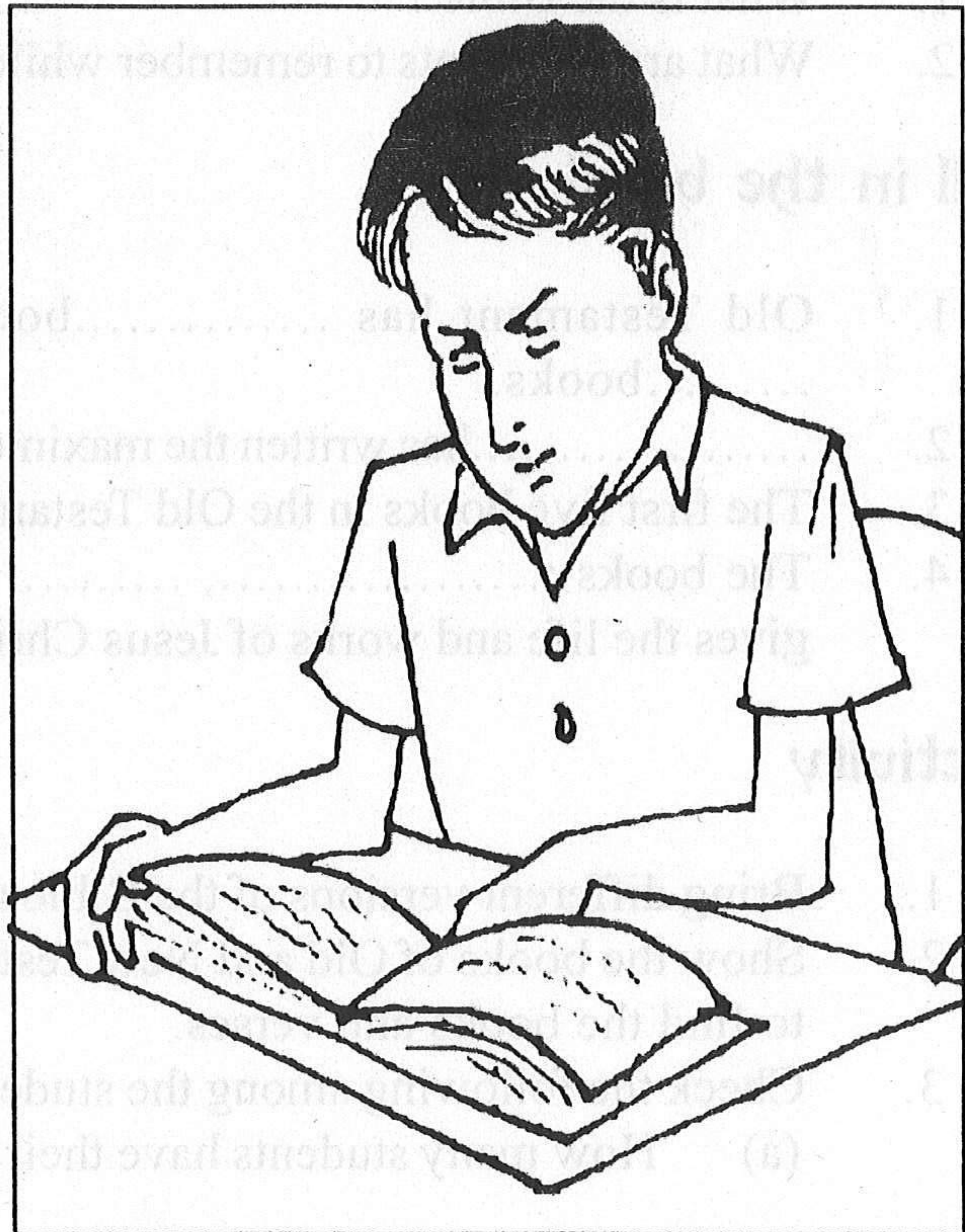
1. The Bible should be put in an important place in our house; Don't place it carelessly and don't step on the sheets of the Word of God.



2. Since the Bible contains the voice of God, we have to attend carefully whenever the Bible is read or preached in the Church or in other places.
3. Everyday the Bible should be read in the morning and evening. When we have a problem in our life, we should read the Bible and pray.
4. Whenever we take the Bible for reading, we have to make a sign of the cross and kiss it.
5. Those who know the stories of the Bible should share it with their friends, because it will guide them towards God.
6. Memorize the verses which catches your attention.

### Reading of the Bible

Those who read the Bible have a close contact with God. The holy people and faithful believers read it regularly. Just as we need food and drink everyday for making our body healthy, we have to feed our mind and soul by reading the Bible regularly. But it is not easy to create the habit of Bible reading. Children may find many parts of the Bible difficult to understand. They can start reading with the book of Psalms, which contains small sentences and





simple ideas. Then they can read the Gospels, which contain a lot of stories. It is good that we read a portion of the Bible again and again until we understand its meaning. Those who have got doubts should ask questions to their parents. Important verses can be underlined and learnt by heart. The children of God should try to follow the commandments of the Bible in their daily life.

### Verse for memorization

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Ps 119:105

### Questions

1. What is the Bible ?
2. What are the points to remember while handling Bible?

### Fill in the blanks

1. Old Testament has .....books and New Testament has .....books.
2. ....has written the maximum books in the New Testament.
3. The first five books in the Old Testament are written by.....
4. The books ;....., ....., .....and ..... gives the life and works of Jesus Christ.

### Activity

1. Bring different versions of the Bible and show them to the children.
2. Show the books of Old and New Testaments. Teach the children how to find the books and verses.
3. Check the following among the students:
  - (a) How many students have their own Bible?



- (b) How many students read the Bible daily?
- (c) How many of them can remember the gospel read on the day in the church?

### Prayer

Our loving Lord Jesus, we hear your words when we read the Bible. Lord help us to understand your messages while we read the Bible. Lord help us to talk about Your good news to others and live according to your commands, Amen.



**LESSON - 24**

# WHO ARE SAINTS

In our church, we often hear about Saints. Many of our parishes bear the names of Saints and we celebrate their festivals.

## Who are the Saints?

The saints are those who walk with God. We read in Rev: 2:10; “*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you life as your prize of victory.*” Saints are people who received the crowns of victory in heaven promised by God.

In the early Church all members of the Church were called ‘saints’. Later canonisation of Saints was introduced in the church. Saints are those who have made creative and abundant use of the grace God had given in their life. Nobody can become a saint by his or her own. It is God who transforms their ordinary lives into saintly lives.

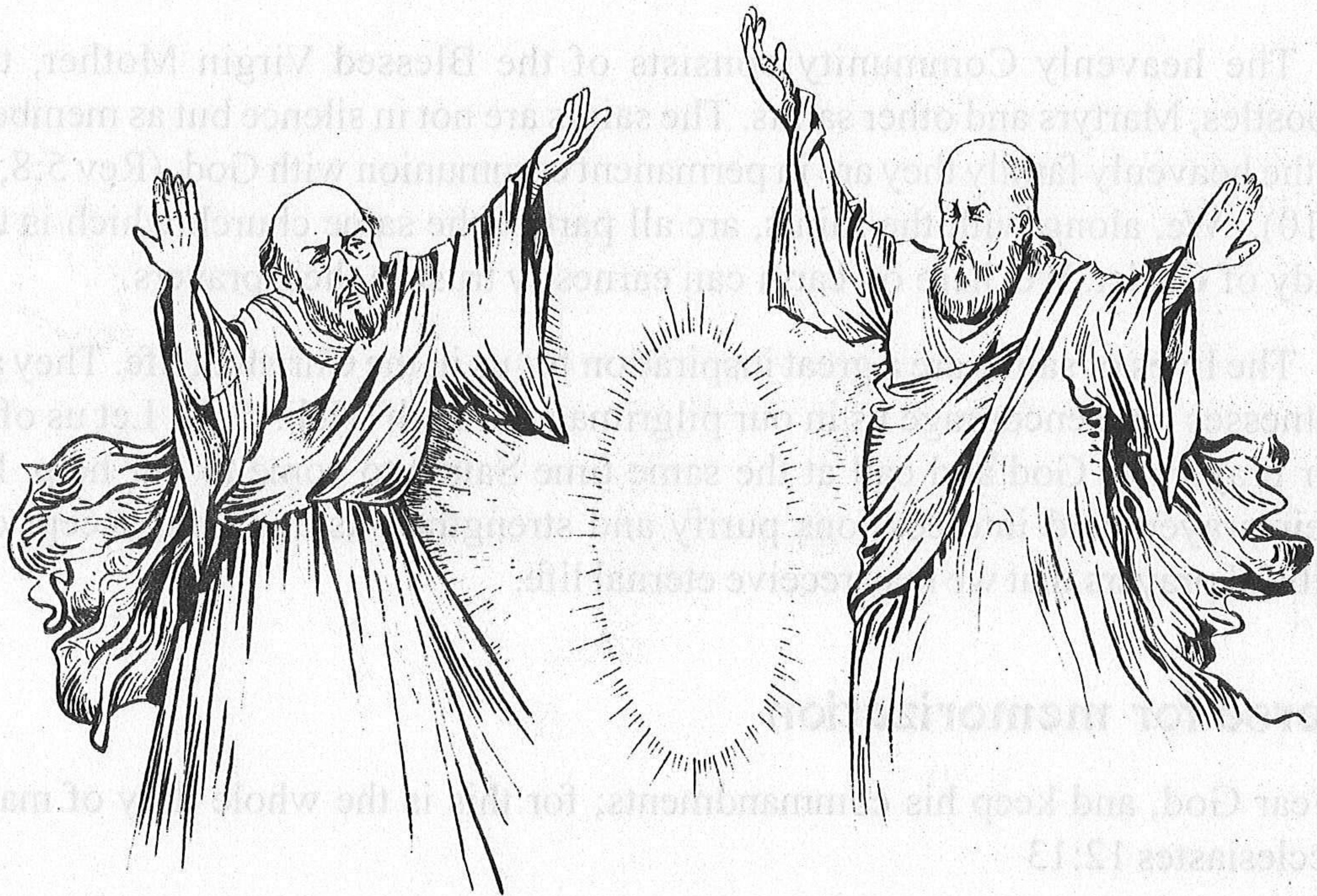
## Communion of Saints in the Church

We communicate with Saints for following reasons:

- (i) God asked Job’s friends; “Go to my servant Job and offer the sacrifices for yourself. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will answer his prayer and not disgrace you as you deserve” (Job 42: 8). Job was good like a saint.
- (ii) Saints are the servants of God. The Church venerates the Saints because by doing so, God is being glorified. By the veneration of the saints and giving honour to them, we actually honour God and get involved in the operation of the divine Spirit and grace.



(iii) It is God's spirit and grace that works in and through the saints. The church is a fellowship of all the people who lived before us, who are living in the



present and who would join later. Saints who lived early are part of the church. Physical death does not separate us from those who are behind the veil, as it does not separate us from God.



(iv) We pray for the Saints and they too remember us in prayers. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, even the wicked rich man intercedes for his five brethren (Luke 16:19-31). If so how much more do the saints!

### **The heavenly witnesses**

The heavenly Community consists of the Blessed Virgin Mother, the Apostles, Martyrs and other saints. The saints are not in silence but as members of the heavenly family they are in permanent communion with God. (Rev 5:8, 6:9-10). We, along with the saints, are all part of the same church which is the body of Christ. We, here on earth can earnestly trust in their prayers.

The lives of saints are a great inspiration for us in the Christian life. They are witnesses who encourage us in our pilgrimage of faith (Heb.12:1). Let us offer our prayers to God and call at the same time Saints to come to our help. Let their prayers and intercessions purify and strengthen us and God accept our faithful prayers that we may receive eternal life.

### **Verse for memorization**

“Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man”.  
Ecclesiastes 12:13

### **Questions**

1. Who are saints?
2. Why the intercession of saints important?



Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the brackets

1. The saints are not in ..... but as members of the heavenly family are in permanent .....with God.  
(rejoice, silence, praise, communion)
2. Saints are the ..... who encourage us in our pilgrimage of faith. (bystanders, witnesses, truth, faith)

True or False?

1. We pray to the saints.
2. The Church venerates the Saints because, by doing so, God is being glorified.
3. The saints are not part of the church.
4. We pray for the saints and they too remember us in prayers.

Activities

- 1) Our Church has two Saints. Write their names.
- 2) Discuss the festivals of Saints celebrated in your parish.
- 3) Sing any one song used in our worship, remembering the Saints.
- 4) Take the students in front of a picture of Parumala Thirumeni. Introduce him as one of the saints of our church. Explain the good qualities he possessed when he was young.

Prayer

Lord God, you raised up saints in the church. Help us also to learn from the lives of saints. O Parumala Thirumeni, O Vattaseril Thirumeni, pray for us children. Amen.



LESSON – 25

# OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

(Eph.6.1-3)

We have already learnt that we are the children of God and our relationship with God is that of a child to its father. Obedience to God is an essential thing in this relationship. Similarly God wants us to be obedient to our parents and our teachers.





## **Obey your parents just as Jesus did**

There are many reasons to be obedient:

Firstly: it is what God desires from us. When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses He asked the Israelites to obey their fathers and mothers. The fifth Commandment says: “Obey (respect) your father and your mother, so that you may have a long time in the land that I am giving you” (Ex 20,12).

Secondly: God created us through our parents and it is their duty to guide us. Since we are young children we don't know the good and bad sides of our life. They take care for our health, food, clothes and education. Till we grow up we have to follow their opinion on these things. They only know which school is good for us or which friends will be helpful for us.

Thirdly: our parents have got a lot of experiences from their life. On some occasions we may not understand their opinion. For example, if your mother says “Don't watch TV for a long time” obey her, because she knows what has happened to people of her age who spoiled their life by not concentrating on studies and other good things.

## **Obey teachers who impart wisdom in you**

Just like parents, our teachers do a very responsible work for us. They are wise people who are appointed by God to teach others. They teach us the basics of our life. Our teachers give us not only the information regarding various subjects like Physics, Biology or History but they also teach us how to live. They get this knowledge from their wide reading and through their contacts with people of various circumstances. Therefore their advice is very valuable for us.



Those students who follow their teachings will become leaders of the society. How can we express our obedience to the teachers? According to Indian tradition one has to stand up when a teacher or an elderly person comes to us. We receive them with folded hands and say “Namaste”. We are not expected to ridicule a teacher while in the classroom or outside. Don’t be angry with your teacher and don’t talk back to a teacher. You can ask questions and clear doubts with a teacher; but don’t use a loud voice even when you can’t agree with your teacher. Show a respectful attitude always.

### **Pray for our parents and teachers**

Jesus is our model in the matter concerning obedience. St. Luke writes about Jesus’ behavior when he was a boy of twelve years: “Jesus went back (with his parents) to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them...Jesus grew up both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and men” (Lk 2. 51-52). Along with a character of obedience we have to pray for our parents and teachers. They are the people who mould our character and outlook. Remember your parents and teachers (of the school and Sunday school) in your daily prayers. This is something special concerning the Sunday school children.

Only the obedient children can achieve their goals in their life. The Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam is the best example. In his book *The Wings of Fire* he remembers his parents and teachers with gratitude. Let us be good children by being obedient to our parents and teachers.

### **Verse for memorization**

“Which does God prefer: obedience or offering sacrifices? It is better to obey than to sacrifice the best sheep to God” 1 Samuel 15. 22.



## Questions

1. Why should we be obedient to our parents and teachers?
2. Which is the commandment that God gave regarding obedience to parents?
3. Being God's children; what can you do for your parents and teachers?

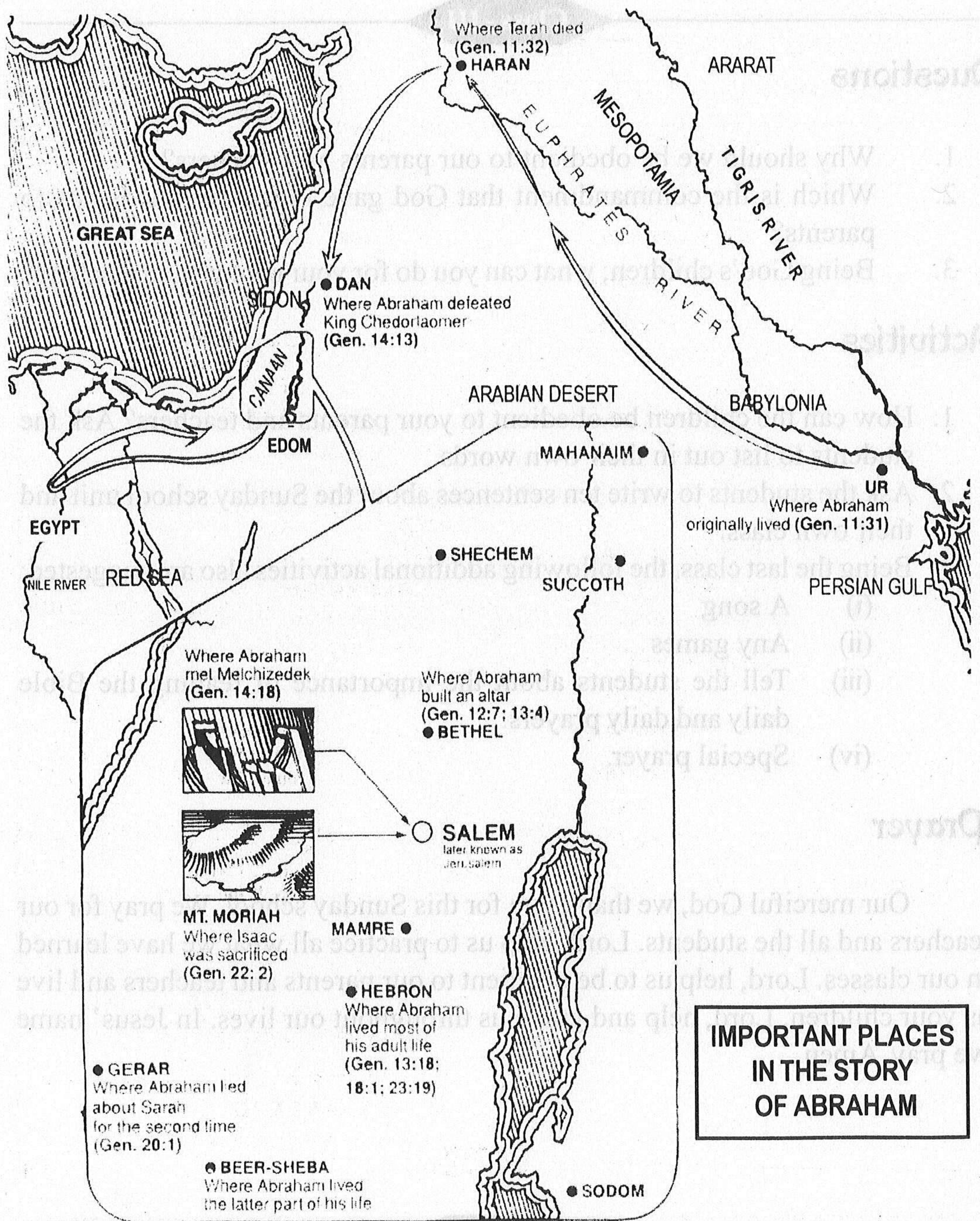
## Activities

1. How can the children be obedient to your parents and teachers? Ask the students to list out in their own words.
2. Ask the students to write ten sentences about the Sunday school unit and their own class.
3. Being the last class, the following additional activities also are suggested:
  - (i) A song
  - (ii) Any games
  - (iii) Tell the students about the importance of reading the Bible daily and daily prayers.
  - (iv) Special prayer.

## Prayer

Our merciful God, we thank you for this Sunday school. We pray for our teachers and all the students. Lord, help us to practice all what we have learned in our classes. Lord, help us to be obedient to our parents and teachers and live as your children. Lord, help and guide us throughout our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

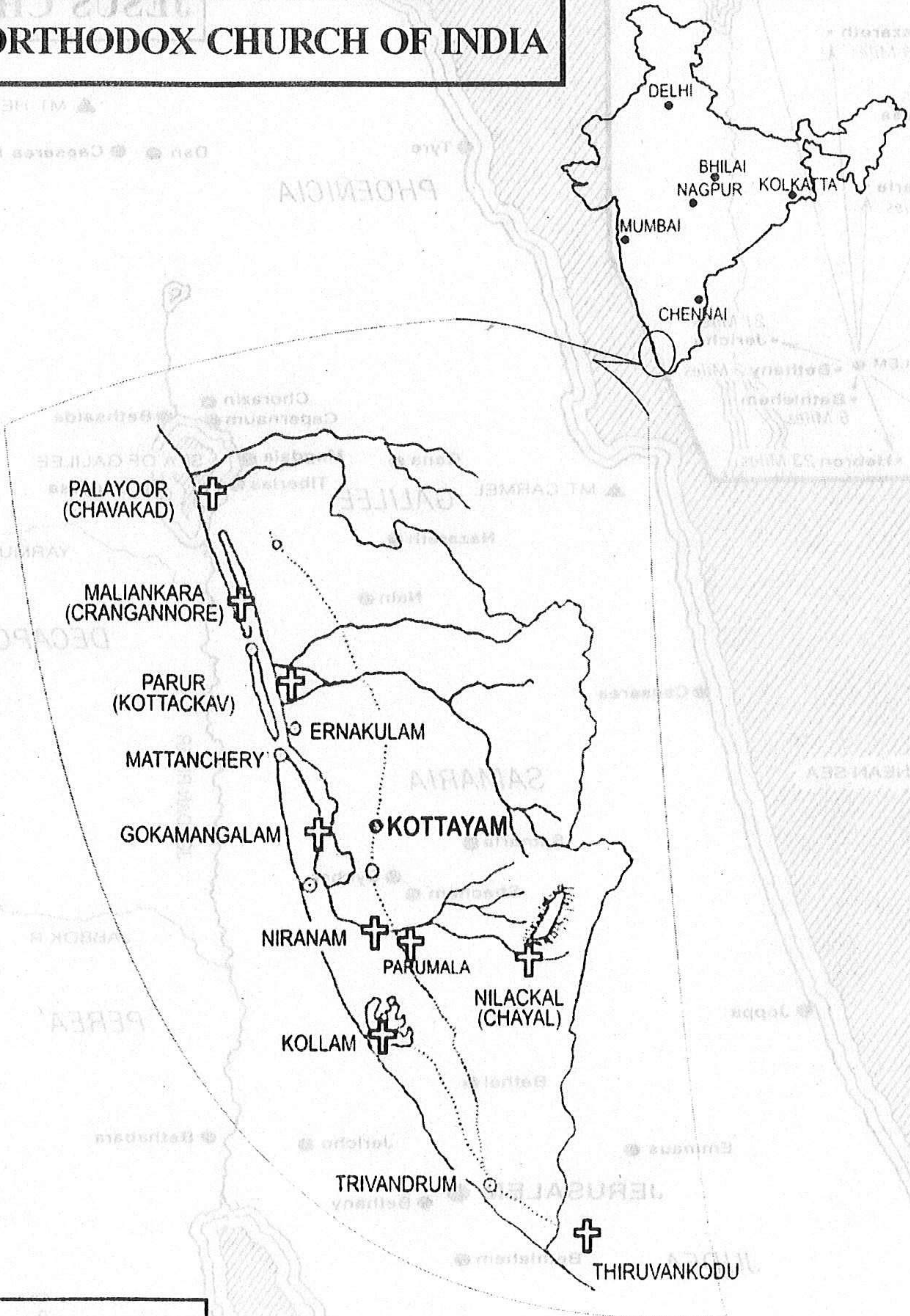




**IMPORTANT PLACES  
IN THE STORY  
OF ABRAHAM**



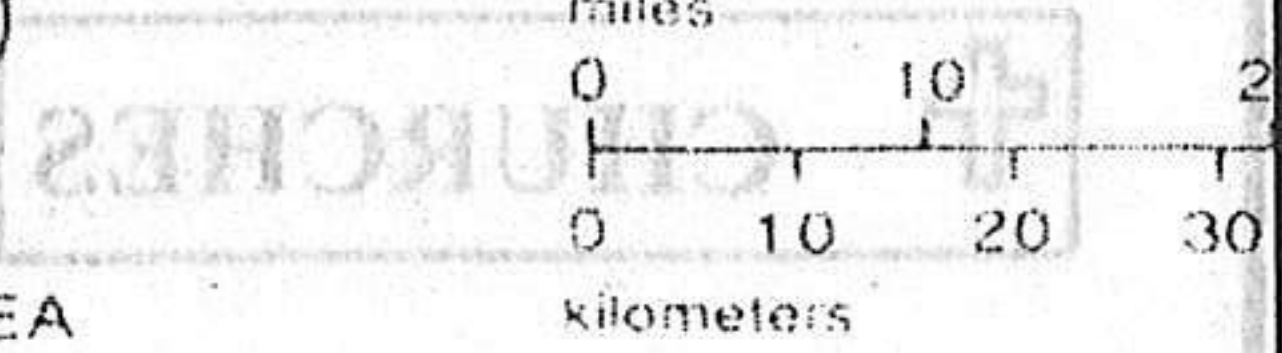
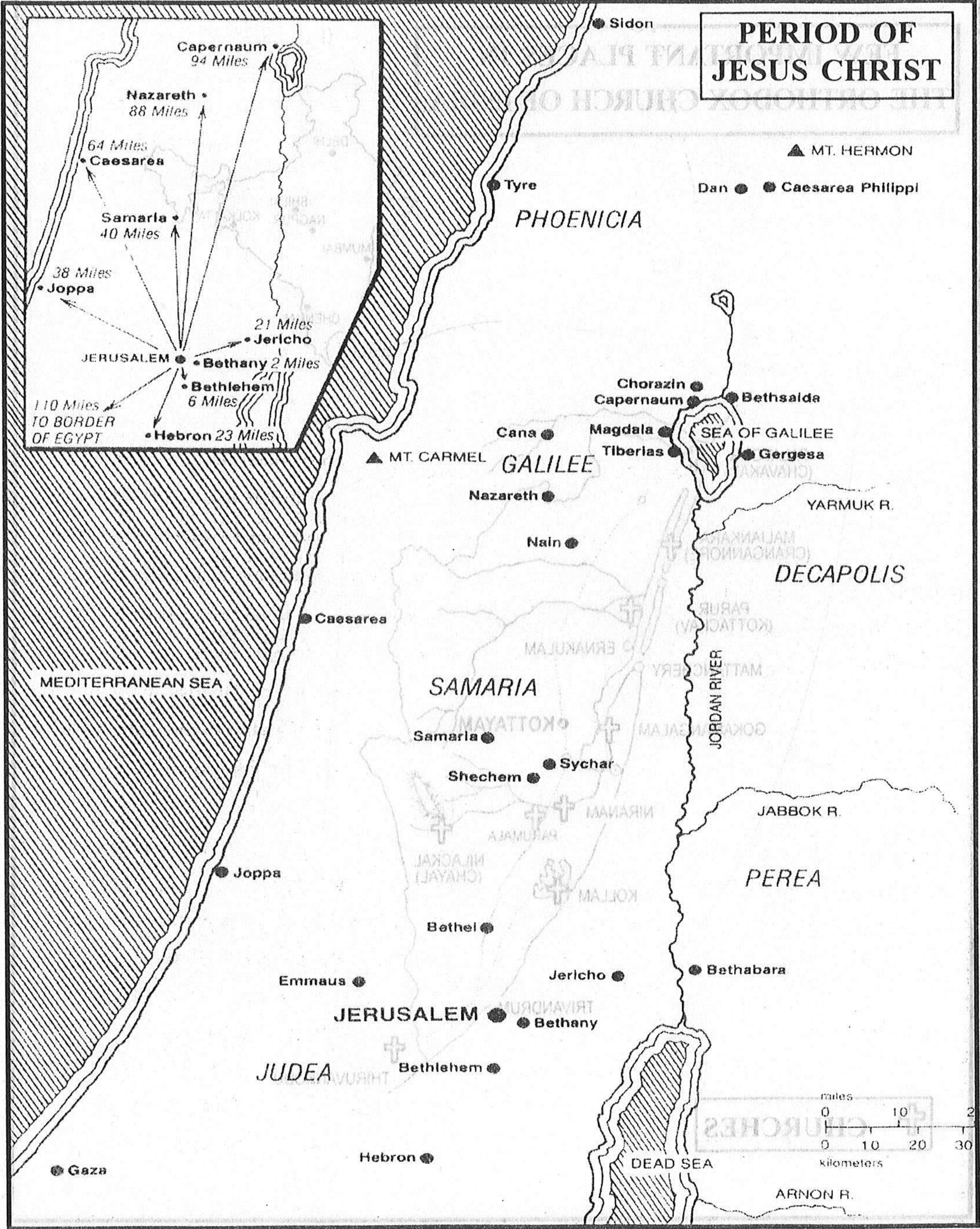
**FEW IMPORTANT PLACES IN  
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF INDIA**



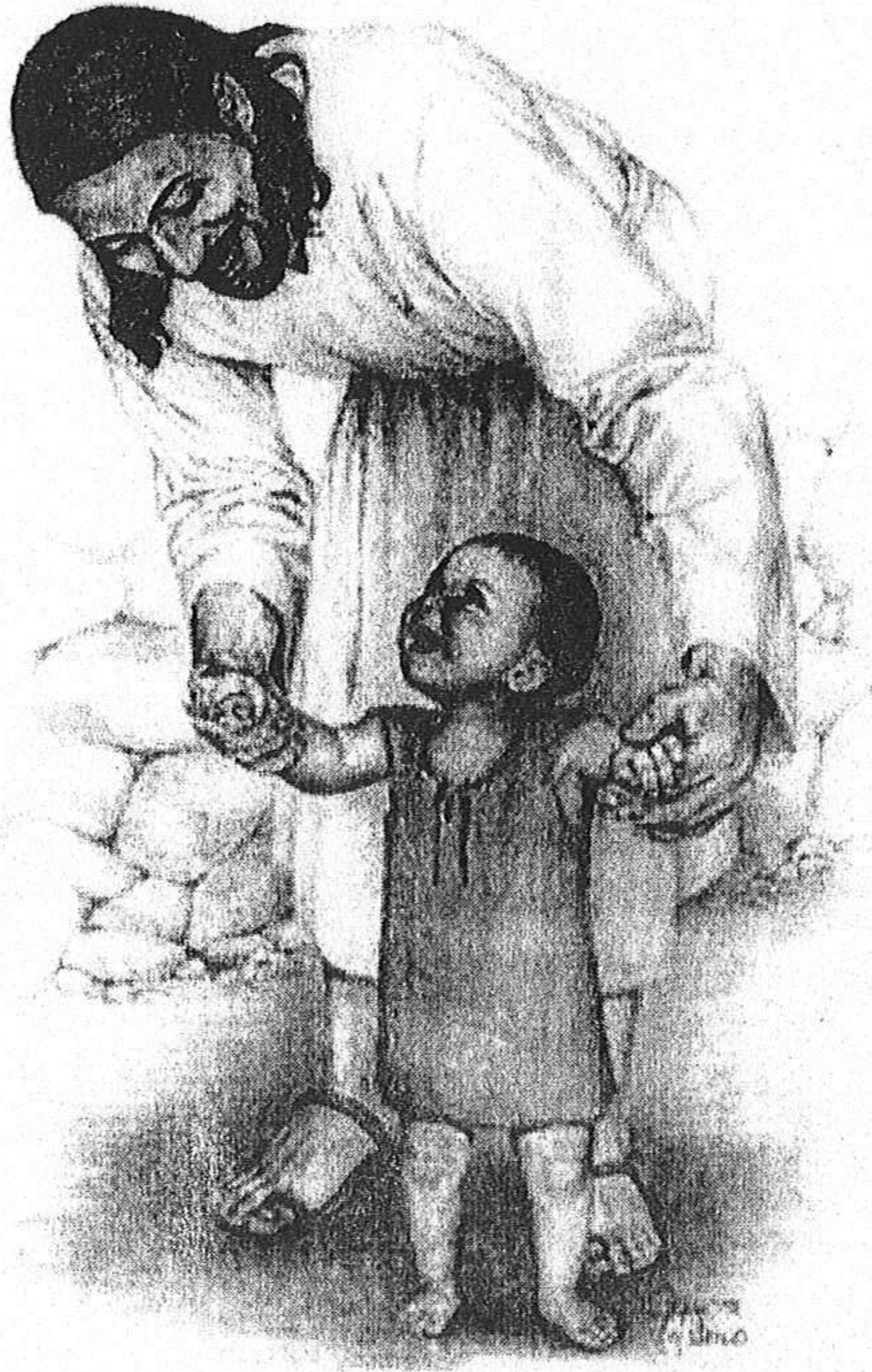
**+** CHURCHES



# PERIOD OF JESUS CHRIST

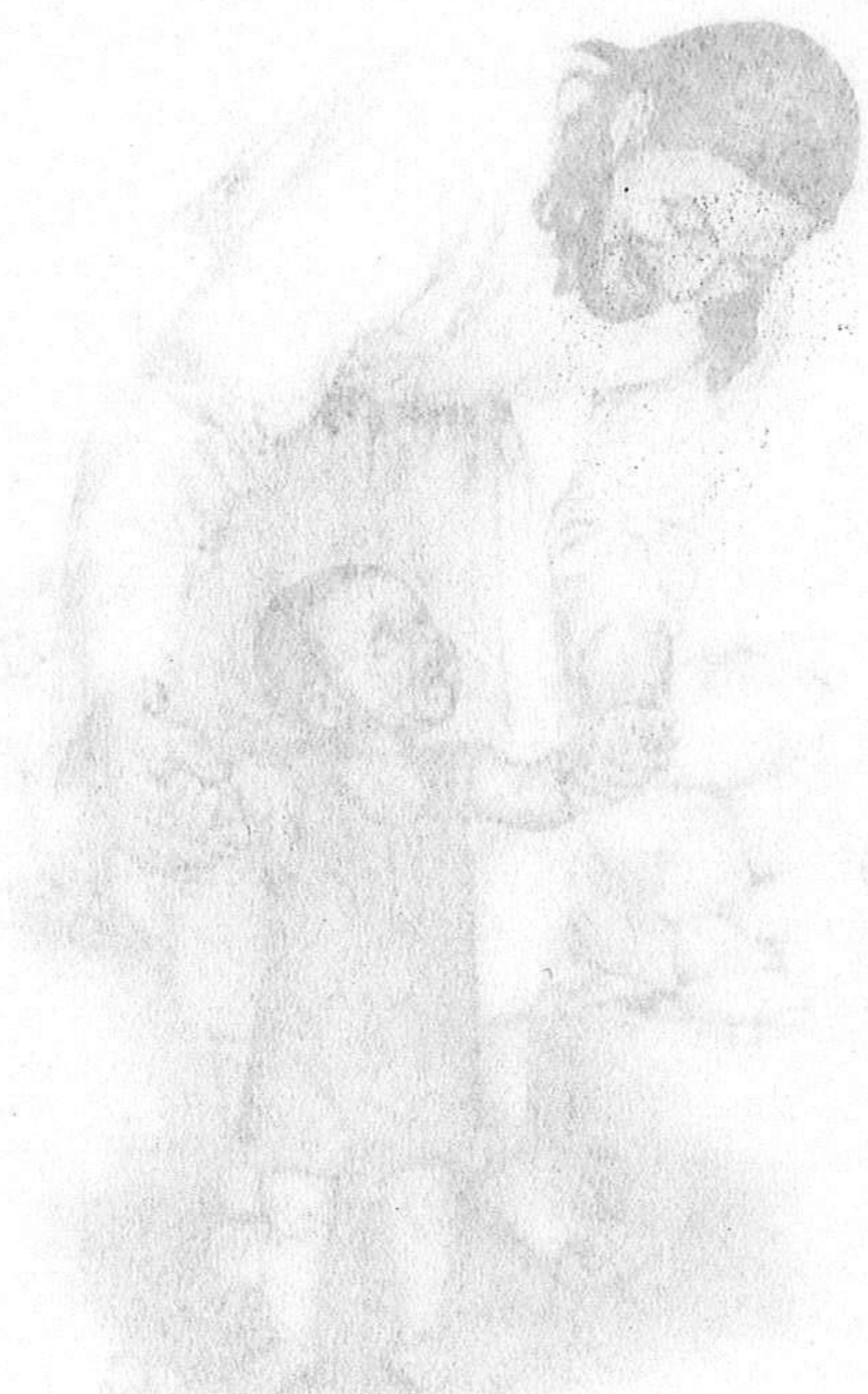






*'He leads me  
in the right paths  
for His name's sake'  
Ps. 23:3*





for his number sake  
in the right battle  
the leads me  
B2.53:3





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**OSSAE (OKR) CLASS 3 TEXT BOOK**